



The Nessie



Newsletter of the Clan Fraser Society of North America®

Spring Issue

February/March 2025

From the Editor:

We've got a few games reports (not many occur in the dead of winter!) but lots of contributions from several of our Clan members. We have an accounting of the funeral of the Chief of Clan Fraser (Lady Saltoun), as reported by Donald Fraser-Clark, Secretary of the Clan Fraser Society of Scotland and the UK. On the brighter side, the Scottish Cooking section tells us how to make British Fish & Chips, and a lot on Scottish history. The piece on "What Happened After Culloden - The Highland Clearances" I think you might find especially interesting. We have Fraser genealogy and, as usual, lots of bits and pieces about some of our members. There's even a piece on how Southern-ese speech has been influenced by Scottish heritage! Hope you enjoy this Spring edition of our CFSNA® newsletter (best to print it out in color). Hope to see you at one of the upcoming games this year.

Jim Oliver, Editor, The Nessie

Welcome New Members

Through the end of February, we have 8 new members. Welcome all to our Clan!

First	Middle/Maiden	Last	Spouse	City	State	Country
Margaret		Roediger	Jeff	Summerville	SC	USA
Curt		Elg	Hilde	Charleston	SC	USA
Deborah	F	Kopf	Steven	Mt. Pleasant	SC	USA
David		McKamey		Dalton	GA	USA
Sherry	L. (Frazier)	Erickson	Aaron C.	Annapolis	MD	USA
Christopher	Brian	Skye	Charlene	<u>Ohsweken</u>	ON	Canada
Christina		McKim	Dustin Hatt	Clinton	MI	USA
Patrick		Fraser	Pamela	Chagrin Falls	OH	USA

A Message from the Chairman of CFSNA®

First, I want to wish a Fàilte Chridheil (heartfelt welcome) to each of you into this New Year and my hopes that you all had a happy holiday season. 2025 is a very special year for CFSNA®. This is the 50th Anniversary of the founding of CFSNA® at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games (GMHG) in North Carolina. We are in the process of planning a gathering to be held at the GMHG from July 10 through 13. Right now, we are looking at a Thursday night dinner at the Calling of the Clans and luncheon at noon on Saturday. We also hope to put together a CFSNA® historic presentation during the day on Saturday. We are in the early stages of planning and will keep everyone up to date via emails over the coming months. We would like to get a rough idea of how many people think they might attend. If you are interested in attending, please send us an email via info email section of CFSNA.com. We will be looking for a firm commitment closer to time to finalize

numbers of the meals. If you are interested in tickets or patron packages for the games, they are available on the GMHG website, GMHG.org. If you would like a patron package, I suggest you act quickly since they do tend to sell out.

With this important announcement made, I now need to move on to a bit of business. This is lengthy, but I ask you to read it in its entirety because it is important to the continuing viability and operation of CFSNA®. As you may or may not know, CFSNA® operates as a 501c(7) (family heritage club) non-profit incorporated in North Carolina. We conduct our business in accordance with our Articles of Incorporation and approved bylaws. Within those bylaws we define our Board of Directors and our methods of electing or appointing the positions on the Board. Our current Board is made up of 10 voting positions including 5 elected positions of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Membership Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer and 5 Regional Commissioners appointed by the Chairman and approved by the voting members of the Board. There are currently 4 ex officio (non-voting) members including the Editor of The Nessie, the Webmaster, the Facebook administrator, and the Purchasing Agent. The elected positions serve 2-year terms and are limited to 2 terms while the appointed positions are not limited and are more based on how long the individual desires to serve. Why have I provided all this information? We are currently experiencing vacancies in 2 of the appointed positions and will need candidates for the Chairman position to be elected in the last quarter of 2025. The Membership Secretary is also up for election at the same time; however, the incumbent in the position has agreed to serve her second term meaning there is no immediate need for additional candidates. One of the open appointed positions is Regional Commissioner for the Southeast Region, which is made up of California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Hawaii. The person for this position needs to reside within the Region. The responsibilities of the Regional Commissioner, as defined in the Bylaws, are as follow: *“The Regional Commissioner is responsible for the overall coordination of all activities within the region and will serve as the point of contact, reporting to the Vice Chairperson, in support of conveners within the region and will also support the Chairperson on any regional administrative issues not related to conveners. They are responsible for keeping abreast of issues affecting the Scottish Community in general, and specifically the CFSNA® Inc., within their region. At the national level, the Regional Commissioners will serve as voting members of the Board of Directors.”*

The other appointed position that is open is for the Webmaster. This is an ex-officio (non-voting) position and is responsible for maintenance of the CFSNA® website and continuing efforts to establish an online membership database in coordination with the website designer/host and the Board. The ideal candidate would have requisite computer skills as well as some experience with website maintenance working with a database. This position does not require coding or design experience.

As I mentioned, these positions are currently open and are an immediate need. There is no minimum time to be a member associated with these positions. The only requirement is that you are a member in good standing (dues up to date) and willing to perform the assigned duties. If you would be willing to take on either of these positions, please contact me directly via email at chairman@cfsna.com.

As for the Chairman position, the responsibilities as defined in the Bylaws is as follows: *“Chairperson (elected), who will be the chief executive officer responsible for the overall operation of the Society.”* This position requires that you be a member for at least one year and that you are currently a member in good standing. If you would be willing to stand for election to this position in the fall election, please contact the Vice Chairman via email at vicechairman@cfsna.com.

It is very important for the continuing operation and indeed the continuing existence of CFSNA® that our members step up to take on leadership responsibilities. Inability to fill the required elected positions could result in loss of our incorporated non-profit status. Please consider providing your support to the continuing growth of CFSNA®.

Slàinte Mhòr,

Paul B. Clark, Chairman, CFSNA®

Obituary

William F. Fraser (1926-2024)

From **Scott Fraser**

William F. ("Bill") Fraser, a decorated naval pilot commander, aeronautical engineer, and devoted family man, passed away on Monday, May 13, 2024, at the age of 97. Born on October 2, 1926, in Akron, Ohio, to William and Esther Fraser, his life was marked by service, adventure and loyalty to family and friends.

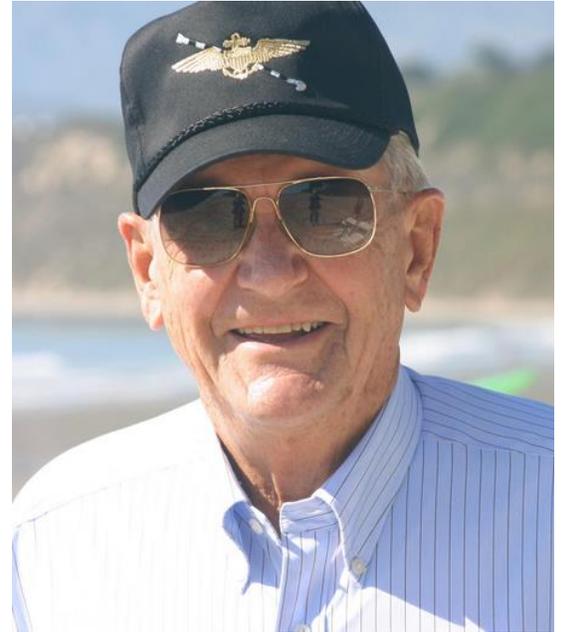
Bill's naval career began at age 17 when he joined the Naval Aviation Cadet Program. He became a naval officer and aviator, and over the course of seven deployments he accumulated over 5,000 hours in fighter and attack aircraft, with 550 arrested landings on 12 different aircraft carriers. He flew prop aircraft, including the Grumman Avenger, Hellcat, Bearcat, Vought Corsair, and the Douglas Skyraider. Then in 1953 he transitioned to jets and flew every fighter jet that the Navy had at the time.

