



Fort Fraser Despatches, December 2017



May we all have a peaceful happy Christmas
and a friendly and productive New Year



1763: Disbandment of the 78th Fraser Highlanders:

from *The Fraser Highlanders*, J. R. Harper, Second Edition 1995, Revised & Indexed

During the three years after the capture of Montreal, the 78th Highlanders continued their training under their company commanders in their various cantonments, ready to be called to any other actions in America or Canada where their services might be required.

Much work was done in making roads and improving communications.

On 10 February 1763, the Treaty of Paris was concluded and peace ensued between France and England. The Seven Years' War was ended. Early in December 1763, orders were received to disband the regiments. Any officer or soldier who desired to stay in Canada could do so and would be rewarded by fourteen days' subsistence pay and a grant of land, the extent of which depended on his rank and length of active service. Those who did not wish to accept this offer were shipped back to Scotland and "paid off" in Inverness.

Some seigneuries, owned by members of the French aristocracy who had decided to return to France after the capture of Montreal, were put up for sale. General Murray acquired in all five large seigneuries, including the one he named Mount Murray, between Quebec and Tadoussac on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River. (now Murray Bay.) This was later sold to Lieutenant Malcolm Fraser, and Lieutenant and Adjutant John Nairn received a Patent for the neighbouring fief of Murray Bay.

Sergeant James Thompson was appointed Clerk of Works in Quebec, and later became Overseer of Works on the staff of the Quebec garrison at four shillings eight pence Army currency per day.



Among the many members of the 78th Fraser Highlanders who took their discharge in Quebec and eventually married French-Canadian women were: David Cameron, Alex Ferguson, Sergeant Alexander Ferguson, Alexander Fraser Jr., Donald Fraser, Hugh Fraser, John Fraser, William Fraser, Alexander Lawson, Lieutenant Archibald McAllister, John Mackenzie, Lieutenant Lauchlan McPherson, Thomas Reid, Alexander Shaw, Lauchlan Smith, Alexander Sutherland, Donald Sutherland, William Watson, Donald Blackburn, John Ross and many others.

The descendants of these Highlanders may still be found in towns, villages and farms along the banks of the St. Lawrence River, and many of them are now completely Francophone.

For many years it was estimated that 300 Highlanders of the 78th Regiment remained in Quebec, but on a document in the Public Archives of Canada which is a complete list of the NCOs and Highlanders of the Old 78th Regiment "discharged in America," giving rank, name, name of company commander, number of days' subsistence money paid and sword money paid, only 158 names appear.



varia:

- **78th Business Cards:**

Laura Beaton has previously done some business cards for the 78th. She is offering to do more, at \$15 for 100 cards.

She would need the name, rank and other contact information.

Laura's contact info:

e-mail laura_beaton39@hotmail.com or text at [604-613-3963](tel:604-613-3963).

- **Garrison Burns Supper:**

27 January, 2018 in the Officers Mess, Bessborough Armoury

RSVP to the Adj, Ens. John Hooker - jobarb@shaw.ca

be kind to one another, Santa is watching...

(and he is as astounded by the state of things as we are!)

