



Maj. William Nairne

*Wm Nairne Lieut*

Picture Source: *The Scottish Songstress, Caroline Baroness Nairne*, by Her Great Grand-Niece, Oliphant Anderson & Ferrier, Edinburgh, 1894, p. 34. Signature Source: TNA, “*Captain Angus Mackintosh’s Company for 244 days from 25th April 1776 to 24th Dec following*” at WO 12/7847.

**Nairne**, Capt. William Murray, (Later 5<sup>th</sup> Lord Nairne). Nicknamed “*Willie*” by his family and friends, Nairne was the son of then Capt. John Nairne, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Regt. (The Royals) and his Irish wife, Brabazon Wheeler. Nairne was born in 1757 in Drogheda, Ireland where his father’s regiment was stationed. On Half-pay of the late 109<sup>th</sup> Regt., Nairne’s father was the Provost of St. Andrews, from 1779 until his death in 1782

In the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745 Capt. Nairne’s grandfather, John Murray, 3<sup>rd</sup> Lord Nairne, commanded the 200-man Nairne Regt., as part of the Atholl brigade of the Jacobite army and escaped to the Continent after the battle of Culloden. Lord Nairne was included in the act of attainder of 1746, and died in France in 1770.

Seven year old William Nairne and his older brother John were first commissioned as Ensigns in Lt. Col. Commandant Staats Long Morris’ 89<sup>th</sup> Highland Regt. in Apr. 1764. As that regiment was serving in India at the time, and considering his age, he did not see active service with that regiment and John and William Nairne went out on Half-pay when the regiment was disbanded on its return from India in 1766. The 89<sup>th</sup> Regt. half-pay list is shown for the first time in the Annual Army list of 1767.



Reproduction 71<sup>st</sup> (Fraser's) Highland Regt. Uniform Button

When Maj. Gen. Simon Fraser received a Beating Order to raise a two-battalion Highland regiment for the American rebellion in 1775, eighteen-year Nairne and his brother John raised their quotas of recruits and their commissions as a Lieutenants in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 71<sup>st</sup> Regt. were approved by King George III on May 1, 1776, after the regiment had already sailed for America. Their commissions were made effective back to Nov. 27, 1775 for John and Nov. 28 for William.

William Nairne served in the New York campaign and the Philadelphia campaign with a line battalion. After the taking of the rebel capitol of Philadelphia, Gen. Sir William Howe's army took up Winter Quarters in Pennsylvania while the 71<sup>st</sup> Highlanders embarked for New York on Dec. 12, 1777 and took up quarters on Long Island and Staten Island. The muster of Capt. Duncan Chisholm's Company at "*Camp near MacGowans Pass N. York Island 27 June 1778*" shows Nairne marked as "*Transferred to the Grenadiers.*"

In 1779, while serving with the two 71<sup>st</sup> Regt. Grenadier Companies under Capt. Lawrence Robert Campbell, Nairne was stationed at Stony Point, New York along with the 17<sup>th</sup> Regt. Lt. Nairne and most of the 71<sup>st</sup> Grenadiers were captured during the attack on that post by rebel Brig. Gen. Anthony Wayne on the night of July 15, 1779. Lt. Nairne described his actions in the battle as a witness in the 1781 Court Martial of the commander of the post, Lt. Col. Henry Johnston, 17<sup>th</sup> Regt. Nairne testified that "*...on the Night of the Attack of Stoney Point, he had the inlying Picquet of the two Companies of the 71<sup>st</sup> Grenadiers...that a little before 12 o'clock the Picquets fired and as Lieut. [Patrick] Cumming [71<sup>st</sup> Grenadiers], who was then in the Tent with him & Orderly Officer under Captain [William John] Darby [17<sup>th</sup> Regt.], was going to Visit the Picquets, he desired him to tell the Company to stand to their Arms and immediately followed him, & found the Men getting under Arms; that he detached a Serjeant and Sixteen Men of the inlying Picquet of the 71<sup>st</sup>. Regim'. (Grenadiers) to a fletch of rails on his right near the water side, on the road leading to the Ferry; Another Serjeant and 8 Men of that Picquet joined the Company, whose Station was upon the left of the 12 P'. in the right hand Work of the outward Abbatis, Where he (the Witness) also took Post, being the only Officer then with the Company...that in about 8 or ten Minutes afterwards, a firing began from the four Companies of the 17<sup>th</sup>. Reg<sup>t</sup>. which was on his Left, and the two Companies of Grenadiers and this firing continued for some time, when he heard L'. Col<sup>o</sup>. Johnson or Capt. [Francis] Tew [17<sup>th</sup> Regt.] call out to stop firing, as some of their own people were coming in; at this time he believes the Picquets came in; he could not see them but heard people coming in, which he supposed to be the Picquets; that firing began again from these Six Companies, with some intervals, and he heard a Scattering fire from the inner Work, but not so heavy a One, as that from the outer Abbatis'; that he soon after heard several Voices in the inner Work, which he supposed to be Rebels call out the Fort is now ours...*" After their capture, Lt. Nairne and the other officers were initially taken to Goshen, New York, about thirty miles northwest of Stony Point. Nairne was listed as a prisoner at Lancaster, Pennsylvania from Feb. 1780 until he was exchanged on Nov. 17, 1780.

While Lt. William Nairne was still an American prisoner from the attack on Stony Point, Maj. Alexander M'Donald, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 71<sup>st</sup> Highland Regt., forwarded promotion recommendations to Maj. Gen. Augustine Prevost in Nov. 1779. M'Donald wrote from Savannah, Georgia "*... There being at this time*

many Vacancys in the 71<sup>st</sup>. Regiment, I beg leave to name the following Gentlemen to be recommended by you to the Commander in Chief...Alex<sup>r</sup>. M<sup>c</sup>Donald Major Commanding 71<sup>st</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>...Lieutenant John Nairn [to be] Captain Lieu<sup>t</sup>... [Vice Capt. Lt. Alexander Sutherland and] Capt<sup>n</sup>. Lieu<sup>t</sup>. John Nairn [to be] Captain vice [Hamilton] Maxwell – Promoted, Lieu<sup>t</sup>. William Nairn [to be] Capt<sup>n</sup>. Lieu<sup>t</sup>.... [and] Capt<sup>n</sup>. Lieu<sup>t</sup>. William Nairn [also to be] Captain vice [Norman] M<sup>c</sup>Leod [of MacLeod] Promoted...” However, Maj. M<sup>c</sup>Donald’s recommendations were not acted on at this time as Headquarters had earlier selected Lt. Harry Munro, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., for Sutherland’s Capt. Lieutenancy, which broke M<sup>c</sup>Donald’s chain of recommendations and John and William Nairne remained as Lieutenants.

After Lt. William Nairne was exchanged for an American officer on Nov. 17, 1780 he remained in the New York area until he was selected in June 1781 to carry dispatches to Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis campaigning in Virginia. Gen. Sir Henry Clinton wrote Earl Cornwallis on June 8<sup>th</sup> that “...My dispatches for your Lordship, and the stores, &c. you sent for, have been waiting for a convoy these ten days. I hope it will sail immediately, but I dispatch this runner in the mean time, referring your Lordship to the bearer, Lieutenant Nairne, for particulars...” Lt. Nairne was, however, again captured by the rebels while enroute to join Lord Cornwallis and not exchanged again until Sept. 3, 1781 at Staten Island, New York.

While Lt. Nairne was a prisoner, his brother, Capt. Lt. John Nairne, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 71<sup>st</sup> Regt., died on June 20<sup>th</sup> and General Orders on Dec. 3, 1781 announced “...The Commander in Chief has been pleased to make the following Promotions. 71<sup>st</sup> Reg<sup>mt</sup> Lieutenant W<sup>m</sup> Nairne to be Capt<sup>t</sup> Lieutenant vice Nairne, dead } 20<sup>th</sup> June 1781...”

Five months later on May 3, 1782, General Orders in New York announced “71<sup>st</sup> Regiment, Captain Lieu<sup>t</sup> William Nairne to be Captain Vice [Andrew] Lawrie dead } 1<sup>st</sup> March 1782.” Nairne’s promotion was in the “2<sup>d</sup> 71<sup>st</sup>” Regt. which had been split from the 71<sup>st</sup> Regt on the death of Maj. Gen. Simon Fraser, Col., 71<sup>st</sup> Regt. This new regiment was commanded by Lt. Col. Commandant Alexander, Earl Balcarres (Former Capt., 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.) and the officers of this regiment had been ordered to return to Britain to recruit. A letter from his cousin, Capt. William Robertson, in Mar. 1782 had noted his return to Scotland writing “...Willie Nairne’s arrival must have given all his friends a great deal of satisfaction. I suppose there will be no danger of his leaving them soon.”



Reproduction 42<sup>nd</sup> or Royal Highland Regt. Officer’s Coat Button

When the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. was formed in Scotland in 1779 both Additional (or recruiting) Companies of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, were transferred to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. As a result, the battalion in America did not have a source for new recruits to make up for losses in the battalion. On Jan. 21, 1783, the Secretary at War notified Gen. Lord John Murray that “I have the honor to acq<sup>t</sup>. Your Lop:[Lordship] that H. M. [His Majesty] has been pleased to direct that the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the 42<sup>d</sup>. Reg<sup>t</sup>. of Foot, under your Command, should be augmented with one Company for the purpose of recruiting, which Company is to consist of 1 Captain, 2 Lieutenants, 1 Ensign, 10 Serjeants, 10 Corporals, 4 Drummers, & 30 Private men; & that directions have been given to the (2<sup>d</sup>.) – 71<sup>st</sup>. Reg<sup>t</sup>. of Foot, to turn over accordingly, 1 Captain, 2 Lieutenants, & 1 Ensign, of one of the additional Companys to the 1<sup>st</sup>. Battalion of Your Regiment...” The transfer was made effective as of Dec. 25, 1782. The Apr. 5, 1783 muster at Perth,

Scotland of Capt. William Nairne's Company in the 2<sup>d</sup> 71<sup>st</sup> Regt. indicated Nairne was "*Transferred to 1<sup>st</sup>. B: 42<sup>d</sup>. Regt. 25<sup>th</sup>. Dec*" The annotated War Office copy of the annual Army List for 1783 showing officers of "2<sup>d</sup> 71<sup>st</sup>" Regt. transferred to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. included Nairne, Lt. John Herring, Lt. John Sinclair, and Ens. Alexander Innes.

Besides the officers, other soldiers of the "12<sup>th</sup> Company" of the "2<sup>d</sup> 71<sup>st</sup>" Regt. were transferred to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. The muster of Capt. John Elphinston's Company at Perth on Apr. 5 has a note that "*...the Captain, two Lieutenants, one Ensign, four Serjeants, four Corporals, two Drummers from the 12<sup>th</sup> Company transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battn 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt 25<sup>th</sup> Dec, and twenty seven Effective private men.*" The officers mentioned in this note did not come from Elphinston's company but rather as discussed above.

Once formed, however, Capt. Nairne's company did not serve very long in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Highlanders due to the reduction of the army near the end of the American war. On June 23, 1783, the Secretary at War notified Gen. Lord Murray that "*... I have the honour to acq<sup>t</sup>: You, that the men to be Discharged in Consequence of the Reduction of the Additional Companies, are to have the usual Bounty of fourteen days Subsistence beyond the time of their Discharge, to carry them to their respective Homes; those excepted who were enlisted in Scotland or Ireland who are to receive twenty one or twenty eight Days Sub<sup>s</sup>ce [sic] according to the Distance...*" Accordingly, Capt. Nairne's Additional Company was disbanded and the officers went out on Half-pay.

A Fife hunting certificate was issued for "*...the 1st day of July, to the 30th day of September, 1789, inclusive...*" to "*...Nairne, Capt. William, residing in St. Andrews...*" St. Andrews is located on the east coast of Scotland about fifty miles northeast of Edinburgh.

Capt. Nairne remained on Half-pay of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. until the War Office announced on Sept. 13, 1794 "*INVALIDS. Captain William Nairne, from the half-pay of the 42d Foot, to be Captain of an Independent Company of Invalids in North Britain, vice Lord Elphinstone, deceased.* After about seven years with the Invalid Company in Scotland, Capt. Nairne exchanged with Maj. William West to command one of the four Independent Companies in the Tower of London, effective Sept. 26, 1801.

In 1802 the Independent Companies of Invalids were consolidated to form Royal Garrison Battalions and Capt. Nairne was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Royal Garrison Battalion, by a War Office announcement dated Dec. 14, 1802. Nairne transferred to the 7<sup>th</sup> Royal Garrison Battalion effective Mar. 9, 1803 and retired the following year to Half-pay on May 12, 1804.

Nairne likely was not able to sell his Garrison Battalion Company and the War Office found him a Half-pay position. In the annotated War Office copy of the Annual Army List for 1804 Nairne's name is crossed out and annotated "*Londonderry Regt 1/2 p. -.*" Accordingly, although Nairne had never served in the Londonderry Regt., when he was appointed to a staff position in Scotland the War Office announced on June 19, 1804 "*BARRACKS. Captain-William Nairn, on Half-Pay of the late Londonderry Regiment, to be an Assistant Barrack Master General in North Britain, with the Rank of Major, so long only as he shall continue in the Barrack Department.*" Remaining with the Barracks Department, Nairne was appointed "*Assistant Inspectors-General of Barracks in Great Britain*" by the War Office on May 31, 1808. In this position in the Army Lists he is listed as a Captain. While assigned to the Barracks Department, Nairne continued to be listed in the annual Army Lists as a Half-pay Capt. in the late Londonderry Regt.



Caroline Baroness Nairne

Picture Source: *The Scottish Songstress, Caroline Baroness Nairne*, by Her Great Grand-Niece, Oliphant Anderson & Ferrier, Edinburgh, 1894, p. 35.

Two years earlier, on June 2, 1806, 50-year old Maj. Nairne had married his 41-year old cousin, Caroline Oliphant (1766-1845), third daughter of Laurence Oliphant of Gask. She was considered to be one of the most gifted poets and songwriters of 19<sup>th</sup>-century Scotland. Among a large number of songs written by Caroline Nairne (later Baroness Nairne) are *Charlie is my darling*, *The Hundred Pipers*, *Will ye no' come back again?* and *The Rowan Tree*. Maj. Nairne and his wife lived at “*Caroline Cottage*” (later Nairne Lodge) on the Willowbrae Road, not far from Duddingston Mill, about three miles east of Edinburgh Castle. They had one child, John Murray Nairne (1808-1837), later 6<sup>th</sup> Lord Nairne. They also lived for a period on Hope Street (1808) and at 43 Queen Street (1808). At one point during this period, Maj. Nairne and his family lived in the Royal apartments at Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh as described by Caroline Nairne’s niece who wrote “...*My next visit to Aunt Nairne was at Holyrood House, where her husband had the royal apartments for some years... It was a very pleasant dwelling. The side of the square was gloomy, but the windows of the living rooms all looked to the Park and Arthur’s Seat.*”

On June 24, 1824, “*AN ACT for the restoration of William Nairne esquire to the dignity and title of lord Nairn*” was approved by Parliament restoring the title of Lord Nairne to Maj. Nairne. Five years later in the autumn of 1829, 72-year old Lord Nairne experienced a severe attack of jaundice. On June 12, 1830 his wife described his condition writing “*I know it would make your kind heart feel to see Lord N. as he is now, feeble and emaciated beyond what you can well imagine; yet we are thankful there is no alarming symptom in the disease itself; and if it should be permitted to give way, he might in some degree pick up again, though he himself does not expect it...*” Lord Nairne did not recover and died a few weeks later on July 9, 1830.

Commissions: Ens. Apr. 27, 1764 (89<sup>th</sup> Highland Regt.); Ens. Half-pay 1765 (89<sup>th</sup> Highland Regt.); Lt. Nov. 28, 1775 (1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 71<sup>st</sup> Highland Regt. – Fraser’s); Lt. 1778 (1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 71<sup>st</sup> Grenadier Co.); Capt. Lt. Dec. 3, 1781 – effective June 20, 1781 (1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 71<sup>st</sup> Regt.); Capt. May 3, 1782 – effective Mar. 1, 1782 (“*2<sup>d</sup> 71<sup>st</sup>*” Regt.); Capt. (by Transfer) approx. Jan. 21, 1783 – effective Dec. 25, 1782 (Additional Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Capt. Half-pay June 23, 1783 (1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Capt. (by Exchange) Sept. 12, 1794 (Independent Company of Invalids in North Britain); Capt. (by Exchange) Sept. 26, 1801 (Independent Company of Invalids in the Tower of London); Capt. (by Transfer) Dec. 14, 1802 – effective Dec. 25 (1<sup>st</sup> Royal Garrison Battalion); Capt. (by Transfer) Mar. 9, 1803 (7<sup>th</sup> Royal Garrison Battalion); Maj. and Assistant Barrack Master General in North Britain June 19, 1804 (Barrack Dept.); Capt. and Assistant Inspectors-General of Barracks in Great Britain May 31, 1808.

**References:** National Lib. of Scotland, “The Case of Major William Nairne” at ACC 10853, *Sutherland Papers*, DEP313-2142, pp. 166-167; *Territorial Soldiering in the North-East of Scotland during 1759-1814*, John Malcolm Bulloch, M.A., Printed for the University, Aberdeen, 1914, pp. 1-7; “The 105<sup>th</sup> and 109<sup>th</sup> Regiments of Foot, 1761-64,” in *A Military History of Perthshire 1660-1902*, The Marchioness of Tullibardine, R. A. & J. Hay, Perth, 1908, Google Books, p. 67; Viscount Barrington to Viscount Weymouth, May 1, 1776, TNA, *War Office Notification Books to the Secretary of State* at WO 25/147, pp. 156-157; *71<sup>st</sup> Fraser Highland Regiment in the American War of Independence*, Ed Brumby, Anchor Print Group, Leicestershire, 2012, p. 59; Muster of Capt. Duncan Chisholm’s Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 71<sup>st</sup> Regt. at “*Camp near MacGowans Pass N. York Island 27 June 1778*” at NRS, *Papers of the Gilchrist Family of Ospisdale, Sutherland* at GD153/1/7/16; TNA, Court of Inquiry of Lt. Col. Henry Johnston, 17<sup>th</sup> Regt. at WO71/93, pp. 1-137; A Return of Officers taken at Stony-Point on the Hudson’s River with the Names of their Servants, Abraham Skinner, Jul. 22, 1779 in the Lib. of Congress, Peter Force Papers, Series IX, Reel 105, pp. 539-540, Transcribed by Todd Braisted; Orders for Disposition of British Prisoners, Lancaster, July 22, 1779, Lib. of Congress, *Peter Force Papers*, Series IX, Reel 105, p. 542, Transcribed by Todd Braisted; Alexander M<sup>c</sup>Donald to Augustine Prevost, Nov. 1779 in *Sir Henry Clinton Papers* 78: 22, W. L. Clements Lib., Univ. of Mich.; General Orders, New York, May 22, 1779; Feb. 8 and Dec. 3, 1781; “*Officers Prisoners of War, Stationed at Lancaster the 24<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1780*” Lib. of Congress, *Peter Force Papers*, Series IX, Reel 106, pp. 309-310, Transcribed by Todd Braisted; Sir Henry Clinton to Earl Cornwallis, June 8, 1781 in *An exact Reprint of Six rare Pamphlets on the CLINTON-CORNWALLIS CONTROVERSY with very numerous important UNPUBLISHED MANUSCRIPT NOTES*, Vol. II, Sir. Henry Clinton, K. B., Ed. Benjamin Franklin Stevens, London, 1888, pp. 14-16; Lib. of Congress, *Peter Force Papers*, Series IX, Reel 106, p. 14; “*An Exchange of British & German Officers of the Troops of the Convention, & Prisoners of War...*,” Sept. 3, 1781, TNA, *Secretary at War In-letters* at WO 40/2 (no page Nos.); *London Gazette*, Nov. 17-20, 1781, p. 1, Sept. 9-13, 1794, p. 2, Sept. 22-26, 1801, p. 2, Dec. 11-14, 1802, p. 2, Mar. 8, 1803, pp. 2- 3, May 8, 1804, p. 3, June 16-19, 1804, p. 3 and May 28-31, 1808, p. 3; TNA, *Notification books to the Secretary of State* at WO 25/147, pp. 156-157; Thomas Townshend to Sir Guy Carleton, Apr. 30, 1782, TNA, *War Office, Out-letters*, WO 4/275, pp. 170-172 (ff. 87-88); William Robertson to Charlotte Robertson, Mar. 21, 1782 in the *Papers of the Robertson Family of Lude, Perthshire* at NRS, GD132/765, Item 9; George Yonge to Lord John Murray, Jan. 21, 1783, TNA, *War Office Out-Letters, General Letters*, Dec. 1782 - Mar. 1783 at WO 4/120, p. 208; Richard FitzPatrick to Lord Adam Gordon (similar letter to Lord John Murray), June 23, 1783, TNA, *Secretary at war Out-letters* at WO 4/122, pp. 142-143 (f. 73); TNA, *War Office, Musters of Capt. Wm. Nairne’s and Capt. John Elphinston’s Companies, 2<sup>nd</sup> 71<sup>st</sup> Regt.* dated at Perth, Scotland, Apr. 5, 1783 at WO 12/7847; Annual Army List for 1783 at WO 65/33 (Copy of missing page 146 for “2<sup>d</sup> 71<sup>st</sup>” Regt. provided by Mr. Ed Brumby); *Edinburgh Advertiser*, Oct. 23-27, 1789, p. 18; *Annual Army List* for 1804 at TNA, WO65/54, p. 292; “An Act for the restoration of William Nairne esquire to the dignity and title of lord Nairn (17th June 1824.)” in *The Sessional Papers Printed by Order of the House of Lords or Presented by Royal Command in the Session 1873*, Vol. 12, 1873, Google Books, pp. 72-75; “Memoir of Baroness Nairne” in *Life and Songs of the Baroness Nairne with a Memoir and Poems of Caroline Oliphant the Younger*, Charles Rogers, LL.D., John Gran, Edinburgh, 1905, Google Books, p. 55; *Lady Nairne and Her Songs*, Rev. George Henderson, Alexander Garner, Paisley, Google Books, p. 99; Army List for 1815 at TNA, WO65/65, p. 95.



Dawick House, Seat of Sir James Næsmyth, Baronet of Posso

Picture Source: *A History of Peeblesshire*, by William Chambers, William and Robert Chambers, Edinburgh, 1864, Google Books, fig. 68.

