



# FRASER



THE CLAN FRASER  
SOCIETY OF  
SCOTLAND AND  
THE UNITED KINGDOM

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 52



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## ALWAYS SOMETHING

There always seems to be something happening, no sooner than Lord Lovat marries Petra Palumbo on May 14<sup>th</sup>, in London but Gillian and I were invited up to his Beauuly wedding party in August, at the Fishing Lodge and believe it or not, the weather held.



Michael, Gil and I met up in Bristol to discuss where the CFSSUK was heading, our first meeting since the Bannockburn Event in 2014 and there will be articles on both events later on in the Newsletter. Now we've exciting news about an event we're involved with at the forthcoming Edinburgh Tattoo, August 5<sup>th</sup>, full details from Kate, on behalf of Lady Saltoun, follow in the next article so put the date in your diary and we hope to see you there. We're also looking at the possibilities of a social event around that date and we'll let you know.

Also, in the Newsletter, one of Jonathan Kersting's famous interviews, this time with Lady Saltoun and the usual diverse articles to, hopefully, interest you. I hope you enjoy this latest offering.

## EDINBURGH TATTOO

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo has unveiled the 2017 theme as "Splash of Tartan" taking inspiration from VisitScotland's events for the year, Clan Chiefs have been invited to lead their clansmen to the Castle, on their own special designated evenings, and to take part in the opening ceremony of the Tattoo. In addition, clans and families are being encouraged – with some support from the Scottish Government through the Scottish Clan Event Fund: Splash of Tartan - to arrange their own events, as well. In each performance of the Tattoo in 2017, in collaboration with the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, identified clan chiefs will take the salute, in front of their clan members. As you well know there's a lot of clans and a lot of chiefs, therefore, each one has been given a set date for their salute.



My mother, Lady Saltoun, has asked if I can organise our involvement as Clan Fraser at the Tattoo and I'm asking for as many of you as possible to join this wonderful event and play your part for Clan Fraser in Edinburgh. It's not only a great honour for the Clan but it'll be a memorable experience for those who take part. At the moment, my information is that I will be assisting the Salute Taker along with the Chief



of Clan Gunn at the Edinburgh Tattoo on **Saturday 5th August 2017 7:30 pm performance** (NB there are two performances on a Saturday) that is a firm date. The Chiefs & their 'retinue/clansmen' will foregather at a designated point on the Royal Mile before the event & march into the arena. The Chiefs will then join the Salute Taker for the evening to take the salute whilst their clansmen watch from the edges of the arena & after the Ceremony of the Quaich all will proceed to their ticketed seats in the stands.

I'm delighted to say you will be able to join the group in the arena, the clans have been earmarked 150 tickets per clan per performance, the tickets are not discounted, cover a range of prices & parts of the arena & are subject to a booking fee, they went on sale on 21st November & sell like hotcakes, up to date 90,000 tickets have been sold already and note, any of our allocation not sold by 1st March 2017 will go on general release. Graeme and Gillian have already booked their accommodation and I understand Michael is hoping to make it too, therefore, the important thing is to put the date in your diary, get your tickets and come and join us at the Salute. In order to gauge support, we're directing access through Graeme and the CFSSUK, security is essential, as we don't want these popular tickets falling into the wrong hands and Graeme has the information you need to obtain the specially allocated tickets, there's a separate webpage, a code and password, all quite simple and straightforward but essential for security, you will also be able to purchase up to eight tickets online. Graeme's contact details are further on in the Newsletter but I'll print them here as well, or go to the website and use the email address in the Links page, email [gil.gra@gilgra.com](mailto:gil.gra@gilgra.com) or write to him at 2 Hoe Hill View, Tollerton, Notts, NG12 4GE.

We look forward to the Tattoo event and seeing you there on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August. Kate Nicolson

### CFSSUK EVENT

I've been asked to organise an event, almost certainly some formal meal, to tie in with the salute at the Tattoo and will take place on the day of the Tattoo, 5<sup>th</sup> August or the day previous or the one after. The full information on the Tattoo and our involvement has just recently come to light but I can assure you I've a few ideas and will firm things up very shortly. In the meantime, put it in your diary and we'll let you know the details when we have them. The last Society event we held at Airth Castle, with Lady Saltoun's daughter, The Honourable Kate, Mistress of Saltoun and her son, Xander Fraser in attendance, was a great success so come along and join us and make this another time to remember. If you are interested, please email me at [annfraserclark@supanet.com](mailto:annfraserclark@supanet.com) or ring me on 01200 428053. Alternatively, you could contact Michael or Graeme. *Donald Fraser-Clark*



Beaulieu



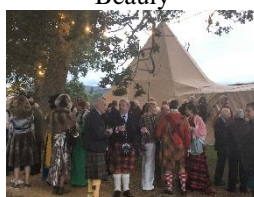
Celebration



Bristol



Llanelli



## LORD LOVAT'S WEDDING PARTY

Here at CFSSUK, we were all delighted to hear Lord Lovat was marrying Petra Palumbo, fashion model and heiress, on 14 May of this year but Gil and I got a surprise



*Petra Dancing*

to learn, as we were wandering through France, that the celebrations were far from over, for we received an E-invitation to a further Wedding Party at the Beaulieu Fishing Lodge on August 13<sup>th</sup>. We gave it some thought, considered that the Society should be represented, it was an experience that doesn't come along very often and being caravanners, we could kill several birds with one stone i.e. visit, yet again, where dad was born and my family came from in Beaulieu and Inverness and make a touring holiday of it, as well. The theme was "Tribal", which gave Gil no end of problems as what to wear but I just decided my kilt would do and dusted the spiders out of the pleats.

