

# SCOT POURRI

**Send us your inquiries on life's little question marks.**

Ever wanted to know what happened to your old pal from home, how to make your favourite Scottish meal, or wondered about a certain bit of Scottish history?

## Fraser Highlanders at Quebec, 1759

After 'The '45,' many Clan Frasers were forced to flee to France for their survival. But, remaining true Scots, there was a longing to return to Scotland and their native heath near Inverness. Hence, with the Seven Years War raging in 1758, both in Europe and in what is now North America, the Chief, Lord Lovat, approached King George II with a proposition. If he, Lovat, raised a regiment of Frasers to fight on his behalf in North America, would he grant those that wished it, leave to return to Scotland after such service? King George, pressed by too few troops already and major costs of maintaining his armies, agreed to such a proposal. Thus a few hundred Frasers, the 78<sup>th</sup> Regiment, were gathered at Stirling, awaiting transport to Nova Scotia and the St. Lawrence, where General Wolfe was stymied trying to capture the well fortified French capital at Quebec.

While that coterie were housed in that steeply castled fortification, no doubt not well fed in the least, some Frasers heard that quite a supply of cheeses were stored in an upper and outer strongroom of the fort. Hence, one dark night, a Fraser managed to scale the outer wall of that stronghold, break in through a window, and seize a significant supply of the cheese for his comrades. None of the local authorities were able to discover exactly who had stolen the cheeses, except it must have been one of the Frasers!

In the meantime, their transport had arrived, hence the Highlanders were marched off to board them, joining Wolfe's forces in the final assault (before winter set in) on the French occupied fort. On the mid-September dark night of the attack involved, Wolfe's troops rowed quietly as possible upstream from their transports to the chosen small brush-covered landing strip at the foot of a

steep hundred foot or more steep, rocky, goat path up to the Plains of Abraham above, about half a mile from the fort's walls. The Frasers, in the van of the very mixed group of attackers, were to lead the way upwards. Their Commander, not himself a Fraser, spoke quietly to the leading file, it is quoted: "Right, I know your lot are pretty good climbers, after that affair of the cheeses at Stirling. You go first!" On arrival at the top, from amongst the small trees and bushes of the rocky hillside (still there to this day), a French sentry nearby, heard a sound and challenged: "Qui va la?" But, as the Frasers had spent some earlier years in France, the Highlander responded, in French "Un piquet" or some such, and was able to seize the man before any alarm. The rest followed him as well. And the remainder of the troops landed clambering up behind him. Before the French could determined what was occurring, enough attackers had deployed on the field to form battle lines and attack the surprised French. While both commanders. General Wolfe and the Marqui de Montcalm, were killed in the subsequent day's battle, the fort was taken, and Canada became English rather than the French of it's former occupiers.

As a final touch, the Frasers, understandably dubious of King George's word of leniency to them and a return of their Scottish land, tended to remain in Canada – and in North America – becoming part of a fairly common name there. Even to the extent it is not uncommon to see names such as Adelard Fraser or Jacques Fraser in town listings – a Scottish heritage with a French touch.

And there is a display 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Regiment in period dress there to this day.  
*Fraser M. McKee*  
*Quebec, Canada*

including, at the end of the delivery, a few loud cries of 'Freedom'!

However, knowing that the majority of the audience would not understand the language, dialect and colloquialisms, at the end of my presentation I provided an English equivalent of what I had just said. Many of the attendees, approached me afterwards to express their admission that they had not understood one word of it, but with the English translation, it made perfect sense. Maybe your readers may be interested, and enjoy my small contribution, to harmonizing today's Australian society.

