



FRASER



THE CLAN FRASER
SOCIETY OF
SCOTLAND AND
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FRISKY WHISKY

Our visit to Peebles and the Borders was a great success and many thanks to Donald and Ann for their great efforts, Neidpath Castle was fascinating and the Clan Fraser



whisky from the Borders Distillery, was, well what do you think, superb. Our Events Organiser has another Event in mind for next year, "Arbroath 2020", on Sunday 5th April 2020, to mark the seven hundredth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath but huge inertia on behalf of the organisers, in what should be

one of the world's greatest events, is giving us some problems but put the date in your diaries and we'll keep you informed, also, if all fails, Donald has some thoughts on alternative events. We've full news of the Borders Event in the Newsletter along with the Braemar Gathering, help from the Shetland FHS on how the Frasers and Simpsons made it in those isles and much more. Also, don't forget, if you want to receive the monthly Eletter, I need your email address.

700th ANNIVERSARY

April 6th 2020 marks the seven hundredth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath, sometimes called the Declaration of Scottish Independence.

It is believed to have been written in Arbroath Abbey by Bernard of Kilwinning, then Chancellor of Scotland and Abbott of Arbroath, and sealed by fifty-one magnates and nobles. The Declaration was part of a broader diplomatic campaign which sought to assert Scotland's position as an independent kingdom, rather than being a feudal land controlled by England's Norman kings. It contained the statement:

"...for, as long as but a hundred of us remain alive, never will we on any conditions be brought under English rule. It is in truth not



for glory, nor riches, nor honours that we are fighting, but for freedom – for that alone, which no honest man gives up but with life itself.”

The signatories include Alexander of Touch Fraser & Cowie and William de Abernethy of Saltoun. The anniversary is being celebrated in Arbroath, organised locally by “Arbroath 2020”, on Sunday 5th April 2020 and is likely to include parades and re-enactments. Our Society thought it would be a good idea to arrange a Clan Fraser event around the anniversary celebrations. Kate, Mistress of Saltoun and Lady Saltoun’s daughter plans to be there (her ancestors were signatories) and thinks a Clan Fraser Society Dinner would fit in well. She will be attending the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs in July and may well get more details then. We have been in touch with the “Arbroath 2020” organisation and they are happy for us to be involved; though, as yet, we have no idea what that might mean.

I realise it is a long way off and we have just had our Peebles event before but we thought members ought to be aware of the anniversary celebrations and our ideas on being involved. *Donald Fraser-Clark*

CFSSUK EVENT, PEEBLES, By Patricia Molloy

Thanks to the impressive organisational skills of Donald and Ann Fraser-Clark, a number of us gathered on Friday 11th October, 2019 at the Tontine Hotel in Peebles and others joined on Saturday 12th. For those of us who journeyed from a very wet and soggy England, it was a joy to find Peebles bathed in sunshine which was made even more beautiful by driving through the golden Autumn leaves’ colours of the Borders along the Tweed. Sadly Bill and Diana Fraser could not join us as Bill was having to undergo medical treatment at the last minute. He would have been very disappointed, as he always makes these events. We all wish him a speedy recovery.



Patricia & Brian right

Kate, Mistress of Saltoun and her husband Mark kindly attended, which always makes it feel very officially a Fraser outing and we all met in

the hotel for a greeting before driving to the nearby Neidpath Castle for a guided tour especially organised for the Society. We were greeted by Lulu Benson who is descended from the Wemyss family who now own the Castle. She gave us a most interesting talk about the origins of the Castle and its ownership from c1190 to the present date, along with the bloody battles that had of course coloured its history. Originally owned by Sir Gilbert Fraser of Oliver, it passed on down through his grandson the famous Simon Fraser, known as The Patriot and would have provided a haven for him and his companion William Wallace as they fought for Scotland. Lulu pointed out to us the avenue of Yew Trees that are individual to the Castle and carry its name in its botanical title. They were especially good for making bows and arrows which would have been essential for battle. Strawberries, depicted on Fraser shields, were carved into the entrance gate along with the Goats’ head of the Hay family which Simon Fraser’s daughter married into and which inherited the castle through the marriage. We were then taken on a tour of the Castle which was absolutely fascinating. There were a great many stairs, which challenged us and of course, even though it was not a very cold day, reminded us that it would have been

the hotel for a greeting before driving to the nearby Neidpath Castle for a guided



very cold and draughty in a Scottish winter of yore! We saw the 21 ft deep well and also the dungeon that some unfortunates would have been thrown down into from the guard room above and also the 'drops' and garde-robes that passed for toilets of those days. The Great Hall has been much altered but the fire-place was absolutely massive and made us aware of the scale of the original Hall. Circular steps to the upper floors were dizzying and



we were grateful for the ropes to hold onto! Lulu kindly gave us most interesting talks in each of the rooms and we were shown the living room and

bedroom that the family let out to people who wish to stay there overnight and to hold weddings and receptions there today – thankfully heated! The big Reception Room for the weddings had wonderful coloured Batik paintings of the life of Mary Queen of Scots which were most impressive. We were made aware of where Mary would have stayed when she visited on her tours of Scotland. Finally we arrived up on the very blowy ramparts to be greeted by the most amazing view of the Tweed river valley and the fabulous trees surrounding the area. A view to fill the soul of those who love Scotland.