We stopped at North Berwick on the way up, an historical area we haven't visited much and had a quick trip to the Edinburgh Festival, before heading up to Lovat Bridge. The site there is walking distance to the Lodge, if they had footpaths or kayaking distance, if we had the strength to paddle up the fast flowing Beaulieu but easily reachable by car. On site, we noticed, what we thought was a fit group of holiday orienteers but we were later told these were the lads and lasses who were moving the Tepees from the recently finished Belladrum Rock Festival up to the Lodge. When we were told about the Tepees, the expression, "Clan Chiefs and Indians" came to mind but when we arrived at the event, it certainly was a spectacular set up, with the Lodge as the backdrop and the Tepees as the hospitality and entertainment areas, a fitting setting for the Clan Chief to celebrate.

Although I've talked electronically to Simon many times



over the years, this was the first time we'd the honour to meet him in person and Petra is a very delightful bubbly lady and a pleasure to meet. The guests were a mixture

of their relations, friends, Frasers and locals and if I can be a bit patronising, the young ones took to the Tribal, while us slightly older ones stuck to the better form of Scots dress. It was strange to see so many Arabs, Indians, both red and eastern, as well as tribes originating in a Fancy Dress shop, on the banks of the Beaulieu, the weather was perfect and the ambience wonderful and it did feel like the Chief was home. A couple we were honoured to meet was Lieutenant-Colonel Jonathon Avery, OHG, in spectacular uniform and his wife, from Toronto,

representing the 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Highlanders, of which Lord



Lovat is the Colonel in Chief. The eating and dancing went on till the early hours but I have to admit, these old fogies were home long before it ended but with many lovely memories.

My Great, Great, Great, Grandfather was born only a mile or so from where we were but where exactly, the records don't show but for those who haven't

been, Beaulieu is a small but pretty village with strong Fraser connections, as in fact has the whole area. The



Beaulieu Priory, where many ancient Fraser of Lovat chiefs are buried is a fascinating & lovely ancient monument, the Lovat Scouts Memorial dominates the main square and there's the 17th Lord Lovat's Garden, opened in 1997, to be quite honest, I wasn't sure if it was overgrown or one of those natural wild gardens but then it's Gil who is the gardener

in the family, so what do I know. Inverness, where my family moved to a couple of hundred years ago, has a

pleasant ambience (except at rush hour), with the Ness running through it but over the centuries it's been fashionable for everyone to blow it up or burn it down, including recent city councils. The neglect of its oldest building Abertarff House is dreadful, a house with solid Fraser connections from 1593, now owned by the National Trust for Scotland. It looks derelict and run down, which doesn't help the appearance of the area but what an ideal place for a Clan Fraser Museum, if there was enough finance.



Finally, it was over to Aberdeen and Stonehaven to meet friends and relations, we took in a harbour tour of Aberdeen for the first time and it's fascinating to see the city from a different angle, before heading back to Nottingham. *Editor*

**WELCOME NEW MEMBER  
DOUGLAS JOHN FRASER**

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## THE STORY OF A SEARCH

Douglas Fraser, Member

I was born in the North East of England and whilst aware of my Scottish ancestry, knew little about it. My father mentioned many tales about the origins of our Fraser family which I half remembered but could no longer ask him about after he died in 1990. This is a brief account of my endeavours to discover the truth.

It was said that the first member of the family to settle in England was left by his parents in the village of Chop Gate (pronounced Chop Yat, a tiny farming settlement in the Cleveland Hills of North Yorkshire). When I asked why his parents had left Scotland, I was told that it was because of cattle rustling. The father or grandfather of this forebear was rumoured "to be the strongest man in Scotland, he spoke not a word of English and every tooth in his head was a double tooth".

With the aid of the Nineteenth Century census returns it was very easy to trace the English part of the family back to James Fraser, who was born about 1836 and said that he was born in Scotland. In only two returns were there any clues as to where in Scotland – in 1861, shortly after he came to England, he said that he was born in "Dingle", presumably Dingwall, the County Town of Ross and Cromarty. In 1911 his census return stated his place of birth as "The Parish of Brawn". In the whole of Scotland there is no Parish called Brawn but the Brahan Estate was the home of the Earl of Seaforth, head of the McKenzies, and it was located just to the south of Dingwall. The other clue to James' identity was to be found in his marriage certificate where he gave his father's name as William. The only James Fraser recorded as being born in 1836 in Ross and Cromarty to a William was born in Garguston in the Black Isle. Garguston is not Dingwall or Brahan but part of the Kilcoy Estate; this was another McKenzie estate and may be said to be an outpost of Brahan. There are other circumstantial clues to connect this family with mine, so I assume that this James Fraser was my ancestor. The earliest of his line that I was able to find something about was his grandfather, Andrew.



Grandfather Walter Fraser was born in Beaulieu. In 1812 he joined the second battalion of the 93rd Regiment of Foot (the Sutherland Highlanders), and was sent to Newfoundland for a short while before being transferred to the first battalion which had retired to Ireland having suffered badly in the war against the Americans. He was invalided from Limerick in 1817 with an injured ankle and honourably discharged. Andrew was described in his service record as 5ft 10inches with gray eyes, brown hair and a fresh complexion.