In 1959, Bill was selected to attend the Naval Test Pilot School in Maryland for 2 years of duty during which he spent a year as the project test pilot for the new F-4 Phantom jet. During the last years of his service, Bill was promoted to Commander of Fighter Squadron 96 based in San Diego and deployed twice to the Western Pacific aboard the aircraft carrier USS Ranger, fighting in both North & South Vietnam and Laos. Throughout his 23 years of service, he was awarded 10 medals, including an Air Medal with two gold stars and a Vietnam Service Medal with two bronze stars.

In 1955, Bill married Aileen Inez Holle, a United Airlines flight attendant. While raising their three daughters and one son, Aileen was a Girl Scout leader and real-estate agent. They moved 18 times to 15 cities during their 54 years of marriage. While residing in Manhattan Beach, CA, they volunteered in their community, traveled extensively, and enjoyed classical symphonies and theater performances until Aileen's passing in 2009.

Bill earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering at Stanford University in 1959. And while residing in Palos Verdes, CA, he earned a Master of Science in Systems Management from USC in 1970.

After his retirement from the Navy in 1967, Bill worked for Hughes Aircraft Company for the next 22 years in the F-14 Flight Test Program in Point Mugu, CA, and then in radar systems at the El Segundo, CA headquarters. During those years, he also continued flying in flight schools and clubs, resulting in a lifetime accumulation of over 6,000 hours of flight time in more than 40 different aircraft. In addition, he volunteered in the Civil Air Patrol, flying Search and Rescue and Counter Drug missions.



William "Bill" Fraser, me (Scott Wallace Fraser), my dad James "Jim" Wallace Fraser, and my brother James Edward Fraser in 1999.

Eloquent, optimistic and confident, Bill always had a way with words. He was a loyal Stanford alum, avid swimmer, football and golf fan, world traveler, and always a proud member of the Scottish Fraser clan.

Bill is survived by his children: Holly, Karen, Cheryl and Will, along with four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games Affected by Hurricane Helene

Kimbrell Frazier, Co-Convenor, GMHG for CFSNA: As most of you know, Hurricane Helene was a major geological event in western NC, causing devastating flooding, wind damage, and landslides. Avery County, where Linville and the GMHG are located, was severely hit. As a resident of Linville, I can attest to the terrible destruction endured by Avery County. There is work to be done to get ready and financial donations are needed. I talked with Steve in December, and he estimated the hurricane damage at around \$85K. At that time they had received \$60K but they are still in need of tax deductible donations. The following is a letter from **Steven Quillin**, President of the GMHG, and he is happy to report that the games will go on as planned in 2025:

State of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games - Now and Forward

I am directing this notice to our Clans, Conveners, Campers, Patrons (all classes) and the attending public. Hurricane Helene (or Tropical Storm Helene by the time it arrived in Avery County) devastated the North Carolina High Country, both from disastrous flooding and high winds. Our beloved Avery County was hit especially hard, as you have no doubt noted in media reports.

Luckily, the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games came through very fortunately when compared with many in the county. That is not to say we came through unscathed. There is certainly work to be done to allow us to hold our 69th Annual Games (July 10-13, 2025), but I want to allay any concerns on the part of the public about our ability to hold our event. We will go on! Having said that, we do need help to recover and so does our community.

In summary, our impacts are assessed as follows: We have some trees down at MacRae Meadows and MacRowdy that have to be cut up and removed. We have \$10,000 of repair and replacement to the campground electrical system. We have \$5000 to \$10,000 of road repair at Gate 2 and the entry to the Chieftain parking area. Most importantly, Old Yonahlossee Road was left impassable for nearly the entire length. Old Yonahlossee Road is the path by which our shuttle buses access MacRae Meadows. The Road is privately owned by others, but we desperately need to contribute financially to the restoration of the road to ensure the restoration is done before next July. The greatest and most expensive damage to the road is from severe washing. In many places Old Yonahlossee is a third of its former width and cannot accommodate school buses.

In recent years, the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games has seen our resources diminished by the costs of no Games in 2020 because of COVID, the tragic death in 2022 associated with the Bear, the cost in 2023 of removing over 90 trees on MacRae Meadows due to fungus and insect attack, and the 2024 failure of a major portion of our electrical system which required wholesale replacement. Each of these occurrences represented a significant, unbudgeted expenditure. In the aggregate, they represent over \$400,000 in out-of-pocket expenses for GMHG.

We are now in the position of asking for donations to help with these extraordinary expenses associated with Helene. We hope that our subscribing Clan societies, Scottish societies, and supporting individuals will donate to GMHG as generously as you can. No donation is too small; any amount will help. We pledge to keep the donations separate from our operations funding, and we will donate any money remaining from the campaign to the Avery County Chamber of Commerce "Build Back Avery" fund. The Avery Chamber of

Commerce account will be targeted 100% to Avery County recovery. GMHG is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit and your donations will be tax deductible.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this appeal. If you wish to mail a check please add the comment 'Helene Recovery' and mail to:

GMHG
PO Box 1095
Linville, NC 28646

Lady Saltoun's Memorial Service **25th November 2024**

Submitted by **Donald Fraser-Clark**, Secretary. The CFSSUK.

On the 24th November 2024, Ann and I travelled the 380 miles from Clitheroe to Fraserburgh, spending a night in Dundee on the way, to attend the Memorial Service for our Clan Chief, Lady Saltoun. We had been invited by Kate, the new Lady Saltoun, and went to represent the Clan Fraser Society of Scotland & UK, of which her mother, Lady Saltoun, was a Founding Member and Patron.

The service was held in St Peter's Episcopal Church, Fraserburgh, which was completely full. Guests were greeted by Kate's four children, and we were shown to our seats by Xander. The service was conducted by the Reverend Canon Vittoria Hancock and the Right Reverend Robert Gillies. His Majesty The King was represented by The Earl of Dalhousie and other members of the nobility represented TRH The Duke & Duchess of Edinburgh, TRH The Duke & Duchess of Gloucester, HRH The Duke of Kent, and HRH The Princess Alexandra.

The service was opened and after the Welcome and various Psalms and Hymns were sung, Xander Fraser, The Master of Saltoun (Lady Saltoun's Grandson), gave a reading from Ecclesiastes 12.1-7. A very poignant Tribute was given by Geordie Burnett Stuart and, after further hymns and readings by family members, Jamie Fraser gave his personal recollections of Lady Saltoun. More hymns and prayers were conducted including The Parliament Prayer recalling Lady Saltoun's many years as an active member of the House of Lords. Dumbarton's Drums was sung beautifully, a cappella, by Fiona Kennedy and the service was concluded by the congregation singing Thine be the Glory.

We were all invited back to Cairnbulg Castle where a massive marquee had been erected. Down the centre of which ran a great table full of buffet food and drink, more than enough to satisfy the 300 plus people who attended. We chatted with Kate and for quite a while with her husband, Mark, who told us the surprising news that Xander, whom we knew was engaged, had married. Later we saw Xander who promised to let us have details of his wedding so we could let our members have the good news.

The Memorial Service had gone extremely well, including many kind and some amusing recollections of Lady Saltoun. Her poems had been read and members of her family had added their personal contributions. It was a fine, if serious event.

Here is a video of the whole Memorial Service, kindly provided by Kate, Lady Saltoun, for distribution to our members.

[Flora Marjory Fraser 20th Lady Saltoun](#)

Upcoming Games

See the CFSNA® webpage for the latest on upcoming games: <http://www.cfsna.com/Upcoming-Events>
Also, visit HighlandGamesandFestivals.com, a website dedicated to Scottish highland games, festivals, history, and heritage. Has lots of Scottish info other than games. Check it out!