*Aye, Right then, - Noo, - See Yuuz,  
- Hod yer Wheesh! – an' len us yer  
Lugs, an keep the heid, - ye ken*

*Naw - its nane a' that - Naw  
the Noo, - its Aye the Noo,*

*So, geez Uuz - sum o' yer time, the Noo  
Lay it doon, oor Bonnie Past, Yuuz  
and Uuz - huvta say Aye - th'gether*

*An' raise oor Claymores, Pibrochs  
and Chants to say - Aye, th'gether*

*Tae the Gadigal Mob frae the Eora  
Nation - hoo wur the first Clan to say  
Aye - on this bonnie Land and Watter's*

*Auch, yer' awricht, an' Yuuz see,  
- we aw' inmit th'gether, - on this  
braw hame caw'ed Australia*

*We seez Yuuz, and Yuuz seez Uuz, and  
that's hoo - we noo huvtae tae follow*

*Aye, aw Uuz, say it noo – Yuuz the  
Gadigals, we ken this land wuz yours,*

*we ken yer Gallus - and yer Mob were the  
first foots, an' lang ma 'yer lums reek'*

*Noo, - gonna'e geez Uuz aw' - sum  
Peace – 'coz weeze luv' Yuuz aw'*

*Aye, Slainte*

### English Translation

*Hello, if we could have your  
attention please, we would like  
to say something important and  
enormously significant to you.*

*It is time for us, the newcomers to this Land  
to state loud & clear without any further  
delay, about our mutual history together*

*With the utmost respect and recognition,  
we acknowledge that your people  
were in fact, the first original Nation  
to occupy these beautiful Lands*

*And as we recognise you, we ask that you,  
humbly recognise ourselves as mutual  
cohabitants of this Land and we genuinely  
wish that we can live together in harmony.*

*We declare it now that the Gadigal Mob are  
extremely proud people, and we wish you  
every success in your future endeavours*

*And now, now that recognition has  
been given, can we now all move  
forward with a productive and  
mutually respectful friendship*

*Sincerely, Slainte, Yalamundi,  
Cheers, Too Roo and Yani Yani  
Brian Griffin  
Sydney, NSW  
Australia*

## FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



**Sent to our Facebook, Twitter or Instagram accounts-send us your photos or letters via social media (#ScottishBanner or #TheBanner):**

### Northern Lights



The Aurora Borealis over the Clach Lighthouse.  
*Mik Coia*

### The Kelpies



The Kelpies lighting up the evening.  
*The Kilted Photographer*

### Edinburgh



Edinburgh sunset.  
*Craig Duncan Photography*

### Corpach Shipwreck



The Corpach Shipwreck with Ben Nevis as its backdrop.  
*Soul of Alba Photography*

### Tartan Day Parade



I am submitting a selection of photographs from the Tartan Day Parade held in Manhattan on April 5, 2025. The event was a vibrant celebration of Scottish heritage, featuring traditional music, dance, and attire along Sixth Avenue. Best regards,  
*Wassim Serhan*  
USA  
*wassimserhan.com*

### Australia - Traditional Recognition Statement read in an Old Scots Dialect

As a fervent reader and subscriber to *the Scottish Banner*, I always read with interest every edition, requesting news or worthwhile contributions that other *Scottish Banner* readers may also be interested in. Recently, in Australia, as a Scot, I was courteously asked if I would provide the Traditional Recognition Statement to a Government Department, spoken in Old Scots Dialect. Before accepting, I contacted the Office of Aboriginal Affairs to confirm if this was respectable & acceptable. Not only was the request approved, it was enthusiastically encouraged, that the Recognition Statement, was being translated into other historical dialects. Consequently, I passionately and sincerely presented my Statement to the audience, and it was met with rapturous applause -

Pose your questions on Scottish related topics to our knowledgeable readership who just may be able to help. Please keep letters under 300 words and we reserve the right to edit content and length. Letters can be emailed to [info@scottishbanner.com](mailto:info@scottishbanner.com) or online at [www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us](http://www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us), alternatively you may post your letters to us (items posted to the Scottish Banner cannot be returned). Please ensure you include your full contact details should you require a reply. This page belongs to our readers so please feel free to take part!