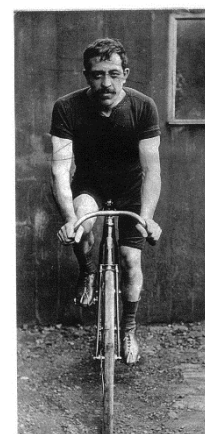
Andrew Fraser was born in Beaulieu, Inverness, in 1778 to William Fraser and Catherine Stewart. He became a soldier, joined the Fraser Fencibles in 1794, served in Ireland and became a sergeant in 1799. After the Fencibles was disbanded in 1802, Andrew was shown in General Service as a sergeant and we know that in 1803 he was living in

In 1811 Andrew Fraser married Margaret McDonald in Tomich (just north of Beaulieu, not Tomich "up the Glen") where it is likely that the McDonalds had a croft. Andrew and Margaret's eldest son, William (my ancestor), was christened there on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1812. After military service, Andrew became a crofter in Windhill, near by Tomich, and in later years he and Margaret went to live with one of their younger sons, Alexander, a road contractor and farmer in Alness. Andrew died at 7.00pm on 8<sup>th</sup> July 1861 of "old age".

Andrew's eldest son went to work for his namesake, William Fraser of Bracla who owned an estate near Cawdor in Nairn, one of the early commercial producers of Scotch Whisky. At Bracla William met Janet McPherson who also worked there; they married on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1833. They left Cawdor for Petty in Inverness (where I believe Janet's family came from) and went from there to Garguston. By 1841, William was described as a farm servant, living in Kilcoy and probably working on the Kilcoy estate. Ten years later he was the farm overseer at Ardress House – another property of the Earl of Seaforth, head of the McKenzie clan – with a substantial staff working under him. But it was not to last. In 1845 the estate was sold to Sir Alexander Matheson, a retired senior partner of Jardine Matheson the notorious opium trader. Matheson improved the Ardress estate and placed it under the supervision of an engineer, William McKenzie. William Fraser was not, no doubt, sufficiently up-to-date or enterprising and had to go. He went to Edinburgh where he worked for the Ushers Brewery as a brewers maltsman. Shortly before, Ushers had entered into a contract with Fraser of Bracla to provide stock for the first blended whisky and it is tempting to think that our William's old employer had helped him to get the job. William lived in Edinburgh with wife Janet and daughters Margaret and Isabella. and died on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1889.

William and Janet invested in their eldest son, Andrew, either because he was the brightest or perhaps, just because he was the eldest. Andrew was educated in Inverness where he was an apprentice pattern maker (1851) before going to Glasgow to work for James Muirhead. He married Janet Malloch, the daughter of an Edinburgh map-mounter, in London in 1857 and shortly after went to Russia where he is said to have run a paper-mill north of St Petersburg. James, my ancestor, remained in the Highlands. In the 1851 census, shortly before William took the family to Edinburgh, James is shown as a Herdsman in the employ of John Chisholm, a crofter of Urray in Ross and Cromarty (the croft was at Rheindown, very close to Windhill).

So, how do the facts line up with the myths? The first myth is of James being left on a farm at Chop Gate. Old records for Chop Gate, gave no clues – other than that a neighbouring hamlet was called "Urra". We now know that James was left in Urray, hearing the name Urray (or Urra) the Yorkshire Frasers would no doubt have thought of Chop Gate rather than the Highlands. It is also likely



Gt Grandfather William son of James, last Scot

that, being left on the farm when his family went to Edinburgh, James felt abandoned and disinclined to stay in contact. The “strongest man in Scotland” was, presumably Andrew who would have been known to James, stayed in the Gaelic speaking Highlands rather than accompanying his eldest son to Edinburgh, and lived to the age of 80.

There are still those in the family with double teeth where most folk have single ones. Was James engaged in cattle rustling? If not rustling, he was almost certainly a drover. In the 1850s it was still the practice for cattle to be reared in the disease free Highlands and driven in vast herds to be fattened and marketed in England. In the 1851 census, James was living near Beaulay, one of the main collection points for the drovers in the Highlands. In the 1861 census he was living near Carlisle, which was on one of the principal drovers' routes.

My Frasers appear to have been Scottish crofters and soldiers, until the old social order of the Highlands started to fall apart. James Fraser came to England, lost all contact with his family and started a very different life.

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### LLANELLI HIGHLANDERS REPEL THE VIKINGS

The 6<sup>th</sup> Valhalla Viking Highland Games was held on People's Park on Saturday in memory of Corporal Jamie Kirkpatrick, who was killed in action in Afghanistan on the 27<sup>th</sup> June 2010. Each year a physical competition is held between Jamie's Llanelli friends and his Armed Forces comrades. Previous events have been football, raft racing and rugby, but this is the first time for a Highland Games. This was a tough competition, very entertaining,



great fun, and the victors were the Llanelli team. Well done to them. They have now won the Jamie Kirkpatrick (KP) Trophy for the 5<sup>th</sup> time. There were a number of stand-out performances with the throwing events providing

some excellent spectating opportunities. It was inspiring and humbling to see a one-legged soldier throwing the shot a distance which thoroughly impressed our International Athlete judge, and the same individual pulling his weight in the tug of war competition. The awarding of the 'Man of the Games' therefore seemed entirely appropriate. Well done Luke.