**Nesmyth, Lt. John.** Nesmyth was the second son of Sir James Næsmyth, Baronet of Posso and former Major of the 7<sup>th</sup> Dragoons, and his wife, Jean, the daughter of Thomas Keith, Esq. Nesmyth's name is sometimes written as Nasmyth or Næsmyth. The family seat was at Dawick House (also known as New Posso), Drummelzier Parrish in Peeblesshire, about thirty miles southwest of Edinburgh. Nesmyth was commissioned an Ensign in Lt. Gen. Hon. Philip Sherard's 69<sup>th</sup> Regt. on Jan. 1, 1780.



Reproduction 69<sup>th</sup> Regt. Uniform Button

After serving in Scotland, the 69<sup>th</sup> Regt. set sail from Spithead on Nov. 17, 1780 under convoy of Adm. Sir Samuel Hood for St. Lucia. The regiment served in the West Indies under Maj. Gen. Vaughan where Nesmyth was promoted to Lieutenant in May 1781.

The regiment was posted to New York to participate in the Cornwallis relief expedition. The command over the regiment was the source of conflict between Gen. Sir Henry Clinton and Adm. Thomas Graves, who wanted to use the regiment as Marines and wrote, "*The resolution of this reporting structure must be resolved, before the fleet can sail.*"



Detail from *Battle of the Saintes, 12 April 1782*, by Thomas Whitcombe, 1783

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

After the unsuccessful expedition to Virginia, the 69<sup>th</sup> Regt. returned to service in the West Indies, participating in the relief of St. Kitts in Jan. 1782 and the troops served as marines on the ships of Adm. Sir George Rodney's fleet. Accordingly, on Apr. 12, 1782 the regiment took part in the Battle of the Saintes where Adm. Sir George Rodney defeated French Adm. Compte de Grasse in a major naval victory.

Nesmyth joined the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. on Oct. 14, 1782 by General Orders in New York, which announced “*The Commander in Chief has been pleased to make the follow<sup>s</sup> Prom<sup>ns</sup>... 42<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> Lieut. John Nesmyth from 69<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> to be Lieut<sup>t</sup> vice [Alexander] Grant who Exchanges 14<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 82.* Nesmyth served in the New York area with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. until orders were issued for the reduction of the regiment at the end of the American war. The muster of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. conducted at Paulus Hook, New Jersey on Oct. 6, 1783 listed Nesmyth as “*Reduced to half [pay] 24<sup>th</sup> August 1783 In Europe by the Commander in Chiefs leave.*”

Nesmyth returned to active service with his prior regiment in Ireland in June 1785 as reported in *The London Gazette* for July 26-30, 1785, which announced “*Commissions signed by His Majesty for the Army in Ireland; all dated June 25, 1785...69<sup>th</sup> Foot, Lieutenant John Nasmyth, from the British Half-Pay of the 1st Battalion of 42d Foot, to be Lieutenant; vice Robert Amory, who exchanges.*” After another eight years as a Lieutenant in the 69<sup>th</sup> or the South Lincolnshire Regt. Nesmyth left that regiment in Sept. 1793 by exchanging with a Lieutenant in Captain Woodford’s Independent Company of Foot. He did not remain long in that company before moving to a Lieutenancy in the 102<sup>nd</sup> Regt. raised by Lt. Col. Eyre Power Trench, in Jan. 1794 (effective Oct. 1793).

On July 4, 1795, the War Office announced Nesmyth’s appointment to a new regiment for the West Indies writing “*Colonel [Oliver] Nicolls’s Regiment. To be Captains...Lieutenant \_\_\_\_\_Nasmyth, from the 102d Foot...*” Nesmyth served with Nicolls’ Regiment, later the 4<sup>th</sup> West India Regt., at St. Vincent. In 1802 Nesmyth’s brother, Sir James Nasmyth of Posso, wrote to Col. Cuninghame asking his for help in the promotion of “*your friend John,*” a Captain in the 4<sup>th</sup> West India Corps.

Nesmyth was promoted from to Major in the 7<sup>th</sup> West India Regt. in Trinidad in Nov. 1803 and to Lt. Colonel in June 1808 while the regiment was split between the Bahamas and Antigua. Five years later, in Sept. 1813, *The London Gazette* reported that Lt. Col. Nesmyth retired from the 7<sup>th</sup> West India Regt. then serving in Honduras and Curacao.

*Blackwood’s Edinburgh Magazine* for March 1820 recorded Nesmyth’s death writing “[January]...16 ...At Nether House, Lesmahagow, Lieutenant-Colonel Nasmyth, late of the 7th West India regiment.” Lesmahagow is a town in Lanarkshire, six miles southwest of Lanark.

Commissions: Ens. Jan. 1, 1780 (69<sup>th</sup> Regt.); Lt. May 14, 1781 (69<sup>th</sup> Regt.); Lt. Oct. 14, 1782 (42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Half-Pay Aug. 24, 1783 (42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Lt. from Half-Pay June 25, 1785 (69<sup>th</sup> or the South Lincolnshire Regt.); Lt. Sept. 25, 1793 (Captain Woodford’s Independent Company of Foot); Lt. Jan. 11, 1794 – effective Oct. 31, 1793 (102<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Capt. July 1, 1795 (Col. Oliver Nicolls’ Regt.- later the 4<sup>th</sup> West India Regt.); Maj. Nov. 12, 1803 (7<sup>th</sup> West India Regt.); Lt. Col. Sept. 15, 1808 (7<sup>th</sup> West India Regt.); Retires June 3, 1813 (7<sup>th</sup> West India Regt.).

**References:** *London Gazette* for Jan. 18-22, 1780, p. 2, Dec. 18-22, 1781, pp. 1-2, Dec. 3, 1782, p. 3, July 26-30, 1785, pp. 1-2, Sept. 24, 1793, pp. 2-3, Jan. 7-11, 1794 pp. 5-6, June 30-July 4, 1795, pp. 5-6, Nov. 15-17, 1803, pp. 1-2, Sept. 17, 1808, pp. 5-6 and June 5-8, 1813, pp. 7; General Orders, Lefferts House, (NY), Oct. 14, 1782 and at New York, Aug. 17, 1783; *A General and Heraldic Dictionary of the Peerage and Baronetage of the British Empire*, Fourth Edition, Vol. II, John Burke, Esq., Henry Colburn and Richard Bentley, London, 1832, Google Books, pp 216-217; *A History of Peeblesshire*, William Chambers, William and Robert Chambers, Edinburgh, 1864, Google Books, p. 420; *British Army Lists and Commission Registers, 1661 – 1714*, Vol. VI 1707-1714, Ed. Charles Dalton, F.R.G.S., Eyre & Spottiswoode, London, 1904, Google Books p. 209; *A Narrative of the Historical Events Connected with the Sixty-Ninth Regiment*, W. F. Butler, 69th Regt., W. Mitchell & Co., London, 1870, pp. 120 – 121;NAS, Letter from Sir James Nasmyth, June 14, 1802, in the *Papers of the Cuninghame Family of Thorntoun* at GD21/658; *The Annual Register ...For the Year 1781*, printed for G. G. J. and J. Robinson, London, 1793, Google Books, “Principal Occurrences” p. 84; *The Annals of Jamaica*, Vol. II, Rev. George Wilson Bridges, John Murray, London, 1828, Google Books, p. 471; *On the Wing of Speed, George Washington and the Battle of Yorktown*, Donald T. Phillips, iUniverse, 2006, Google Books Preview, p. 244; *Report on American Manuscripts in the Royal Institution of Great Britain*, Vol.

III, Historical Manuscripts Commission, Hereford, 1907, Google Books, p. 124; *The Royal Military Chronicle or British Officers Monthly Register and Mentor*, Vol. VII, Printed for J. Davis, London, 1813, Google Books, p. 69; *Letters Written by Sir Samuel Hood (Viscount Hood) in 1781-2-3*, Ed. David Hannay, Navy Records Society, 1895, Google Books, p. 4 and “Log of H.M.S. *Canada*” for Jan. 21, 1782 at page 64; TNA, *Army gradation list 1775-1816* at WO64/13, f. 155; *Blackwood’s Edinburgh Magazine*, No. XXXVI, Vol. VI, March 1820, p. 726; Will of John Nasmyth, 1820, *Lanark Commissary Court* at CC14/5/20.

**Oswald**, Ens. John. Oswald was likely the son of the keeper of John’s Coffee House in the northeast corner of Parliament Close, Edinburgh, where he was born about 1760. Parliament Close was an oblong square south of St. Giles’s Cathedral a third of a mile east of Edinburgh Castle and Oswald served an apprenticeship to a jeweller in the Close. Lt. James Spens, who served with Oswald, wrote about Ens. Oswald’s early life saying “... *John Oswald was a native of Edinburgh...He enlisted into the 18th or Royal Irish, in which he was made a serjeant; and while quartered at or near Deal, he fell in with a woman of some property, whom he married. Her money enabled him to purchase his discharge, and buy an ensigncy in the first battalion 42d....*” Deal is located on the coast of Kent, about 80 miles southeast of London.



Reproduction 18<sup>th</sup> or Royal Irish Regt. Uniform Button

The regimental agent, Alexander Anderson, wrote to Lord John Murray on Apr. 24, 1779 to explain the commission, “...*The present serves to cover a Letter from L<sup>t</sup> Co<sup>l</sup> Grant who has disposed of the Ensign Commission to a M<sup>r</sup> John Oswald, whom he has no doubt Y<sup>r</sup> Lordship will approve of and as soon as I hear from Y<sup>r</sup> Lordship to that Effect, I am desired to send the Commission to M<sup>r</sup> Cha<sup>s</sup> Livingston ...who has remitted the £350 to Co<sup>l</sup> Grant to pay for the Ensigncy.*” Brevet-Lt. Col. William Grant retired from the Majority of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. on Aug. 25, 1778 and ended up with an Ensigncy to sell as part of the transaction.

*The London Gazette* published Oswald’s commission on May 4, 1779 announcing “*42d Regiment of Foot, John Oswald, Gent. to be Ensign, vice William M<sup>c</sup>Donald.*” Although the commission was not issued until May 1779, it was dated Aug. 25, 1778, the date of Lt. Col. Grant’s retirement.

Mr. Anderson again wrote to Lord Murray from London on June 3, 1779 about Oswald’s initial assignment indicating “...*Ensign John Oswald is arrived here, but there is no ship for Newfoundland for him to go in or to send the Hose & Bonnetts from Scotland by, I am looking out for one but am afraid I may not cast up this Season, as Government sends none but in Spring & that Transport with the other Clothing of last years is gone. If a Ship can be found the Letter for L<sup>t</sup> John Grant shall go with her, unless Your Lordship after seeing Co<sup>l</sup> Grant; should think it better he should remain with the Detachment at Newfoundland and Ensign John Oswald go to New York.*” At this time the 2<sup>nd</sup> Additional Company of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. was serving at St. Johns, Newfoundland under the command of Lt. John Grant. Lt. Col. Stirling wanted a subaltern from Newfoundland to join the regiment in New York and this is likely the subject of this letter.

Whether it was the problem with finding transport or some other reason, Oswald did not join the regiment in America, but rather stayed in the Additional Company recruiting in Scotland. Just two months after Oswald reported to the regiment the August 1779 *The Scots Magazine* ran an advertisement for recruits for a new second battalion of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. and as part of the establishment of the battalion, the two

Additional Companies were assigned to the new battalion. Accordingly Ens. Oswald was promoted to Lieutenant in 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion on Mar. 22, 1780 and embarked with the battalion at Portsmouth, England on Jan. 20-21, 1781 for a secret expedition against South Africa and India. After numerous delays the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion sailed on Mar. 12<sup>th</sup> along with the 98<sup>th</sup> and 100<sup>th</sup> Regiments. After an encounter with a French fleet in the Azores and a cancelled attempt to attack the Cape of Good Hope, the fleet arrived at Bombay (now Mumbai) in March 1782, a year after leaving Britain and sailed on to Madras (now Chennai), arriving on Apr. 13, 1782.

Lt. John Spens continued with his narration of Oswald's time in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, writing "... *He embarked with his regiment on the secret expedition already mentioned. As his funds did not enable him to join the mess in the transport on board of which he was, he lived by himself on the same rations as the soldiers, which the officers were also permitted to draw, and for which 3d. per day was deducted or stopped from the pay of both. During our long and tedious passage, he devoted his time to studying Greek and Latin, particularly the former. He sold out before the battalion was engaged in actual service, and he returned home overland. During his short stay in India, he so far became a Gentoo [Hindu], (who admit of no proselytes [new converts]) as to abstain from animal food. He performed frequent ablutions, and daily anointed his body with oil.*" Oswald retired from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion on Dec. 9, 1782.

Spens continued his narrative of Oswald's life after he left the regiment writing "...*In London, where he took up his residence on his return, he lived, I believe, by his pen. I never saw any of his works, but recollect that the title of one of them was 'Ranae Evangelicae,' or 'Frogs turned Methodists,' in which I understand he displayed no great respect for the truths of Christianity... In York [Henry Redhead Yorke] Letters from France are the following paragraph. 'He (Oswald) dined on his roots one day at party of some members of the Convention, at which I was present, and in the course of conversation very coolly proposed, as the most effectual method of averting civil war, to put to death every suspected man in France. I was shocked at such sentiment coming from the mouth of an English man; but Oswald had been for some time the commandant of the pikemen of Paris, and in this capacity had forgotten his natural character. The expression was not suffered to pass unnoticed, and from the famous Thomas Paine he received a short but cutting reprimand. 'Oswald,' said he, 'you have been so long without tasting flesh, that you have now a most voracious appetite for blood.' His wives (for he had two) still reside in Paris. They were extremely handsome, and he had brought his domestic economy to such a perfect state of discipline that they lived together in the greatest friendship and harmony, – a singular fact! which has, I believe, no parallel in the history of the fair sex. The author of this imperfect sketch knew Oswald intimately, both at home and on their way to India, as they were always together in the ship during the voyage...*" He added the footnote "*His first wife, the Deal woman, whom I had seen, and who was no beauty, must have been dead.*"

One of the letters from France by Henry Redhead Yorke, mentioned above, gives a view of Oswald's temperament. Yorke wrote "*Garden of the Palais Royal – Manners of the People...In consequence of a strong and successful opposition which I had made against some proposals respecting Ireland, that Oswald had offered to the government, I met him by his own appointment, in the garden of the Palais Royal. As soon as he perceived me approaching towards him, he darted forwards, and drawing his sword, exclaimed, 'You are unfit to live in a civilized society.'* Having uttered these words, he returned his sword into the scabbard, and turning from me, disappeared in a moment...*We never saw each other more...*"



Frontispiece of *The Cry of Nature*, by John Oswald, 1791

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

Oswald, using the pseudonym of Sylvester Otway, was the author of several works including: *Review of the Constitution of Great Britain*, London, 1784 and third edition, Paris 1792; *Ranea Comicae Evangelizantes, or the Comic Frogs turned Methodists*, 1786; *The Alarming Progress of French Politics, a Phamphlet on the Commercial Treaty*, 1787; *The British Mercury*, a periodical publication, 1787; *Euphrosne, an Ode to Beauty*, London, 1788; *Poems, to which is added, The Humours of John Bull, an Operatical Farce, in two acts*, London, 1789 and *The Cry of Nature, or an Appeal to Mercy and Justice, on Behalf of the Persecuted Animals*, London, 1791. An 1822 history of Scottish poets described Oswald indicating "...Mr. Oswald was about the common stature, but of a very commanding appearance. I have heard that, when in Paris, he affected the Roman costume; wore his collar open, and his hair a la Brutus."

In Paris on Nov. 24, 1792 Oswald was one of 56 signatories of an Address to the French Convention titled "*Address of the English, Scotch, and Irish resident and domiciled in Paris*" which began "*Citizen legislators, -The British and Irish citizens now in Paris, animated by the sentiment of liberty which your principles have imparted to the French republic, assembled on Sunday, 18th November, to celebrate the brilliant successes of your arms, and were unanimously of opinion that it was their duty to offer to the representatives of so great a nation the tribute of their congratulations on events which essentially interest all peoples who aspire to be free...*"

In a Sept. 30, 1792 speech to the British Club in Paris, where he was secretary, Oswald denounced King George III as a tyrant and as a man who should not have been liberated from a lunatic asylum before advocating for a revolution in England. One of the leaders of the club was Thomas Paine, who sent Oswald to Ireland in autumn of 1792 or early 1793 to offer 20,000 men to assist in an Irish revolution.

In Paris in 1793 Oswald published *The Government of a People; or a Sketch of a Constitution for the Universal Common-wealth* and listed his name as author as “John Oswald Anglo-franc, Commandant of the First Battalion of Pikes, in service of the Republic of France.”

Spens also reported Oswald’s death in the Battle of Pont de Ce in Revolutionary France on Sept. 1793 writing “...As his Greek studies had led him to admire republicanism, he became a strenuous admirer of the French revolution in all its atrocities and horror. He therefore left London for Paris, was admitted into the service by the Convention, and obtained the command of a regiment of foot, at the head of which, when gallantly leading it on at the battle of Pont de Ce, on the banks of the Loire, near Angers he was killed by a cannon ball, while at the same time a discharge of grape-shot killed two sons, who were drummers in the same corps which their father commanded. He had no religion; and though the strong advocate of liberty and equality in the abstract, yet, as is often the case with such men, he was tyrannical and arbitrary in his disposition and conduct. Of this gave a strong proof when acting as adjutant to corps. His behavior to the men was so insufferable as almost to lead to a mutiny...”

Commissions/Appointments: Sergeant (18<sup>th</sup> or Royal Irish Regt.); Ens. May 4, 1779 – effective Aug. 25, 1778 (42<sup>nd</sup> Additional Company); Lt. Mar. 22, 1780 (2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Retired Dec. 9, 1782 (2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Commandant about 1792 (1<sup>st</sup> Bn. of Pikers – French Revolutionary Army); Died Sept. 1793 (1<sup>st</sup> Bn. of Pikes).

**References:** *Cassell’s Old and New Edinburgh*, James Grant, Cassell, Petter, Galpin & Co., London, 1880, Google Books, pp. 178-179; “John Oswald – Sylvester Otway” in *Lives of Scottish Poets*, Printed for Thomas Boys, London, 1822, Google Books, p. 178; *Memoir of the Life and Character of the Late Lieut.-Colonel John Campbell, Major, 2d Batt. 42d Regiment, or Royal Highlanders*, “A Retired Officer” (Lt. Col. James Spens, 73<sup>rd</sup> Regt.), Edinburgh, 1836, Google Books, pp. 22-27; Alexander Anderson to Lord John Murray, April 24, 1779 and June 3, 1779 in the *Lord John Murray Papers*; *Scots Magazine* Aug. 1779, p. 452; TNA, *Printed Army Lists for 1779 and 1780* at WO65/29-30; *London Gazette*, May 1-4, 1779, p. 1 and June 5-8, 1784, pp. 1-2; “List of Officers of the 2<sup>d</sup> Batt<sup>n</sup> of the 42<sup>d</sup> or Royal Highland Regiment”, *Lord John Murray Papers*; “Proposed Establishment of a Second Battalion to be raised for the 42<sup>d</sup> or Royal Highland Reg<sup>t</sup> of Foot” at WO 34/231; Oswald’s retirement date from TNA, WO 25/ 211 as quoted in e-mail from John Holding to P. Pace, Feb. 27, 2009; *Sketches of the Character, Manners, and Present State of the Highlanders of Scotland; with Details of the Military Service of the Highland Regiments*, Vol. II, Col. David Stewart, Archibald Constable and Co., Edinburgh, 1822, Google Books, pp. 189-190; “LETTER XIII” in *Letters from France in 1802*, Vol. I, Henry Redhead Yorke, H. D. Symonds, London, 1804, Google Books, pp. 158, 161-163; *Bibliotheca Britannica or General Index to British and Foreign Literature*, Vol. II, Robert Watt, M.D., Archibald Constable, London, 1824, Google Books, p. 721; *Paris in 1789-94 Farewell Letters of Victims of the Guillotine*, John Goldworth Alger, George Allen (Pub.), London, 1902, Google Books, pp. 327-328, 349; *Fire in the Minds of Men, Origins of the Revolutionary Faith*, James H. Billington, Transaction Publishers, Piscataway (New Jersey), 1980, Google Book Preview, p. 40.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Peebles". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

**Peebles**, Capt. John. Peebles was born Sept. 11, 1739 in Irvine, Ayrshire to Shipmaster John Peebles and his wife, Mary Reoch. He was appointed Surgeon’s Mate to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Virginia Regt. in 1758 and was then appointed by Col. Archibald Montgomery, of the 77<sup>th</sup> Regt. (Montgomery’s Highlanders), to the same position in his regiment the next year. In Sept. 1762, Peebles sailed from Louisburg with the 77<sup>th</sup>

Regt. as part of an expedition to recapture St. John's, Newfoundland from the French. The French surrendered the post Sept. 20 and Surgeon's Mate Peebles was later recognized for his performance in the expedition.

On June 14, 1763, Peebles was approved to serve as a Volunteer in the 77<sup>th</sup> Highland Regt. and was wounded at the Battle of Bushy Run, Pennsylvania in Aug. 1763 during Pontiac's Rebellion. In a letter to Gen. Jeffery Amherst dated at Fort Pitt on Aug. 11, 1763, Col. Henry Bouquet discussed Peebles writing "*I cannot omit to mention the only Volunteer with us Mr Palles [Peebles] dangerously wounded...*" A 1777 letter by Lt. William Hale of the 45<sup>th</sup> Regt. indicated that Peebles was "... *shot through the body in Bouquet's affair with the Indians...*"

Peebles performance in the battle prompted his promotion that same month to Ensign in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. His promotion was described in a letter from Gen. Amherst to Col. Henry Bouquet dated Aug. 25, 1763, which read in part "... *The Behavior of Mr. Peebles, on former Occasions, particularly at Newfoundland, and his being wounded now makes me Break thro' the Orders I Have Received from His Majesty respecting the Reduced Officers, that I may provide for him. As I Flatter myself the King will be graciously Pleased to approve thereof: And I Enclose you a Commission Appointing Mr. Peebles to be Ensign in the 42d Regiment, which you will please to Deliver to him: Acquainting both Captain Lt. Balneavis and Ensign Peebles that they have no Fees to pay for those Commissions...*" Vol. John Peebles commission was announced in orders at Fort Pitt on Sept. 11, 1763. The orders which got his first name wrong read "*His Excellency, Sir Geoffry Amherst, has been pleased to appoint...of the Royal Highlanders...M<sup>r</sup>. Rob<sup>t</sup> Peples, gentelman, to be ensign in the said regiment, who are to be obeyed as such.*" At Fort Pitt sixteen days later, on Sept. 29, 1763, Ens. Peebles wrote to Col. Henry Bouquet for leave to "*go down the country to have his wound cured.*"



Photograph of Reconstructed Fort Ligonier, Pennsylvania

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons by Jeff Kubina

Ens. Peebles recovered sufficiently to command at Fort Ligonier from December 1764 to the summer of 1765 and returned with the regiment to Ireland in 1767. He was promoted to Lieutenant in Mar. 1770 and served with part of the regiment on the Isle of Man from 1771-1773.