Fraser Genealogy

Charlie & Laurilyn Frasier submitted this: "Finding Our Scottish Roots"

In 2014, my wife and I decided to become members of CFSNA and a convener to represent New York State. At the time, my objective was to find my ancient roots back in our homeland, somewhere in Scotland. Like many others, during my earlier years I was not compelled to find out much if anything about my ancestors. However, as we all inevitably age my curiosity began to beg me to find out more about my family's past: Where we immigrated from, why we might have immigrated and where we ultimately settled in a new, yet to be country.

Our first visit to Scotland was in 2004, some 20 years ago. It was that visit that created the spark and desire to find my roots. Over the course of the last 20 years we have faced many roadblocks that at times made us feel we would never connect to our ancestor's homeland. During the first visit to Scotland, we stayed at a timeshare in Aviemore. There was no reason to pick that location but as we would find out much later, we were only a few miles from our croft, never realizing it at that time. Was there some unknown power trying to direct us home?

As a convener for New York state we elected to become more involved, representing the clan at games in New Hampshire, Vermont, Pennsylvania, and the provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in Canada. It was because of this new involvement that we met so many wonderful people who also shared their love of not only their surname but of their Scottish heritage. In May of 2023, as fate would have it, I began email correspondence with Claire MacPherson, clan coordinator of "Scottish Arts," for The Quechee Games in Vermont. During those various emails, I was amazed to find that Claire was not only a native of Scotland but was from the same area that I had a family document indicating my distant relative, Margaret Fraser (notice there is no i in her name), married a James Stewart in the United Parishes of Abernethy & Kincardine. Once I shared this document with Claire the unbelievable occurred. Claire began with that wonderful curiosity of hers to research in earnest that link. After one year of her relentless research, she was able to trace my roots back two generations further and not only found those direct ancestors but where our croft (farm) was located in the Cairngorms. I cannot tell you how elated I was at the amazing discoveries she had uncovered, especially after spending the last 20 years trying to find that link.

Claire, who currently lives in Massachusetts with her husband John and sons Callum & Samuel, scheduled a visit back to her hometown of Grantown on Spey for July 2024 to reunite with her father Ronnie MacPherson, mother Adelaide, and brother Ronald. It was a very easy decision for my wife and I to plan our return homecoming at the same time. As a result, we met the family MacPherson on July 29, 2024, as they guided us back to our long-lost homeland, some 250 years ago, when the family left in 1774 to settle in upstate New York. The croft had the Gaelic name Auchdergannoch, located based on a British ordinance map of the 1870's, a few miles from the current village of Nethy Bridge. It was such a moving experience that we will never forget. Although we did spend 3 weeks in Scotland driving some 2500 miles to view all those wonderful artifacts, monuments and glorious countryside that Scotland has to offer, by far the most important aspect of our visit was to reconnect with the land that my forefathers walked on some 250 years ago.



My wife and I are so indebted to Claire and her wonderful MacPherson family for all they have done to finally allow us to find our way home. Nothing has been more rewarding to us than to have Claire say to us during our visit to Auchdergannoch, "WELCOME HOME". Thank You, Claire and your wonderful MacPherson family, for such a welcome we received from you to bring us home, we both felt like we had never really left and that we had known your family for years. Love you and our wonderful Scottish heritage.

Reports on Scottish Games

Virginia Scottish Games & Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk - From Brix Fraser

Photos courtesy **Scott Wallace Fraser**

According to British historian James Anthony Froude, "No people so few in number have scored so deep a mark in the world's history as the Scots have done. No people have a greater right to be proud of their blood." Alexandria, Virginia, was founded in 1749 by Scottish merchants and was named after Scotsman John Alexander who owned the land that became Alexandria. The Virginia Scottish Games held every year over the Labor Day Weekend, and the annual Scottish Christmas Walk in Old Town Alexandria on the first Saturday in December every year, honor the Scottish influence on the character of the United States and the history of the Scots in Virginia.



The 50th Virginia Scottish Games were held over the Labor Day Weekend, 31 August – 1 September at Great Meadow in The Plains, Virginia - a vast meadow between the towns of Marshall and Warrenton nestled in the Virginia Piedmont, dotted with cattle, horse farms and vineyards. Marking the 50th year of the Virginia Scottish Games - for many years held at Episcopal High School in Alexandria, and for the last 20 years in Fauquier County - a record 50 Clans and other Scottish Societies descended on the village-like Colonel Robert Morrison Clan Field to recognize and honor this heritage.

Clan Fraser Society of North America was represented at the Virginia Scottish Games at Great Meadow this year as we've done since 2007. Clan Fraser upheld our reputation of hospitality and fellowship with plenty of Scotch Ales - two choices - as well as sandwiches, salads, shortbread cookies and Clan Fraser Heart of Scotland Whisky tastings. Serving the CFSNA tent this year were **Donald 'Brix' Fraser, Cindy Pryor, Bruce Simpson and Joe Smith**. This hearty group braved the threatening storm and high winds while processing six new members, five renewal memberships, and sold 15 T-shirts and one Tea Towel for total revenue of \$495.



Visitors took a step back in time to encounter kilted clansmen and clanswomen in their traditional Highland garb and discovered their Scottish roots, learned more about their heritage, and found out which tartan is appropriate for them. Even those visitors of non-Scottish descent enjoyed a tour of the clan field and witnessed the East Coast Highland Games Amateur Championship. Among the festivities were the British Car and Motorcycle Show, Children's games, including sword fighting (with wooden swords), Fiddle competition, Highland Dancing, Piping and Drumming, Massed Bands, and great food and drink. Being at Great Meadow, Festival Hill, and the Colonel Morrison Clan Field with its spectacular view and environment, always evokes the spirit of the Highlands right here in the Old Dominion

The Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk Parade started as a community event more than 50 years ago to highlight the city's Scottish heritage. Always on the first Saturday of December, come rain or shine, in balmy weather or bitter cold, Scottish Clans and pipe and drum bands joined by terriers and hounds, classic cars, and

Scottish reenactors march through the "Olde Towne" section of the city. On Saturday, December 7, 2024, Clan Fraser arrived in force. Our group included **Paul and Margaret Clark, Brix Fraser, the Gibson family - Don and Linda, son Zach and wife Rebecca and their son Charles, Bruce Simpson, Stuart Frazier and his family - wife Peggy, son Thomas and his fiancée Rebecca Perry, Rebecca Deitrich and her father Neil Wilson, Scott Fraser and his family - wife Burcin and children Jackie, William and Samantha.**



Burcin, Jackie, William, and Samantha Fraser



Brix Fraser

Cindy & Carl Nye send this report: Charleston Scottish Games and Highland Gathering

The 53rd annual Charleston Scottish Games and Highland Gathering were held at the North Charleston River Front Park on November 1-2. It was an unseasonably warm Saturday with a high of 84 degrees. The weekend

kicked off at 5 PM with a Ceilidh and Calling of the Clans. Music was provided by the Charleston Pipe Band, Moonlight Ale, and Scottish singer songwriter Jamie McGeechan.

As the Sun was setting, the Calling of the Clans took place. We would like to thank convener **Carl Nye** for his excellent representation of Clan Fraser during the Calling. The evening ended with more music and friendship.



Saturday, 8AM- 5PM the Athletic Games took place. Competitions included not only Athletics but also Piping, Drumming and Highland Dance. Our Clan's own **Eric Fraisure** was the overall winner in the male athlete category.

We were very happy to welcome two new members to our clan tent and assist four existing members with their annual renewals. We look forward to meeting more of our clansmen in the future and hope to see you again next year!

Notes from Our Fraser Clansmen

“Never Say Never” – A heart-warming story by **Daniel Frazier Hayne & Cheryl Lynn Patrick**

This is the story of two people finding love in the most unlikely place. Let me begin with some background of the two people involved.

I am the divorced father of two grown children, **Shannon** and **Eric**, and with them having their own lives I was content with collecting antique clocks and cars and living happily with my dog Zippy. I am a Frazier on my mother's side and enjoy articles on the different clans and of Scotland. I also enjoyed the Outlander series.