We were told about the Ghost who inhabits the Castle, a poor unfortunate girl who is referred to as the Maid of Neidpath who died from a broken heart some centuries ago. Lulu pointed out the parts of the castle that had suffered from cannon ball shots and the attempts that they are making to try to renovate parts of the castle to keep it 'alive'. There was a most interesting Family Tree in an upstairs reception room and Kate, Mark and Donald certainly were able to add some relevant information which Lulu found very useful. We all found the tour fascinating.

That evening we all gathered in the bar of the Tontine Hotel, proud to be wearing our Fraser regalia and we then had a wonderful dinner together in the beautiful hotel dining room. Graeme made a short speech wishing Bill well and saying how pleased he was that we were there and thanking Donald and Ann for their hard work in organising this year's social dinner gathering. New members Chris and Judy Fraser and his sister Barbara were welcome additions to our numbers.

Following breakfast together on the Sunday, we drove to



Hawick where we had a specially organised tour of The Borders Distillery, which markets a Clan Fraser whisky, and such a wonderful presentation tour by John Fordyce

which was extremely interesting. Local Press Photographers were there to record this occasion! The information given about the Environmental and Conservation issues associated with their business was most impressive. We were also given some Barley to

taste, from their supplier Patrick Fraser a few miles away, as part of the information on accountability for years to come. A quick look into the fermenting tank was enough to blow your head off if inhaled! The information on the Arabic origins of the process and the use of copper and its values to the alcohol was explained and was so interesting for those of us who had not visited a distillery before. Kate and Mark had some very searching questions for John, knowing so much more about the subject and of course about Clan Fraser whisky and the rights to call it so. John explained about their investigations in the local area and their right to be one of the Scottish Distilleries to produce a Clan Fraser Blended Whisky. We were all given a tasting and an explanation into the different drinks they produce.

This was a most wonderful weekend to share together. Very grateful thanks go to all of those involved in running the Clan Fraser Society and for giving us the chance to experience these venues.

BRAEMAR 2019

This was the third year that the CFSSUK had represented Clan Fraser at the Braemar Gathering. Ann and I met

Mark and Xander for the march in and Mark, who is Vice-Patron of the Gathering, and Xander joined others for the official opening and the march past.



Ann and I then went off to man the Clan Fraser

table in the Overseas Tent. This was in a new position in between the beer tent and the food tents so we had the best footfall of any year so far. We had a good number of Frasers, particularly Canadian, who took a real interest in our displays and asked questions which, I hope, we answered adequately. Kate, Mark and Xander called in to show their support (Kate had already dropped off her mother's flag, Fraser table covers and Fraser Whisky) before they went to the Royal Pavilion to greet the Queen. For the third year in a row we had perfect weather with clear skies and good (for Braemar) temperatures. The games were fantastically supported and with the Massed Pipe Band and the presence of the Queen everybody had a memorable time. Donald Fraser-Clark

AN OFFER FROM TRICIA FRASER

I've been researching my family tree for many years with a lot of emphasis on India and am now familiar with all the resources. I'd be very happy to do free searches for any members researching their family trees in India. I know that the Scottish link was always important - my great uncle's death record states that he is buried in "Tollygunge cemetery (Scottish Portion)" email fraser2009@live.co.uk Tricia Fraser

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS, Conway Fraser, Chris Fraser, Alan Malcolm Fraser

A VISIT TO BEAUFORT

I have only been to the Highlands once in my life, and I have no knowledge of my father or grandfather ever having visited. My visit was in October 2016 and we stayed at one of the cottages in the grounds of Beaufort Castle, which was very pleasant, and I would recommend it to anyone who wishes to spend time in the area.

I was not attracted to the parklands, being too neat and tidy for my preference, but I immediately felt at home in the wild woodlands along the banks of the River Beaully, and spend many enjoyable hours chasing along the deer trails like a mad teenager. I have always loved this sort of country and have sought it out wherever I have lived. I went to school at Lancing College in West Sussex, and the steep overgrown



gully down from the Chapel, called the Ladywell, was my refuge and delight, with cattle trails rather than those of deer. I think that I prefer deer, being narrower and less damaging to the woodland.

The first photo shows me on the bank of the River Beaully on a crisp but sunny October morning, I think that this is the only selfie that I have ever taken. With nostalgia, the hunting scarf came from my father, Simon (1906-1991), and the bonnet was woven by my daughter, Sybilla, from wool that she hand spun from a fleece off one of Marnie's (my wife) sheep. The second photo is what I was looking at, being the northern aspect of Beaufort Castle, on the ridge above the river.

We visited many places, notably the Wardlaw Mausoleum, where, at that time, it was thought that the mortal remains of Lord Lovat of the 45 were interred. We viewed some skeletal remnants from the hatchway to the crypt with the kind assistance of Eric Lundberg, the curator. It was another step in the journey when subsequent forensic analysis showed that the remains were actually that of an unknown young woman, and not an elderly man.