At the beginning of the American war, Peebles was a Lieutenant in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company commanded by Brevet-Maj. William Grant and then by Capt. Charles Graham. Upon arriving in America, General Orders issued from Dyker's Ferry on August 6, 1776 directed the "*4<sup>th</sup> Battalion of Grenadiers to be formed of the Grenadier Company of the 42<sup>d</sup> Regiment and the two Grenadier Companies of the 71<sup>st</sup> Regiment under the command of Maj. Stewart of the 43<sup>d</sup> Regiment*" and for the Army's Reserve to consist of the four "*...Battalions of Grenadiers, 33<sup>d</sup> and 42<sup>d</sup> Regiments.*"

Lt. Peebles was appointed Adjutant of the 4<sup>th</sup> British Grenadier Bn. in General Orders dated Aug. 16, 1776. The battalion was, however, disbanded in Oct. 1776 due to the level of sickness of the 71<sup>st</sup> Regiment's two grenadier companies and Lt. Peebles returned to his Grenadier Company duties. Now part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> British Grenadier Battalion, he served with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company for the remainder of the New York campaign of 1776 and the Rhode Island campaign in 1776-1777. Following its return from Rhode Island, the 3<sup>rd</sup> British Grenadier Bn. was broken up and the companies joined the other two battalions. Peebles and the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadiers joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> British Grenadier Bn. under Lt. Col. Hon. Monckton on Mar. 26, 1777.

Because Capt. Charles Graham was ill and remained in New York for the beginning of the Philadelphia campaign of 1777, Peebles, as senior lieutenant, would have commanded the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company for the Battle of Brandywine, capture of Philadelphia and Battle of Germantown, Pennsylvania.

About four weeks after the Battle of Germantown, on Oct. 31, 1777, Lt. Peebles was promoted to Capt. Lieutenant in Gen. Lord Murray's Company in Oct. 1777 in place of Capt. Lt. John M<sup>c</sup>Intosh as part of the string of promotions that began when Brevet-Lt. Col. William Murray was promoted. Peebles left the Grenadiers in Nov. 1777 to lead Gen. Lord Murray's Company in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion in the return of Gen. Clinton's army to New York in June 1778, including the Battle of Monmouth, New Jersey on June 28<sup>th</sup>.

In 1778, Swiss artist Pierre Eugene Du Simitiere painted a miniature of Capt. Lt. Peebles in Philadelphia and logged it in his notebook in the month of March, writing "*a miniature of Capt Peebles of the highlanders begun last month.*" The miniature of Capt. Peebles is now held by the National Museums Scotland.

Peebles' journal entry dated May 7, 1778 appears to indicate that he got into an argument over cards that resulted in a duel the next day. He concluded his description by noting he "*Went out & settled that affair better than I expected.*" Despite his duel, Peebles was promoted to Captain on Aug. 18, 1778 in place of Capt. Alexander Donaldson who was promoted to Major of the 76<sup>th</sup> Regt. (MacDonald's Highlanders). Although Donaldson had been the commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Additional Company in Scotland, Peebles remained in America and took command of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company on Aug. 27, 1778 when Capt. Charles Graham was promoted to Major. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company was transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> British Grenadier Bn. on Aug. 10, 1778 and was part of the consolidated Grenadier battalion when the two battalions were combined by orders dated Nov. 3, 1778. Peebles commanded the Grenadier Company for the Siege of Charleston, South Carolina in 1780.

In Jan. 1781, Capt. Peebles attempted to retire from the army and entered into a transaction with Lt. Alexander Macgregor who planned to purchase the Grenadier Company as soon as he "*...gets his affairs settled at home.*" Macgregor never returned to America due to his assignment to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion and the transaction for the purchase of the company was never completed. Remaining in command of the Grenadier Company, Peebles took part in the relief attempt for Cornwallis' army in Oct. 1781.

Capt. Peebles retired from the Army in Feb. 1782, being succeeded in the Grenadiers by Capt. William Dickson of Kilbucho. That same month Peebles took out an indenture from George Duncan Ludlow,

superintendent, and David Colden, assistant superintendent of the police of Long Island "... *for the servitude of Ned, a negro boy, to said John, until age of 21 years.*" This was likely the boy Peebles had picked up in Charleston in March 1780 when he was about nine years old to serve as a fifer to his company.

After leaving the army Peebles returned to Irvine, Ayrshire where he married Anna Hamilton, daughter of Charles Hamilton of Craighlaw and became a surveyor for the port of Irvine in the customs service. On Mar. 5, 1797, the War Office announced the formation of the *Irvine Volunteers* under Maj. Commandant William Ralston and Peebles was listed as Captain of one of the companies. In Dec. 1798, Capt. Peebles was promoted to Major and took command of the Volunteers in place of Maj. Ralston. Peebles must have retired and then rejoined the Volunteers, because the War Office announced on Aug. 13, 1803 "*Irvine Volunteers. John Peebles, Esq; to be Captain.*"

Peebles' wife Anna died at Irvine on Dec. 19, 1811 at age 70 and thirteen years later, *Blackwood's Magazine* recorded Peebles' death writing "[Jan. 1824] 7. *At Irvine, John Peebles, Esq. late Captain 42d Regiment, in the 85th year of his age.*" Peebles is buried in the Irvine Old Parish Churchyard. Peebles' Will valued his estate in Scotland at "£ 3192 .. 16 .. 8." Maj. Peebles began his will and testament writing: *I John Peebles late Captain 42<sup>d</sup>. Reg<sup>t</sup>. and late Major Irvine Volunteers son of the deceased John Peebles formerly Shipmaster in Irvine being at present in sound health if body and mind thank God I think it right to make this my last Will and testament viz: – First as in duty bound I bequeath my soul to God who gave it, hoping for pardon and mercy through the merits of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. – My body if I die here or near to be burried under the old Tomb stone of the Peebles's next to my Father and sister in a plain decent manner. – To my dear and only child Sarah spouse to Lieutenant Colonel John Cunningham of Caddel and Thornton now the happy mother of six children five Daughters and a Son I leave and bequeath this house I at present live in on the east side of the main Street of Irvine, built by me in the years 1789 & 1790 with all that is in it and belonging to it...This written with my own hand the twentyth day of September 1816 now going in my seventy eighth year of age. – (Signed) John Peebles. – November 1818...*"



Capt. John Peebles' Grave, Irvine Old Parish Church

Picture Source: *The Kirk Session of Irvine Old Parish Church*, with permission.



Plate on Tomb of Capt. John Peebles

Picture Source: The Kirk Session of Irvine Old Parish Church, with Permission.

The plate on Peebles' tomb reads:

HERE RESTS THE MORTAL PART  
*John Peebles*  
*Late Capt<sup>n</sup> of Grenadiers 42<sup>nd</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>.*  
SUBSEQUENTLY MAJOR COMMANDANT OF THE IRVINE VOLUNTEERS  
*Born 11<sup>th</sup>: Sept<sup>r</sup>: 1739. Died 7<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>: 1828*  
(AGED EIGHTY FOUR YEARS)  
FOR UPWARDS OF FORTY TEARS HE SERVED HIS KING  
AND COUNTRY WITH FIDELITY AND WAS SEVERELY  
WOUNDED AT THE *Battle of Bushy Run* IN THE WARFARE  
*With the American Indians in 1763*  
HE CLOSED A LONG AND ACTIVE LIFE IN HIS  
NATIVE PLACE, IN THE EXERCISE OF FAITH HOPE  
AND CHARITY, IN THE SERVICE OF HIS GOD  
THIS SMALL TRIBUTE TO HER FATHER'S MEMORY  
IS AFFECTIONATELY OFFERED BY  
HIS ONLY CHILD

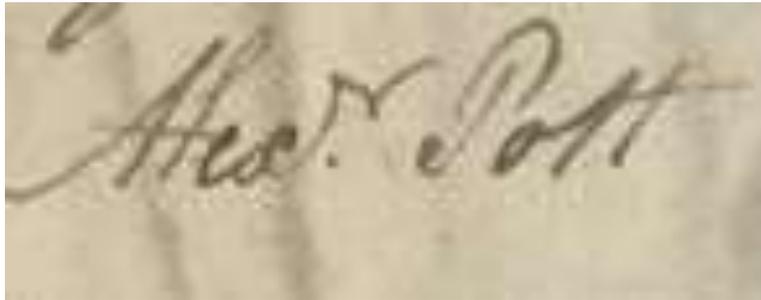
There is also a plaque in the church vestibule listing Peebles' name as one of the Irvine Volunteers. This plaque commemorates the Irvine Volunteers presenting the clock in the church steeple to the people of Irvine. The clock only has three faces, as the fourth side of the steeple faces out to what was countryside when it was installed in 1803.

Capt. Peebles kept a set of detailed notebooks of his experiences during the American War for Independence which are now held in the National Records of Scotland.

Commissions/Appointments: Surgeon's Mate: 1758 (2<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Regt.); Surgeon's Mate: Aug. 15, 1759 (1<sup>st</sup> Highland Battalion – later 77<sup>th</sup> Regt.); Volunteer June 14, 1763 (77<sup>th</sup> Highland Regt.); Ens. Sept. 11, 1763 –effective Aug. 23, 1763 (42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Lt. Mar. 31, 1770; Adj. Aug. 16, 1776 (4<sup>th</sup> British Grenadier Bn. – disbanded Oct. 8, 1776); Capt. Lt. Oct. 31 – effective Oct. 5, 1777 (42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Capt: Aug. 18, 1778 (42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadiers); Retired Feb. 2, 1782; Capt. Mar. 5, 1797 (Irvine Volunteers); Maj. Commandant Dec. 12, 1798 (Irvine Volunteers); Capt. June 25, 1803 (Irvine Volunteers).

**References:** Henry Bouquet to Sir Jeffery Amherst, Aug. 11, 1763 in *Collections and Researches Made by the Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society*, Vol. XIX, M. Agnes Burton, Ed., Wynkoop Hallenbeck Crawford Co. State Printers, Detroit, 1911, Google Books, p. 226; Sir Jeffery Amherst to Henry Bouquet, Aug. 25, 1763 in *Report on Canadian Archives 1889*, Douglas Brymer, Brown Chamberlin, Ottawa, 1890, Google Books, pp. 63- 64; Summary of John Peebles to Henry Bouquet, Sept. 29, 1763 in “Bouquet Collection, A. 19-2,” in *Report of Canadian Archives*, Ed. Douglas Brymner, Brown Champerlain, Ottawa, 1890, Google Books, p. 240; “Bouquet Papers, S. Ecuyer, Commandant at Fort Pitt, 1763, Journal, Letters and Orderly Book and a Letter from General Bouquet,” in *Fort Pitt and Letters from the Frontier*, Pub. J. R. Weldin & Co., Pittsburgh, 1892, Google Books, pp. 186-187; “Excerpt of Letter from Lt. William John Hale, 45<sup>th</sup> Gren. Co.,” *Some British Soldiers in America*, Capt. W. H. Wilkin, Hugh Rees, Ltd., London, 1914, p. 238; General Orders, Staten Island, Aug. 16, 1776, at Philadelphia, Oct. 31, 1777, at New York approx. Aug. 10 and Nov. 3, 1778 and on Feb. 23, 1782; *London Gazette* for Jan. 20-24, 1778, p. 2, Nov. 14-17, 1778, pp. 1-2, Mar. 21, 1797, pp. 2, 4, Dec. 11-15, 1798, p. 2; and Aug. 9-13, 1803, pp. 12, 14; 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Morning Orders, Aug. 8, 1776; NRS, *Papers of the Cuninghame Family of Thornton* at GD21/158, 159, 191, 488, 675, 676, 677, 678, 680, 681, 683, 686, 689, and 690; “Du Simitiere, Artist, Antiquary, and Naturalist, Projector of the First American Museum, with Some Extracts from his Notebook,” William John Potts in *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. XII, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, 1889, Google Books, pp. 341- 375; *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira D. Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, 1998, p. 554; *Peebles' Journal* entry dated Jan. 24, 1781; *Scots Magazine and Edinburgh Literary Miscellany*, April 1812, pp. 316-317; *Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine*, Vol. XV, January – June, 1824, William Blackwood, Edinburgh, 1824, p. 132;

Scotland's People, Will of John Peebles, 1824, *Ayr Sheriff Court* at SC6/44/1; E-mail from David Whitelaw, Session Clerk, Irvine Old Parish Church to Paul Pace, June 20, 2011; "The Veteran of the Americas" at the website of the Old Irvine Parish at [irvineold.org](http://irvineold.org).



Signature Source: Witness signature on 1767 Indenture made by Lt. James Edington, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. for sale of land to then Capt. Thomas Stirling.

**Pott, Surg. Alexander.** Born around 1740 in Scotland, Pott was one of the six younger sons of George Pott of Todrig and his wife, Miss Scott (Galalaw). Todrig is located in the Scottish Borders about fifty miles south of Edinburgh. Pott's younger brother, Robert Potts, joined him in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. in Ireland in 1771.



Detail of Dr. Hay from "*Mr. James Rae, Dr. William Laing, and Dr. James Hay*" by John Kay

Picture Source: *A Series of Original Portraits and Caricature Etchings by the Late John Kay*, Vol. I, Ed. Hugh Paton, Adam and Charles Black Edinburgh, 1877, No. 167.

At about the age of sixteen, on Mar. 16, 1757, Alexander Potts was apprenticed to Dr. James Hay of Hayston, a former army surgeon who had served in Flanders in 1744 and lived on New Street, Cannongate, Edinburgh.

Five years after beginning his apprenticeship, Pott was commissioned Surgeon of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 60<sup>th</sup> Regt. (Royal Americans) in Nov. 1762 and went on Half-pay the next year when that battalion was reduced at the end of the French and Indian War. He exchanged from Half-pay with David Hepbourne to join the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. in Apr. 1764 while the regiment was at Fort Pitt in western Pennsylvania. Surg. Pott served in the Muskingum expedition in August 1764 and remained with the regiment when it returned to Ireland in 1767.

As a result of his service in America Surg. Pott was awarded land in the colony of New York in 1764. A 1764 map of current day Vermont showing 2,000 acres in Albany county is noted to be “*Surveyed for Alexander Potts, late Surgeon to one of the battallions of His Majesty’s Sixtieth Regiment of Foot, Alexander Colden, Surveyor-General. Aug. 16, 1764.*”

On Apr. 2, 1776, as the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. prepared to sail to America, Lord John Murray wrote the Secretary at War that “... *The Surgeon M<sup>r</sup>. Potts informs me he has not got any order for a Medicine Chest, or allowance to buy one, I therefore desire the favour your Lordship will give orders for his having one, or the Allowance Other Regiments gets, that Serves Abroad.*” The War Office confirmed a few days later the medicine chest was being shipped from London.

During the American war Potts served as Surgeon with the line battalions in the New York/New Jersey campaign of 1776-1777 and the beginning of the Philadelphia campaign of 1777. He was ordered to join the General Army Hospital after the Battle of Brandywine, Pennsylvania on Sept. 11, 1777. His name is added by hand to the annotated War Office copy of the annual Army List for 1778 as a surgeon in the “*Officers of the Hospitals For the Forces in North America*” with the listing “*Alex. Potts. 11 Sept. 77. fr: 42. F.*” His name remained on the same list until the Army List for 1784.

Pott was eventually assigned as a surgeon to the army in the West Indies and on Dec. 25, 1783 went out on Half-pay. He does not appear on the Half-Pay list until 1786 when he is listed as “*On the English Half-Pay... Officers of Hospitals... Surgeons... West Indies Alexander Potts...*”

In 1790, with the settlement of the estate of their mother’s relative, Adam Scott of Galalaw, brothers Alexander Pott and Robert Potts obtained Scott’s estates of Borthwickshiels and Galalaw. Alexander took possession of Borthwickshiels in Robertson Parish, Roxburghshire (near the town of Hawick, about fifty miles south of Edinburgh), and Robert obtained Galalaw (also Gallalaw) in Wilton Parish. Alexander Potts’ estate at Borthwickshiels was described as “*a pleasant highland mansion, surrounded with healthy plantations.*”

Pott’s 1796 death notice in the *Scots Magazine* read “...*May...3...Alexander Pott, Esq; of Borthwickshiels, late Surgeon in the hospital, West Indies.*” Surg. Pott’s 1796 will left his estates of Borthwickshiels and Borthwick Mains to his brother Robert in his will where he wrote “*I Alexander Pott Esquire of Borthwickshiels for ...Love and Affection that I have and Bear to Captain Robert Pott of Galalaw brother do by these presents give Grant Dispone [illeg.] and make over to and in favour of the said Captain Robert Pott his heirs or Assigns whatsoever all and whole my Lands and Estate of Borthwickshiels and Borthwick Mains lying in the parish of Robertson and Shires of Roxburge and Selkirk...*”

Commissions: Surgeon Nov. 8, 1762 (3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 60<sup>th</sup> Regt.); Half-pay Aug. 24, 1763 (3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 60<sup>th</sup> Regt.); Surgeon Apr. 10, 1764 (42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Surgeon Sept. 11, 1777 (Hospitals for the Forces of North America); Half-pay Dec. 25, 1783.

**References:** *Commissioned Officers in the Medical Services of the British Army, 1660-1960, Part 1*, Alfred Peterkin, Welcome Historical Medical Library, 1968, p. 39; *A Series of Original Portraits and Caricature Etchings by the Late John Kay*, Vol. I, Ed. Hugh Paton, Adam and Charles Black Edinburgh, 1877, p. 425; *Catalogue of Maps and Surveys, in the Offices of the Secretary of State, of the State Engineer and Surveyor and in the New-York State Library*, Weed, Parsons and Co., New York, 1851, Google Books, p. 73; Minutes dated Mar. 21, 1764 (see L. P. 17:90), Calendar of Council Minutes 1668-1783 in *New York State Library Bulletin* 58, University of the State of New York, Albany, March 1902, pp. 411-412; TNA, Lord John Murray to Viscount Barrington, Apr. 2, 1776, *War Office In-letters* at WO 1/993; TNA, *War Office: General Muster Books and Pay Lists* at WO 12/5478; General Orders, “*Camp on the Field of Battle, On the Heights of Brandywine,*” Sept. 12, 1777; *Scots Magazine*, July 1778, p. 390; National Register of

Archives for Scotland (NRAS88/3/83, 84, 85 and 87) *Papers of Campbell-Fraser Family, of Borthwickshiels, Roxburghshire*; *The History of Hawick*, by Robert Wilson, Robert Armstrong, Hawick, 1841, Google Books, pp. 12, 16; TNA, *Prerogative Court of Canterbury: Will Registers* at PROB 11/1280/35, ff. 360- 361.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Potts Capt. 42 Regt." with a flourish at the end.

**Potts, Capt. Robert.** Nicknamed “*Cadet Pott*” by some of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. officers, Potts was born around 1749 and was one of the six younger sons of George Potts of Todrig and his wife, Miss Scott (Galalaw). Todrig is located in the Scottish Borders about fifty miles south of Edinburgh.

Potts was commissioned an Ensign in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. in Sept. 1771 while the regiment was stationed in Ireland and where his older brother, Alexander, was the regimental surgeon. Potts replaced Ens. Robert Reid who was promoted in the string of promotions tied to the retirement of Capt. John Stewart, Younger of Stenton. Potts was then promoted to Lieutenant in July 1773, taking the place of retiring Lt. John Campbell.

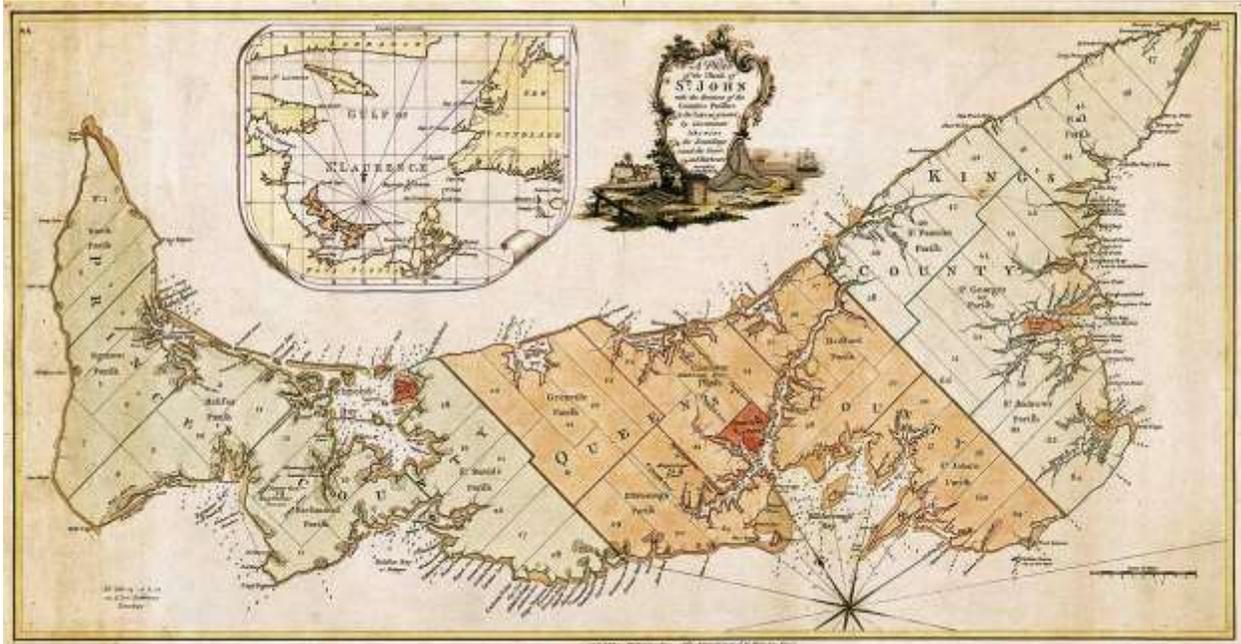
Sailing to America with the regiment in Apr. 1776 on the transport *Houston*, Potts was assigned to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Light Infantry Company at the beginning of the American war and served with that company in the 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Infantry Battalion in the New York/New Jersey campaign of 1776-1777, the Philadelphia campaign of 1777-1778 and the Siege of Charleston, South Carolina in 1780.

