



## Fort Fraser Despatches, October 2016

### Fort Fraser Tour of the Highlands: June 03 - 17, 2017

The brainchild of former PMC Capt. Neil MacKay – whose ancestors arrived at Cape Breton aboard the Hector – is now a reality. A 14 day trip through the Highlands of Scotland to visit historic and beautiful places, places associated with the 78<sup>th</sup> Highland Regiment, and days to experience world class shopping in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

On a Sunday morning 25 or 26 Frasers will board a 36 passenger luxury tour coach outside the Glasgow Airport Holiday Inn hotel and follow the “far croonin’ that’s callin’ us awa” to Stirling, Pitlochry, Dunkeld and Killiecrankie; on to Culloden, Inverness and Beaulieu; down the way to Glenfinnan, Fort William, Glencoe and Oban thence to Auld Reekie, the Borders, and finally to Glasgow.

Six towns and cities and everything in between, and only 10-12 hours in the ultra comfortable coach.



## Stop #1 on the tour - Stirling:

Created as a Royal Burgh in 1124, Stirling offers a fascinating journey back in time for anyone with even a passing interest in Scottish history and heritage. Discover a unique tapestry of original, historic attractions that tell the story of our Scottish nation first hand.

Perched high above the city is Stirling Castle (some say that it's the greatest castle in all of Europe). Wander through the recently restored royal palace and apartments and meet the costumed interpreters who bring the history of Stirling Castle to life.

In 1314 the castle was the prize fought over at the Battle of Bannockburn and was bombarded by Bonnie Prince Charlie, with his Jacobite army, in 1745.

Entry to the castle also includes access to the Argyll's Lodging – Scotland's finest surviving 17th century townhouse and the Argyll Sutherland Highlanders Regimental Museum.



Stirling's Old Town links Stirling Castle to the bustling city centre. By its cobbled streets you will find some of the finest examples of medieval and Renaissance churches and mansions in Scotland. One such building is the Toolbooth, the original jail and courthouse which also witnessed public executions until 1843. Nowadays its a thriving live music and entertainments venue retaining many of its original historic features. The Church of the Holy Rude, dating from 1456, hosted the coronation of King James VI, in 1567, under the watchful eye of Scottish Reformation leader John Knox. If you look closely you will see the musket shot marks from Cromwell's troops during the Wars of the Three Kingdoms on the tower and apse.

Across from the church is Cowane's Hospital, also referred to as the Guildhall, dating back to the 17th century – today its home to John Cowane's Coffee House and Iona Leishmann, Artist in Residence. The neighbouring Old Town Grave Yard rewards explorers with magnificent views as well as some of the oldest headstones in Britain.

Dominating the Stirling skyline from another dramatic rocky outcrop, the National Wallace Monument overlooks the site of the Battle of Stirling Bridge. Here, in 1297, William Wallace outwitted a much larger English army, splitting their forces either side of the narrow bridge and claiming his place in history as Scotland's National Hero.

# 1746 - Highland Dress Proscription Act:



Engravings by Van Der Gucht from 1743

Following the Jacobite defeat at Culloden, the last pitched battle on British soil, Prince Charles fled to South Uist then eventually across to France.

His supporters who remained suffered terribly at the hand of ‘Butcher Cumberland’ and his medieval reprisals. To further punish Scotland, Parliament issued imperious Acts to destroy the clans, their identities and economic structures.

New laws imposed abolished heritable jurisdictions, claimed estates for the crown, banned the wearing of tartans and Highland dress for all except government troops, and restricted the possession of weapons.

The exact wording of the act was as follows:

- An act for the more effectual disarming the highlands in Scotland; and for the more effectual securing the peace of the said highlands; and for restraining the use of the highland dress; and for further indemnifying such persons as have acted in the defence of His Majesty’s person and government, during the unnatural rebellion; and for indemnifying the judges and other officers of the court of judiciary in Scotland, for not performing the northern circuit in May, one thousand seven hundred and forty six; and for obliging the masters and teachers of private schools in Scotland, and chaplains, tutors and governors of children or youth, to take the oaths to his Majesty, his heirs and successors, and to register the same.**