Strangely, while looking down at the bones, I had a distinct sense of someone laughing, a sort of welcoming friendly laugh, as if asking me to join in the joke. I am not a spiritual person, simply a child of the universe, so cannot put any weight on it, but then he was called the Old Fox after all. I find that moment to be unforgettable.

We tried to get to the Great Fraser Yew, but did not try hard enough, and without enough knowledge. But I have since pin-pointed it on Google Earth, and so should be more successful if I get another chance <http://southlochnessheritage.co.uk/natural-history-environment/#jp-carousel-833>

Altogether a most enjoyable holiday, the first for some twenty years, with wonderful places and friendly people.
Hugh Frazer, member

SIR IAIN FRASER

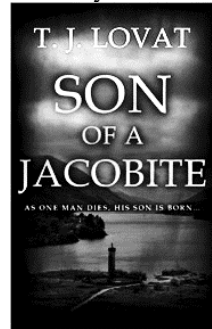
Sadly, one of our members, Sir Iain Fraser passed away in April this year, aged 67, I don't suppose you could claim he was the father of Harry Potter but he did found the Elephant House, the coffee shop where J K Rowling wrote some of the novels. He was born in Malaya, his father and grandfather were surgeons, coming originally from crofter families in Easter Ross and arrived in Scotland aged three. Later in life he worked around the world in shipping but returned to Edinburgh and with a love for entertaining and coffee, the Elephant House was born on George IV Bridge, so far ahead of its time it even offered Cappuccino and later on, Wizards. *Ed*



NEW FRASER BOOKS

Son of a Jacobite

Historic Fiction by T J Lovat: April 1746. Born on the final day of the Jacobite Rebellion at Culloden, Thomas



Lovat enters the world on the same day his father departs, killed in action. The devastation of Culloden and the Highland Clearances will have a profound effect on the rest of Thomas's life.

Conscious of his heritage and its associated anger, Thomas is confronted with a confused identity and heritage as he grows into a young man. Travelling to the

Middle East, he meets and marries his first love. Together they bear a child. He comes to see the beauty and troubles of Islam and so reflects on his own religious beliefs and values.

Returning to England, Thomas joins the British Army and travels to the Americas in the prelude to the War of Independence. As the American Revolution plays out, the tension between Thomas's rebellious Jacobite heritage and his duties as a British officer come dramatically to the fore. **T. J. Lovat** is a retired professor from Newcastle, Australia, with honorary appointments at Oxford and Glasgow universities.

The Lone Piper

Historical Non-fiction by Ian Moran: I have long been interested in the story of the D-Day Piper, Bill Millin. Without a rifle, carrying only his bagpipes, Bill piped on



Sword beach wearing his father's World War I kilt. While there are some great articles out there and a few videos, there is very little that provided the details to the story. After digging into

interviews with veterans, reading dozens of books and a little help from Bill's son John, I pulled together what I hope is an interesting story as seen through the eyes of those who were witness to the legendary feats of bravery. The book is available on Amazon in hard copy, as well as Barnes & Noble, iTunes, Kobo and Kindle in soft copy.

FRASERS EVERYWHERE!

My Simpson ancestors were in the fishing village of Johnshaven on the North-east coast of Scotland in the early 17th century. Later generations had no connections with the sea but were employed in local farms and I assumed that ours was a land-bound family, with roots firmly in the North-East of Scotland, the Mearns and the Angus Glens. However, when on recent holiday, I was surprised to discover large numbers of Simpsons and Frasers living in the very far north – scattered throughout the Shetland islands, an area that is nearer to Norway (200 miles) than Edinburgh (399 miles).

We had set off in early May in our motor-home, taking the ferry from Gills Bay for a nearly two-hour crossing of the Pentland Firth, passing the hills of Hoy and Scapa Flow to arrive on Ronaldsay, at St. Margaret's Hope. The fresh spring green of the fertile fields contrasted with the stunning blue of the sea, and the road was lined with a profusion of wildflowers. We drove over the Churchill barriers which, for one and a half miles, link small islands



with Mainland Orkney. These barriers had been built in the 1940's to protect the British fleet anchoring at Scapa Flow. With very few tourists around we stopped for a visit to the impressive Italian Chapel, built out of

a Nissan hut by prisoners of War. On then to the excellent council-run caravan and motorhome site at Picaquoy, Kirkwall, before spending the next day exploring some favourite places. Firstly to the picturesque Waulkmill Bay nature reserve, overlooking Scapa Flow, then on to the inland Loons nature reserve, teeming with new life. It was Orkney, so despite the sunshine, the wind was ever present and very, very bracing – with snow visible on the hills of Hoy! The next morning, we visited Deerness, and watched Arctic skua, bonxies, seals, and diving gannets before driving to Guerness broch which looks towards Rousay and Eynhallow islands. Greylag geese, hares, whimbrels and meadow pipits were in the neighbouring fields - the joy of a motorhome being that you can brew up a cuppa whilst enjoying these views!