After an Apr. 1778 offer by Lord John Murray to raise a second battalion to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., the War Office questioned several of the proposed officer selections for the proposed battalion. Lord Murray responded to a question about the selection of Captains that month writing “...*Answers to the Observations on the State of Officers of the 42<sup>d</sup>. or Royal Highland Regiment... The reasons of the proposing to prefer Lieu<sup>t</sup>. [George] Mackinzie and [Harry] Munro is that they are much older Officers in the Army, and have also greater intrest in the Highlands to raise recruits than Lieu<sup>t</sup>. Potts...*” Lord Murray likely made this assessment based on Potts’ family ties to the Borders.

Sir Gilbert Elliot, MP for Roxburghshire, applied to the War Office in May 1779, for a promotion for Lt. Potts, citing that he was the most senior lieutenant in the regiment. The War Office forwarded that recommendation to Sir Henry Clinton in America and Sir Henry responded on July 29<sup>th</sup> that “...*The Grenville Packet which arrived here yesterday Evening brought me your Favor of the 5<sup>th</sup> of May recommending Lieu<sup>t</sup> Potts of the 42<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> to succeed to the first Vacancy which may happen in his own Corps. As Lieu<sup>t</sup> Potts is the Senior Lieu<sup>t</sup> in his Reg<sup>t</sup>, he has certainly a Claim to Promotion upon Vacancy it being normal in such Cases to pay that Attention to the Oldest of each Rank unless when the Claims of older Officers in other Corps intervene, but you may be assured that I shall not forget your Recommendation when a proper Opportunity offers of serving him.*”

Potts was promoted to Capt. Lieutenant in Feb. 1781, with an effective date of Dec. 1780, in place of John Rutherford who had been promoted. Accordingly, Potts took command of Gen. Lord Murray’s Company and served with 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion for the relief attempt for Cornwallis’ army in Virginia in 1781. Potts was promoted to Captain on July 28, 1783 on the death of Brevet-Maj. John Smith and moved with the regiment to Canada at the end of the war in Oct. 1783. As a result of the reduction of the regiment to eight companies at the end of the war, Capt. Potts’ company was disbanded and he was seconded to command the Lt. Colonel’s Company in the absence of Lt. Col. Graham who had returned to Britain on leave. Capt. Potts also received leave when the War Office issued a list of approved leaves of absences

for Nova Scotia on Jan. 4, 1786 and included “...Capt<sup>n</sup> Potts } of 42<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>: 1<sup>st</sup> B<sup>n</sup>: 6 Months from 3<sup>d</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>: 1785 P[rivate]. A[ffairs].”



“A plan of the island of St. John with the divisions of the counties parishes & the lots as granted by government likewise the soundings round the coast and harbours. Surveyed by Capt. Holland. 1775.”

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons.

Six companies of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. left Halifax in June 1786 and sailed to Sydney, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia replacing the 33<sup>rd</sup> Regt. and two companies of Highlanders sailed to garrison St. Johns Island (now Prince Edward Island). About fifteen months later Capt. Potts took command of the two companies on St. Johns Island. Potts’ assignment was reported by the *New-York Morning Post*, (Jan. 1, 1788) which noted “*CHARLOTTE-TOWN, (St. John’s Island) Sept. 29. [1787] On the 9th inst. Captain Robert Potts, of the 42d regiment, arrived here from Sydney, and took command of the troops, in the room of Captain [George] Dalrymple, who left this island in a bad state of health.*”

In Aug. 1789 the Royal Highlanders embarked to return to Great Britain, landing at Portsmouth, England in Oct. after a thirteen year absence.

In 1790, with the settlement of the estate of Adam Scott of Galalaw brothers Alexander and Robert Potts obtained Scott’s estates of Borthwickshiels and Galalaw. Alexander took possession of Borthwickshiels in Robertson Parish, Roxburghshire, and Robert obtained Galalaw (also Gallalaw) in Wilton Parish (near the town of Hawick, about fifty miles south of Edinburgh).

Potts retired from the 42<sup>nd</sup> Highlanders on Feb. 22, 1793 and married Henrietta Wharton, widow of Thomas Wharton, and daughter of William Mackenzie of Suddie sometime before 1796. In May of that year, Potts’ brother Alexander died and left Robert the estates of Borthwickshiels and Borthwick Mains. Capt. John Rutherford wrote to his old friend John Peebles regarding a visit with Potts and his wife in 1798 noting that “*Cadet Pott was a night with us lately – as gay as a lark and brimfull of esteem for recollection of his old acquaintances ... His rib [wife] is grown as broad as long and consequently gives*

*no hope of an heir to the Laird of Borthwickshiels.” An 1802 Scottish road directory list Potts’ estate as “About Hawick are the following Seats...Borthwick Sheils, Robert Pott, Esq...”*

Potts died in 1803 as recorded by the *Scots Magazine* for December of that year that read “...*DEATHS... At Borthwickshiels, Capt. Robert Potts, of Galalaw.*” In 1809 Potts’ wife obtained the Suddie estate on the Black Isle by the death of her older brother, Maj. Gen. John Ronald MacKenzie of Suddie. Henrietta was listed in the newspapers as the widow of Capt. Potts of Galalaw when she remarried in 1810 to Sir James Wemyss Mackenzie, of Jamaica. She died in 1840.

Commissions: Ens. Sept. 7, 1771; Lt. July 12, 1773; Capt. Lt. Feb. 8, 1781 – effective Dec. 31, 1780; Capt. July 27, 1783; Retired Feb. 22, 1793.

**References:** National Register of Archives for Scotland (NRAS88/3/83, 84, 85 and 87) *Papers of Campbell-Fraser Family, of Borthwickshiels, Roxburghshire; Sons of the Mountains*, Vol. I, by Ian Macpherson McCulloch, Purple Mountain Press, Fleischmans (NY) 2006, p. 323; TNA, Lord John Murray to War Office, Apr. 1778, *War Office In-letters* at WO 1/997; General Orders, New York, Feb. 8, 1781; *Edinburgh Advertiser* September \_\_, 1783; TNA, Charles Jenkinson to Sir Henry Clinton, May 5, 1779, *Guy Carleton, 1st Baron Dorchester: Papers* at PRO 30/55/16 f. 107142; TNA, Sir Henry Clinton to Charles Jenkinson, July 29, 1779 at PRO 30/55/17, f. 07142; *London Gazette* for July 3, 1781 pp. 2-3, Sept. 23, 1783, p. 1 and Feb. 26-Mar. 2, 1793, p. 4; TNA, Muster of Lt. Col. Graham’s Co., Halifax, Jan. 17, 1784, *War Office: General Muster and Pay Lists* at WO 12/5479 f. 132; TNA, George Yonge to Commander, Nova Scotia, Jan. 4, 1786, *War Office Out-letters* at WO 4/276, pp. 94-95 (f. 48); *New-York Morning Post*, Jan. 1, 1788, p. 2; Henry M. Perry to Thomas Carleton, Oct. 6, 1787, *The Winslow Papers*, Univ. of New Brunswick, marked 6-29; *Scots Magazine*, May 1796, p. 361; *New-York Morning Post*, Jan. 1, 1788, p. 2; *History of the Mackenzies with genealogies of the Principal Families of the Name*, by Alexander MacKenzie, M.J.I., A&W Mackenzie, Inverness, 1894, Google Books, p. 572; *Scots Magazine and Edinburgh Literary Miscellany*, Vol. LXXI, Archibald Constable and Company, Edinburgh, 1809, Google Books, pp. 565-566; *Scots Magazine*, May 1796, p. 361; TNA, Will of Alexander Pott of Borthwickshiels, *Prerogative Court of Canterbury and related Probate Jurisdictions: Will Registers* at PROB11/1380; John Rutherford to John Peebles, Mossburnford, Feb. 2, 1798 at NRS, *Papers of the Cuninghame Family of Thorntoun* at GD21/417 item 2; *Cary’s New Itinery or an Accurate Delineation of the Great Roads...*, John Cary, printed for John Cary, London, 1802, Google Books, p. 338; *Scots Magazine for Dec.1803*, Edinburgh, 1803, Google Books, p. 884; *EdinburghAnnual Register for 1810*, Vol. Third – Part Second, James Ballantyne and Co., Edinburgh, 1812, Google Books, p. 352; *The Annual Register or a View of the History, and Politics of the Year 1840*, J. G. F. & J. Rivington, London, 1841, Google Books, p. 182.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert Reid" on the top line and "Lt. 42nd Regt." on the bottom line. The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid.

Signature Source: TNA, *War Office In-letters* at WO 1/993.

**Reid**, Lt. Robert. Reid was born in Scotland around 1751 and commissioned Ensign in March 1768 when the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. was stationed in Ireland. Reid was promoted to Lieutenant in place of Lt. Charles Graham in Sept. 1771.

Lt. Reid resigned his commission on June 4, 1775, but it was not immediately accepted and Reid left the regiment in Glasgow for Spring Gardens in central London without approval, resulting in his being listed as under arrest.

Gen. Lord John Murray, Col., 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., wrote to Secretary at War Viscount Barrington from Banner Cross on Oct. 3, 1775 regarding the resignation and absence of Lt. Robert Reid noting “...*Lieu’. Robert Reid, and Lieu’. W<sup>m</sup> Graham wrote me the 25<sup>th</sup>. August from Glasgow, desiring leave to dispose as they*

*had purchased, I wrote in answer that as Soon as they Sent me the Names of those they proposed Should Succeed them, Should make the Application to your Lordship, but that I could ^not give Lieut. Reid leave of absence in the mean time. I Rec<sup>d</sup>. a letter lately from Major [William] Murray that Lieut. Reid has left Glasgow without leave, and that he has reported it to your Lordship and the Commander in chief [sic] in North Britain, therefore imagined it not in my Power to permit his being out of Arrest without your Lordships directions, which I beg to Receive.” Lt. Col. Thomas Stirling followed up with a letter to Lord John Murray, writing from Glasgow on Oct. 9. 1775 that “...Major Murray wrote your Lord<sup>p</sup> twice lately of L<sup>t</sup> Reid being in arrest for absenting himself without leave, and wanted to know your determination about him, if you have not yet answered his Letters I must beg your Lord<sup>p</sup>: will immediately, as He is at present in a disagreeable Situation.”*

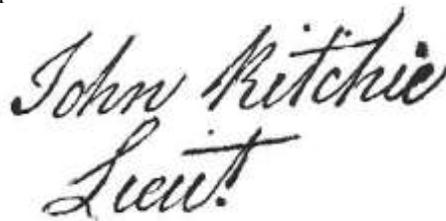
About three months later, on Jan 27, 1776, Lord John Murray forwarded a Memorial from Lt. Reid to the Secretary at War. Reid wrote “... *That your Memorialist having private affairs to settle of the greatest consequence to himself, and, which required his immediate attendance in London, gave in his Resignation, tho with the greatest Regret at Quitting the Service to the commanding Officer at Headquarters, on the fourth day of June last, but finding it has never yet been carried on: your Memorialist humbly prays your Lordship would Move his Majesty for leave for him, to dispose of his Lieutenancy, to any Person his Majesty shall be most graciously pleased to appoint, for the Regulation price, he having purchased both his Ensigny and Lieutenancy.*”

The Secretary at War responded to Lord Murray on Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> that His Majesty “... *has consented to Lieut Reid’s selling of his Lieutenancy at the regulated price, and your Lordship will be pleased to recommend the Succession.*”

A few months later Reid attempted to obtain another commission and was refused in a July 2, 1776 letter from Lord Barrington, Secretary at War, who wrote, “*I am to acknowledge the rec<sup>t</sup> of your letter of the 25<sup>th</sup> June, & to acquaint you that I cannot recommend for any Commission an Officer, who in February last Sold out of a Reg<sup>t</sup> going on Service.*”

Commissions: Ens. March 25, 1768; Lt. Sept. 7, 1771; Resigned Feb. 23, 1776.

**References:** British Library Archives and Manuscripts, Lord John Murray to Viscount Barrington, Oct. 3, 1775, “Letters from Lord John Murray relating to patronage, regimental appointments, etc., 1760-1775” in the *Barrington Papers*, Vol. xii, 1760-1778 at MS 73557, p. 35; British Library Archives and Manuscripts, Thomas Stirling to Lord John Murray, Oct. 9. 1775, *Barrington Papers*, Vol. xlii, Oct. 1775 – Nov. 1775 at MS 73587, p. 22.; TNA, Lord John Murray to Viscount Barrington, Jan. 27, 1776, *War Office: In-letters* at WO 1/993; Viscount Barrington to Lord John Murray, Feb. 14, 1776, *War Office: Out-letters* at WO 4/96, p. 161 (may be p. 101); TNA, Lord Barrington to Robert Reid, July 2, 1776 at WO 4/97 p. 403.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Ritchie" on the top line and "Lieut." on the bottom line.

**Ritchie, Lt. John.** Ritchie was commissioned Ensign in the 44<sup>th</sup> Regt. on July 24, 1779 (effective Oct. 5, 1778), by obtaining a blank commission that had been issued on the promotion of Ens. David Starke. A few weeks later, on Aug. 19, 1779, the War Office requested passage on a Navy ship to carry him to New York to join the 44<sup>th</sup> Regt.



Reproduction 44<sup>th</sup> Regt. Uniform Button

In March 1780, Robert Marshall, of the Loyalist DeLancy's Regt., recommended Ens. Ritchie to Capt. John Peebles of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadiers. Peebles wrote in his notebook on March 19, 1780 that he "*...Rec<sup>d</sup> a Letter from R. Marshall of the 12 July by M<sup>r</sup> Ritchie Ens<sup>n</sup> 44<sup>th</sup> recommending that young Gentle<sup>n</sup>. he came in the last Corke fleet...*" Marshall was the brother of Peebles' close Ayrshire friend, Dick Marshall.

Five months later, Peebles wrote of the unusual assignment of an Ensign to his grenadier company on Aug. 2, 1780 saying "*...Wednesday 2<sup>d</sup>. Aug<sup>t</sup>...Ens<sup>n</sup> Ritchie of the 44<sup>th</sup> appointed by the Col: to do duty with 42<sup>d</sup> Com<sup>y</sup> till further orders.*" Ritchie must have performed well in the Grenadiers, because nine days later, Peebles wrote that he rode to regimental headquarters "*...to speak to the Major [Charles Graham] about M<sup>r</sup> Ritchie purchasing [Robert] Rollo's Lieut<sup>cy</sup> but as he was not home & beg'd of Capt. [John] Smith to represent it which he did & got his consent -*" A few weeks later, while Ritchie was serving in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, Maj. Charles Graham recommended Ritchie for the Lieutenancy of Robert Rollo who wanted to retire. Ritchie was accordingly promoted to Lieutenant in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. on Sept. 6, 1780 and served with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company in the New York area.

In 1780 Ritchie was listed in the headquarters document "*Return of Officers in the following Corps, desirous to Purchase 1<sup>st</sup> October 1780*" and in 1781 Peebles wrote of Ritchie's attempt at promotion on Apr. 13<sup>th</sup> when he noted "*L<sup>t</sup>. Ritchie in Town for some days about purchasing a Company, probably in the 37<sup>th</sup>*" A few days later, however, Peebles noted the result of Ritchie's attempt writing on Apr. 18<sup>th</sup> "*...Ritchie come home disappointed of his purchase...*" Peebles may have been premature with his pessimism as he noted on May 9<sup>th</sup> writing "*L<sup>t</sup>. Ritchie in orders for the Comp<sup>y</sup> 37<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> [effective] 28 April.*"



Reproduction 37<sup>th</sup> Regt. Uniform Button

After Ritchie left the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. he served with the 37<sup>th</sup> Regt. in New York until he was gazetted Major in the 91<sup>st</sup> (Loyal Shropshire) Regt. in March 1783 with a date of rank of Feb. 25, 1783. The 91<sup>st</sup> Reg. had been raised in 1779 under Col. Dudley Ackland and had served as the garrison of the islands of St. Lucia and Barbados in the West Indies before returning to England. Ritchie spent little, if any, time in the "*Shropshire Volunteers*" before the regiment was reduced on Apr. 24, 1783 and Ritchie went out on Half-pay.



Reproduction 9<sup>th</sup> Regt. Officer's Uniform Button

The War Office announced Ritchie's return to active service on July 10, 1784 reporting "9<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot, Major John Ritchie, on the Half-pay of the late 91<sup>st</sup> Regiment, to be Major, vice John Money." Ritchie remained as Major of the 9<sup>th</sup> (or East Norfolk) Regt. for about ten years.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Regt. served in Scotland until the spring of 1785 when it embarked for Ireland. Ritchie remained in Ireland until the 9<sup>th</sup> Regt. embarked at Cork for the West Indies on Jan. 15, 1788 and sailed for the island of St. Christopher (also known as Saint Kitts). War broke out with the French in 1793 and in Jan. 1794 the 9<sup>th</sup> Regt. proceeded to Barbados before landing at the French island of Martinico (now Martinique) in Feb. 1794. Lt. Col. Colonel Campbell, commanding the 9<sup>th</sup> Regt. advanced to Post au Pin, where he was mortally wounded, likely putting Maj. Ritchie in temporary command of the regiment. At this time Ritchie was promoted to Lt. Colonel of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn., 60<sup>th</sup> or Royal American Regt. with a date of rank of Feb. 17, 1794.



Reproduction 60<sup>th</sup> Regt. Uniform Button

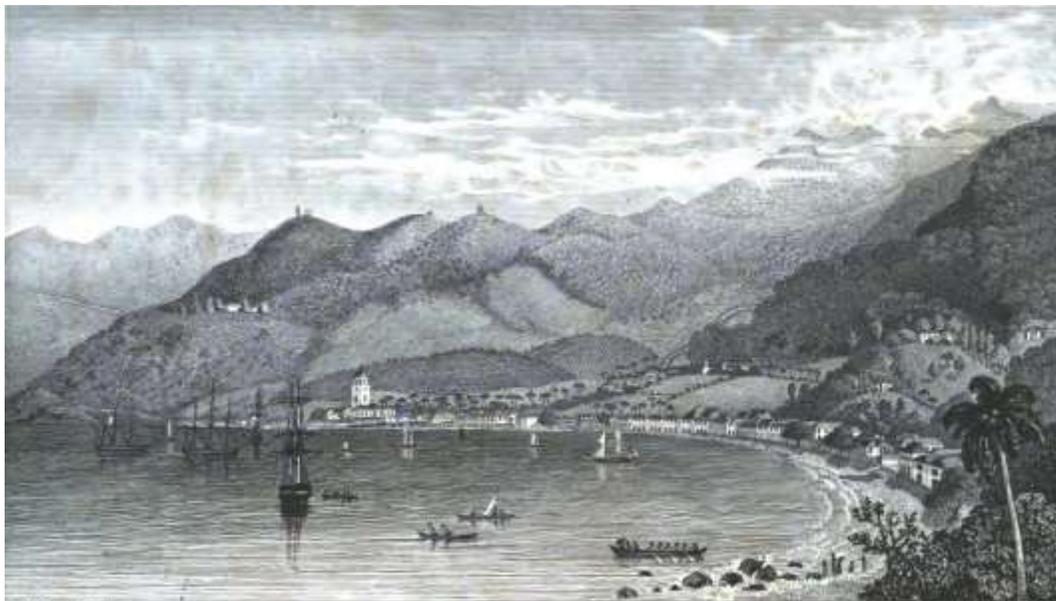


Detail from *The Capture of Fort Louis, Martinique, 20 March 1794* by William Anderson, 1795

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons.

From March 15 - 23, 1794 Lt. Col. Ritchie and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn., 60<sup>th</sup> Regt. took part in the capture of the Island of Martinique under Lt. Gen. Sir Charles Grey and on Apr. 4 in the Capture of St. Lucia under Maj. Gen. Sir Ralph Abercromby. In June 1795, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn., 60<sup>th</sup> Regt. arrived at Barbados before being sent to reinforce St. Vincent, an island in the Lesser Antilles, southeast of Puerto Rico.

*The Hampshire Chronicle* published the *St. Vincent Gazette* for Oct. 10, 1795 which described the arrival of Lt. Col. Ritchie's battalion writing "WEST INDIES. ST. VINCENT'S GAZETTE, JULY 11. Immediately after the publication of the narrative of the 6th ultimo [June], our situation, which had continued upon the defensive since the recapture of Dorchester Hill on the 8th of May was very suddenly changed to the most active and successful offensive operations against the enemy [French and Caribs – runaway slaves]... On the 8th ultimo, a detachment of Major Malcom's corps of rangers, consisting of 100 men, arrived from that island [Martinique] and the 3d battalion of the 60th regiment (which under the command of Lieutenant-colonel Ritchie, sailed from England, destined for Demerary, [a Dutch colony on the north coast of South America, later British Guiana], but were not landed, in consequence of the representations of the inhabitants, and had arrived at Barbadoes,) were also ordered here by the commander in chief, and came down on the 9th... A little before day-light on the 11th, the enemy at the Vigie began to beat the reveille, about which time Lieutenant-colonel Ritchie's division began their attack on their upper post, from which they immediately fled. His division then posted on to the second height, which was also soon abandoned by the enemy. The enemy, at first only observing Lieutenant-colonel Ritchie's division, actually came out to attack him; but Lieutenant-colonel Leighton appearing at that instant, they precipitately returned... About eight o'clock the enemy beat the charade, and sent a flag to demand terms, which were refused them, and a party of the 46th ordered to storm the place, which they did, followed by the whole..."



**KINGSTOWN, SAINT VINCENT.**

*Published by Ridgway & Son, Piccadilly.*

Picture Source: An Historical Account of the Island of Saint Vincent, Charles Shephard, London, 1831, Google Books, frontispiece.