The event had been widely advertised, and a steady stream of inquisitive and generous members of the public enjoyed the spectacle of the various competitions including some very dubious highland dancing and wench carrying. We were royally entertained with The City of Swansea Pipe Band who added a touch of authenticity to the day. The children had the opportunity to join in some fun competitions and have their fingerprints taken by the Police, whilst Mum and Dad sampled the excellent Hog Roast.

Ian Kirkpatrick Father of Jamie and one of the organisers said “This was a fantastic event. We have had some crackers over the years, but I think that this may have been the best yet. Everyone had to compete in all seven events, and every point counted. Many of the competitors had brought their own family support with them and the weather was extremely kind”

“We are extremely grateful to all our sponsors, and to those who loaned equipment and helped run each event on the day”

“Particular thanks to: Jonathan Kersting, Noelwyn Daniels, Dennis Morgan, John Collins and Swansea Harriers, Alistair Griffith and Llanelli Athletic Club, The Welsh Tartan Centre, Pentip School, Boleyn's Café, Ansti Logs, Dyfed Powys Police, Roger Bowles and Andy Blewitt, Llanelli Leisure Centre, The Selywn Samuel Centre, Swiss Valley Printing, Llanelli Wanderers, and Andy from Canoe and Kayak. Without these people and organisations, the day would not have been the success it was.”



Ian added, “This thoroughly enjoyable competition day, coupled with the social gathering in the evening which included a charity raffle and auction, raised £2,700. This has allowed the Llanelli Memorial Fund to finally attain its target, and to give a welcome boost to our charity partners, Talking2Minds, Sapper Support, and

The Invicta Foundation. In addition, the Man of the Games had his head shaved in aid of Cancer Research and raising a very impressive £462.00. All in all a very successful day. It is a testimony to Jamie and what he meant to so many people, that so many of his friends still take the time and travel from far and wide to participate in these events. The family are so grateful for this and we are already looking forward to next year. What will it be I wonder.” *Ian Kirkpatrick, sent by Jon Kersting, member. Images Drum Major McDonald, Pipe Major Michael, local MP Nia Griffiths & Memorial*

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### LOHCARRON CLAN MAP

A few months ago Lochcarron, the well known Scots tartan and kiltwear company contacted me saying that, they were building an interactive clan and would we be interested in being involved in the process, on behalf of the CFSSUK. Of course, I said I would and although I was away a lot, we managed to sort out an entry that we were happy with. Due to the technology used on the website, we couldn't get it as perfect as we'd have liked but they're a private tartan kiltwear business and gave us more attention than many so called tourist and historical bodies and taking everything into consideration, I'm happy. It is very good and a useful tool.

There's a very nice pop up map, showing the clans, just enter Fraser or Fraser of Lovat in the search box, then information, plus a link to their website, through the tartan in the information box, comes up. It's a fun and educational way to find your tartan, have a look at <http://www.lohcarron.co.uk/clanmap/> They deserve congratulations for the efforts they've made.

## IN THE CHAIR

4th of this series, Jon speaks to Lady Saltoun  
Chief of the whole Name & Arms of Fraser



Question 1.

Lady Saltoun, What age were you at School, when you suddenly realized that one day you would be a Fraser Clan Chief. Answer. I don't think I was at school when I realized I would be Clan Chief. I think it was much later that I realized what was in store.

Question 2.

How did the other Girls' react? Answer. Not applicable, but I should not have told them if it had been.

Question 3.

What sports did you pursue at School? May I guess lacrosse, netball, tennis and riding. Answer. As few as possible. I have always hated sport and exercise but some was compulsory. I played netball in the winter, and tennis in the summer, if there was tennis available for me who was very bad at it, otherwise sometimes rounders. Riding was not available.

Question 4.

Did you identify a talent for a particular sport? Answer. The answer to the previous question also answers this one!

Question 5. Due to National Service, I missed out on going to University, but made sure my children did. I would imagine you did, and if so what was the profession you initially followed? Answer. I tried to get into University to read classics, but failed, so gave up and learnt to cook instead.

Question 6. Lady Saltoun, are you still sitting in the House of Lords, and if so how long have you been a Member? Answer. I retired from the House of Lords 2 years ago, having sat there for 35 years.

Question 7. When I was in my twenties, I was in the House of Commons on a regular basis, for my M.P. was Brigadier Sir John Smyth V.C. M.C. Bt M.P., and I had ambitions of going into Parliament, anyway it didn't happen, but I often think of the excessive travelling some M.P.'s & Lords and Ladies do. Are you flying down to London on a Sunday, and returning on a Friday? Answer. I used to fly south on Monday morning and home on Thursday evening.

Question 8.

I lived in London for 51 years, and had houses in Dulwich, Beckenham Lee and Greenwich all being in S.E.London, do you know these areas, and where were you living? Just give the area. Answer. S.W.7. Onslow Square.

Question 9.

It is fair for me to say, the Scottish Referendum, and the E.U. Referendum have provided me with unwanted worry? What effect have they had on you. Lady Saltoun, if you prefer not to answer this question I understand. Just say pass. Answer. "Unwanted worry" is an understatement! I am horrified by the result of the E.U.

Referendum, and dreading what the future may bring to the U.K.

Question 10.