We were catching the ferry to Shetland later that evening so, whilst watching activities in Kirkwall harbour, we indulged in an excellent fish supper. The ferry from Aberdeen was on time and by midnight we were ensconced in our cabin for a few hours' sleep before arriving at 07.30am at Lerwick. Things being very civilised, we were able to take the motorhome off the ferry and then return on foot for breakfast on board ship before setting off northwards. It was then that I saw a notice for Simpson fish merchants, a family run business. (The Shetland Islands are in the middle of the most prolific fishing grounds in Europe, Lerwick is the second largest whitefish landing port in the UK. with fish being landed there by the Shetland whitefish fleet of 179 boats.) From then on, I noticed the Fraser and Simpson names occurring everywhere throughout Shetland.

During our travels throughout Shetland we had many camp sites to ourselves and were able to stop in many places en-route to brew up whilst enjoy the wonderful

views. It was heart-stopping when we parked overlooking a steep-sided sea inlet at high tide and saw sheep scrambling over the steep rocks to eat seaweed. We passed one of the Clearance villages which had later been revived by an enterprising merchant who had set up a shop and business. He developed a fish curing business and sold knitwear – including some to Sir Edmund Hillary & Sherpa Tensing for their Everest expedition. Nearby, the strange sounding Mavis Grind is a narrow neck of land with the Atlantic on one side and North Sea on the other, where sailors 'portaged' boats across the land to save the long journey around the islands.

A night spent at the Delting marina gave us the opportunity to use the washing machines there, catching up on laundry before treating ourselves to a special fish supper at 'Frankie's' - a meal of six fresh, locally caught, beautifully cooked, massive king scallops and chips! A nearby memorial to 22 fishermen, lost in December 1900, held a poignant quote 'You see dey wereno mine; Da Lord gae dem tae me fir a time, and dan he tak dem back ageen.' (you see they were not mine; the Lord gave them to me for a time and then he took them back again.)

A ferry took us across to the island of Yell where our camp site overlooked a quiet marina and a Shetland wren was living in the stone wall beside us. The small but perfectly adequate shower and kitchen block was roofed by an upturned lifeboat. The nearby museum,



with small craft shop and café, had one poignant corner dedicated to 60 men from Yell who were killed in the First World War. The Shetlands lost a disproportionate number of their menfolk in both Wars.

Overlooking the bay was the ruins of a Methodist Church – the first built in Shetland in the 1870's, after the minister had been horrified at the bad language being used by locals. In the calm that evening we watched a crew of six women training for national rowing competitions in the traditional sixteen, the, *Yala* (the local name for Yell) These were the boats once used by fleets of fishermen in the wild seas around the islands. No wonder they were such skilled sailors, and no wonder, in such basic vessels, so many were lost at sea.

After another short ferry trip, we arrived on the northernmost island – Unst. Otters frolic in the seas around the islands and we caught several glimpses of these elusive creatures. The most northerly post office in the U.K. is at Baltasound, where faint ruins of piers and huts for the fish-gutters are the only evidence of what was once the biggest herring port in the U.K. We stopped to explore the impressive, recently built replica of Viking longhouse and boat before a tour and tasting at the gin distillery. Next, a visit to the famous Victoria's tea rooms where we watched seals and gannets diving in the bay while devouring home-made cakes.

The road to the U.K.'s most northerly house was steep and challenging, but the views, as always, were rewarding. Far below lay Norwick beach – the point of contact between the continental and the oceanic crust.

A trip to Hermaness nature reserve was not to be missed; on the way we could see Saxa Vord, once an RAF radar station, visible on the opposite side of Burra Firth. The long walk to the cliffs of Hermaness is eased by an



excellent boardwalk which protects the fragile moorland and bird nests as well as preventing any interference with nesting birds. Scores of skylarks sang in glorious sunshine

and, nearer the cliff edge, bonxies (Skuas) watched us warily. From the cliff top we watched gannets flying silently and close to us at eye-level. It was barely the start of the breeding season, a few puffins scurried about collecting nesting materials but no cacophony of sea birds from the nesting sites below. Muckle Flugga lighthouse was visible from the cliff top. Beautiful deserted Sandwick beach has evidence of Neolithic living and remains of Pictish settlements, with traces of Viking longhouses still visible. Here a bustling Medieval community once traded local fish and knitted goods with Baltic ports; the ruin of a medieval 'Bod' or merchants house, is now the only evidence of this activity. Nearby Muness castle was once surrounded by a substantial community. A plaque states it was built using 'the hard labour and tears of the locals' in 1598 by a petty tyrant, half-brother to the wicked Earl of Orkney. The ruins were partly restored and access made safe by Historic Scotland. After a few days exploring on Unst we returned by ferry to Yell, finding yet another poignant fishermen's memorial at Gloup to 56 men from 10 sixreens, from a fleet of 56 boats, who drowned in 1881. Once back on Mainland Shetland we stopped on a quiet site overlooking the amazing rock formations – the *Drongs* – spectacular in the sunset. We had the next site, at Nesting, to ourselves, on a glorious warm day beside a field of Shetland ponies. One of these ponies was the friendly 'Socks', featured a few years previously in a tourism advertising campaign.

Returning to Lerwick we boarded the ferry at 17.30 to enjoy a meal and the views of Fairisle as we sailed past this impressive island. Aberdeen bound passengers retired to their cabins but by 22.15 we disembarked at Kirkwall and, having previously booked, were able to settle quickly back at Picaquoy site.