Cheryl (now my wife), I've known for 30+ years as she was married to my best friend Kim growing up and they had one child named **Ryan**. Ryan would graduate from Fairmont University and then went on to the University of Glasgow to get his master's degree. Cheryl never missed an opportunity to go to Scotland to visit Ryan and in doing so she fell in love with it.



My family and my childhood friend's family were very close, with siblings all the same age. For years growing up we went camping and on picnics together. And our friendship continued as Cheryl and Kim, my first wife and I would spend time together going out to dinner, the bar, camping or just spending time together as young couples do. Then in 2000 my wife and I divorced thus beginning my happy bachelor life. I tried dating only to find out that most people are crazy and that I wore my heart on my sleeve and in the end, I

got hurt more than I found pleasure. In 2009 I rescued a dog that I named Zippy, and she literally went everywhere with me. In 2019 my childhood friend (Cheryl's husband) was diagnosed with cancer. In August 2022 he lost his battle with cancer devastating Cheryl and her son. With Cheryl's son living in DC, I would go help her with things around her house when she needed it. In the meantime, I had a similar situation with Zippy. In 2021 when it was found that she had cancer, and I had a large tumor removed from her abdomen. Then in September 2022 with her crippling arthritis and the cancer returning I couldn't stand to see her suffer any longer and made the hard decision to put her down. In a matter of months, I had lost my childhood friend and my loyal dog of 13 years.

The day I put my beloved Zippy down Cheryl called me and not wanting me to sit around the house alone she asked me to go to a wine tasting. It was nice of her to do this, and we spent several hours talking. I asked her what her plans were now that she's a widow and she said her plan was to go to a small town in Scotland for two or three months to just reflect and find herself. She said she couldn't understand why I was single, and I told her about my dating failures and that I was better off single. I said I would never say "I do" again and she agreed that she had no desire to be that involved with anyone again. As time passed, we spent more and more time in support of one another doing things around the houses, going to dinner, talking, or taking drives in my old Mustang. We also discussed taking a trip to Scotland because I had never been there, and she knew that I needed to see it. She had made two trips flying to Ryan's in DC and on the second one it had become obvious that our feelings for one another had become more than we had planned. I was miserable with her being gone and couldn't wait for her return. Fortunately, she was having the same feelings. When I asked her to marry me in January, we had already started planning our trip to Scotland, so I suggested that we get married there. So, after all the correspondence with the Registrar we got everything set up to have our ceremony at a beautiful place called Cringletie in Peebles, just south of Edinburgh.



Scotland is so beautiful, and the ceremony was wonderful, and I am so fortunate to have found the love of my life right in front of me! Our trip to Scotland was nothing short of amazing. It is so beautiful and rich with history. From the grandeur of Rosslyn Chapel to Donnotar Castle and the beauty of the Highlands, our trip was absolutely wonderful.

Both of us are retired now and feel so fortunate to have found our soulmates in the least likely of places. And we are both firm believers of "Never Say Never" as our journey continues.

Brent Fraser - I absolutely love getting [The Nessie](#). I'm new to the newsletter so I've only received one publication so far. I was at the Scottish Games in Quechee, VT where I met up with some other Frasers and was introduced to the newsletter. It was amazing meeting other Frasers and having that feeling of an instant bond, even though we were technically, initially strangers. I'm currently planning my first trip to Scotland for this coming April. I plan to spend a couple days in Inverness, head west to Castle Fraser, and then spend a few days in Edinburgh. I can't wait. I hope to bring back an experience I can share for [The Nessie](#). Keep up the great work and thanks for your work on [The Nessie](#), I would imagine it's quite a bit of work to put everything together.

Regards,

From **Ernie Fraser** - I played fiddle on New Year's Eve as part of the entertainment for Hogman-Eh! The event was arranged by the Scottish Society of Ottawa (Canada). I was joined by my wife, **Diane Fraser** on bodhran

and by my friend, **Marietta Fraser** on piano. We played some Cape Breton Inverness square sets. The link below contains photos from the event. There are a few photos of us performing for the children and parents as they danced.



Marietta Fraser - Piano, Ernie Fraser - Fiddle, Diane Fraser - Bodhran

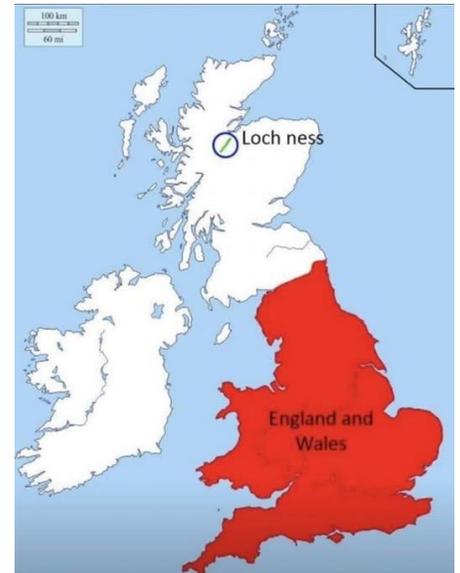
https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipMJ92wFa4U7JQ9vXhxBild3ZqF1kuD_d9DeuxdzeUHsIBJarWhr27UzH1sjxj4gw?key=NHIQZWhNS2IBbmxDZi0tZnBFLV96Z0JVZmQzcXZn

From **Randy Frazier** - I just became the Worshipful Master of the Widow's Son Lodge in Branford Connecticut. I am the first Frazier to serve that particular Freemason Lodge. We kicked it off in kilts, culture, bagpipes, and finished with a bottle of scotch with friends & family alike. Also, being the new Worshipful Master, I am putting together a new Celtic Festival in Branford Connecticut on June 1st, 2025. I am still looking for vendors as well as clans and entertainment. The venues I am looking at will not allow heavy games but it gives a rare opportunity to focus on the clans. If anyone is interested they can feel free to contact me at rlfraziermp@gmail.com. I hope this email finds you well and I have included a picture from the Litchfield Highland Games that my wife **Angela**, daughter **Sophia**, and I attended back in September.



Scottish and Fraser Tidbits

Did you know that Loch Ness (shown in circle at right) holds more water than all the lakes, rivers, canals and reservoirs in the whole of England and Wales combined! The deepest point in Loch Ness is 126 fathoms which is twice the average depth of the North Sea! This is where you will find the Loch Ness Monster chilling on most days



Scottish Cooking

This column, hosted by **Cheryl Morrison** (ancientheart9@gmail.com), is on Scottish cooking and recipes. As Cheryl says, “let’s explore and celebrate our shared Scottish heritage through the lens of our foodways”.

Scottish Cooking: Fish & Chips

Failte, a charaidean! Welcome, friends!

Come, have a seat ‘round the table where kindred folk are about and the finest fish and chips this side of the Atlantic, are about to be served up.

On our recent trip to Scotland, my husband, **George** and I had the pleasure of fresh fish and chips- in various places like Oban, on the Isle of Skye, and surprisingly, on the Cal-Mac ferry travelling from Stornoway to Ullapool, where we overheard locals talking about how much they loved the ferry’s fish and chips. We decided to give it a go and those ferry fish and chips were surprisingly good. When we returned home, George was determined to make some fish and chips that were as tasty as we had there. This recipe was it!