Do you correspond with Clan Fraser Societies in other Countries? Answer. Yes, I am in fairly constant touch with most Clan Fraser Societies.

Question 11.

What is your favourite holiday destination? Answer. Home! I loathe travelling, and did enough during my 35 years in the Lords to last me for life.

Question 12. I once asked a Lady to name her favourite book, and she replied her husband's cheque book. What is your favourite book? Answer. That is one of those awful questions that children ask their wretched parents. "Mummy, what is your favourite colour?" I don't have a favourite book, I probably have a number of favourite books, ones I re-read. Perhaps *Pride and Prejudice*, but there are lots of others and they may change from time to time.

Question 13.

Apart from cooking and writing books, what other hobbies do you have? Answer. Well they are not exactly hobbies (a horrible expression) **I stand corrected, Jon.** Cooking is not a hobby, most of my life, it has been a job which had to be done! Although I enjoyed it until I was too old to do it easily. I only wrote 3 books and they were done for a purpose. I used to do a lot of needlework, playing the piano and gardening, but old age has prevented me doing those things any more. (Arthritis) Nowadays I just sit and read my Kindle and listen to Classic FM on the radio.

Question 14.

It is quite appalling what has happened to the Scottish Regiments due to cuts and amalgamations, for when I was in the Army in 1956, we had 13 Scottish Regiments with Battalions of between 600 – 1,000 men, and now just the Royal Regiment of Scotland with 5 regular battalions, the 51<sup>st</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> reserves and 1 University battalion. These days we are lucky if we get 200 in a battalion. How do you feel about this? Answer. I entirely agree with you. The trouble is we are not prepared to pay for armed forces, which should be our absolute priority. We'd have them if we were prepared to pay them, and for their upkeep.

Question 15.

Why do you think most Frasers avoid joining the Society? Answer. I think the internet has a good deal to do with it. People don't want to meet face to face any more. They are too busy doing Facebook and Twitter, and you name it. Very sad and not a substitute for real live friendship. Perhaps the tide will turn. I hope so.



"Dear Lady Saltoun, I have thoroughly enjoyed preparing the questions, and reading your answers, and with 35 years of you sitting in the House of Lords realize what an interesting after Dinner Speaker you would be. If you lived nearer, I would

try and book you for my Club.

It is strange, but I now feel I know you, and like you, so do keep well." Best Wishes, Jonathan Kersting.  
*Acknowledgement for use of Arms to Fraserchief Website.*

## ROSS FRASER NEW ZEALAND

I'm sad to have to relate to you that Ross Fraser, who ran the Clan Fraser Society of New Zealand, passed away suddenly last month. It is the end of an era, he fought a disabling illness for many years and because of this, more recently, the stewardship of the New Zealand Society came under the auspices of the Australian Society but Ross still did what he could for the clan and everything Scottish, in his home country and will be sorely missed,



Unfortunately, no one there seems at all interested in coming forward to take over from him. He had been on a tour of the South Island, when he passed away,

I'd been following the tour on Facebook and he was having a great time, therefore it was quite a shock to all and our condolences go out to his family. Unlike some of our Australian counterparts. I never met Ross (far right in photo) personally but we were in contact electronically and I found his humour very sharp and Scots in its dryness and he had a great love for Clan Fraser, New Zealand and Scotland. *Ed*

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## BRISTOL

We were on our travels, as usual, during July and decided we hadn't been to Bristol for a while and booked into the Caravan Club site on the old floating harbour and told Michael we were heading that way. We hadn't met up since the Bannockburn Event in 2014 and lots have changed since then, we needed to discuss the future of the CFSSUK and as well as that, we all enjoy each other's company and it was a good excuse for a lunch. It turned out to be a lovely summers day for our discussions, Michael decided to come up by train so we met at the Knights Templar (an appropriate name for us, we thought) near Bristol station. Actually, we walked a long way from



the station, following the map route on my mobile phone, when eventually we reached the pub, tired and hot, we saw a sign pointing to the side of the station

entrance, it was only a couple of hundred yards. This did prove new technology isn't always what it's made out to be.

Anyway, it didn't dampen our spirits and we sat down for a meal and a chat, to update where we thought the CFSSUK was and where it was going. We had some serious news from Michael, he was due to go into hospital for a serious operation, thankfully new technology in the NHS is moving forward and he recovered quickly and is

now fit and well but it does emphasise the fragility of the Society, if something happens to either of us, that could be the end of the CFSSUK. On the downside, membership isn't growing, despite us doing all we can think of, there's only the two of us running it, with help from a very small minority of members, which we're very grateful for, I'm struggling for newsletter articles and Clan Societies and Family History Societies, if I can put them in the same niche, are generally struggling, there's some shift of mood or peoples wants and we don't seem to be fashionable at present. We've seen the Canadian and now the New Zealand Clan Fraser Societies go and the Australian one has had to reorganise, so we have to ask, is this a downhill spiral?

On the upside, we're still financially sound, haven't put our fees up ever, this is where new technology has helped so much and both of us are keen to keep going but we do need more help, although in saying that, a lot of clubs and societies, nowadays, have the same problem, I'm a member of a few clubs or associations and do nothing in them, apart from take out of them, what I want, because I'm busy with this Society and also, people are more busy nowadays. There's no easy answer but we did agree a way forward and the CFSSUK is safe, at least for now. Michael wrote to Lady Saltoun to keep her aware of our concerns, the roles Michael and I play, financial, membership, website and communications, we can cope with but if anyone else can help with anything, especially more copy for the newsletter, then that would help a lot. Our role in the Association of Highland Clans & Societies helps broaden our scope and contacts. If you can encourage new members to join, that could secure the future, we need fresh blood more than Dracula. Basically, the CFSSUK will continue but only with your help.