Now some research is needed – when did the Frasers and Simpsons go to Shetland? Did the fisherman from Shetland settle in the north-east fishing villages, or did folk from the north -east move to Shetland long ago? We need answers, so that's an excuse to return! *Jenny Main, member. "Following Jenny's question I was curious myself and contacted the Shetland family History Society, as usual, the FHS was excellent and gave us some fascinating insights to the history of our clan in the far North. Many thanks. Ed"*

FRASER CLAN REPORT

Graeme Fraser, the editor, wrote to the Shetland FHS: "I've just received, from one of our Simpson members, an article about her summer trip to your part of the world, for

our Newsletter, in it she states she was surprised by the amount of Simpsons and Frasers in Shetland and would like to find out more." Here is our response.

The majority of surnames in Shetland are patronymic in origin - Anderson, Johnson etc and these can be traced back to before Shetland was part of Scotland. The patronymic surnames did not become fixed until about 1800.

Shetland became part of Scotland in 1469 and thereafter there was a steady rise in the numbers of Scottish surnames. There are very few Mac surnames in Shetland, indeed McPherson is the only one that made any impact, although there was a family of McIntosh who owned land for a few generations.

The first Fraser in Shetland was probably Sir John Fresell who was vicar of the parish of Walls in 1512. That was before the reformation, and so unmarried, but he may have been accompanied by any of his relatives. Later ministers (none of them Frasers) left many descendants in the isles! Most of the Frasers in Shetland were ordinary people but one family did marry into the landowners: they were merchants and, I think, a lawyer.

In 1881 there were 407 people with the surname Fraser in Shetland, out of a population of 29705, - 1.4% of the population. In 1954 Fraser was the 20th most common surname in Shetland. It is mainly to be found in Lerwick and the Westside, although there were families in other areas such as the island of Muckle Roe.

There are so many people with the surname Fraser it is likely that there was more than one arrival of the surname in the isles.

Simpson is not such a common name in Shetland. In 1881 there were 69 people with this surname, just under 0.25% of the population. The surname is patronymic in origin – son of Simon - and is common throughout Britain. In Shetland the name may be imported or a local patronymic. The earliest mention of the surname is, again, a minister – Peter Symson who was reader in the church of Nesting in 1581. The name was closely associated with that parish and the neighbouring parish of Lunnasting and the island of Whalsay, which were later one united parish.

We are always pleased to hear of any Shetland strays that you come across. One Fraser that I would be interested in finding is Andrew Fraser, born about 1750 (plus or minus ten years or so) who was described as Lieutenant Colonel in the army. He left his sister Ann Fraser property in Leith. He was dead before 1817 but was not the Andrew Frazer Lieutenant Colonel of the Royal Engineers who died in 1792. They are not related to me, but I am interested in her will which named many relatives across several generations.

Alan Beattie on behalf of the Shetland Family History Society <https://www.shetland-fhs.org.uk/>

About the Society:

Shetland Family History Society offers members help and advice as they research their ancestry and genealogy. Studying your family history and genealogy is a fulfilling project, one that the committee members love to be a part of. It is a hobby that takes time and good diligence, allowing people with a similar interest in studying family history in Shetland to come together.

The Shetland Family History Society was started in 1991 through demand from interested researchers, both locally and overseas.

HAUGHS O CROMDALE

When touring Scotland last year and staying at Grantown on Spey, we drove through the Haughs, which reminded me of an old Corrie song I still love, The Haughs o Cromdale, “where the Frasers fought wi sword and lance, the Grahams made the heids tae dance”, I felt as though it was almost personally written for me. Now this song does have a great tune yet I’d never studied the lyrics very closely, so perfect time for an investigation but much to my surprise, I found the lyrics are two events cobbled together by some unknown bard and the events had a gap of many years between them. Could this possibly have been for political reasons, as well as making a great song, let’s see?

When sung I’ve always heard them in Scots but any published version seem to be sanitised into some half English language version, so let your imagination take priority when going through the acts of great daring do below, NB “a daring do is a brave pigeon in Scots, it can be a difficult language”.

Haughs o' Cromdale

As I came in by Auchindoun,
A little wee bit frae the toun,
When to the Highlands I was bound,
To view the haughs of Cromdale,
I met a man in tartan trews,
I speir'd at him what was the news;
Quo' he the Highland army rues,
That e'er we came to Cromdale.

We were in bed, sir, every man,
When the English host upon us came,
A bloody battle then began,
Upon the haughs of Cromdale.
The English horse they were so rude,
They bath'd their hooves in Highland blood,
But our brave clans, they boldly stood
Upon the haughs of Cromdale.

But, alas! We could no longer stay,
For o'er the hills we came away,
And sore we do lament the day,
That e'er we came to Cromdale.
Thus the great Montrose did say,
Can you direct the nearest way?
For I will o'er the hills this day,
And view the haughs of Cromdale.

Alas, my lord, you're not so strong,
You scarcely have two thousand men,
And there's twenty thousand on the plain,
Stand rank and file on Cromdale.
Thus the great Montrose did say,
I say, direct the nearest way,
For I will o'er the hills this day,
And see the haughs of Cromdale.