British Fish and Chips –

By Kimberly Killebrew. Recipe courtesy of: <https://www.daringgourmet.com/fish-and-chips/>

Prep Time: 30 mins Cook Time: 15 mins Total Time: 1 hour

Serves 4

For the Fish:

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp salt
- 1¼ cups light beer, VERY COLD. See Note*
- Extra flour for dredging, chilled
- 1½ pounds fresh cod, haddock or halibut (or other firm-fleshed white fish), cut into 4 pieces & patted dry (important for batter to adhere)
- Oil for frying

For the Chips:

- 4 large russet potatoes or other high starch/low moisture potato, peeled, sliced thickly & put in a large bowl of cold water until ready to fry
- Salt for sprinkling
- Oil for frying
- Quality British malt vinegar, for serving

INSTRUCTIONS

1. To make the chips: Heat the oven to 200F. Heat the oil in a deep fryer, a large heavy pan or a Dutch oven until the temperature reaches 325F over high heat.
Thoroughly drain the sliced potatoes and blot them with paper towels to remove excess water. Once the oil is 325F carefully fry the potatoes in small batches to avoid overcrowding and fry for 2-3 minutes until pale and softened. Use a slotted spoon to remove them from the oil and let them cool to room temperature.
Increase the temperature to 375F. Carefully add the fries again, frying in small batches, until they are golden, another 2-3 minutes. Remove with a slotted spoon, place them on a baking sheet or roasting rack, sprinkle with salt while they're still very hot, and place them in the warmed oven while you're frying the fish.
2. To make the fried fish: Combine the flour, baking powder and salt in a large flat bowl. Pour in the cold beer and whisk until smooth (use the batter immediately, do not let it rest for a while). In another large flat bowl add some extra flour for dredging.
Blot the fish with paper towels to remove excess moisture. Thoroughly dredge all sides of the fish in the flour and shake off the excess.
Dip the fish into the beer batter to thoroughly coat all sides, allowing some of the excess batter to drip off (but not too much!) If you prefer an extra thick coating you can repeat the process of dredging the fish in flour followed by the batter.
3. To fry the fish: You can either use a deep fryer or a medium-sized skillet and fill it with oil to a depth of at least an inch.
Heat the oil to between 350F- 375F, using a candy thermometer. Carefully lower the fish into the oil, waiting a few seconds before releasing it to prevent it from sticking to the bottom.
Fry the fish in the deep fryer for 5-8 minutes or until nicely golden. If using a frying pan fry the fish for about 2 minutes on each side or until nicely golden. Remove the fish with a slotted spoon, letting the oil drop off, then place the fried fish on paper towels for a few seconds and serve immediately (If you wait too long to serve the batter will lose its crispness).

Serve with the chips, a sprinkling of quality British malt vinegar and if desired a serving of British mushy peas. Though not traditional in the UK, you can also eat the fish with a homemade tartar sauce.

NOTES

*Beer contributes flavor to the batter but it's the carbonation in the beer that is key to achieving a light and crispy batter. If you prefer not to use beer you can substitute fizzy seltzer water.

Have any Scottish recipes that you'd like to share? I'd love to hear from you.

Cheryl Morrison, ancientheart9@gmail.com

Some Scottish History

The Battle at Roslin: How the Frasers Shaped Scottish Destiny

In the storied tapestry of Scottish history, where valor and courage intertwine with the fates of clans and kings, the Battle of Roslin emerges as a monumental testament to the indomitable spirit of Scotland's warriors. Among these, the Fraser Clan distinguished themselves in a display of bravery that has echoed through the ages, marking February 24, 1303, as a day of unparalleled heroism.

The Dawn of Conflict

As the first light of dawn pierced the Scottish moors, the English forces, confident and unchallenged, lay scattered across Roslin in three divisions. Their mission was one of devastation, to subdue the rebellious spirit of Scotland through force and fear. Yet, they were unaware that the tide of fate was about to turn, heralded by the stealthy march of **Sir Simon Fraser** and Sir John Comyn, who had rallied a formidable assembly of approximately 8,000 Scottish patriots. This force, though outnumbered, was driven by a fierce resolve to defend their homeland against the encroaching menace.

The element of surprise was their chosen ally. With the stealth of shadows, they descended upon the slumbering English camp, unleashing the fury of Scotland upon the unsuspecting invaders. The clash was brutal and swift, as the Scots, led by the valiant Fraser, cut through the ranks of their foes, capturing their commander and turning the tide in a decisive victory. Yet, this was but the opening act of a day that would be marked by unparalleled bravery.

A Trilogy of Battles

Hardly had the echoes of the first skirmish faded when the Scots were alerted to the approach of the second English division. With little time for respite, they braced themselves for another confrontation. The battle that ensued was a testament to their unwavering determination, as they once again emerged victorious, their spirits undimmed despite the mounting exhaustion and dwindling numbers.

But destiny, it seemed, had decreed that the true measure of their courage was yet to be tested. A third division, fresh and eager for battle, loomed on the horizon, ready to challenge the weary but resolute Scots. It was in this moment that Sir Simon Fraser's leadership shone with an incandescent brilliance. Rallying his fatigued warriors, he inspired them with words of freedom and the promise of victory, imbuing them with renewed vigor.

The Final Stand

The ensuing battle was a harrowing ordeal, a crucible in which the very essence of Scottish resilience was forged. Against overwhelming odds, the Fraser-led Scots clashed with the English in a desperate struggle for supremacy. The combat was fierce, with neither side yielding an inch without a fierce contest. Yet, as the sun

began to wane, so too did the resolve of the English, until at last, they were forced to retreat, leaving the field in the hands of the triumphant Scots.

Legacy of Valor

The Battle of Roslin was more than a mere military victory; it was a declaration of the indomitable spirit of the Scottish people, a testament to their refusal to be subdued. Sir Simon Fraser, and the Fraser Clan by extension, emerged from this conflict not just as victors but as enduring symbols of Scottish heroism and resilience.

This historic encounter serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices borne by those who fought for Scotland's freedom. The Fraser Clan's finest hour at Roslin stands as a beacon of inspiration, a story of courage, leadership, and the unbreakable will of a people united in the defense of their land and liberty. It is a legacy that continues to inspire, a vivid chapter in the saga of Scotland's quest for independence, immortalized in the annals of history.



Adapted from: Mackenzie, A. (1896). *The history of the Frasers of Lovat, with genealogies of the principal families of the name; to which is added those of Dunballoch and Phofachy*. A. & W. Mackenzie. As reported in [Bagtown Clans](#), Feb 10, 2024.

What Happened After Culloden - The Highland Clearances

The Highland Clearances remain a controversial period in Scotland's history and are still talked of with great bitterness, particularly by those families who were dispossessed of their land and even, to a large extent, of their culture, over the period of around 100 years between the mid-18th and 19th centuries. It is still considered a stain on the history of the Scottish people and is also a main contributing factor for the relatively enormous world-wide Scottish diaspora.

By the mid-1800s there was a tangible North-South divide within Scotland. There was an idea of the Highland culture and way of life being 'backward' and 'old-fashioned', out of step with the rest of Scotland and the recently United Kingdom. Those people in the south now identified more with their southern counterparts than with the old clan culture of the highlands and islands. Southern Scots saw themselves as more modern and progressive, with more in common in language and culture with their southern, English neighbors. However the Highland culture, ancient and proud, was fiercely independent and rooted in incredibly important traditions of family and fealty.

The clans such as Macintosh, Campbell and Grant had ruled their lands in the highlands for hundreds of years. The Highland Clearances changed all that however and altered a distinct and autonomous way of life. The reasons for the highland clearances essentially came down to two things: money and loyalty. As early as the reign of James VI in Scotland, cracks were beginning to appear in the clan way of life. When James ascended the throne of England in 1603, he moved south to Westminster and ruled Scotland from there, only visiting the nation of his birth once more before he died. James was a suspicious king (his distaste for witches has been noted) and did not completely trust the clan leaders in Scotland to rule without his supervision.

He feared opposition and plotting. Although to be fair to James it was this canniness that led him to foil the Gunpowder Plot of 1605, although of course the threat there did not come from Scotland. In order to better

maintain control of the North and to prevent the clan chiefs from superseding his power with their people, James kept the chiefs away from their clans for extended periods, requiring them to do duties that kept them away from their people. This was to ensure that the peoples' allegiance remained to their King and not to their clan Chief.