Unknown to us an event that could help us greatly was being planned, the Tattoo on August 5<sup>th</sup>, first of all, it means Michael & I will meet up again, Donald Fraser-Clark has rallied to the cause and is organising a get together, his help is more than greatly appreciated and we have a focus, an excuse for publicity, recruitment and most of all a chance to see you there, do come and join us there. *Ed*

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## LORD LOVAT'S FLAG

Attending the celebrations at Beaulieu had me return to the excellent book by Sarah Fraser about the 11<sup>th</sup> Lord Lovat, "The Fox", The Last Highlander, a very accurate account of that very duplicitous Lord's life. In turn, I was reminded of the article I wrote about his Camp Flag in Newsletter 33 in 2006 and think it's now time to reprint it. *Ed*.

## THE FLAG

You can imagine my excitement when in November last year I received an email asking me if I knew anything about a flag, that was with the Frasers at the Battle of Culloden, the enquirers had just inherited it from a close relative who, for many years, had kept it in a drawer, only taking it out to show the immediate family. I get a lot of strange enquires so an image of the flag and letter of provenance was sent to me and things began to look extremely interesting, although the letter had some errors in it, as it was written by a family member, 56 years after

the flag was given to the family, these could be explained family stories going adrift, as often happens or simple misinterpretation but the flag was something you couldn't ignore. The letter explained that the flag, which was carried at The Battle of Culloden by the Frasers of Lovat, was originally given to an Invernessian antiquarian, Dr MacIntosh by the then Fraser of Lovat, he cut it in half and gave the left side to an ancestor of the present owners in 1827. Why the Doctor was given the flag, why it was cut in half, why it was given away and where the other half is now, are complete mysteries but as this half has now come to light after all this time, there is hope that the other part of the relic may yet be found. It's hard to take in that the left half of the relic was around 100 years old, when given to the family and almost 200 years have passed since then, yet it's in very good condition.

The next thing was to find out more about it but as it's security was paramount, contacting people was done in a very cloak and dagger way, I've been dying to share this with you but as you can understand, the safety of the artefact came first. To begin with, Lord Lovat was informed and I asked experts in the UK and US if they could identify the unique object and a debate commenced. The owners found someone to help them nearer home but his identity must remain a secret for now, as revealing it could lead to the identities of the owners but his work was crucial to get us to where we are now. Lord Lyons office confirmed the arms on the flag, which we now know is silk, are those of the Lord Fraser of Lovat and used by them since the 1500s, also the decorative style wasn't Scots but European and the Union Flag was pre-1801.

Then the Royal Crown and crowned thistle were considered, along with Union Flag this began to show this



was a British army flag, owned by a Lord Lovat. Thought was given to the colours being in the Canadian wars or American Revolution but changes had been made to flag content in 1751, therefore, it predated these. So, what was a G.B. government Fraser flag doing at Culloden, well, it was beginning to look like it wasn't, imagine

the Frasers on the Jacobite side flying a government flag, total confusion and also most of the flags on the field that day were seized and burned by the hangman in Edinburgh. Perhaps at this stage we should digress and look at The Fox, the 11<sup>th</sup> Lord Lovat.

Whatever The Fox did for Clan Fraser of Lovat he did for his own ends, he was devious but had amazing charm, in the many Jacobite risings, five I think, he marched to his own tune e.g. in 1719 he promised to support Seaforth's uprising but his letter was leaked, he fled to London,

leaving orders for the clan to destroy Seaforth, which included a Spanish army at Glensheil and he so embedded himself with the King that he became the godfather to Lovat's eldest son, always known as the Master of Lovat. In the '45 rebellion, The Fox stayed at home but sent the Master of Lovat, most probably against his will, to fight on Bonnie Prince Charlie's side. At Culloden itself, after a failed pre-emptive strike at the Duke of Cumberland at Nairn, the Jacobite army was in disarray and Lt. Colonel Charles of Inverallochy (Castle Fraser fame) headed the clan. Here history is confusing, the Master of Lovat was Colonel of the Fraser regiment but it's uncertain he got the full force to the battlefield and if he did, the battle was lost and he turned with his force, with colours flying and headed towards Inverness. There's also stories of an incident at Ness Bridge, did the Master, who was more pro-government, turn and have the government colours at the bridge, if he was there, he couldn't have made a flag like that in an instant, not a likely scenario?

So the flag's pre-1751, likely not to have been at Culloden or at Ness Bridge, is a government flag owned by a Lord Lovat, who can only be The Fox, as he was the only Lord Lovat after the Union of Parliaments in 1707 till 1751, this also ties in with Lovat being in France for a while, on the run, so the artefact is likely to be French, interestingly the Je Suis Prest or clan motto is in English, it very ostentatious but so was Lovat. At last, we have who owned it but what is it?