*The Hampshire Chronicle*, also published an account of Lt. Col. Ritchie's final battle in 1795 writing "WEST-INDIA NEWS. From the ST. VINCENT'S GAZETTE, of October 17. KINGSTOWN, OCTOBER 17... The 21st and 22d the enemy made their appearance in Mirriaqua, about Dr. Young's, and the following day took a position between the Vigie and town of Fairbairn's ridge... The communication between the Vigie and Kingstown being thus intercepted, Lieutenant-colonel Ritchie, with a party of

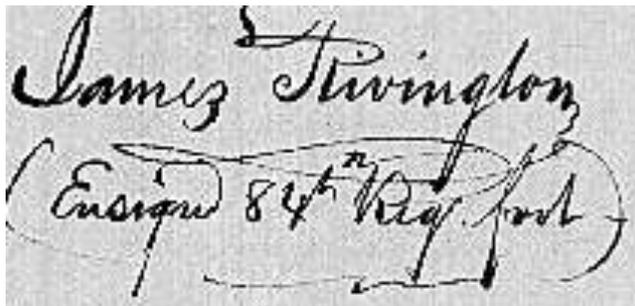
about three hundred regulars and rangers, was ordered as a convoy to the provisions required at that post, and he marched in the forenoon on the 24<sup>th</sup>. The party kept the high road till they arrived at Caliaqua's estates, and Raquet's negro grounds, till they fell into Ross's road, at the extremity of Fairbairn's estate, where they were fired upon by the enemy, and an action commenced, but was of short duration; for, from some unaccountable cause, our troops gave way just in the moment of victory, and fled in different directions, pursued by the enemy. Lieutenant-colonel Ritchie, Lieutenant-colonel Fairbairn, Lieutenant-colonel Leith, Capt. Heron, 60<sup>th</sup>, Lieut. Brown, 46<sup>th</sup>, Lieut. Paterson of the rangers, and Mr. Thomas Durham, a volunteer in the 60<sup>th</sup>, with some privates, amounting to about eighteen in number, but which was afterwards augmented to upwards of thirty, retreating to Collin's estate, and threw themselves into the mill, and behind the ruins of the buildings, where they defended themselves for several hours against a very large body of the enemy, or made several unsuccessful attempts to force them, in which they lost many men. About dark, finding all their efforts vain, the enemy retired. Lieutenant-colonel Ritchie was unfortunately wounded in the leg stepping out of the mill to reconnoitre, and was we believe was the only person hurt of that party... Our party remained at the mill till near midnight, when they left it, carrying with them Lieutenant-col. Ritchie, who was unable, from his wound, to walk... The cool and steady conduct of Lieutenant-colonel Ritchie, the whole of this unfortunate day, could not be too much admired... To the great regret of this whole community, Lieutenant-colonel Ritchie, whose wound we flattered ourselves would not prove mortal, died on Monday forenoon. His death, which was very sudden, is supposed to have arisen from a splinter of the bone pricking an artery, working itself out; from which accident he bled to death before assistance could reach him. In this gentleman the service has lost a cool and brave officer, and society a worthy and agreeable member."

Ritchie's wife Elizabeth was granted a pension of £100 per year from 1801 as documented in an 1816 House of Lord's document that read "*Estimate of the Charge of Allowances on the Compassionate List...to Widows of Officers of the said Forces ...from 25th December 1815 to 24th December 1816... Ritchie, Elizabeth [Annual Amount] 100 [£] [From what time] 25 July 1801 [On what Account] Widow of Lieutenant Colonel John Ritchie, of the 60th Regiment; in consideration of her Husband's faithful and unremitted exertions in the Island of St. Vincent, where he received a Wound in Action, of which he died on the 11th October 1795.*

Commissions: Ens. July 24, 1779 – effective Oct. 5, 1778 (44<sup>th</sup> Regt.); Lt. Sept. 6, 1780 (42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Capt. May 9, 1781 – effective Apr. 28, 1781 (37<sup>th</sup> Regt.); Maj. Feb. 25, 1783 (91<sup>st</sup> Regt.); Maj. Half-pay Apr. 24, 1783 (91<sup>st</sup> Regt.); Maj. July 7, 1784 (9<sup>th</sup> or the East-Norfolk Regt.); Lt. Col. Feb. 17, 1794 (60<sup>th</sup> or Royal American Regt.); Died of Wounds Oct. 11, 1795 (60<sup>th</sup> or Royal American Regt.).

**References:** *London Gazette*, Dec. 19-22, 1778, p. 1, July 20-24, 1779, p. 3, Jan. 9, 1781 p. 2, Sept. 29, 1781 p. 1, Mar. 8-11, 1783, p. 1, July 6, 1784, p. 2 and May 6, 1794, pp. 5-6; TNA, William Knox to Philip Stephens, Aug. 19, 1779, *Colonial Office: Letter to Admiralty* at CO 5/254 p. 290; *Scots Magazine*, Dec. 1779, p. 687; *Peebles' Journal Entries* Mar. 19 and Aug. 2, 9, 1780, Apr. 13 and May 9, 1781; Maj. Charles Graham to Sir Henry Clinton, Aug. 30, 1780, *Sir Henry Clinton Papers*, CP 119: 47, William Clements Library; General Orders, James Island, Mar. 25, 1780, and at New York, Sept. 6, 1780, May 9, 1781 and June 15, 1783; "Return of Officers in the following Corps, desirous to Purchase 1<sup>st</sup> October 1780" in *Sir Henry Clinton Papers* 125:3, W. L. Clements Lib., Univ. of Mich.; *London Gazette*, Mar. 8-11, 1783, p. 1 and May 6, 1794, pp. 5-6; *Royal Gazette* (New York), June 18, 1783; *Scots Magazine*, V. 45, 1783, p. 167; *Historical Record of the Ninth, or the East Norfolk Regiment of Foot*, Richard Cannon, Parker, Furnivall, & Parker, London, 1848, pp. 33-36; "91st Foot or Ackland's Loyal Shropshire Regiment, Otherwise Known as the Shropshire Volunteers, 1779-1783" G. Archer Parfitt in the *Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research*, 47 (Winter 1969), pp. 225-232; *A History of the British Army*, Vol. IV, 1789-1801, Hon. J. W. Fortescue, Macmillan and Co., London, 1906, Google Books, pp. 442 -446; *The Naval History of Great Britain from the Year MDCCLXXXIII to MDCCCXXII, Vol. II*, Edward Pelham Brenton, Esq., C. Rice, London, 1823, Google Books, pp. 212-213; *A Regimental Chronicle and List of Officers of the 60<sup>th</sup> or the King's Royal Rifle Corps, Formerly The 62<sup>nd</sup> or Royal American Regiment of Foot*, Nesbit Willoughby Wallace, Harrison Pall Mall, London, 1879, Google Books, pp. 13, 124; *Hampshire Chronicle*, Oct. 10, 1795, p. 4 and Jan. 23, 1796, p. 2; TNA, *War Office, Widows' Pensions and Bounty Application Papers* at WO 25/3103/1/36; *Edinburgh Magazine or Literary Miscellany for January 1796*, Vol.

VII, New Series, James Symington, Edinburgh, 1796, Google Books, p. 78; *House of Lords The Sessional Papers 1801-1833*, Vol. 80, 1816, Google Books, pp. 22.

A handwritten signature in cursive script. The top line reads "James Rivington". Below it, the text "(Ensign 84<sup>th</sup> Regt. Foot)" is written and enclosed in a hand-drawn oval.

Signature Source: TNA, War Office, *Returns of Officers' Services at WO 25/772*, p. 139.

**Rivington**, Ens. James Jr. Born in New York on Aug. 29, 1771, Ens. Rivington was the son of the controversial printer James Rivington, Sr. and his second wife, Elizabeth French (widow of Cornelius Van Horne). Rivington's father was the editor of the Loyalist New York newspaper *The Royal Gazette*, but despite the Loyalist leanings of the *Royal Gazette*, James Rivington Sr. was thought to have been a member of the Rebel *Culper Spy Ring* delivering information on British forces in New York to the Continental Army.

Nine-year old James was likely apprenticed to a New York shoemaker as noted in a sarcastic runaway advertisement published in the *New-Jersey Journal* on July 16, 1780 that read "RUN from his apprenticeship, to the shoemaker's trade, JAMES RIVINGTON, jun. son to the notorious James, the royal, alias, lying printer, in New-York. Those who knew the father, need no other description of the son, than to be informed that allowing for age and experience, he is, in low cunning, deceit, lying, and roguery, equal to the sire; and proves, without the marriage knot, that he the real offspring, full blooded. It is thought probable this youth, on the rumour of the French fleet, is gone, agreeable to tory policy, to join the American army; that by dividing the family, part of the breed may be saved, even should the property be lost. Whoever takes up the above identical son, shall be weekly entitled to the father's privileged gazette, except those which may happen to contain aberrations from the truth..."

Twelve-year old Rivington was commissioned an Ensign in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. by purchase of the blank commission of Ens. David Sutherland who retired in Feb. 1782. The Commission appears to have been issued in England and based on the date of others listed near him in the Commission Book, the actual commission was issued in the summer of 1783. He was not listed in the Company musters of the regiment taken at Paulus Hook, New Jersey, July 28, 1783, indicating the regiment in America was not aware of his commission at that time. In a 1819 pension application, Rivington explained his service writing: "The Commission I have the honor to hold in His Majestys service, I must respectfully beg leave to state was purchased (I think I heard my father say of an Ensign [David] Sutherland, but of which I am by no means certain) in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regiment Royal Highlanders, I was very young, consequently my recollection is very imperfect, I however do recollect something as to Order to join my Regiment, but at what time those orders were received I am totally ignorant, neither am I acquainted as to the period of being transferred from the 42<sup>nd</sup> to the Half Pay of the 84<sup>th</sup> or as to with or without the difference, but have very reason to believe the last. My youth at the time of the purchase of my Commission placed me intirely under the control of my father, and subsequently my Attention being turned to mercantile concerns, it did not occur to me to press upon him the particulars previous to his death, a reference however to the Book of the Department at War, it is presumed will answer all the Questions of which I am ignorant – I am however perfect in my recollection of seeing my name in the Army List in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, and subsequently in

*the 84<sup>th</sup> but cannot bring to mind the period. I must respectfully beg leave to state that in Consequence of the Loyalty of my father to his sovereign in the War for Independence and the inveteracy of the Americans towards him for the firm manner in which he supported the cause of his Master being then printer to His Majesty, a large party of the most violent of them surrounded, entered his house, destroyed his presses, type, and all the papers they could lay their hands on, and would have hanged him had he not made a Providential escape...*

In the regimental review conducted by Maj. Gen. John Campbell at Halifax, Nova Scotia on June 9, 1784, Rivington was listed as “*Not joined since Appointed.*” On Sept. 10, 1785, the War Office announced his exchange saying “*42d Regiment of Foot, 1st Battalion... Ensign Archibald Campbell, on the Half-Pay of the 2d Battalion of the 84th Regiment, to be Ensign, vice James Rivington.*” Ens. Rivington was still listed on Half-pay in the 84<sup>th</sup> Regt. in the 1831 Army List.



Reproduction 84<sup>th</sup> or Royal Highland Emigrants Regt. Uniform Button

In 1791 the *New-York Daily Gazette*, reported Rivington’s voyage to Charleston writing “*The ship Delaware, which left Philadelphia the 18th of August, arrived off Charleston lighthouse on the 24th. In this ship were many passengers, among whom were Messrs. Joseph Hardie and James Rivington, jun. charged with South Carolina assumptions from the merchants of this city and Philadelphia.*” However, Rivington had serious business difficulties in 1800 and the *Spectator* in New York published a legal notice of insolvency on Sept. 6 indicating “*...By order of Richard Harrison, Esquire, Recorder of the city of New-York, upon the petition of James Rivington, junior, of the city of New-York, merchant, an Insolvent Debtor in conjunction with so many of his creditors as have debts owing to them by the said James Rivington, junior, amounting at least to three fourths of all the monies owing by him, NOTICE is hereby given to all the creditors of the said James Rivington, junior, to shew cause if any they have before the said Richard Harrison, at his chambers in the Broadway, in the city of New-York, by the thirteenth day of November next, why an assignment of the said James Rivington, junior, estate should not be made...*”

A 19<sup>th</sup>-century description of the death of James Rivington Sr. in 1802 indicated he died at the house of James Rivington, Jr. at 111 Pearl St. in New York City (located at the intersection of Hanover St. and Pearl, about two tenths of a mile southeast of the New York Stock Exchange).



View of North Pearl Street just north of State Street in Albany, 1805, by James Eights

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

By 1806, Rivington had moved to Albany where an advertisement in the *Albany Gazette* dated Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> of that year showed him to be a merchant selling groceries, liquor and cigars. His store was located at “No. 67, Market-street.” Rivington was still in Albany in 1817 where *The Albany Argus* newspaper for Aug. 26, 1817 reported the death in New York of Rivington’s 14-year old only son, James Augustus Rivington noting that the father was “Mr. James Rivington of this city.”

Rivington married Gertrude Van Kleeck (daughter of Leonard Van Kleeck and Jannetje Van Valkenburg), on Apr. 11, 1802 they had four children: James Augustus Rivington (1803 -1817), Sarah (1806), Mary Ludlow (born 1808, married in 1834 to H. Woodruff Palmer) and Jane Elisa (1813-1858 – married in 1834 to Judge Henry Hogeboom). The *Albany Gazette* published a funeral announcement for Rivington’s wife on Sept. 23, 1817 writing “DIED On Sunday last GERTRUDE RIVINGTON, wife of James Rivington, of this city, aged 37 years. The friends and acquaintance of JAMES RIVINGTON, are requested to attend her funeral this day at 3 o’clock, from his dwelling house at the Ferry.”

Rivington applied for a British pension based on his commission in a letter dated “Poughkeepsie Dutchess County, State of New York 20<sup>th</sup> March 1829.” Poughkeepsie is located about eighty miles south of Albany.

Rivington died at his daughter Jane Eliza’s house on May 1, 1834 at Hudson, New York (120 miles north of New York City). His death notice in *The Commercial Advertiser* (New York) on May 9<sup>th</sup> read “DIED...At Hudson, on the 1st inst. Col. James Rivington.” The basis for the title Colonel for Rivington is not known.

Commissions: Ens. Summer 1783, effective to Feb. 28, 1782; Exchanged to half-pay Aug. 26, 1785 (2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., 84<sup>th</sup> Regt. or Royal Highland Emigrants).

**References:** TNA, War Office, *Returns of Officers’ Services* at WO 25/772, pp. 139-140; TNA, War Office, *General Muster Books and Pay Lists*, 42<sup>nd</sup> Foot, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 1777-1786 at WO 12/5479 ff. 111-120; TNA, *Commission Book* at WO 25/37, p. 288; *New-Jersey Journal*, Vol. II., Number LXXV, July 26, 1780 as shown in *Documents Relating to the Revolutionary History of the State of New Jersey*, Vol. IV, Ed. William Nelson, State Gazette Publishing Co., Trenton, 1914, pp. 525-526; TNA, War Office: *Sec. at War, Out-letters, America* at WO 4/276, pp. 75-76. (f. 38); *New-York Daily Gazette*, Sept. 7, 1791, p. 2; *Names of Persons for whom MARRIAGE LICENSES were issued by the Secretary of the Province of New York Previous to 1784*, E. B. O’Callaghan, Weed, Parsons and Company, Albany, 1860, p. 402; *The Old Merchants of New York City*, Vol. V, Walter Barrett, Thomas R. Knox & Co., New

York, 1885, p. 33; *The Albany Gazette* Aug. 4, 1806, p. 1; *The Albany Argus*, Aug. 26, 1817, p. 3; *The Records of Christ Church, Poughkeepsie New York*, Vol. II, Ed. Helen Wilkinson Reynolds, Hansman & Pralow Co., Poughkeepsie, pp.106 and 195; *Albany Gazette*, Sept. 23, 1817, p. 2.

*John Robertson Leitch*

**Robertson**, Lt. John. Robertson was likely born in Perthshire around 1732. A 1779 memorial to Sir Henry Clinton described Robertson's early military service pointing out "*That Your Memorialist had the Honour to Serve His King and Country thirty two Years, first as Volunteer and then Adjutant to the [Henry Douglas] Earl of Drumlanrig's Regt. of North British Auxiliaries in the Dutch Service...*"

As a result of the United Netherlands support for Queen Maria Theresa in the War of the Austrian Succession the 6000 – man Scots Brigade of the Dutch army, was reduced by losses to a few hundred men by 1747. In that year Henry Douglas, Earl of Drumlanrig (son of the Duke of Queensberry) received a commission from the States of Holland to raise a regiment of two battalions in the Highlands. An order book of that regiment covering the period of Feb. 1748 to Aug. 1749 indicates the regiment embarked from Burntisland, and was stationed at Gorcum (now called Gorinchem on the Maas or Meuse River, 48 miles west of Nijmegen).



Original Dalem Gate, Gorcum (now Gorinchem)

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons by Donar Reiskoffer

The Scottish philosopher and historian, David Hume, met Lord Drumlanrig's Regt. at Gorinchem in 1748 while on a trip through Holland. He wrote on Mar. 16<sup>th</sup> that "...*At Gorcum we met with Drumlanrig's regiment, which does no great honour to their country by their looks and appearances. There has been a mutiny amongst them, out of discontent to the country. We met with some Highlanders, who regretted extremely their native hills.*"

On May 2, 1748 Lord Drumlanrig's Regt. prepared to march to join the garrison of the city of Breda about 23 miles to the southwest. The regiment also was stationed in cantonments at Vianen and Bommel. On July 1, 1749, the regiment marched by Bois-le-Duc, St. Oudinroy, Helmont, and Meyle, to Venlo on the River Maas (or Meuse) about 72 miles to the southeast of Breda. The Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle was

followed by the usual reduction of the Dutch military establishment. In 1749 Lord Drumlanrig's Regt. was reduced from two battalions to one, and in 1752 the regiment was reduced as a separate unit.

Robertson's memorial also described his early service in the British Army pointing out "... *That He is upwards of 18 Years Lieut. in the British Army, and was Detached with 100 Men last war from the 115<sup>th</sup> Regt to Portugal...*" The Succession Books of the 115<sup>th</sup> Regt. (Royal Scotch Lowlanders) indicate Roberson obtained a Lieutenancy on Oct. 18, 1761 on the raising of the regiment. The 115<sup>th</sup> Regt. was raised in Paisley and was part of the force of British expedition under German Count William de la Lippe-Bückeburg to counter Spain's May 1762 invasion of Portugal following Britain's declaration of war in Jan. 1762.

Robertson transferred from the 115<sup>th</sup> Regt. to a Lieutenancy in Capt. William Robertson of Lude's Highland Independent Company effective on Sept 3, 1762. The annotated War Office copy of the annual Army List for 1761 indicates Capt. Robertson's Company was one of "*Two Highland Ind<sup>d</sup> Co<sup>s</sup>. Formed to go to Portugal.*" Lt. Robertson went out on Half-pay when the company was disbanded on Jan. 31, 1763.

Lt. Robertson came out of half-pay in Aug. 1775 to join the augmented 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. as it prepared for the American war. The Secretary at War wrote to Lord John Murray on Aug. 15, 1775 that "...*I have the honor to acquaint you that His Majesty has been pleased to appoint the Officers mentioned in the annexed List to be Lieutenants and Ensigns in the 42<sup>d</sup>/or Royal Highland/ Regiment of Foot under your Command in consequence of the intended augmentation...Lieut<sup>t</sup> John Robertson, from Half Pay, to be Lieutenant...*" Lord Barrington again wrote to Gen. Lord John Murray, Oct. 11, 1775 about Robertson's commission indicating "...*I herewith to answer to your Lordships a List of Notifications for your Regiment which have been issued from this Office,... To be Lieutenants...John Robertson, from half Pay in Cap<sup>t</sup> Robertson's Indep<sup>t</sup> Comp<sup>y</sup>...*"

Robertson served with a line battalion in the New York/New Jersey campaign of 1776-1777, the Philadelphia campaign of 1777-1778, the Raid on Portsmouth, Virginia in May 1779 and the occupation of Stony Point, New York in 1779.

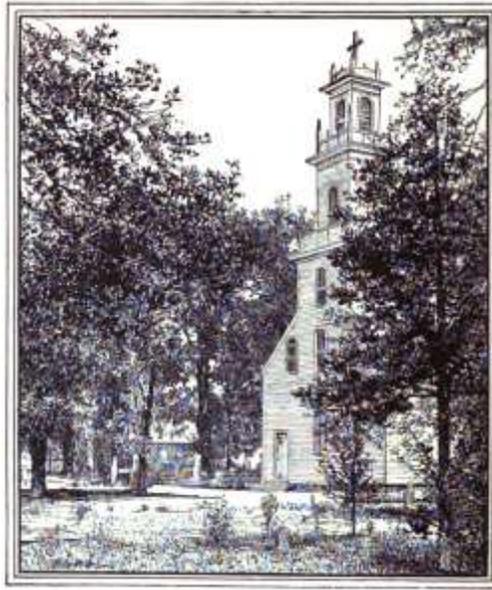
In March 1778, Robertson and fellow Lieutenant Normand MacLeod, wrote Gen. Sir William Howe for assistance in correcting an issue regarding the date of Lt. Alexander Munro's commission. They claimed to be senior to Munro, but he had produced a commission dated a month earlier than theirs. Robertson appears to be correct as the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Succession Book shows his commission date as "*29<sup>th</sup> Aug*" and Munro's as "*2<sup>d</sup> Sept.*"

In Nov. 1779 Robertson forward the memorial mentioned above to Sir Henry Clinton requesting a promotion to Captain. He described his service in the current American war writing "...*That he was present in Every Action the 42<sup>d</sup> was Engaged in, Since the Commencement of this most Unnatural Rebellion and is Just now One of the Oldest of His rank under your Excellency's Command ...*"



Reproduction 71<sup>st</sup> (Fraser's) Royal Highland Regt. Officer's Uniform Button

On April 18, 1780, five months after forwarding his memorial and the day before the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. arrived at the siege of Charleston, Lt. Robertson was promoted. General Orders for that day promoted him to Captain in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 71<sup>st</sup> Regt. (Fraser's Highlanders) in place of Capt. John M<sup>c</sup>Intosh's deceased cousin, Capt. Angus MacIntosh. The commission was effective as of Aug. 1779. Although a 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. muster report dated July 15, 1780 notes Robertson as "*Promoted 71st Reg<sup>t</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1779*" this information also appears to be backdated as Robertson was still listed on a Court Martial Board in New York on Feb. 22, 1780 as "*Lt. John Robertson 42<sup>nd</sup>*"



Old St. David's Episcopal Church, Cheraw Hill, site of Hospital of 71<sup>st</sup> Regt.