Things worsened for the clans after the Glorious Revolution of 1688-9 when the Stuarts were replaced by William of Orange and the Hanoverian dynasty. There were many Scots still fiercely loyal to the Stuart monarch, and this led to several Jacobite uprisings in support of Prince Charles Edward Stewart, or 'Bonnie Prince Charlie', who was James VII's grandson. The Jacobites wanted to oust what they saw as an illegitimate ruler and reinstate the Stuart king. There were several rebellions with this as the intended outcome, and there was a swell of support for the Jacobite movement in the highlands. This was further fostered in many ways by the Act of Union of 1707; many Scots felt betrayed by this and there was widespread opposition to the joining with England. This led to further support for a return of the Stuart monarchy and, by consequence, the Jacobite rebellions.

From 1725 onwards, garrisons manned by English soldiers or 'redcoats' sprung up all over the Scottish Highlands, notably at Fort William and Inverness. These were to suppress Scottish opposition to the King and to remind the highland clans that they were subject to English rule.

The final and bloodiest rebellion was led by Bonnie Prince Charlie himself in 1745 and it culminated in the slaughter at Culloden in 1746. The Jacobites faced the English redcoats on an open field and were almost annihilated. They were no match for the might of the British army and the losses suffered by the highlanders were catastrophic. The Jacobites were around 6,000 strong whereas the British army numbered around 9,000. Of the 6,000 Jacobites, 1,000 are thought to have died, although the exact number is unknown. Many of those who died were clansmen. Some tried to escape but were hunted through the countryside and slaughtered. Some prisoners were taken to London where around 80 were executed, including the last man to be beheaded in Britain, **Lord Lovat, Clan Chief of Fraser**. He was beheaded at the Tower of London in 1747 for high treason for his part in supporting the Jacobite rebellion. The Battle of Culloden was to be the swansong of Highland Clan culture, the last stand of a way of life that had existed for centuries.

After the initial swift and bloodthirsty retribution for the Jacobite rebellions, laws were instigated to prevent any further groundswell of support for the previous monarchs. In 1747 'The Act of Proscription' was passed. Clan tartan had become popular during the Jacobite years and this was outlawed under this new act, as were bagpipes and the teaching of Gaelic. The Act was a direct attack on the highland culture and way of life and attempted to eradicate it from a modern and Hanoverian-loyal Scotland. Acts such as this, intended to wipe out an ancient culture, have given modern Scotland an unusual ally and kindred spirit in the Catalans. Cataluña is in the Northeast of Spain, the capital of which is Barcelona. They have their own culture and language (Catalan) that is completely distinct from Castilian Spain. In 1707 Scotland lost the right to self-rule, and the Catalans lost the same to the Spanish a mere 7 years later in 1714. Although these two countries are thousands of miles and cultures apart, they have an unusually similar shared history of oppression. Once Franco had won the Spanish Civil War in 1939, he treated the Catalans in much the same way the Highlanders were treated after Culloden. Franco outlawed the Catalan language and made the Catalans subject to Spanish rule. Today the Catalans watch the issue of Scottish independence with great interest.

It was not only highland culture that disappeared over this period but also the highlanders themselves, for the most prosaic of reasons: money. It was deduced by those landowners on whose lands the clans lived and worked that sheep were exponentially more financially productive than people. The wool trade had begun to boom and there was literally more value in sheep than people. So, what followed was an organized and intentional removal of the population from the area. In 1747, another Act was passed, the 'Heritable Jurisdictions Act', which stated that anyone who did not submit to English rule automatically forfeited their land: bend the knee or surrender your birth right.

Some highlander clans and families had lived in the same cottages for 500 years and then, just like that, they were gone. People were literally turned out of their cottages into the surrounding countryside. Many were relocated to the coast where they would subsist by farming almost cultivatable land, supplementing themselves by smelting kelp and fishing. However, the kelp industry also began to decline. Some were put on different land to farm crops, but they had no legal rights to the land. It was a very feudal arrangement. Many highlanders chose to emigrate, but some were actually sold as indentured slaves.

Things began to deteriorate even further in the 1840s. The potato blight and the subsequent potato famine rendered the already difficult lives of these resettled crofters almost untenable. It has been said that at the height of the clearances as many as 2,000 crofter cottages were burned each day, although exact figures are hard to come by. Cottages were burned to make them uninhabitable, to ensure the people never tried to return once the sheep had been moved in.

Between 1811 and 1821, around 15,000 people were removed from land owned by the Duchess of Sutherland and her husband the Marquis of Stafford to make room for 200,000 sheep. Some of those turned out had literally nowhere else to go; many were old and infirm and so starved or froze to death, left to the mercy of the elements. In 1814 two elderly people who did not get out of their cottage in time were burned alive in Strathnaver. In 1826, the Isle of Rum was cleared of its tenants who were paid to go to Canada, travelling on the ship 'James' to dock at Halifax. Unfortunately, every one of the passengers had contracted typhus by the time they arrived in Canada. This 'transportation' was not that uncommon, as it was often cheaper for landowners to pay for passage to the New World than to try and find their tenants other land or keep them from starvation. However, it was not always voluntary. In 1851, 1500 tenants in Barra were tricked to a meeting about land rents; they were then overpowered, tied up and forced onto a ship to America. This clearing of the population is a main contributor to the massive world-wide Scottish diaspora and why so many Americans and Canadians can trace their ancestry to the proud, ancient clans of Scotland. It is not known at this time exactly how many highlanders emigrated, voluntarily or otherwise, but estimates put it at about 70,000. Whatever the exact figure, it was enough to change the character and culture of the Scottish Highlands forever.

A 17th century Scottish prophet known as The Brahan Seer once wrote, "The day will come when the big sheep will put the plough up in the rafters . . . The big sheep will overrun the country till they meet the northern sea . . . in the end, old men shall return from new lands". It turns out, he was right.

Source: [Historic UK](#), by Ms. Terry Stewart, Freelance Writer.

January 14, 1872 - The Death of Greyfriars Bobby

Welcome to *This Day in Scottish History*. Today we remember the heartwarming story of loyalty and devotion that ended on this day, January 14, 1872. This is the day when Greyfriars Bobby, the legendary Skye Terrier, passed away after spending 14 years faithfully guarding his master's grave in Edinburgh's Greyfriars Kirkyard.

Greyfriars Bobby's tale begins in the mid-19th century with a simple and profound bond between a man and his dog. Bobby belonged to John Gray, a night watchman in Edinburgh. Known affectionately as "Auld Jock," Gray and Bobby were constant companions as they roamed the streets of the city together. Their friendship was one of warmth and loyalty, and Bobby was never far from his master's side. Tragically, in 1858, John Gray passed away due to tuberculosis and was buried in Greyfriars Kirkyard, one of Edinburgh's oldest and most storied cemeteries. What happened next turned Bobby into a symbol of devotion that has



inspired generations. Despite the loss of his master, Bobby refused to leave his side. Day after day, year after year, Bobby remained near Auld Jock's grave, braving the harsh Scottish weather to keep watch.

As Bobby continued his vigil, the people of Edinburgh took note of this small, scruffy Skye Terrier who seemed to embody unwavering loyalty. Visitors to Greyfriars Kirkyard were moved by the sight of the dog lying near the grave, regardless of rain, snow, or sun. Bobby became something of a local celebrity, his story spreading across the city and beyond. The citizens of Edinburgh, touched by his devotion, ensured Bobby's well-being. He was regularly fed by locals, and the owner of a nearby café, Mr. William Dow, took a particular interest in the little dog. Bobby's care even became a legal matter in 1867 when a new law required all dogs to be licensed. The Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Sir William Chambers, paid for Bobby's license and presented him with a brass collar, which is now on display at the Museum of Edinburgh.

