



Fort Fraser Despatches, January 2018

05 January 1757:



GENERAL SIMON FRASER OF LOVAT.

Simon Fraser, Master of Lovat, was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel Commandant of the 78th Regiment or 2nd Highland Battalion of Foot. Without estate, money or influence beyond the hereditary attachment of his clan, Fraser raised 800 men within a few weeks, and his gentlemen friends of the district soon raised another 700 hundred.

HAPPY 26th BIRTHDAY 78th!

distinguished in action at:

SEIGE of LOUISBOURG, June - July 1758

BATTLES for QUEBEC Sept. 1759 – August 1760

CAPTURE of MONTREAL September 1760

BATTLE for ST. JOHN'S, September 1761

quartered in Québec and Nova Scotia, 1759 – 63

Disbanded in Canada December, 1763

(Re-raised in 1966 as *The 78th Fraser Highlanders*)



Fort Fraser Garrison

As we begin a new year we review and restate the character of Fort Fraser:

All members of the “garrison” should be aware of its dual nature as it applies to membership.

- The **Fort Fraser Garrison** is an independent branch of The Fraser Highlanders (Headquarters) Inc., operating as an Historical Society under the guidance of the objects of the organization’s headquarters in Montréal; paraphrased here as ***“to preserve the memory of the 78th Highland Regiment, its officers and men and its adversaries during the years 1757 – 1763.”***
- The **78th Fraser Highlanders Association of Vancouver** is a Registered Canadian Charity (No. 83143 9922) and a Registered BC Society (Incorporation No. S-51436) operating under the rules & regulations of the Canada Revenue Agency and the Society Act BC.

Members of the one are automatically members of the other.

Membership in Fort Fraser carries a responsibility to know and understand the history of the organization and the 78th Highland Regiment of Foot, and to actively support the Garrison’s aims and activities.



The objects of The Fraser Highlanders (Headquarters) Inc. are:

1. To research and promote 18th century military history, especially the role played by the 78th Regiment (Fraser's), other Scottish regiments and Scots in general, on the development of North America.
2. To promote and research the historical interplay between Scots, French soldiers and French Canadians in order to foster a better understanding of this history.
3. To develop programs to disseminate this historical research along with an appreciation of Scottish culture and military traditions to the general public, but in particular to youth.

"pride in the tradition"



The Highland Watches:

The Highlands of “North Britain” were the Wild West of the 17th and 18th centuries. The British government had tried several times to bring law and order to the region, but nothing was effective until 1725 when General Wade was sent to analyse the situation and suggest appropriate solutions to the lawlessness.

Between 1725 and 1737 Wade built roads and bridges to allow for faster and easier movement of troops into and within the Highlands. He also found merit in Lord Lovat’s recommendation to revive the Independent Companies; militia units made up of Highland clansmen. English author Tim Newark, in his book *Highlanders*, writes:

“Anew era was dawning and with it would come the end of the Highland rebel. Simon Fraser, Lord Lovat, had initiated this process in hope of gaining favour from King George, but as Wade compiled his report he got some measure of the clan chief and did not find him completely trustworthy. Lovat, Wade thought, was too involved in Highland mafia politics – nicknamed “The Fox”, Lovat had a reputation for double-dealing.

Although suspicious of the man, Wade did approve the reviving of the Independent Companies. And six new militia units were raised from clans loyal to the crown.

Called Highland Watches, three units were recruited from the Campbells, with one each from the Frasers, Grants and Munros.”

Newark states that Lovat was appointed captain of one of the new Independent Companies. The five other companies were commanded by Sir Duncan Campbell of Lochnell, Colonel William Grant of Ballindalloch, John Campbell of Carrick, Colin Campbell of Skipness and George Munro of Culcairn.

The Highland Watches numbered about 500 troops each – none to be under five feet six inches.

This was the earliest beginning of the storied Highland Regiments that would help create and defend the British Empire of the 18th and 19th centuries.

Garrison Burns Supper: 27 January 2018

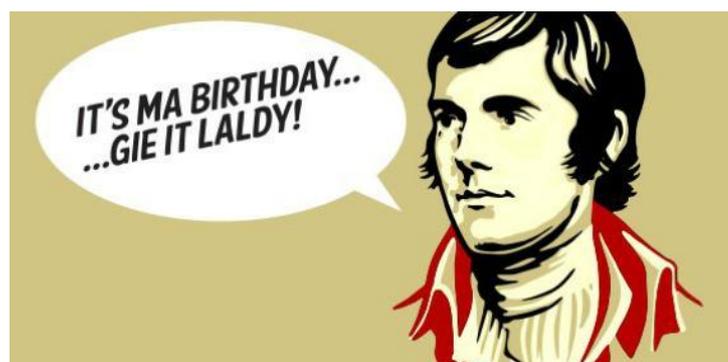


Robert Burns (1759 – 1796)

Born on 25 January 1759 in Alloway, Scotland, to William and Agnes Brown Burnes, **Robert Burns** followed his father's example by becoming a tenant farmer.

Unlike William Burnes, however, Burns was able to escape the vicissitudes and vagaries of the soil in two ways: toward the end of his life he became an excise collector in Dumfries, where he died in 1796; and throughout his life he was a practicing poet.

As a poet he recorded and celebrated aspects of farm life, regional experience, traditional culture, class culture and distinctions, and religious practice and belief in such a way as to transcend the particularities of his inspiration, becoming finally the national poet of Scotland.



Not to be missed:

- Garrison Burns Supper: 27 Jan '18
- 15 FD & 78th Frasers Whisky Fundraiser Evening: 02 Mar '18
- AGM Lunch: **17 Mar** '18 (Amiens 1918 theme)
- Ste Foy Dinner: 21 Apr '18
- Victoria Highland Games: 19/20 May '18 (In Victoria)
- Siege of Louisbourg BBQ at OC's residence Sunday: 03 Jun '18
- BC Highland Games: 16/17 June '18 (In Coquitlam)
- Plains of Abraham Dinner: 22 Sep '18
- Feast of Saint Andrew Dinner: 24 Nov '18

(All events at 15th Field Officers Mess, Bessborough Armoury, 2025 W 11th Ave., unless otherwise noted)

***Be kind to one another,
- it's all so unpredictable these days.***