Now we need to look at its size, 15.75" high and 10.63" wide, 40 by 27 cm, or roughly A3, the full flag would have been like two A3 sheets together, tiny, not a huge battle flag, not a pipers flag, which is longer but a Camp Flag, therefore what we have is The Fox's own Camp Flag for a government regiment, something arguably of much more historic importance than a small flag carried at Culloden but which regiment, not one in Canada or the Americas, as already explained? Lord Lovat had been instrumental in the raising of the Independent Highland Companies, commonly known as the Black Watch, in 1725 and had also involvement with their predecessors in 1715, we now believe we have the answer. We now think this was the 11<sup>th</sup> Lord Lovat's own Camp Flag, to show, without doubt, he was king of the walk, it's most likely to be from 1725 but don't rule out 1715 and whatever date it is, we think it's unique and of considerable importance to both Scots and British history. It's taken a year, we've come a long way in understanding what it is, the flag's undergone conservation, is secure, so what's next?

The family are extremely proud to own such a historic item, it's been part of the family for as long as they can remember, the previous owner certainly saved it from slow destruction by keeping it in a drawer, they want to keep their anonymity and private lives. However, they also want to share it and talks are at an early stage to find some temporary exhibition centres that would take it on loan, this article is also a sign of their intent but it's a difficult balance to establish.

They hope by going public and putting the flag in the public eye, more will be found out about it and even, who knows, the other half of what we knew as the Culloden Flag, will come to light, finding out about who Dr MacIntosh was, would also help. So, clear out your drawers and attics, you never know.

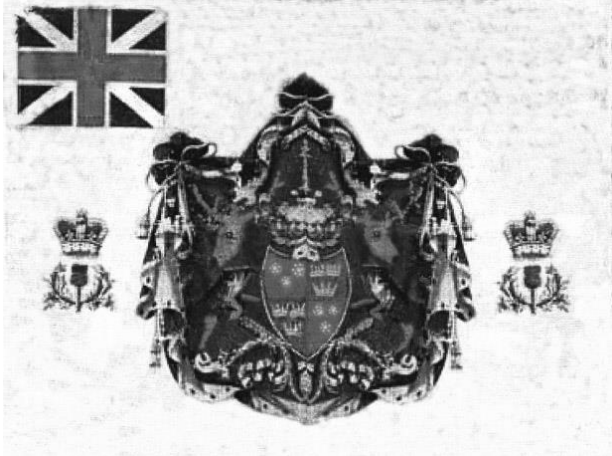
*Graeme B Fraser*



In a later Newsletter, this image was published thanks to Gordon Fraser. *Ed*

### BACK TO THE FLAG

The appearance of the Fraser Flag featured in the last Newsletter caused quite a stir and one of your fellow members went to quite some considerable trouble to reproduce, what he thought, the original flag would have been like. Gordon Fraser emphasises it is guesswork,



based on what he's seen, it's even more spectacular in colour.

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### JOHN FRASER GC

In very early editions of the Newsletter I featured our brave clansmen who won the Victoria Cross and now I'm turning my attention to the George Cross. I always thought the GC was the highest gallantry award for civilians only, similar to the Victoria Cross for the military but it is also awarded to members of the armed forces in actions for which purely military honours would not normally be granted, it was instituted on 24 September 1940 by King George VI. I've found five members of the clan, so far, who have won the George Cross through their bravery and here's the first one I've turned my attention to.

Major John Alexander Fraser GC MC and Bar (12 February 1896 – 29 October 1943) was born in Edinburgh in 1896, and educated at Edinburgh University, he was commissioned into the Royal Scots Fusiliers WWI, where he won the Military Cross (MC) in 1916. In WWII he was the Assistant Attorney



General in Honk Kong and was posthumously awarded the George Cross.

After the Japanese took Hong Kong, he was incarcerated in the Civil Internment Camp at Stanley where he organised escape plans and a clandestine wireless service and was able to get information in and out of the camp.

He was eventually arrested and subjected to prolonged and severe torture, before being executed but he had refused to betray his companions and many lives were saved. This included Hong Kong police officer George Wright-Nooth who was involved in smuggling food and messages and knew where one of the illegal radio sets was, in his memoirs paid tribute to Mr Fraser's incredible courage, which he believed saved him from certain execution.

The full citation for his GC reads, "St. James's Palace, S.W.1, 29th October, 1946.

The KING has been graciously pleased to make the undermentioned awards of the GEORGE CROSS: — John Alexander FRASER (deceased), lately Assistant Attorney-General, Hong Kong.

Fraser was interned by the Japanese in the Civilian Internment Camp, Stanley, and immediately organised escape plans and a clandestine wireless service. He was fully aware of the risks that he ran but engaged continuously in, most dangerous activities and was successful, not only in receiving news from outside, but also in getting important information out of the Camp. Eventually he was arrested and subjected to prolonged and severe torture by the Japanese who were determined to obtain information from him and to make him implicate the others who were working with him. Under this treatment, he steadfastly refused to utter one word that could help the Japanese investigations or bring punishment to others. His fortitude under the most severe torture was such that it was commented upon by the Japanese prison guards. Unable to break his spirit the Japanese finally executed him. His devotion to duty, outstanding courage and endurance were the source of very real inspiration to others and there can be no doubt the lives of those whom the Japanese were trying to implicate were saved by his magnificent conduct." *Ed*