On January 14, 1872, Bobby passed away at approximately 16 years old. Although dogs were not traditionally buried in consecrated ground, special permission was granted for Bobby to be laid to rest just inside the gates of Greyfriars Kirkyard, near his beloved master's grave.

Bobby's story didn't end with his death. He became an enduring symbol of loyalty and love. A year after his passing, in 1873, philanthropist Baroness Angela Burdett-Coutts commissioned a granite drinking fountain in Bobby's honor. The fountain, which includes a life-sized statue of the little Skye Terrier, stands at the corner of George IV Bridge and Candlemaker Row, near Greyfriars Kirkyard.

Over the years, Greyfriars Bobby's tale has been immortalized in books, films, and countless retellings. Visitors from all over the world continue to flock to his grave, often leaving sticks, toys, or flowers in tribute. The plaque on Bobby's gravestone simply reads: "Greyfriars Bobby – Died 14th January 1872 – Aged 16 years – Let his loyalty and devotion be a lesson to us all."

The story of Greyfriars Bobby resonates deeply with people because it speaks to universal values: love, loyalty, and the enduring bonds we share with those we care about. Bobby's steadfast vigil reminds us of the depth of connection between humans and animals, and his legacy has become a cherished part of Scotland's cultural fabric.

As we reflect on this day in 1872, let us celebrate the life of a small dog whose heart was as big as the spirit of the city that embraced him. Greyfriars Bobby may have been just a Skye Terrier, but his story lives on as one of Edinburgh's most treasured legends.

From [Bagtown Clans](#)

From John A. Fraser III: Highland History - An important new book.

David Worthington is the Head of the History Centre of the University of the Highland and Islands. He has published a new biography of Rev. James Fraser, Minister of Kirkhill and author of the Wardlaw Manuscript and A History of the Bissets and Frasers of Lovat. Rev. Fraser lived from 1634 - 1709 and was well-educated, well-traveled, and was quite the polymath. Kirkhill is north of Inverness on the Beaulieu Firth, in the heart of Clan Fraser territory.

Rev. Fraser's life story was last told when the Wardlaw Manuscript was published by the Scottish History Society in 1905. Worthington has used additional resources not available in 1905 to tell the story of Rev. Fraser's education, travels, ministry and life in the Highlands. At the same time, the author provides valuable insights into social life, religious life, clan and family relations, and how all this fitted into Scotland, Britain and Western Europe in the period pre-Culloden.

The book is [Rev. James Fraser, 1634-1709, A New Perspective on the Scottish Highlands Before Culloden](#). Edinburgh Univ. Press; ISBN No. 978 1 3996 0128 6.

Jokes and Cartoons

Wait! What? Not Just Plain Southern-ese? Speech Influenced by Scottish Heritage? Who Knew?!

Humor submitted by **Diana O. Wright** (of Simpson ancestry, a sept of Clan Fraser)

My parents both were born and raised in southwest Georgia. Mama's paternal line, Simpson (a sept of Clan Fraser), moved from North Carolina, where my g-g-g-grandfather was born about 1765, to South Carolina and then to Georgia by the time of the 1830 census. Where in North Carolina had the Simpsons lived? Maybe Craven County, but I haven't figured that out for sure. I was born in South Carolina, but my speech pattern is more like that of my south-Georgia parents and not at all like the distinctive brogue of Charleston, my birthplace.

All that to introduce the fact that, as a child, I thought the sayings and vocabulary of my family were common to all English-speakers. Then, as I grew older and heard folks from other states or locales speak, I discovered that sometimes they couldn't quite understand me, and I couldn't quite understand them either. Into my life came the idea of regional vocabulary, pronunciation, and idioms, which I decided was more-local speech but still common among all the residents of a specific area. Now, I understand why what I thought was just plain Southern-ese, in general, sometimes caused (and causes) questioning expressions even on the faces of other Southerners. Little had I known that some of my family's words and expressions came with our ancestors from Scotland and continued to influence our vocabulary for more than two hundred years.

Below are words and expressions that I grew up with that I've discovered (surely, some; probably, some; and possibly, others) to be borrowed from or derived from Scots. Our family did not hold on to some obvious Scots-language terms, such as aye, bairn, lass, bonnie, lad, and cairn. But there likely are Scots words and phrases, in addition to the ones below, that made their way across the Atlantic and held on in the Colonies, then the United States—and showed up in my family's conversations. I hope to identify more of them to add to the list.

Bamboozled (possibly from Scots *bumbazed*: to confuse or mystify)—*tricked or confused* (I felt completely bamboozled when it turned out that somebody had canceled our reservation.)

Banshee (alternate **like a banshee** [simile]) (from Scottish Gaelic *ban sith*: a woman, originally thought to be a fairy in both Scottish and Irish mythology, who wails when a death occurs or is about to occur)—*hollering; screaming very loudly* (When the ghost grabbed Suzie in the Halloween House of Horrors, she ran out the door, screamin' like a banshee.)

Bletherin' eejit (alternate **blitherin' idjit**)—*mouthin'-off idiot* (Shut yer mouth of that foolishness; ya sound like a blithering idjit!)

Britches (alternate **breeches**) [probably from Scots *breeks*: trousers]—*pants with full-length legs* (Get outta those pajama bottoms and put yer britches on; we're headin' to the grocery store.)

Cahoots (alternate **in cahoots**)—*working or scheming together, possibly for nefarious or secretive reasons* (So... are we in cahoots about the surprise birthday party plans?)

Canny—*acting or moving in a discreet and energetic way; wisely secretive; careful and clever* (Go canny through the house so Mama and Daddy won't know we're sneakin' out after curfew.)

Cattywampus (alternate **caterwampus**) [possibly from *cata*: do again and Scots *wampus*: twist]—*askew; messy; awry* (I straightened up the mudroom, but then my brother came in to look for his hiking boots, and now things are all cattywampus again!)

Clan—*specific family group* (The whole clan showed up at the family reunion.)

Dancin' a jig [idiomatic usage]—*wiggling; fidgeting* (I was so nervous, I was dancin' a jig in my seat before my turn to perform at the recital.)

Directly (alternate **direckly** or **tereckly**)—*in a little while; relatively soon; when one gets around to doing something or being somewhere* (Hold your horses! I'll be there direckly.)

'Em—*them* (Let's go visit Mama an' 'em.)

Flabbergasted [probably from Scots flabrigast: to brag or boast]—*shocked, in awe, amazed* (I was flabbergasted when the 61-yard field goal gave our team the win with no time left on the clock!)

Gallivant [possibly from French to Scots gallant: to flirt around]—*to move around aimlessly from place to place looking for fun* (If you didn't gallivant around all the time, we could get some work done on our house plans.)

Galore—*a LOT of* (We had snacks galore in the car for the day-long trip to Grandma's.)

Gobsmacked—*shocked; dumbfounded; flabbergasted* (When she appeared in the gorgeous outfit she was wearing to the Homecoming Dance, he was gobsmacked!)

Gumption—*initiative, nerve* (Oh yeah? You don't have the gumption to try that!)

Hootenanny [probably from Scots Hogmanay: New Year's celebration]—*a festive get-together; a folk music performance* (Bring your guitars and fiddles when you come to the potluck, and we'll have an impromptu hootenanny after lunch.)

Hubbub—*a crowded, noisy situation* (I couldn't hear a thing you said, in the middle of all that hubbub!)

Hullabaloo—*a commotion; a fuss* (The principle's announcement caused a hullabaloo in the auditorium. The students and the teachers were furious.)

Kerfuffle—*a bit of chaos caused by disagreement* (Jim and John got into a kerfuffle over who was gonna walk June home.)

'Mon [pronounced like MOAN]—*come on* (I'm tired o' waitin'! 'Mon, y'all!)

Naw—*No* (Naw, we can't go. Our mama's makin' us do chores.)