They were at dinner, every man,
When great Montrose upon them came,
A second battle then began,
Upon the haughs of Cromdale.
The Grant, Mackenzie and MacKay,

Soon as Montrose they did espy,
O then, they fought most valiantly!
Upon the haughs of Cromdale.

The Macdonalds they returned again,
The Camerons did their standard join,
MacIntosh play'd a bloody game,
Upon the haughs of Cromdale.
The MacGregors fought like lions bold,
MacPhersons, none could them control,
MacLaughlins fought, like loyal souls,
Upon the haughs of Cromdale.

MacLeans, MacDougals, and MacNeils,
So boldly as they took the field,
And make their enemies to yield,
Upon the haughs of Cromdale.
The Gordons boldly did advance,
The Frasers fought with sword and lance,
The Grahams they made the heads to dance,
Upon the haughs of Cromdale.

The loyal Stewarts with Montrose,
So boldly set upon their foes,
And brought them down with Highland blows,
Upon the haughs of Cromdale.
Of twenty thousand Cromwell's men,
Five hundred fled to Aberdeen
The rest of them lie on the plain,
Upon the haughs of Cromdale.

The Battle of the Haughs of Cromdale took place on April 30 and May 1, 1690, where “the loyal Stewarts, wi' Montrose, laid them low wi' Hi'land blows and of twenty-thousand Cromwell's men, a thousand fled to Aberdeen” Now a bit of a giveaway to this not being right is, Montrose died in 1650, Cromwell died in 1658 and this battle was part of the first Jacobite Rising in 1689 and was a total rout of the Jacobites. The Frasers did fight and were victorious, for the Rightful King, under James Graham of Claverhouse, Bonnie Dundee, at Killiecrankie in July 1689, where Claverhouse lost his life, we were at the consequent defeat at Dunkeld in August 1689 but by 1690 I've a feeling we just took our “sword and lance” and went home.

To get to the other battle, we unbelievably, have to go back 45 years to the Battle of Auldearn, Nairn, 1 May 1645, where the Frasers helped James Graham, Marquis



of Montrose or the Great Montrose, to a victory over Cromwell's men, or did we? Now, this wasn't a Jacobite uprising, they hadn't been invented yet but part of the Wars of the Three Kingdoms as part of the First English Civil War, it was a great victory for the Great Montrose and his 2,000 men, accounts of numbers do vary but there weren't “20,000 Cromwell's men”, only up to 5,000, of which 1,200 were casualties and Aberdeen was a long flee at 85 miles, even nowadays it takes ages by bus. Yes, the Frasers did fight at this battle but no, the song is wrong again, we fought against Montrose “wi'

sword and lance” on the side of Cromwell and the Covenanters, led by Fraser of Struy, it’s said 87 Fraser widows were left, after the battle but whilst there’s some reports in a poem of Frasers fighting Fraser, if there were members of our clan with Montrose, I can’t find any organised force.

Now, what to make of this confused but great song, was it a political jumble of words to help the Jacobite cause, an early form of “False News”, was it a mix up between the names of the two Montroses, did “lance and dance” make a good rhyme or “Is This Just Fantasy”, to quote Queen, the pop group that is, not the Hanoverian one? Well, no one knows, I’m still confused, historically, we fought first for the Covenanters against Montrose and Charles I, then for the other Montrose and James VII, against the Covenanters and got beat both times, although come Cromdale both Montroses were dead and we may have just been under our duvets at home but disnae yer tae drum fan the pipe band starts tae play one o the world’s greatest pipe tunes! *Editor, Graeme, (the head dancer), Fraser, (with or without sword and lance).*

FRIENDS MISS ELYZA FRASER’S MAUSOLEUM

Elyza Fraser, who inherited Castle Fraser & estate in 1792, commissioned James Byers, the Architect to design & construct a Mausoleum, in Cluny Kirkyard, for the Fraser family. This Masterpiece was completed in 1808, six years before Elyza's death, and contains not only her remains,



but those of generations of Frasers. At present the structure is in a poor condition, and deteriorating rapidly, so it must be protected, sensitively repaired and restored externally & internally. We, the "Friends", are delighted that Ownership of the Grade A listed Mausoleum has been resolved this year (2019). It has taken about 6 years and involved many hours of dealings with lawyers, possible descendants of Elyza Fraser, Church of Scotland, Aberdeenshire Council, local Estates, Government agencies etc., etc. At last it has been agreed that this fine building will be officially registered as owned by the North East of Scotland Preservation Trust, on behalf of the Friends. The reason for this is that we, as a group, are not a registered charity whereas NESPT are. To attract Grants for the protection & restoration of this fine example of James Byers' architecture, a charity has to be involved, accordingly we signed a Partnership Agreement with the Trust earlier this year, whereby Paul Higson, their Project Manager, will apply for and negotiate all relevant Grants. Paul will also Project Manage the whole process, liaising on our behalf with the Conservation Architect (Dave Chouman) & his team, and the Works which we hope to start next year. Another major breakthrough was made this year, whereby Paul eventually, liaising with Council officers, was able to have the Mausoleum registered as a "Building at Risk", which will facilitate grant applications. The Friends - reinvigorated this year, following above - have regular meetings, with an interim committee, at which we progress our aspirations for the Mausoleum. At these