## Proscription cont'd:

2. Whereas by an act made in the first year of the reign of his late majesty King George the First, of glorious memory, intituled, An act for the more effectual securing the peace of the highlands in Scotland, it was enacted, That from and after the first day of November, which was in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixteen, it should not be lawful for any person or persons (except such persons as are therein mentioned and described) within the shire of Dunbartain, on the north side of the water of Leven, Stirling on the north side of the river of Forth, Perth, Kincardin, Aberdeen, Inverness, Nairn, Cromarty, Argyle, Forfar, Bamff, Sutherland, Caithness, Elgine and Ross, to have in his or their custody, use, or bear, broad sword or target, poignard, whinger, or durk, side pistol, gun, or other warlike weapon, otherwise than in the said act was directed, under certain penalties appointed by the said act; which act having by experience been found not sufficient to attain the ends therein proposed, was further enforced by an act made in the eleventh year of the reign of his late Majesty, intituled, An act for the more effectual disarming the highlands in that part of Great Britain called Scotland; and for the better securing the peace and quiet of that part of the kingdom; and whereas the said act of the eleventh year of his late Majesty being, so far as it related to the disarming of the highlands, to continue in force only during the term of seven years, and from thence to the end of the next session of parliament.





## Raising the Fraser Highlanders:

Simon Fraser Master of Lovat, without estate, money, or influence beyond the hereditary attachment of his clan, raised 800 men within a few weeks, and his gentlemen friends of the district soon raised another 700 hundred during 1757. Most were recruited in the hills and glens around Inverness and Beaulieu.

Simon Fraser was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel Commandant of the 78th Regiment or 2nd Highland Battalion of Foot on 05 January 1757.

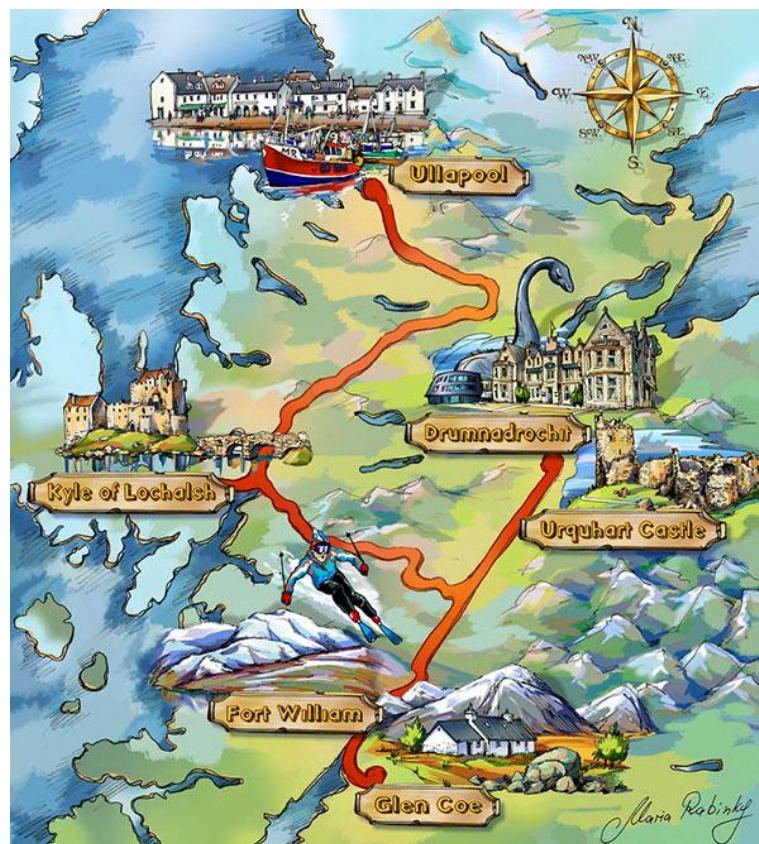
It is clear from a study of the Army Lists that the Regiment was a cross section of the clans that had fought at the Battle of Culloden. The officers were mostly the cream of the Jacobite gentry who had fought under Bonnie Prince Charlie; some had fought for the King of France and in Holland, and all had been the subjects of "Butcher" Cumberland's searches. There were also officers of Clan Campbell and other clans that had fought at Culloden on the Hanoverian side, but most of the Regiment had supported the Stuart cause.

The Regiment thus formed, according to the original authorization, consisted of 44 officers, 10 companies of 100 men each, 40 sergeants and corporals, and 20 drummers; it was increased with reinforcements to a total of 82 officers, 14 companies of 105 men each, 65 sergeants, and 30 pipers or drummers, a total of 1,542 all ranks by December 1757, the equivalent of almost two battalions in our modern army.



Not to be missed:

- 26 November – Feast of Saint Andrew Mess Dinner
- January (date tbc) – Garrison Burns Supper
- *02 June 2017 - independent travel to Glasgow to join the Fort Fraser Highland Tour*



(not exactly as illustrated, but you get the idea...)