Picture Source: *The History of Methodism*, Vol. 1, by John Fletcher Hurst, D. D., Eaton & Mains, New York, 1903, Google Books, p. 416.

Capt. Robertson served in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 71<sup>st</sup> Highland Regt. for the remainder of the Siege of Charleston and remained in South Carolina after the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. returned to New York with Sir Henry Clinton in June 1780. Lord Cornwallis wrote to Lord Germaine from Camden on Aug. 20, 1780 about a movement of the 71<sup>st</sup> Highlanders in early June 1780. The General wrote "*...In order to protect the raising of Harrisons Corps & to awe a large tract of disaffected Country between the Pedee & Black River, I posted Major M<sup>c</sup>Arthur with the 71<sup>st</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> & a troop of Dragoons at Cheraw Hill on the Pedee... The Cheraw Hill was a post of great consequence, & had the Appearance of being healthy, but it proved so much the Contrary, & sickness came on so rapidly that in nine days at least two thirds of the 71<sup>st</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> were taken ill of Fevers & Agues, & rendered unfit for service... The Salvation of the 71<sup>st</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> as well as every other consideration determined his Lordship to withdraw the post at Cheraw Hill... Lord Rawdon waited for general Gates at Robertson's with the 23<sup>d</sup> 33<sup>d</sup>, 71<sup>st</sup> & volunteers of Ireland, who came up but not think proper to attack him; in the mean time His Lordship performed the arduous task of removing the sick of the 71<sup>st</sup> reg<sup>t</sup> to Camden.*"



Reconstruction of the Kershaw House, Historic Camden, Lord Cornwallis' Headquarters

Picture Source: Wikipedia

Capt. Robertson likely became sick at Cheraw Hill and returned with the sick to Camden. According to a strength report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 71<sup>st</sup> Regt from the night before the Battle of Camden, only one Captain, Charles Barrington, was present with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion at the battle on Aug. 16, 1780.

When Capt. Robertson left the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 71<sup>st</sup> Regt. in South Carolina is not documented. He was present with the battalion at Winnsboro, South Carolina on Jan. 12, 1781 when he signed an accounting document regarding funds from the previous commander of his company. Winnsboro is located about 33 miles northwest of Camden, S.C. A "*Cap<sup>t</sup> Robertson 71<sup>st</sup> ...*" was assigned to a court martial board in New York Feb. 14, 1781, but that order likely refers to Capt. David Robertson, 71<sup>st</sup> Regt., who was promoted from the Light Infantry in New York six days earlier.

General Orders in New York on June 6, 1781 announced Robertson retirement ordering "*...71<sup>st</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> Lieut Thom<sup>s</sup> Frazer, to be Capt<sup>n</sup> by purchase vice J Robinson who retires } 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 81...*" By the time those orders were issued Capt. Robertson had already sailed for Scotland as recorded in Capt. John Peebles' journal entry for May, 12, 1781 which read "*... 'Wrote a letter to R: M: [Richard Marshall] as I hear the paquet is to sail tomorrow, a number of passengers going, gave it to young Capt. Robertson 71<sup>st</sup>.'*"

Commissions: Adj. Approx. 1747 (Earl of Drumlanrig's Regt. of North British Auxiliaries in the Dutch Service); Lt. Oct. 18, 1761 (115<sup>th</sup> Regt. – Royal Scotch Lowlanders); Lt. Sept. 3, 1762 (Capt. William Robertson's Highland Independent Company); Lt. Half-Pay Jan 31, 1763 (Capt. William Robertson's Highland Independent Company); Lt. Aug. 29, 1775 (42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Capt. Apr. 18, 1780 – effective Aug. 24, 1779 (2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., 71<sup>st</sup> Highland Regt.); Retired Feb. 18, 1781 (2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., 71<sup>st</sup> Highland Regt.).

**Robertson, Lt. John:** *The Memorial of Lt. John Robertson to Gen. Sir Henry Clinton*, Sir Henry Clinton Papers 76:11, W. L. Clements Library, Univ. of Michigan; "The Scots Brigade" in *The Scottish Review*, Alex. Gardner, London, April 1884, pp. 262-266; "The Last Days of Brigade 1752-1782" in *Papers Illustrating the History of the Scots Brigade in the Service of the United Netherlands 1572-1782*, Vol. II 1698-1782, Ed. James Ferguson, Scottish History Society, Edinburgh, 1899, Google Books, pp. 389-390; 1774 Army List, p. 201; Dates of Robertson's early commissions from Dr. John Houlding's notes to Paul Pace; *Life and Correspondence of David Hume*, Vol. I, Ed. John Hill Burton, William Tait, Edinburgh, 1846, p. 245; *List of the Officers of the 42<sup>d</sup> or Royal Highland Regim<sup>t</sup> of Foot Commanded by the R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> Lord John Murray*, Lord John Murray Papers; TNA, Viscount Barrington to Lord John Murray, Aug. 15, 1775, *War Office: Out-letters* at WO 4/94, p. 136 and Oct. 11, 1775 at WO 4/94, pp. 384-6 (ff. 195-196); Viscount Barrington to John Robertson, Feb. 15, 1776 at WO 4/96, p. 106 (f. 53); TNA, Memorial of Lt. John Robertson and Lt.

Normand MacLeod to Sir William Howe, *War Office In-Letters, Military Commanders* at WO 1/10, p. 411 (f. 205) and p. 431 (f. 215), memorial also filed at *Baron Jeffrey Amherst, Commander in Chief, Papers* at WO 34/188; TNA, Court Martial of Ens. John Lawrence of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, NJ Volunteers, President Maj. John Small, 84<sup>th</sup> Regt. dated Feb. 22, 1780, *War Office: Courts Martial Proceedings* at WO71/91, pp. 201-213; Muster of Lt. Col. Duncan Macpherson's Company, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., Valentines Hill, July 15, 1780; General Orders, William's House, South Carolina on Apr. 18, 1780 and at New York on Feb. 8, 14 and June 6, 1781; E-mail from E. Brumby to P. Pace dated Nov. 14, 2006; *The Campaign in Virginia 1781, An exact Reprint of Six rare Pamphlets on the Clinton – Cornwallis Controversy*, Ed. Benjamin Franklin Stevens, London, 1888, Google Books, pp. 241-363; NRS, Note by Capt. John Robertson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., 71<sup>st</sup> Regt. on Company Account Sheet for Deceased Capt. Angus Macintosh, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., 71<sup>st</sup> Regt., Winnsboro, South Carolina, Jan. 12, 1781, *Letters concerning Capt. Angus McIntosh, 71st Highlands, Kyllachy, 1769-1784* at GD1238/48/11; *London Gazette* for July 15, 1780 p. 5 and Sept. 29, 1781 p. 1. *Peebles' Journal* entry for May 12, 1781.



John Robertson  
Lieut. 71<sup>st</sup> Regt.

Signature Source: TNA, *Guy Carleton, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Dorchester: Papers* at PRO 30/55/59, p. 226.

**Robertson**, Ens. John. Born around 1763 Robertson was the second son of James Robertson, 12<sup>th</sup> of Lude (in Blair-Atholl.) and his wife Margaret Mercer, only daughter of the Hon. Robert Nairne Mercer of Meikleour, who was a Colonel in the Jacobite Army of 1745 and fell at the Battle of Culloden. Ens. Robertson's uncle was Capt. Lt. John Robertson, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. who died in 1773. Robertson's older brother was Brevet-Maj. William Robertson, Younger of Lude, 36<sup>th</sup> Regt., who served in Ireland during the war.

Robertson was commissioned Ensign in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. on Nov. 5, 1778 (effective Oct. 18) in place of Adj. and Ens. Hugh Fraser, who was promoted to Lieutenant. The General Order from New York promoting Robertson lists him as "*Volunteer John Robertson*" and a listing of officer promotions from the regimental agent to Gen. Lord Murray also lists him as "*John Robertson Vol'*..." The volunteer designation indicates he was serving in the ranks without pay while waiting for preferment. Robertson was likely serving as a volunteer in an Additional Company in Scotland as upon receiving his commission, he was assigned to one of the Additional Companies on the Recruiting Service.

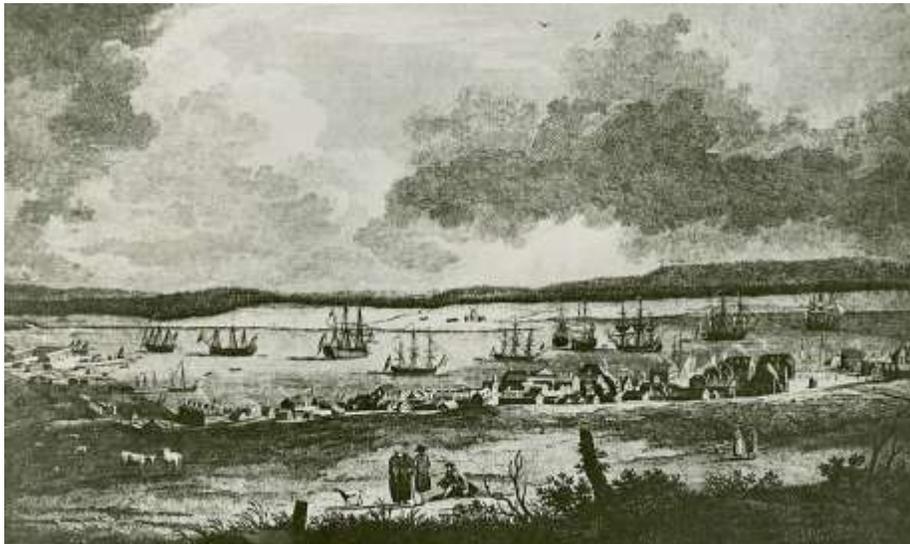
A letter from Robertson's mother, Margaret Robertson, to Charlotte Murray, Wife of John Robertson of Lude discusses his brief commission in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. writing "*...Dear Madam...when your son was disappointed in his expectations for John getting a commission in the Athole Highlanders, he wrote to William to see if it was possible, an ensigncy in an old Reg<sup>t</sup> abroad could be got to purchase with leave of absence for a year at least. Just before Wil: left America, he wrote to his father ... procured an En<sup>y</sup> for John through the good offices of Col Stirling in the 42<sup>d</sup> without purchase – you know John was already provided, Williams good friend and ours M<sup>r</sup> David Gordon, after my son left New York, through Sir William Erskine's good offices purchased a lieutenantcy for £100 for John in Frasers ...*"



Reproduction 71<sup>st</sup> (Fraser's) Highland Regt. Officer's Uniform Button

About two and a half weeks after 15-year old Robertson was commissioned Ensign, Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 71<sup>st</sup> Regt. wrote to Adj. General Francis, Lord Rawdon in New York on Nov. 23, 1778 to recommend Robertson for further promotion. Campbell wrote "*Sir William Erskine having particularly recommended Ensign Jn<sup>o</sup>. Robertson of the 42<sup>d</sup>: Regt. to purchase the Lieut<sup>cy</sup>. in the 71<sup>st</sup>: vice [Charles] Moir who has lately purchased into the 23<sup>d</sup>: Regiment; I beg leave to support the recommendation for M<sup>r</sup>. Robertson in preference that of any other Officer...*" Less than a month later, General Orders in New York for Dec. 9, 1778 announced "*The Commander in Chief is pleased to Make the following Promotions...71<sup>st</sup> Regiment Ens<sup>n</sup> John Robertson from 42d Regiment to Lieutenant by purchase vice Moir [Charles Mair] preferred. } 8<sup>th</sup> Nov 1778.*"

After his promotion into the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 71<sup>st</sup> Highland Regt., Robertson remained in Scotland on the Recruiting Service for the next four years. On Sept. 10, 1782, General Orders were issued in New York restructuring the 71<sup>st</sup> Highland Regt. into two separate regiments. The troops in America and Additional Companies still in Newfoundland were titled the "*71<sup>st</sup> Regt.*" and the Additional Companies in Scotland under Lt. Col. Alexander, Earl Balcarres were named the "*2<sup>d</sup> 71<sup>st</sup> Regiment.*" The officers of the two battalions were split between the two regiments and Robertson (misnamed as "*John Robinson*") was listed as one of the Lieutenants of the "*71<sup>st</sup> Regt.*" in America.



*The Town and Harbour of Halifax in Nova Scotia looking down George Street to the opposite shore called Dartmouth, Richard Short, 1759*

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

Lt. Robertson sailed for America in a fleet with detachments for different regiments and reached Halifax, Nova Scotia, in the summer of 1782. Robertson did duty in Halifax until December of that year when he was sent to New York to join a detachment of 71<sup>st</sup> Highlanders who had been ordered to serve with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. at Paulus Hook, New Jersey on June 3, 1782.

In May 1783, the officers and men of the 71<sup>st</sup> Highland Regt. that had been taken prisoners at Yorktown, Virginia in 1781 were liberated and Robertson took the detachment from Paulus Hook to join them on Long Island. He was present for a muster of the detachment of the 71<sup>st</sup> Regt. at "*Camp near new Town Creek 9<sup>th</sup> May 1783.*"

Robertson's mother received a letter from him in late 1783, which indicated that he had given in a claim for his proportion of land in Nova Scotia and that if he fails in his military expectations he would turn farmer. In Nov. 1783, he embarked for Scotland with such men of the regiment as declined enlisting in other corps or residing in the settlements in Canada. He arrived at Greenock in Dec. 1783 and marched to Perth, the station of the Head Quarters of the regiment. Robertson went out on Half-Pay when the 71<sup>st</sup> Highland Regt. was disbanded on June 3, 1784. When the regiment was disbanded Robertson went on a trip to the continent, travelling to France and Germany before returning to Britain through Holland.



Reproduction 55<sup>th</sup> Regt. Uniform Button

The War Office announced Robertson's return to active service on June 17, 1786 writing in the *London Gazette* "55<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot, Lieutenant John Robertson from Half-Pay of the 71<sup>st</sup> Regiment, to be Lieutenant, vice Francis Grant" and Robertson joined the 55<sup>th</sup> or Westmoreland Regt. at Deal (on the coast of Kent) in March 1787.

Three years later, in 1790, Robertson took action to obtain a Company by raising men for an Independent Company and received his commission in Jan. 1791. The Independent Companies raised in 1791 were part of a recruiting effort by the Secretary of War, and the men were immediately drafted into the line regiments. The officers were placed on half pay within about a month of initial commission.

On Mar. 1, 1793, John Robertson was commissioned Captain in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Perthshire Fencibles, where his older brother William served as Major. The headquarters was at Dumfries, with one company at Annan, two companies at Kirkcudbright and two companies at Wigtown. In March 1794 the battalion was ordered to Dundee where it was reviewed June 16, 1794. It later served with its headquarters at Banff and was reduced in size in Dec. 1794.

On March 28, 1795 the War Office announced the formation of a new Fencible regiment under the command of Robertson's brother, Maj. William Robertson of Lude, writing "*Perth (Highland) Regiment of Fencibles. Major William Robertson, from an Independent Company, to be Colonel...Captain John Robertson, from Half-Pay of the Late Independent Companies, to be Lieutenant-Colonel...*" His temporary commission was dated Oct. 30, 1794. The Perth Highland Fencibles were raised chiefly for service in Ireland, and were disbanded at Preston, Lancashire on Feb. 27, 1799. Lt. Col. Robertson then returned to Half-Pay as a Captain in the Independent Companies.

A few years later, on Jan. 21, 1804, the War Office announced the formation of a militia organization in Lude under the Command of Capt. Robertson's brother. The announcement read "*Loyal Clandonachy Volunteers. Colonel William Robertson to be Major-Commandant. Lude or 1st Company. John Robertson, Esq; to be Captain...*" The "*Loyal Clandonachy Volunteers*" was to consist of two infantry companies from Lude and Glenerachy armed with pikes and one mounted artillery company. "*Clandonachy*" is synonymous with Clan Donnachaidh to which the Robertsons were attached. In Sept. 1804, Col. Robertson resigned command to take a staff position, and Capt. Robertson was appointed Major-Commandant. The "*Loyal Clandonachy Volunteers*" began to drill and uniforms were ordered, but attendance at the required drills was so poor the unit was never officially embodied.

The next year on July 23, 1805, the War Office announced “53d Ditto [Regiment of Foot], *Captain John Robertson from the Half-Pay of Independents, to be Captain of a Company, vice [Richard Henry] Tolson, who exchanges*” and Robertson joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 53<sup>rd</sup> or the Shropshire Regt. on Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> at Galway, Ireland. He was brevetted Major “*in the Army*” on Nov. 19, 1805 and Lt. Col. Apr. 25, 1808 while serving in the Shropshire Regt. In at least one of the histories of that regiment, Robertson is listed as “*Capt. John Robinson.*”

Robertson’s service in Portugal is documented in *The Royal Calendar, or Army Service and Commission Book* of 1820. Robertson “...embarked with the 53<sup>rd</sup> Regt. in March, 1809, for Portugal, and landed on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April; he marched with it from Coimbra, and entered Oporto on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May, and was present-at the battle of Talavera, where he had the command of two Companies of the 53d. In Sept., 1810, he was present at the action of Busaco; was with the army in pursuit of the French from the lines of Torres Vedras on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March, 1811. He was present at the action of Fuentes d’Onor in the beginning of May, 1811; crossed the Tormes by a ford on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June, 1812, the bridge being in possession of the French, who had fortified two convents that commanded it in Salamanca; and was engaged in the siege of those places until the 27<sup>th</sup>, when they surrendered. He was severely wounded on the 22<sup>d</sup> of July, near Salamanca, and obliged to retire to that town, being the first time he had been absent from the regiment in the Peninsula. He rejoined on the 6<sup>th</sup> of Oct., finding his corps was engaged in the siege of Burgos, and arrived in time for his turn of duty in the trenches...”

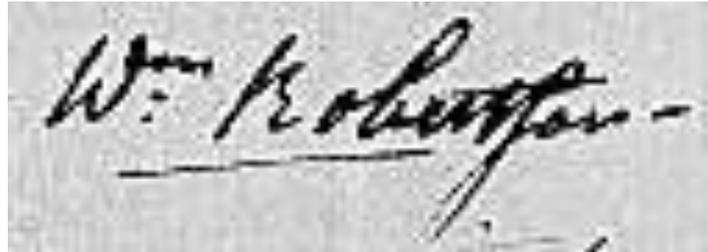
Robertson received permission to return home Oct. 29, 1812 and on Dec. 15, 1812, the War Office announced “53d Ditto [Regiment of Foot], *Lieutenant John Stone to be Captain of a Company, without purchase, vice Robertson, appointed Inspecting Field Officer of...[the Manchester] Recruiting District.*” He was promoted to Colonel “*in the Army*” June 14, 1814 and was listed as being on half pay of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Regt. in an 1820 Army commissions list.

Robertson drowned in the River Tilt, which flows through Blair Atholl, in 1820. *Blackwood’s Edinburgh Magazine* for September 1820 recorded Robertson’s death writing “[Deaths] Aug. 18. At Lude, Colonel John Robertson.”

Commissions: Volunteer Pre-1778 (1<sup>st</sup> Additional Company, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Ens. Nov. 5, 1778 – effective Oct. 19, 1778 (1<sup>st</sup> Additional Company, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Lt. Dec. 9, 1778 – effective Nov. 8, 1778 (1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 71<sup>st</sup> Highland Regt.); Lt. Sept. 10, 1782 –effective Apr. 25, 1782 (71<sup>st</sup> Highland Regt.); Lt. Half pay June 4, 1784 (71<sup>st</sup> Highland Regt.); Lt. June 2, 1786 (55<sup>th</sup> or the Westmoreland Regt.); Capt. Jan. 24, 1791 (Independent Company); Capt. Half-pay Jan. 1791 (Independent Company); Capt. Mar. 1, 1793 (2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Perthshire Fencibles); Lt. Col. Oct. 30, 1794 (Perth Highland Regt. of Fencibles – disbanded 1799); Maj. “*in the army*” Jan. 1, 1798; Capt. Half-pay Feb. 27, 1799 (Independent Company); Capt. Jan. 21, 1804 (Loyal Clandonachy Volunteers); Maj. Commandant Sept. 1804 (Loyal Clandonachy Volunteers); Capt. July 18, 1805 (2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., 53<sup>rd</sup> or the Shropshire Regt.); Lt. Col. “*in the Army*” Apr. 25, 1808; Inspecting Field Officer to the Manchester Recruiting District Dec. 15, 1812; Col. “*in the Army*” June 4, 1814.

**References:** E-mail from E. Brumby to P. Pace dated Nov. 14, 2006; NRS, *Papers of the Robertson Family of Lude, Perthshire* at GD132/767, items 2 and 4, transcribed by Ed. Brumby; *Genealogy of the Robertson, Small and Related Families*, Archibald Robertson Small, M.D., Albert Garret Small, Indianapolis (IN), 1907, Google Books, p. 24; “Robertson of Lude (2<sup>nd</sup> Family)” in *The Clan Donnachaidh, a genealogical account*, author unknown, p. 23 at the Clan Donnachaidh website at [www.donnachaidh.com](http://www.donnachaidh.com); Biography of John Robertson, Yr. of Lude in McCulloch, *Sons of the Mountains*, Vol. II, p. 29; *London Gazette*, Mar. 6-9, 1779 pp. 1-2, Mar. 16-20, 1779 p. 1, June 13, 1786, p. 2, Jan. 29-Feb. 1, 1791, pp. 1-3, Mar. 28, 1795, pp. 2-3, Jan. 17-21, 1804, p. 5, July 20, 1805, pp. 2; Nov. 16, 1805, pp. 4-6, May 3, 1808, pp. 2, 4, Dec. 12-15, 1812, pp. 1-2 and June 7, 1814, pp. 8-10; General Orders, New York, Nov. 5, 1778, Dec. 9, 1778, June 3, 1782, and Sept. 10, 1782; *List of the Officers of the 42<sup>d</sup> or Royal Highland Regiml of Foot Commanded by the R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> Genl Lord John Murray, Lord John Murray Papers*; Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell to Lord

Rawdon, Nov. 23, 1778, *Sir Henry Clinton Papers*, Vol. 46:26. William L. Clements Library, Univ. of Michigan; *Historical Record of the Fifty-third, or the Shropshire Regiment of Foot*, Richard Cannon, Parker, Furnivall, & Parker, London, 1849, Google Books, p. 39; TNA, *War Office, Out-letters*, W04/275, pp. 170-172 (ff. 87-88); *The Royal Calendar, or Army Service and Commission Book*, Third Edition, Vol. IV, T. Egerton, London, 1820, Google Books, pp. 199-201; *A Military History of Perthshire, 1660-1902*, Ed. The Marchioness of Tullibardine, R. A. & J. Hay, Perth, 1908, Google Books, pp. 157-159, 178, 222, 226-227; TNA, *Commission Books* at WO 25/34 p. 147 and at WO 25/116, Part 2, p.238; *Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine*, Vol. VII, No. XLII, September 1820, William Blackwood, Edinburgh, 1820, Google Books, p. 706.