meetings Paul updates us on his progress with Grants; one of which (£1,750) through the local Area of the Council has already been successful, but has to be match funded, as have all the Grants received. The NESPT has kindly offered to meet the obligation until such time as we can raise enough ourselves, as this money is needed to cover the Professional Fees already committed to. Dave also attends the meetings and brings us up to date. Currently we are awaiting the result (end Oct'19) of the Application for the Historic Environment Scotland grant, and the Application for a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund is due in by end Nov'19. These Grant Applications must show evidence of connection with the local & wider communities, and their involvement - our next contribution to the Newsletter will outline our progress here. The Friends require to have a Constitution, accordingly the first AGM will be held immediately prior to the next meeting on 11/11/19 - an appropriate date for a Mausoleum which contains memorials to Frasers who served in the forces in the last 200 years or more. At the AGM, the Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary & Media Adviser will be formally elected, so it is hoped that as many existing Friends as possible, and new ones, will attend. A month or so ago Dave Chouman commissioned (AOC) a 3D Laser Survey, the cost of which he has covered meantime, with spectacular results, which we hope to present at the AGM. To date we have had tremendous interest shown in the Mausoleum and our Project. The Chair (John Fraser) instigated a talk at Cluny Primary School, which received an enthusiastic response from the children, and resulted in he and the Head Teacher setting up an art competition for all classes based on the Mausoleum, achieving wonderful submissions, the winners' work will be made into a pack of cards for sale at the school Christmas Fair in December. A "Doors Open Day" event in September, set up by Aberdeenshire Council & Scottish Civic Trust, was extremely well attended (150) over 2 days boosted by the school children carrying out background work for their art project. We also organised a "Walk, Talk, Cork" evening in September, when a visit to the Mausoleum was followed by talks by Dave Chouman & William Paton, an expert on the Jacobite Architect, James Byers of Tonley, Alford; the subsequent Cheese & Wine gathering enabled all (75) to mingle. Both these events resulted in new "Friends" and welcome donations. We are currently updating our brochure and have recently re-issued the amended postcards. We are targeting to have Tenders in for the Works by the end of January 2020, for a Spring start. Some of the Grants are time limited, so we must achieve the dates. To enable Work to start we urgently need funds to match the Grants we hope will be awarded, but with a current estimate of £120,000 for the Project, there's obviously a requirement for new Friends, membership fees (min £10) and donations. If you feel you can support our efforts to save this wonderful Mausoleum, please contact our interim Membership Secretary, Jill Standing (jill.standing.t21@btinternet.com). John K Fraser



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VISIT TO CAIRNBULG CASTLE

Whilst at the Braemar Gathering we told Kate, Lady Saltoun's daughter, and her husband Mark that, whilst we were staying in Banchory, we intended to visit Fraserburgh. Kate said we must call in on them and have a look around Cairnbulg Castle. She said that they had two Canadians visiting so we said we would call in at the same time.

We arrived about 11.00 am and were greeted by Kate and



Mark before having coffee in their "country" kitchen. We were then joined by Conway and Angie Fraser, the two Canadian visitors and set off, with Kate as

a guide, around this magnificent, ancient building.

Kate explained that the castle had been restored by her forbear Sir Alexander Fraser of Cowie in 1380 and many additions and alterations had been made over the following centuries. The family continued to live in the castle, the Old Manor Place of Philorth, until the end of the 16C when the then Sir Alexander Fraser, 8th of Philorth, built the town of Fraserburgh about 4 miles north. He founded a University in Fraserburgh and built another castle. All this caused financial difficulties and in 1613 the castle was sold to Sir Alexander Fraser of Durris on condition that should he wish to sell the first refusal would go to the previous owner or his descendants. The agreement was not honoured and the castle passed from family to family until in 1934 the late Lord Saltoun, Kate's grandfather, bought it back and modernised it. The current Lady Saltoun carried on the modernisation and in 1997 Kate took over the castle. Cairnbulg is the only one of the nine Castles of the Knuckle in Buchan which is not only inhabited but inhabited by the family who originally built it.

Luckily Kate stayed with us all the time for I am sure had she left us we would still be there trying to find our way out. It is not particularly a maze but a series of magnificent halls, libraries, drawing rooms, bedrooms etc all linked together with various spiral staircases and corridors. The Great Hall was lined with family portraits' including one of Sir Alexander Fraser, Lord Saltoun, who took 800 Fraser to fight for King Charles II against Cromwell at Worcester. (The subject of one of our last CFSSUK events). He was the only Fraser to return to Fraserburgh due to the heroic efforts of his servant James Cardo who, after finding him wounded on the battlefield, transported him on horse nearly 700 miles back home. Quite rightly

and sensitively a portrait of James Cardo is placed to face that of Lord Saltoun.

We climbed to the top of the castle giving us magnificent views over the lake, the Waters of Philorth and the local countryside. We viewed one of the guest bedrooms which had a four poster bed decorated with bed linen and drapes made from the same material as in the bedroom of Queen Victoria's Osborne House on the Isle of Wight. The design had been drawn by Queen Victoria herself and in between the illustrations of English roses, Scottish thistles and Irish shamrocks were hidden silhouettes of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. Kate explained that she had had the design reprinted and used it to decorate this bed.