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### FAMOUS FRASERS

#### Ronald Fraser

This famous actor (11 April 1930 – 13 March 1997) was born in Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire, in 1930, the son of a Scottish builder and interior decorator, Fraser caught the acting bug while performing in Terence Rattigan's French Without Tears in Benghazi, North Africa, during National Service with the Seaforth Highlanders. He subsequently trained at RADA He appeared in numerous British plays, films and television shows from the 1950s to the 1990s. An unusual appearance and unique delivery made him a natural comedic actor. Fraser was a familiar figure in West End clubs during the sixties, and despite a long-standing reputation as one of the hardest drinking of British actors he was still working in his last years. In almost 50 film roles, Fraser acted alongside such greats as Robert Mitchum, Deborah Kerr, Norman Wisdom, Laurence Harvey, David Niven, Harry Andrews, Richard Todd, Maurice Chevalier, Tony Hancock, Richard Burton, Elizabeth Taylor, James Stewart, Peter Finch and Ralph Richardson but was perhaps best known as Basil

"Badger" Allenby-Johnson in the 1970s television series *The Misfit*.

Fraser was a resident of Hampstead, London. He was a heavy drinker and a well-known figure in the local hostelrys. He was married from 1956 to 1964 to Elizabeth Howe, and the couple had two daughters.

He died of a haemorrhage, aged 66, in London, the pallbearers at his funeral were Sean Connery, Peter O'Toole, Simon Ward (who had played his son in *The Misfit*) and Chris Evans.

### Ronald Fraser

Ronald Angus Fraser (9 December 1930 – 10 February 2012) was a British historian noted for his oral histories and especially for *Blood of Spain*, is a peerless account of the Spanish Civil War. He was born in Hamburg to a Scottish father who worked for a shipping line and

wealthy American mother, Fraser was educated at boarding school in England and the USA and undertook further studies in Switzerland and France. Fraser spent five years as a correspondent with Reuters in Brussels, The Hague and London before moving to Spain in 1957, after his mother's death, to become a full-time writer.

Fraser was one of the pioneers of oral history (the collection and study of historical information using tape recordings of interviews with people having personal knowledge of past events) in the 1960s and '70s. Fraser's friendship with André Gorz, a young Frenchman he met purely by chance, led to his involvement with the *New Left Review* from the early 1960s.

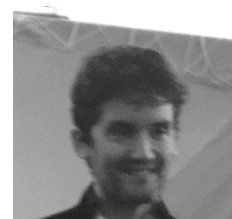
He was a lifelong socialist and at his death a senior member of the New Left Trust. He was a founder of New Left Books, the parent company of publisher Verso Books.

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## FESTIVE GREETINGS



I just want to notify you that, in collaboration with the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, the salute at the Edinburgh Tattoo in 2017 will be taken at each of the 25 performances by a different Clan Chief or their representative. On one evening, the 5th of August, my daughter Kate will be doing it on my behalf. Meanwhile, best wishes to you all for a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. **SALTOUN**



Dear Clansmen, my very best to you all for the year ahead, I wish you all good health and happiness in 2017. Best. **Simon**

### CHIEFLY DINNERS by Lady Saltoun OSSO BUCCO ALLA MILANESE

2lb shin of veal cut into 12"-2" lengths, 3/4 pint white wine, 3 pint stock, 12oz tomatoes or 1 14-15oz tin tomatoes, chopped, 2oz butter, salt, freshly ground black pepper, the grated peel of half a lemon, a clove garlic, chopped parsley.

Brown the pieces of veal in butter, then place them upright in the pan, pour wine over them and cook them for 10 minutes, then add the tomatoes, skinned and chopped if fresh, and let them reduce. Add stock, season, cover and cook 1½-2 hours. Chop or crush the garlic, and mix with the grated lemon peel and parsley. Dish the veal, being very careful that the marrow does not fall out of the bones. Sprinkle the parsley mixture over and serve accompanied by risotto alla milanese and a green salad.

### RISOTTO A LA MILANESE

1oz (30g.) butter or 2 tab. Olive oil or a mixture of both, 1 small onion, finely chopped, 1oz (30g.) beef marrow if available, 6oz (170g.) Italian risotto rice (Arborio or Carnaroli?), 1 gill (150ml.) white wine, c. ¾-1 pint (c. 500ml.) chicken or vegetable stock, 1 packet powdered saffron (optional), 1 bay-leaf, a bouquet garni, 1-2 cloves garlic (optional), salt, freshly ground black pepper, 1oz (30g.) grated parmesan cheese, 1oz butter, Plenty of grated parmesan to accompany.

Melt 1oz (30g.) butter in a heavy pan and soften the onion in it or the olive oil until pale gold but not brown. Add beef marrow, if you have it, and the garlic, then the rice and stir until transparent. Add wine and cook rapidly until almost evaporated, then add the stock, saffron, bay-leaf, bouquet, parsley, salt and pepper Cook over a low heat, stirring frequently until the rice has absorbed all the stock and is tender and creamy but not sticky. Towards the end, you must stir continually. Remove the bay-leaf, and bouquet, add 1oz (30g.) parmesan and the remaining butter, stir until melted and serve immediately with more parmesan cheese to accompany. Serves 2-3 as a main dish, 5-6 as a first course. You can reserve some of the stock, and when what you have added is absorbed, you can draw the pan aside and leave until a few minutes before serving, then add the rest of the stock and finish off, as above.



**A Blythe Yule an a Guid Hogmanay or Nollaig chridheil agus bliadhna mhath ùr** from Michael Fraser, Secretary, Graeme Fraser, Editor and Giles Fraser, Webmaster.