A black and white photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature reads "W. Robertson" and is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. The signature is written in a fluid, somewhat slanted style characteristic of the 18th century.

Signature Source: TNA, *Returns of Officers' Services* at WO 25/772, f. 179.

**Robertson M. D.**, Surg. William. Born in Scotland about 1752, Robertson joined the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. as a Surgeon's Mate while the regiment was serving in Ireland. His 1828 pension application indicates he "...purchased the Mateship 42<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> in 1773 for 100 Guineas..." He is often referred to as "Robinson" in period documents but although the records show confusion on his last name, his signature shown above shows the correct spelling. Roberson was the son of a "Mr. Robertson," an Ayr schoolmaster. A later biography accompanying artist John Kay's 18<sup>th</sup> century portrait of Edinburgh bookseller William Martin notes that Martin's second wife, Miss Katherine Robertson, was the "...daughter of Mr Robertson, schoolmaster in Ayr. She had a brother many years surgeon in the 42<sup>d</sup> Highlanders." Mr. Robertson is likely the same schoolmaster in Ayr who taught Latin to the famous Scottish poet Robert Burns around 1773.

Arriving in America with the regiment in 1776, Mate Robertson served with the line battalions in New York/New Jersey campaign of 1776-1777 and the Philadelphia campaign of 1777. After the Battle of Brandywine, Pennsylvania on Sept. 11, 1777, Surg. Alexander Potts left the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. to join the Army General Hospital and Dr. Robertson was promoted to Surgeon. Dr. Robertson was an occasional dinner and drinking companion of Capt. John Peebles. He remained with the regiment for the remainder of the American war including the Raid on Portsmouth, Virginia and the occupation of Stony Point, New York in 1779, the Siege of Charleston, South Carolina in 1780 and the relief attempt for Cornwallis' army in 1781. He left New York with the regiment to sail to Nova Scotia in Oct. 1783 at the end of the American war.

Dr. Robertson was listed present for the regimental muster at Halifax on Jan. 17, 1784 and the regimental review conducted in June of that year. Robertson returned to Britain on leave after that review. An undated list of approved leaves of Absence from the Spring of 1785 includes "...Surgeon [William] Robertson...} of 42<sup>d</sup>. Reg<sup>t</sup>. { 6 Months each from Expiration of their former Leaves..." and a similar list dated "W. O. 4<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>ry</sup>: 1786" includes "...Surg<sup>n</sup>. Robertson...of 42<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>: 1<sup>st</sup> B<sup>n</sup>: 6 Months from 3<sup>d</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>: 1785 P[rivate]. A[ffairs]." His leave was further extended by the War Office in Apr. 1786 by General Orders which reported "Leaves of Absence ... Surgeon Robertson of 42<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>: 1<sup>st</sup>: B<sup>n</sup>. till the 1<sup>st</sup>: July 86: Private Affairs." Robertson was noted in the *Nova Scotia Gazette and Weekly Chronicle* as returning to Halifax on Sept. 5, 1786 on the ship *Friendship*.

When Surg. Robertson returned to Canada, he was stationed with most of the battalion near the town of Sydney, on Cape Breton Island. He became highly regarded in the area for providing medical treatment following the Dec. 10, 1788 shipwreck of the ship *Providence*, which left 76 convicts washed up on the shore near the town. A letter from Lt. Governor Macarmick to Lord Sydney dated Mar. 18, 1789 noted that Dr. Robertson had taken the convicts under his care and had attended and dispensed medicine to all the inhabitants of Sydney for two years without charging a fee. In Aug. 1789 he returned to Britain with the regiment, landing at Portsmouth in Oct. 1789.

Surg. Robertson left the regiment in 1793 as announced by the War Office on June 18, which wrote “*HOSPITAL STAFF...To be Apothecaries to the Forces in Great Britain...Surgeon William Robertson, from the 42d Foot...*” His pension application adds that “*...During the Winter [he] did the duty of Phys<sup>n</sup>: at the York Hosp<sup>l</sup>:*”

It appears that Robertson also treated private patients while serving as the Forces Apothecary. He wrote Former Capt. John Peebles from London on Feb. 19, 1795 that “*The death of my patient having dissolved my connection with the family at Draycot & put 130 £ in my pocket I returned to town just in time to be put on duty at Chelsea in a Hosp<sup>l</sup>. lately fitted up for the reception of Sick & wounded from the Continent...*” Draycott is a small town in Somerset, about 140 miles west of London.

Robertson remained as Forces Apothecary until Mar. 21, 1795. On that day the War Office announced “*HOSPITAL STAFF... for the Forces on Foreign Service...William Robertson, Apothecary to the Forces in Great Britain, to be Purveyor to the Hospitals for the Said Forces.*” A purveyor was the commissary officer for a hospital and provided food and medical supplies. Robertson’s pension application mentions that he served “*...In the Eastern District at the Cape of Good Hope.*” He was reduced on Half-pay in Mar. 1799 and that section of the annual Army List for Feb. 1800 includes the listing “*CAPE OF GOOD HOPE...Purveyor William Robertson...*”



The Paragon, Bath, 2008, by Stephen McKay

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

After going out on Half-pay, Dr. Robertson set up private practice in Bath, England, living at 14 Paragon Road. He wrote his friend former Capt. John Peebles from that city on Dec. 20, 1799 that “*...In Sept<sup>r</sup> I got in to my house – I have fitted up very comfortably an entry parlour & study also two bed rooms one of*

*which I mean for you or any other very old particular friend who may favor me with their company \_ I have an excellent Kitchen a good Cellar, the latter tho but ill supplied still contains a few Bottles of good Port ... My house stands me fully 1200 £ & furniture cost about £ 1450 ... ”*

In a second letter from Bath to Capt. Peebles on Apr. 28, 1800, Dr. Robertson reported that he was considering marriage indicating “... *I see a prospect of soon entering into that State. Such is my situation that by doing so I must increase my expences considerably or alter my whole plan. Altho I have more than I can expect Still I find it requires very strict œconomy to support the necessary respectability upon my income an increase of expenditure would force me to break in upon my Capital & in the event of a family would prevent me either raising them as I would wish if alive or leaving the Widow & them enough for their support at 177£ a y<sup>r</sup> would in that case fall immediately To marry for the sake of money alone I cannot allow myself to think of it, for a moment; & if I did a man of 48 is not likely to meet with a fortune possesses by a woman whose age or manners promise happiness in the married State & outthink by age I mean Young; If I should ever be so lost to all sense of propriety as to Solicit one who is more than 10 y<sup>rs</sup>: Younger than Myself I hope I may meet with such a rebuff as to make me sensible of my folly – Its true we every day see Old fools united with Young girls, but alas we also too often see them smart for their folly – Don’t imagine me adverse to matrimony far from it: I am confident there is no real happiness except in that State, but it is a frivolous experiment, no medicine either is certain & have of happiness or excess of Misery will be the consequence ... ”*

Forty-eight year-old Dr. Robertson sent another letter to Capt. Peebles from Bath the next year on Mar. 23, 1801 advising him of his pending marriage on Apr. 4 to 23 year-old Miss Anne Bower, daughter of Edmund Bower, Esq. of Ensham-house, near Cranbourn, Dorset. Robertson wrote “...*I take up the pen to inform you that I shall soon enter into the married state with a lady turned 23 who was my first acquaintance in Bath. The propriety of the choice made, time will shew. If a very sincere & warm mutual affection which has existed for a year & a half is my pledge of [illeg.] current happiness I am sure of it – She has no fortune at present but she has secured upon the death of an old Uncle & Aunt 2 to 3000 £ which will be something for Children should there be any... ”*

Dr. Robertson and his wife had six children (Elizabeth – born 1802, William – 1803, Catherine Ann, 1806 – 1878, Anne – 1807, Sophia – 1810 and Harriot – 1817.)



*A meeting of the College of Physicians, by Thomas Rowlandson, 1808.*

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

Robertson died at age 84 at Bath. *The Roll of the Royal College of Physicians of London* gives his death in their listing that reads: “*William Robertson, MD... was admitted a Licentiate of the College of*

*Physicians 30th September, 1785. He died at Bath 19th January, 1837.*” Robertson’s wife, Anne, died at Bath at age 72 on July 19, 1843.

Commissions: Surgeon’s Mate 1773; Surgeon Sept. 11, 1777; Apothecary to the Forces in Great Britain June 14, 1793 (Hospital Staff); Purveyor to the Hospitals for the Forces on Foreign Service Mar. 18, 1795 (Cape of Good Hope); Purveyor Half-pay Mar. 25, 1799 (Cape of Good Hope).

**References:** TNA, *Returns of Officers’ Services* at WO 25/772, f. 179; *A Series of Original Portraits and Caricature Etchings, by the late John Kay, Miniature Painter, Edinburgh, Vol. I, Part I*, Printed by Hugh Paton, Edinburgh, 1842, p. 142; *The Works of Robert Burns*, Vol. V, Ed. The Ettrick Shepherd and William Motherwell, Archibald Fullarton, and Co., Glasgow, 1836, Google Books, p. 45-46; British General Orders dated at “*Camp on the Heights of Brandywine*,” on Sept. 13, 1777; TNA, Muster of Gen. Lord John Murray’s Company at Halifax, N.S., Jan. 17, 1784, *War Office: General Muster Books and Pay Lists, 42nd Foot* at WO 12/5479 f.131; TNA, “*General Return of the Country, Size, Age & Time of Service of the Men of His Majesty’s 42nd or Royal Highland Regiment of Foot, Commanded by General Lord John Murray Including Serjeants, Corporals, and Drummers. Reviewed by Major General John Campbell Halifax 9th June 1784*,” *War Office: Adjutant General and Army Council, Inspection Returns, Foreign, 1783-1784* at WO 27/52; General Orders, Halifax, Approx. Apr. 26, 1786, *The Edward Winslow Letters*, Vol. 9, p. 57, Atlantic Canada Virtual Archives, Univ. of New Brunswick; TNA, *War Office: Out-letters* at WO 4/276, p. 48, 94-95 (f. 48); *Surgeons Smallpox and the Poor, A History of Medicine and Social Conditions in Nova Scotia, 1749-1799*, Allan Everett Marble, McGill-Queen’s University Press, Montreal, 1993, Google Books, p. 164; *London Gazette* for June 15-18, 1793, pp. 3-4 and March 17-21, 1795, pp. 2,4; NRS, “*Letters from Doctor William Robertson to Major John Peebles at Irvine*,” *Papers of the Cuninghame Family of Thornton* at GD21/401/1-4; *Roll of Commissioned Officers in the Medical Service of the British Army... 20 June 1727 to 23 June 1898*, Col. William Johnson, C. B., Aberdeen University Press, Aberdeen, 1917, p. xxxiii.; *Gentleman’s Magazine*, Apr. 1801, p. 371; *Roll of Commissioned Officers in the Medical Service of the British Army... 20 June 1727 to 23 June 1898*, Col. William Johnston, Aberdeen University Press, Aberdeen, 1917, p. 49; TNA, *A List of the Officers of the Army and Marines*, War Office, London, Feb. 1800, p. 62; *The Currier* (London), May 20, 1837, p. 4; *The Roll of the Royal College of Physicians of London*, Vol. II, 1701 to 1800, William Munk, M. D., Published by the College, London, 1878, Google Books, p. 358; *Gentleman’s Magazine*, Sept. 1843, p. 331.



**Rollo**, Lt. Robert. Rollo was born Nov. 28, 1758, the son of Hon. Clement Sobieski Rollo (son of Robert, 4<sup>th</sup> Lord Rollo) and his wife Amelia Maria Irving, eldest daughter of John Irving of Bonshaw. Lt. Rollo’s uncle was Capt. Robert Irving of the 70<sup>th</sup> Regt.



Reproduction 60<sup>th</sup> or Royal American Regt. Uniform Button

In Oct. 1775, Rollo was serving as a Volunteer in the 60<sup>th</sup> or Royal American Regt. when the Secretary at War notified Lord John Murray on Oct. 11, 1775 about a delay in his commission writing “...*I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship’s Letter of the 2<sup>d</sup>. Instant, with an annexed List of Officers of the Royal Highland Regiment of Foot, under your Command.... Robert Rollo’s Appointment is also delayed, as a Gentleman of Name is lately notified for the Royal American Regiment....Your Lordship will be pleased to acquaint me if Lord Rollo’s Son, the Gentleman you recommend is not Appointed an Ensign in the Royal Americans...*” The War Office incorrectly identified Rollo as Lord

Rollo's son when he was in fact Lord Rollo's grandson. The annotated War Office copy of the Annual List for 1775, on the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 60<sup>th</sup> Regt. page shows Rollo's name written in as a replacement for Ens. Spencer Briscoe (promoted Sept. 23, 1775) but no date is written for Rollo's transaction, indicating it had not been finalized. The problem being resolved, Rollo's commission in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. was back dated to Aug. 26, 1775, the date of Patrick Graham's promotion to Lieutenant.

Ens. Rollo initially served with a line battalion in the New York/New Jersey campaign of 1776-1777 and the Philadelphia campaign of 1777-1778 and was promoted to Lieutenant in May 1777 in place of Lt. James Graham who joined the 57<sup>th</sup> Regt. This transaction can be confusing as Lt. Graham replaced a retiring Captain of the 57<sup>th</sup> Regt. also named Robert Rollo.

Rollo's promotion to Lieutenant was over the head of Lt. John Campbell, whose father complained to the War Department that "... *Ensign Rob<sup>t</sup>. Rollo who was still a younger Ensign than [Alexander] M<sup>c</sup>Leod got a Lieutenancy in the Reg<sup>t</sup>., both over the head of my Son, and now I am obliged to pay £550. Sterling for a Lieutenancy for my Son...*" The Secretary of War forwarded Campbell's complaint to Gen. Sir William Howe, the Commander-in-Chief in America for resolution writing "...*I am to acquaint you that M<sup>r</sup> Campbell's Appointment to an Ensigncy having taken place a considerable time before those of the other Ensigns notified on the Augmentation, altho' by some Mistake his Commission was dated later than those of Ensigns M<sup>c</sup>Leod, Rollo, Lord W<sup>m</sup> Murray, and [Alexander] Stewart, the King was pleased to direct that he should have his proper Rank given him: which was accordingly done by a New Commission bearing date the 10<sup>th</sup> of August 1775.*" General Orders were issued in Philadelphia on Mar. 9, 1778 quoting Lord Barrington's letter as the basis for correcting Lt. Campbell's commission date.

Rollo was married to Janet Græme (daughter of James Græme, of Garvock and Mary Nisnet). He likely had his wife with him in America as Grenadier Capt. John Peebles noted a dinner with Rollo's uncle, Capt. Robert Irving, on Sept. 28, 1779 saying he "*din'd at Capt. Irvings with Rollo & his wife; very well...*"

In Aug. 1778 Rollo transferred to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company and embarked with that company at New York on Dec. 19, 1779 for the voyage to Charleston, South Carolina. He took part in the successful siege which resulted in the surrender of the rebel garrison on May 12, 1780. After the siege, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadiers returned to New York with Gen. Sir Henry Clinton arriving at Staten Island on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

By the middle of July 1780 Rollo expressed an interest in leaving the army as Capt. Peebles wrote in his journal on the 18<sup>th</sup> that he "*Had a conversation with Cap<sup>t</sup> Irving about Rollo, to advise him against quitting the Army &ca.*" Peebles attempts were unsuccessful and Rollo retired from the regiment about two months later on Sept. 6, 1780. Maj. Charles Graham, who commanded the regiment at that time, wrote Sir Henry Clinton from Greenwich on Aug. 30, 1780 to explain the reason for Rollo's resignation. Graham wrote "... *that Lieuten<sup>t</sup> Robert Rollo of the 42<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>. finding himself much incumbered with a Wife & encreasing family, is desirous to retire from the Army...*" Rollo's reasons for leaving the army may not have been entirely correct, for soon after leaving the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. he joined a new provincial regiment commanded by the American traitor, Benedict Arnold.



Detail of Engraving of Benedict Arnold by H. B. Hall after John Trumbull, published 1879

Picture Source: Wikipedia Commons

Soon after Arnold attempted to turn over his post at West Point to the British and then deserted from the rebel army, the newly commissioned Brig. General in the British Army began recruiting in the New York area on Oct. 20, 1780. Arnold was commissioned to lead a joint infantry-cavalry Loyalist regiment called the American Legion, and Rollo likely began assisting in that recruitment to raise 30 men to secure a Captaincy. Just two months after Lt. Rollo retired from the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. he was commissioned Captain of one of the Infantry companies of the Legion on Nov. 8, 1780.

About six weeks later, on Dec. 21, Capt. Rollo and the American Legion sailed as part of an 1800 man force under Brig. Gen. Arnold for Virginia. Gen. Sir Henry Clinton wrote that the purpose of Arnold's expedition was "...to endeavor to destroy the stores collected at the head of James River for the supply of [Maj. Gen. Horatio] Gates [rebel] army, and to lay hold of some convenient post at its mouth for covering frigates..." When Maj. Gen. William Phillips and his command arrived in Virginia in April 1781, Arnold and the American Legion came under Phillips' command and the joint force took part in the successful Battle of Petersburg, Virginia on Apr. 25, 1781. After Maj. Gen. Phillips died on May 12 and his troops joined forces with Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis on May 20, Arnold and the Legion returned to New York in June.



Detail of "A Sketch of New London & Groton with the Attacks made on Forts Trumbull & Griswold by the British Troops under the Command of Brig': Gen': Arnold, Sep': 6<sup>th</sup>: 1781.

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons from U.S. Lib. of Congress, Geography & Map Div., ID g3784n.ar102700.

After returning to New York, Rollo and the Legion guarded the left flank of the column during Arnold's approach march to attack New London, Connecticut on Sept. 4.

About a year later and after Brig. Gen. Arnold had sailed for England, the Legion was reorganized to reduce the number of infantry companies and Rollo's company was disbanded. On Aug. 2, 1782, Rollo was seconded to another assignment. At New York, Capt. Rollo and two other captains of the American Legion unsuccessfully memorialized Gen. Sir Henry Clinton on Sept. 3, 1782 for reinstatement in the "...situation they were before His Excellency's approbation of the reform, by which they are seconded, was put into practice."

After the peace treaty with Congress, most of the loyalist units were offered land in Nova Scotia in return for their service and plans were made to embark for that location. Gen. Sir Guy Carleton's General Orders from at New York, on Aug. 17, 1783 directed "... The...American Legion...are to hold themselves in readiness to Embark for Nova Scotia, where on their arrival those Corps will be disbanded unless any of them should chuse to be dismissed at this place."

A letter from the War Office to the Treasury dated Aug. 11, 1784 listed "*Officers of the British American Forces placed in Half Pay and Allowance*" and included "...Seconded Officers from 25<sup>th</sup>. Oct'. 1783... American Legion Captains ... Robert Rollo to Dec' 18<sup>th</sup> ..."

Capt. Rollo was initially granted 250 acres in Clements Township of Annapolis County, Nova Scotia in 1784. Clements Township was located between Digby and Annapolis Townships and in 1801 he was granted 350 acres in Digby Township. A "*Muster Roll of Disbanded Officer, discharged and Disbanded Soldiers and Loyalists taken in the County of Annapolis, betwixt the 18<sup>th</sup>. and 24<sup>th</sup>. of June 1784...*" listed "*Cap'. Rob'. Rollo ...Disbanded Officer Am<sup>n</sup> Legion Settling at Bear River...*" Strangely Capt. Rollo's party consisted only of one man (Rollo) and two servants above the age of ten. The "*Wife & encreasing family*" mentioned above by Maj. Graham did not accompany Rollo. Bear River, a small village situated at the head of the tidewaters of the Bear River on the border between Annapolis and Digby counties of Nova Scotia.

Just a few weeks later, on July 30, 1784 John Robinson conducted a muster of Loyalists in Clements Township and provided a report to Col. Edward Winslow, Secretary to Maj. Gen. John Campbell writing "*Annapolis Royal, July 18, 1784. Sir,-Having received Major-General Campbell's Instructions to muster the disbanded Caps. [sic] and Loyalists at Annapolis, Digby, and the places adjacent, after consulting with the Commanding Officer at Annapolis on the most speedy and effectual method of performing that duty, I proceeded to Digby, and on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May, mustered the Loyalists and other settlers there. I have the honour to enclose a copy of the Muster. Rolls...MUSTER FOR CLEMENTS was taken at Annapolis, July 30, 1784, by M'. Robinson; from which items concerning those within the present Township of Hillsburgh are taken... To these may be added Captain Robert Rollo 2 [Rollo plus a servant]; a discharged Officer of the 'American Legion'...*"

On Dec. 11, 1784 of that year remarried in Digby to Lydia McAlpine also of Digby. The status of Rollo's first wife and children have not been determined.

In Feb. 1793 Whitehall wrote to the Lt. Governor of Nova Scotia that "*The persons exercising the supreme authority in France had declared war against the king of England on the first of that month...*"

Lt. Gov. Wentworth notified London on May 2<sup>nd</sup> that Maj. Thomas Barclay “...being named for lieutenant colonel of the regiment to be raised in Nova Scotia, expressed himself grateful for the honor, but instead of so serving, proposed to raise a regiment of militia volunteers, to be commanded by respectable half-pay officers, of ten chosen companies, two to be artillery and one of horse, ready to march to defend any part of the province, but especially to defend St. Mary's bay, Annapolis, &c., to consist of 1000 men...” With his previous experience in the American Legion, Rollo was a likely candidate for a commission in the new Nova Scotia Legion under Lt. Col. Barklay and was listed the following year as the senior captain of the new regiment. The Legion was renamed the Annapolis County Regiment in 1801, but it is not known how long Capt. Rollo served in the regiment.