After close study it was possible to see the silhouettes of Kate's Great, Great, Great Grandparents, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. We thoroughly enjoyed our visit



to Cairnbulg Castle and are extremely grateful to Kate and Mark for the time given to greet us and show us round.

We went on to visit the nearby villages of Cairnbulg and Inverallochy and then on to Fraserburgh where we visited the Lighthouse and town museum and we can thoroughly recommend a visit to this north eastern part of Scotland.

Donald Fraser-Clark

SCARVES & SASHES

Many thanks to Jill Standing our old contact at Castle Fraser but now active with The Friends of Elyza Fraser's



Mausoleum, for donating 20 Fraser tartan sashes and ties, to us, from the now defunct Voices of Castle Fraser choir. We put them to good use in Peebles, as you can see from the photo of

Ann and Donald, if anyone can use any of them, at any event etc, contact Donald. *Ed*

FAMOUS FRASERS HELEN FRASER

I came across this on a webpage of the Saltire Society, (a membership organisation which aims to promote the understanding of the culture and heritage of Scotland) "2015 outstanding Scots women" and I thank them for the article but they were quick to point out that they borrowed it from Wikipedia under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License.

Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization. So thanks to them for the wonderful information, it's hard to believe she survived so long and achieved so much. *Ed*

14 September 1881 – 2 December 1979

Feminist

Helen Fraser later Helen Moyes was a suffragist, feminist, educationalist and Liberal Party politician.

Fraser was born in Leeds, Yorkshire to Scottish parents. She was educated at Higher Grade School, Queen's Park, Glasgow. She opened a studio in Glasgow that specialised in black and white illustration work and embroidery.

She joined the Women's Social and Political Union [WSPU] after hearing Teresa Billington speak in Glasgow. She travelled to England to help the WSPU campaign at the Treasurer of the Glasgow WSPU and a WSPU becoming disillusioned with the violent militant from the WSPU, she was approached by the Societies [NUWSS] and agreed to work for national executive committee for 14 years.

Fraser was effective as a public speaker and had but all around Britain. During the Great War she War Saving Committee. She was seconded to to work on the land. In 1917 at the suggestion British Government as part of the official about Britain's war effort. She travelled through

1918, on returning to Britain, her book of the tour Women and War Work was published.

In 1918, when women gained the right to stand as parliamentary candidates, she turned her attention to the campaign to elect women as members of parliament. She did not contest the 1918 General Election. She took an active role in the affairs of a number of organisations; She was a member of the Executive Committee, of the NUWSS successor organisation the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, she was a member of the Common Interests Committee of the English-Speaking Union, she was involved in the Reunion of British War Missions in U.S.A., she was a member of the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations and she was a Member of the British Institute of International Affairs.

Her efforts during the war and after had come to the attention of Prime Minister David Lloyd George and she joined his National Liberal organisation. In 1922 she was the first woman to be adopted in Scotland as an official prospective parliamentary candidate when she was selected as National Liberal candidate for the Govan Division of Glasgow for the 1922 General Election. She was one of only three women candidates to contest the general election in Scotland. Govan was a safe Labour seat and she was not expected to win.

She emigrated to Sydney, Australia with her husband in 1938 or 1939. Late in her life she wrote an autobiography, entitled A Woman in a Man's World, that was published in 1971.



Huddersfield by-election, 1906. She became Scottish Organiser. By 1908 she was tactics of the WSPU. When she resigned National Union of Women's Suffrage them. She was a member of the NUWSS

speaking engagements not just in Scotland, worked as a Commissioner for the National the Board of Agriculture to persuade women of Millicent Fawcett she was included by the British War Mission to the US, to speak 40 states and spoke 332 times in 312 days. In

FESTIVE GREETINGS



I'm sure that like all of you the speed with which this year has passed feels quite astonishing! I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year. **Saltoun**

To all Fraser clansmen and friends across the world. I would like to extend my very best wishes to you all this Christmas, and a prosperous new year ahead. Much has changed for me in 2019 as my wife and I moved to Beaulieu in the Spring, so if anyone is travelling through in future we invite you to get in touch via the clan web site [info@clanfraser.org] and stop in on your way through Beaulieu. **Lovat**



CHIEFLY DINNERS CHOCOLATE CREAM SOPHIE

Ingredients: 4oz/100g brown breadcrumbs, 4oz/100g demerara sugar, 8 teaspoons cocoa powder, 4 teaspoons coffee powder, ¾ pint/400ml double cream

Method: Stir together coffee, cocoa, crumbs and sugar. Whip cream into soft peaks (not too stiff or it becomes difficult to layer). Layer in a glass bowl, starting with the crumb mixture and ending with a layer of the cream. Decorate with grated chocolate or crumbled flake or homemade chocolate rose leaves.

Note: At Christmas I start with a layer of sweetened chestnut puree at the bottom of the bowl (to which I might add a teaspoon of brandy!).

The extraordinary thing about this pudding is that people always ask what the secret ingredient is or what alcohol has been used. The answer to both is none!



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