Persnickety—*picky; hard to please* (Don't be so persnickety. You've tried on fifteen pairs of jeans. Just PICK one!)

Poke—*to poke = to prod* (If you poke me in the shoulder one more time, I'm gonna knock you into next week!); *a poke = a paper or cloth bag* (We need a poke o' collards for lunch on New Year's.)

Reckon/I reckon; ya reckon?—*assume; probably; I suppose* (I reckon we'd better get goin' if we're gonna make it on time.); *do you think?* (Ya reckon Mama's cookin' cracklin' bread for supper tonight?)

Reek—*smell strongly of an odor, unpleasant to the one smelling it* (Yuck! The woman in the seat next to me reeks of mothballs.)

Rigamarole (alternate **rigmarole**) (possibly from Scots ragman role: list of Scottish nobles who signed pledges to the British king)—*an undertaking that requires an excessive amount of long, complicated, and/or seemingly-unnecessary procedures* (If I'd known the rigamarole we'd have to go through to get on an airplane, I woulda just walked across the Atlantic.)

Screwball—*unhinged, crazy-acting person* (That screwball just about ran me off the road!)

Shindig—*party* (Grab your purse and presents and let's head over to the birthday shindig.)

Skulduggary (probably from Scots skuldudderly or skuldudrie: lewdness)—*dishonest behavior; trickery; deceit; using clever language to hide deceit* (I'm wise to the kind of skulduggery yer pullin' to try to scam me out of my life savings!)

Smidgen—*a little bit; a small amount* (I don't want a big blob of mustard—just a smidgen.)

Speak o' the devil [idiom]—*somebody you were just talking about shows up* ("I saw Jackson at the mall last week." "Speak o' the devil, here he comes right now.")

Supper—*last meal of the day* [I still speak of meals as breakfast, lunch, and supper. The only time my family ever spoke of dinner was for a special meal, such as Thanksgiving Dinner or Christmas Dinner.] (Supper's ready. Y'all've been playin' outside all day. Wash yer hands b'fore ya come to the table.)

Victuals [pronounced **vittles**]—*food* (Collard greens, hoppin'-john, and ham are some tasty vittles!)

Y'all [possibly from Scots ye aw: all you along / you all]—*a second-person-plural pronoun; a contraction of "you all"* (Suzie, Ben, and Linda—where are y'all goin'?)

Yer—*your* (Wash yer hands.); *you're* (Yer goin' to work wearin' those shoes?!)

There are many more Southernisms in the speech patterns of my family of origin, surely including others with Scots influence. My family's lexicon that derives from languages and cultures other than Scots also are meaningful linguistic aspects of my heritage. One of my favorites (not from Scots): Mama often worked in the yard and came into the house with her hair standing on end, mud splattered all over her, and sweat running down her face. If she caught a glimpse in a mirrored surface, she'd exclaim, "Laws-a-mercy, I look like who-shot-John!"

I've also noticed that pronunciation keys in some Scots dictionaries drop the *g* from *ing*-ending words and that, often, a short *e* sounds like a short *i*, and the pronoun *I* is sometimes shown to be pronounced as *Ah*. Those tendencies are common in my Southern speech pattern, as well, especially in colloquial chatting. (Ah'm [I'm] goin' [going] to git [get] a pin [pen] right now so we can sign those papers.)

Playing with cultural, colloquial, and idiomatic language is so much fun! And now, I'm fixin' to (not Scots, but plenty Southern) sign off on this piece of writing.

Fraser Groups on Facebook

Clan Fraser Society of North America <https://www.facebook.com/groups/cfsnaofficial>

Clan Fraser of Lovat <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Clan-Fraser-of-Lovat/110920735625678>

General Scottish clans and families <https://www.facebook.com/groups/scottishclans/?fref=nf>

Clan Fraser Society of Scotland and the United Kingdom http://fraserclan.net/?page_id=44

The Clan Website is <http://www.cfsna.com>. This is the place to locate games and festivals where the society will participate or sponsor a tent. You will also find historical information and other interesting facts about Clan Fraser on the site. Those who enjoy social media should visit CFSNA® on Facebook and join the group to converse with other members!

The website of **Clan Fraser of Lovat**, hosted by Simon Fraser, 18th Lord Lovat, is <http://clanfraser.org/>

That of **Lady Saltoun**: <http://fraserchief.co.uk/>

Clan Fraser and Clan Fraser societies around the world . . .

Clan Fraser Society of Australia

(<http://clanfraseraustralia.org>)

Clan Fraser Society Scotland & the UK

(<https://fraserclan.net>)

Clan Fraser Association for California

(<http://www.fraserclan-cal.net>)

Council of Scottish Clans & Associations:

(<https://www.cosca.scot>)

Clans & Scottish Societies of Canada:

(<http://www.cassoc.ca/>)

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Beauty of Scotland





THE CLAN FRASER SOCIETY
OF NORTH AMERICA®



Membership Application
PLEASE PRINT or Edit with PDF

Qualification for Membership:

- Regular Member – Any person of Scottish ancestry bearing the name Fraser in any of its various forms and spellings, or any Sept name of the Clan Fraser, including the spouse or descendant of such person. For a complete list of the Septs, see <https://cfsna.com/memberships.htm>.

- Associate Member – Any person not of the surname of Fraser or its septs but who have legitimate interest in the purposes and objectives of CFSNA®. Associate members shall not have a vote on the Executive Committee or in general elections of the Society.

- Life Membership – Current Regular members in good standing may at any time apply to become life members. Family Life memberships will include the spouse and also dependent children only for the period they are considered dependents (per IRS definition). Life memberships will be subject to approval by the Board. Total life memberships will not exceed 15% of the total membership. Life membership may be bestowed by the Board, at no cost to the individual, for anyone that they deem has made a significant contribution to the success of the society and its purpose.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Spouse: _____ Email: _____

Mailing Address: Street/PO Box: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Postal Code _____

Member Phone: _____ Spouse Phone: _____

Please check correct membership Type

() Regular Member & my relationship to Clan Fraser is: _____ or () Associate Member

Please indicate particular Clan Fraser interest – selection implies sharing of email with other members

- | | |
|--|---|
| () Assisting at tent at Highland Game | () Clan Fraser Social activities or travel |
| () Genealogy & Family Trees | () Highland Music () Play bagpipes? |
| () Clan History | () Highland Cooking |
| () Highland Dancing | () Highland Games & my Sport(s): |
| () Scotch Whisky | () Clan Literature (books, articles, etc.) |
| () Other _____ | Please feel free to write on the back of this form. |

Annual dues for Society membership are \$20 USD (\$25 CND) per family including children under 18. The first year's dues should be included with the application. Dues for renewal of membership will be payable by the end of anniversary month of the date of membership and should be submitted with a newly completed membership application to allow for verification and updates to the CFSNA® database. Failure to pay dues or update contact information in a timely fashion will result in expiration of your membership.

Select one: () New Member () Renewing Member () Former Member & last year paid: _____

Amount: _____ () Cash () Check # _____ () Square (Add \$2 service fee) () PayPal (Add \$2 service fee)

Date: _____ Signature _____

Mail to: CFSNA, C/O Mary Lumpkin at 118 Juliet CIR, Cary NC 27513
Or Save to Desktop then Email the PDF to: Membership@CFSNA.COM

Please note that if your dues are significantly in arrears, we must remove you from the member list, and from The Nessie distribution list. Please keep your membership up to date!

Note that as passed by the Board, only these members supplying an email address will receive *The Nessie*

The new CFSNA® policy is that membership and renewals are due ***any month of the year*** and are good for one year. Have you renewed your membership sometime this year To renew, go to <https://cfsna.com/fileaccess.cfm?filename=CFSNA%20Membership%20Application.pdf> or fill out this form, and mail Mary Lumpkin with a check for your dues.