The Burial Register for Digby for 1807 has a listing of Rollo's death indicating “... March 11, Capt. Robert Rollo, of Ulcers...” His death was also recorded in the *Columbian Centinel* of Boston on Apr. 15, 1807. The notice read “DIED...In Digby (N.S.) Capt. ROBERT ROLLO, formerly of his B. M's 42d reg't.”

Commissions: Vol. (60<sup>th</sup> Regt.); Ens. Aug. 26, 1775 (42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Lt. May 22 – effective May 8, 1777 (42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Lt. Aug. 26, 1778 (42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company); Retired Sept. 6, 1780 (42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Capt. of Infantry, Nov. 8, 1780 (American Legion); Seconded Capt. Aug. 25, 1782 (American Legion); Capt. Half-pay Oct. 25, 1783 (American Legion); Capt. 1793 (Nova Scotia Legion).

**References:** TNA, Annotated 1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 60<sup>th</sup> Regt. page 114 of the 1775 Annual List at WO65/25, f.105; *The Irvines and Their Kin*, L. Boyd, R. R. Donnelly & Sons Co., Chicago, 1908, Google Books, p. 135; TNA, Viscount Barrington to Lord John Murray, Oct. 11, 1775, *War Office Out-letters* at WO 4/94, pp. 384-6 (ff. 195-196); General Orders, New York, May 22, 1777 and Sept. 6, 1780; *London Gazette* for July 19-22, 1777, pp. 1-2 and Jan. 9, 1781 p. 2; *List of the Officers of the 42<sup>d</sup> or Royal Highland Regim<sup>t</sup> of Foot Commanded by the R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> Lord John Murray*, *Lord John Murray Papers*; Lt. Col. Stirling to Regimental Agents Anderson & Richardson, Piscataway, May 28, 1777, *Lord John Murray Papers*; TNA, Viscount Barrington to Sir William Howe, Nov. 19, 1777 at WO 4/274, p. 36 (f. 19); General Orders, Philadelphia, Mar. 9, 1778; Maj. Charles Graham to Sir Henry Clinton, Aug. 30, 1780, *Sir Henry Clinton Papers*, CP 119:47, William Clements Library; NRS, *Peebles' Journal* entries, Nov. 22, 1779 and Jul. 18, 1780; *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland*, Vol. III, John Burke, Henry Colburn, London, 1836, p. 126; *Biographical Sketches of Loyalists of the American Revolution with an Historical Essay*, Vol. II, Lorenzo Sabine, Little, Brown and Co., Boston, 1864, Google Books, p. 572; *Royal Gazette*, (New York), Oct. 25, 1780 posted at the On-Line Institute for Advanced Loyalist Studies; *Loyalists in the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War*, Vol. III, Murtie June Clark, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore, 1981, p. 378; *The American Rebellion*, Sir Henry Clinton, Ed. William B. Willcox, Yale Univ. Press, New Haven, 1954, p. 235; *New-York Gazette, and Weekly Mercury*, Jan. 15, 1781, p. 2 and Sept. 24, 1781, p. 1; *Report of American Manuscripts in the Royal Institution of Great Britain*, Vol. III, Printed for His Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1907, Google Books, p. 103; TNA, *War Office, British American Half Pay 1783* at WO65/166 (Formerly WO65 Index 5606), ff. 1, 18, 19, 24, 47, 48, 55, and 58; TNA, Gen. Sir Guy Carleton's Orders, New York, Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 1782, *War Office: Records of Military Headquarters* at WO 28/9, ff. 443 and 450; *The Scots Peerage Founded on Wood's Edition of Sir Robert Douglas's Peerage of Scotland*, Vol. VII, Ed. Sir James Balfour Paul, LLD, Lord Lyon King of Arms, David Douglas, Edinburgh, 1910, pp. 204-205; Rollo Family Genealogy Forum at Genealogy.com, Posting by Alex Bailey, dated Dec. 16, 2002, Subject: Clement Rollo, Scot., & Son Rbt. Va 1780's; *Loyalists and Land Settlement in Nova Scotia*, Marion Gilroy, Genealogical Publishing Com, 2009 [Reprint], p. 20; Public Archives, Canada, *Ward Chipman Papers*, Master Muster General's Office, Loyalist Musters, at M.C. 23, D 1, Series I, Volume 24, pp. 28, 45; *History of the County of Annapolis (Nova Scotia)*, William Arthur Calnek, William Briggs, Toronto, 1897, pp. 245-247 and 251-252; *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, Vol. XXXIV, Judge A. W. Savary, New York, Jan. 1903, Google Books, pp. 38-41; *A Geography and History of the County of Digby, Nova Scotia*, by Isaiah W. Wilson, Holloway Brothers, Halifax, 1900, Google Book, pp. 70-76, 123, 358-359 and 364; *A History of Nova Scotia, or Acadie*, Vol. III, Beamish Murdoch, James Barnes, Printer and Publisher, Halifax, 1867, Google Books, pp. 109, 114; *Columbian Centinel* (Boston), Apr. 15, 1807, p. 2.

James Rollo Esq.

**Rose**, Ens. James. Born around 1746, Rose's 1828 pension application states that he had served as "42<sup>d</sup> Private and non Comm<sup>d</sup> 14 [years] 3 [months]" prior to Aug. 1779. Accordingly, he was first enlisted in the Royal Highlanders at age nineteen in May 1765. As Sergeant Major in Gen. Lord John Murray's Company, Rose served for the first part of the American war in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion for the New York/New Jersey campaign of 1776-1777, the Philadelphia campaign of 1777-1778 and the Raid on Portsmouth, Virginia in May 1779.

On Aug. 31, 1779 General Orders announced the appointment of Sgt. Maj. James Rose to be the Adjutant of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. in the place of Lt. John Rutherford who had resigned from that office to assume the Capt. Lieutenancy. Orders had been issued in Aug. 1776 to split the large 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. into two smaller provisional battalions and called them the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions. These battalion designations, however, were only used in America. The War Office was confused about Rose's appointment, writing back to Sir Henry Clinton in Jan. 1780 that "*The list of promotions transmitted in his letter of 7<sup>th</sup> October is approved excepting Serjeant Rose to be Adjutant to 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion of 42<sup>d</sup> regiment which appears to be inserted by mistake as that battalion is not now in America.*" The War Department was referring to the newly authorized "official" 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. raised in Scotland under Lord Murray and Lt. Col. Norman MacLeod of MacLeod which later saw service in India, but never served in America with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion.

Adj. Rose served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion for the occupation of Stony Point, New York in 1779 and the Siege of Charleston, South Carolina in 1780. When Lord Murray was raising the new 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. in Scotland he selected Adj. Rose to be Adjutant of the new battalion. However, on Apr. 5, 1781 (effective Jan. 1781) Rose was promoted in General Orders to Ensign in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. in America in place of Ens. Dougald Campbell and continued serving as Adjutant of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion (in America) during the relief attempt for Cornwallis' army in 1781. In 1782 Rose is also listed as "*Acting Paymaster of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the 42d.*" At the end of the war Rose remained with the battalion as it moved from New York to Nova Scotia, in Oct. 1783.

In 1787 the War Office promoted the senior Ensign in many regiments to Lieutenant and announced on Sept. 26, 1787 "*42d Regiment of Foot, Eldest Ensign \_\_\_\_\_ Rose to be Lieutenant...*" Some researchers believe the blank line in the announcement signifies that the officer did not purchase his commission. In Aug. 1789 Rose returned to Britain with the regiment, landing at Portsmouth in Oct. 1789.



Lt. Col. Commandant Francis Humberston Mackenzie, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Seaforth by William Dyce

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

After eight years as a Lieutenant, Rose left the regiment in 1795 as shown in a War Office announcement dated Apr. 11, 1795 that read *“78th Regiment of Foot, Lieutenant James Rose, from the 42d Foot, to be Captain-Lieutenant, vice Lamont, who declines.”* The two-battalion 78<sup>th</sup> Highland Regt. or Ross-shire Buffs had been formed under Lt. Col. Commandant Francis Humberston Mackenzie, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Seaforth, in 1793 and 1794 and had just returned from service in the Duke of York’s army in Holland. Rose, mistakenly listed as Charles Rose in the 1795 Army List, obtained a Company in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion just three months after joining the regiment. However, when the two battalions were amalgamated in June 1796 Rose, as a junior Captain, did not obtain one of the remaining companies. A future promotion announcement by the War Office called him a *“Supernumerary Captain”* implying he was serving in the regiment without a company, but the annotated War Office copy of the annual Army List for 1796 reports Rose as *“Officers of reduced Corps receiving Full-Pay. Late 2d Battalion 78th Regiment of Foot...Captain {...James Rose 1 July [95]...”*

Likely anxious to return to active service Rose made another regimental change the next year. The War Office announced *“May 14, 1796...39th Ditto [Regiment of Foot], Supernumerary Captain James Rose, from the 78th Foot, to be Captain, vice [Daniel] Correille, who retires on the Half-Pay of the 78th Regiment.”*

The 39<sup>th</sup> or the East Middlesex Regt. had embarked at Barbados in Apr. 1796 for a secret expedition against the Dutch colony of Demerara (now Guyana) in South America. After taking Demerara, the 39<sup>th</sup> Regt. remained in that colony until it moved to Surinam in Oct. 1800. However, Rose likely remained in England based on a note from former Capt. John Rutherford to his friend Capt. John Peebles, on Feb. 2, 1798 which discussed former officers in the regiment and included a note on Rose. Rutherford wrote *“... I had a letter from Rose lately – He continues to be Gen<sup>l</sup> Balfours right hand man \_ Stewart says he could not carry on the war without him...”* The *“Gen<sup>l</sup> Balfour”* in Rutherford’s note is Lt. Gen. Nisbet Balfour of Dunbog, Colonel of the 39<sup>th</sup> or the East Middlesex Regt.



Fort Charlotte, Lerwick, Shetland, Scotland - south gate, by Otter.

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

On April 4, 1801 the War-Office announced *“At Shetland. Captain James Rose, from the 39th Foot, to be Captain of an Independent Company of Invalids.”* The Shetland Islands are located about 120 miles northeast from the northern tip of mainland Scotland. The next month the War Office announced, *“Captain James Rose, to be Commandant of the Invalids stationed in the Shetland Islands.”* Capt. John Rutherford noted in a July 1801 letter to Capt. Peebles that he *“... saw honest worthy Rose lately. He is gone to Shetland to take the command of two or three companies of invalids it was hard that when they gave him one of these companies they did not allow him to dispose of his company in the 39<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>...”* Rose must have retired from his Commandant position in 1801 or 1802, because on Nov. 20, 1802, the War Office announced *“OFFICERS of the Royal Garrison Battalions. Commissions to be dated 25th December next... 2d Royal Garrison Battalion, Lieutenant-Colonel David Home, from the 2d Dragoons, to be Colonel... Captain James Rose, from the Retired List of the Royal Invalids, to be Major.”* This announcement was modified before the Commission was effective to change Rose to be Maj. of the 6<sup>th</sup> Royal Garrison Battalion. In 1804, the 6<sup>th</sup> Royal Garrison Battalion was renamed the 6<sup>th</sup> Royal Veteran Battalion.

The War Office announced Maj. Rose’s retirement on Oct. 6, 1804 writing, *“6th Royal Veteran Battalion, Major Simon Fraser, from the 3d Battalion of Reserve, to be Major, vice Rose, who retires on Half-Pay of the late Nottingham Fencibles.”* Rose retired on Sept. 25, 1804 and is listed in the Army Lists as *“Officers of the Regiments of Fencible Infantry placed on Half-Pay, in and since the year 1800... Nottingham, (Hope’s) Major James Rose...”*

Rose’s 1828 pension application describes his retirement indicating *“...19 Sep<sup>r</sup> 1804 Retired in Ill health on the half pay of next Rank with a view to Return to the Service If his health permitted and applied [illegible] but no Vacancies falling in the Veterans about the time of his Applications General Sir D. [David] Dundas then Commanding the Forces recommended his to the late Sr<sup>y</sup>. at War to be Riplaced on*

*the Retired provision of a Captain of the Chiefs Invalids which he held when Appointed Major Accordingly he received by Special Treasury Warrant the difference between the Majors half pay and the pay and allowance of a Captain of Invalids from the 25<sup>th</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 1804 to the 24<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>. 1810 from that Period [illegible] on the Retired Invalid Establishment in receipt of 9/5 pay per day – £ 80 Annual Allowance and has never desired any other allowance or Emmolument whatsoever under the Crown Since Retired from the Service”*

The annotated of the annual Army List of 1810 scratches Rose from the Half-Pay list of the Nottingham Fencibles noting “*Replaced on the Retired List of Invalids.*” The 1813 Army List clarified the listing, showing Rose had reverted back to the rank of Captain. He was listed as “*Retired and Reduced Officers receiving Full Pay... Late Royal Invalids replaced on the Retired List from the Royal Veteran Battalions. Captains...James Rose 25 Mar. 1801 [Rank in the army] Major 25 Dec. 1802.*” The Annual Army List for 1831 still has Rose listed as “*Retired Full Pay. INVALIDS...Independent Companies. Captain...James Rose Major 25 Dec. 1802...*”

*The London Morning Post* of Mar. 24, 1836 recorded Maj. Rose’s death writing “*DIED... At his lodgings in Somers-place, on Tuesday, the 22d inst., Major James Rose, of the late Royal Invalids, in the 90th year of his age.*” Somers Place is located in Brixton, London about five miles south of Buckingham Palace.

Rose had at least one son, Ens. John Rose, who died at age 24 on Jan. 21, 1827, while serving in the 70<sup>th</sup> Regt. at “*Amherstberg, Upper Canada*” (Ontario).

Commissions / Appointments: Private May 1765: Corporal, Sergeant and Sgt. Maj. prior to Dec. 1775; Brevet-Adj. Aug. 31, 1779 (2<sup>nd</sup> “*Provisional*” Bn., 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. – in America); Ens. Apr. 5, 1781 – effective Jan. 1, 1781 (42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Lt. Sep. 24, 1787 (42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Capt. Lt. Jan. 28, 1795 (1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 78<sup>th</sup> Highland Regt.); Capt. July 3, 1795 (1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 78<sup>th</sup> Highland Regt. or the Rossshire Buffs); Capt. May 25, 1796 (39<sup>th</sup> or the East Middlesex Regt.); Capt. and Commandant (of two companies) Mar. 25, 1801 (Independent Company of Invalids – Shetland); Maj. Dec. 25, 1802 (6<sup>th</sup> Royal Garrison Battalion – later the 6<sup>th</sup> or Royal North British Veteran Bn.); Maj. Half-Pay Sept. 25, 1804 (Nottingham Fencibles); Capt. – Full-Pay 1810 (Retired List from the Royal Veteran Battalions).

**References:** TNA, *War Office: Returns of Officers’ Services* at WO 25/772, p.236 (f. 235); General Orders, New York , Aug. 31, 1779 and Apr. 5, 1781; Charles Jenkinson to Sir Henry Clinton, Jan. 8, 1780 in *Report on American Manuscripts in the Royal Institution of Great Britain*, Vol. II, Historical Manuscripts Commission, His Majesty’s Stationary Office, London, 1906, Google Books, pp. 18, 81; *List of the Officers of the 42<sup>d</sup> or Royal Highland Regim<sup>t</sup> of Foot Commanded by the R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> Lord John Murray, Lord John Murray Papers; London Gazette*, Sept. 25-29, 1787, pp. 3-4, Apr. 7, 1795, pp. 3-4, July 7, 1795, pp. 3-5, May 14, 1796, pp. 3-5, Mar. 31, 1801, pp. 2-3, May 16-19, 1801, pp. 1-2 Nov. 16-20, 1802, pp. 1-2 Dec. 18-21, 1802, pp. 1-2 and Oct. 2-6, 1804, p. 5; *Stewart’s Sketches*, Vol. I, Appendix and Vol. II, p. 250; NRS, Capt. John Rutherford to Capt. John Peebles, Feb. 2, 1798, *Cunningham of Thortoun Papers* at GD21/417, item 2; Army List 39<sup>th</sup> Regt., War Office, Feb. 1800, p. 202; *The Dorsetshire Regiment: The Thirty-Ninth and Fifty-Fourth Foot and the Dorset Militia and Volunteers*, Christopher Thomas Atkinson, University Press, Oxford, 1947, Google Books Snippet View, p. 303; *The Annual Register, or a View of the History, Politics, and Literature, for the Year 1802*, For W. Otridge and Son, London, Google Books, 1803, p. 493; NRS, John Rutherford to John Peebles, Mossburnford, July 26, 1801, *Papers of the Cuninghame Family of Thorntoun*, at GD21/417 item 13; *The Annual Register, or a View of the History, Politics, and Literature, for the Year 1802*, W. Otridge and Son, London, 1803, Google Books, pp. 492-493; *The Royal Military Calendar or Army Service and Commission Book*, Vol. V, T. Edgerton, London, 1820, Google Books, p. 189. *Blackwood’s Edinburgh Magazine*, No. CXXVI, Vol. XXI, June, 1827, Google Books, p. 773; *London Morning Post*, Mar. 24, 1836, p.4.



Kilphedir Burn joining River Helmsdale at Kilphedir, 2009 by Sarah McGuire

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons from the Geograph Project

**Rose, Lt. William.** Rose was likely born near Kilphedir near the east coast of Sutherland, about 31 miles northeast of Dornoch. His first commission as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant was dated June 30, 1760 in the 87<sup>th</sup> Highland Regt. A War Office announcement dated Aug. 27, 1759 ordered the regiment to be known as the “*Highland Volunteers*,” but it is most well known as Keith’s Highlanders. Rose was promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant on Aug. 4, 1762.

Initially formed by transferring 300 supernumerary recruits from the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., the 87<sup>th</sup> Regt. was raised in Aberdeenshire for service in Germany by Maj. Commandant Robert Murray Keith in 1759. On May 9, 1760 the regiment sailed for Germany and fought in seven battles between Jan. 1760 and Sept. 1762. The regiment returned home and was disbanded at Perth in May 1763, at which time Lt. Rose went out on Half-pay

On Jan. 23, 1776 Rose was commissioned Lieutenant in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. in place of Lt. James Cameron who exchanged to Half-Pay. The Secretary at War wrote Lord John Murray on Feb. 8, 1776 regarding appointment of Rose indicating “... *I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of y<sup>r</sup> Letter of the 30<sup>th</sup>. last Month, and to acquaint your Lordship that Lieu<sup>t</sup> Rose was appointed to the 42<sup>d</sup>. Regiment in consequence of his own application to me.*” Lord John Murray replied to the Secretary at War on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> that “... *I had the honor of your Lordships letter last night ... and return the inclosed from Lieu<sup>t</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Rose, and am much obliged for appointing him, as I hear he is a good Officer...*”

Lt. Rose was, however, delayed in joining the regiment and wrote to Capt. Lt. John M<sup>c</sup>Intosh, who had until recently been the Adjutant of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Rose wrote from Kilphedir on Mar. 20, 1776 that “...*Its impossible for me to join the Regim<sup>t</sup>. before the 12<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> Apl. as I have my affairs in great disorder. & really did not look for Such a Sudden order to join. Considering how lately I have been appointed to the Reg<sup>t</sup>. – But not withstanding of all my Disadvantages; will (disbarring Accidents ) in obedience to Lord John Murrays orders, be with the Reg<sup>t</sup>. either of the days formerly Mention’d – which I hope will Satisfie*

*his Lordship .”* The 240 mile distance from Kilphedir to Glasgow likely also played into Rose’s delay in joining the regiment.

Lt. Rose had not joined the regiment by the time it marched to Greenock to embark on the transports for America. Lord John Murray wrote to Secretary at War from Glasgow on April 14, 1776 “... *I had the honor to Acquaint your Lordship that Friday morning the Battalion of the 42<sup>d</sup>. or Royal Highland Regiment marched to Greenock... yesterday morning I am informed they all embarked in great Spirits... Lieu<sup>t</sup>. W<sup>m</sup> Rose absent without leave, is not Arrived...*” Worried about whether Rose would ever join the regiment, Lord Murray wrote the next day to Viscount Barrington about possibly replacing Rose and included Rose’s delay letter from March. Lord John Murray wrote on Apr. 15, 1776 “... *the battalion compleat of Officers & Soldiers, Except Lieu<sup>t</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Rose of the Battalion, who has not joined Since his Appointment from half pay. I have the honor to inclose his Letter to Cap<sup>t</sup>. Lieu<sup>t</sup>. [John] Mackintosh.... I therefore could not well Supply Lieu<sup>t</sup>. Rose’s place in the Battalion, But as he is Absent without leave, & if your Losp [Lordship] should not think his Letter a Sufficient Excuse, and if your Lordship Should think proper, to Recommend to His Majesty, on the occasion that Lieu<sup>t</sup>. Rose should be Superseded ...”* On Rose’s arrival at Glasgow, Lord John Murray wrote to the Secretary at War on Apr. 22<sup>nd</sup> reporting “...*Lieu<sup>t</sup>. William Rose came to Glasgow Friday last the 19<sup>th</sup>. Ins<sup>t</sup>. Says he was two or three days ill at Inverness & one day at Forres. he looks very thin, & has an Impediment in his Speech, I am Suprized he should make application to your Lordship to be on full pay...*”

The next day Lt. Gen. Sir James Adolphus Oughton, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Scotland, wrote to the Secretary at War from Glasgow on Apr. 23<sup>rd</sup> about Lt. Rose indicating “...*I found here Lieu<sup>t</sup> Rose of the 42<sup>d</sup> regiment who was reported absent without leave in the Embarkation Return of that Regiment; he proved to me that he set out to join his Reg<sup>t</sup> the Day after he received his orders, but had fallen dangerously ill on the Road, and his Looks proved his Assertion: I ordered him on Board to join his Company...*”

Scotland Adj. Gen Robert Skene wrote Lord Barrington from Glasgow on Apr. 20, 1776 “*I have the honor to inform your Lordship that Lieu<sup>t</sup> Rose of the 42<sup>d</sup> Regiment, joined his Corps this day.*” Just eight days later, however, Skene wrote again regarding Lt. Rose from Greenock, reporting “*Lieu<sup>t</sup> Rose of the 42<sup>d</sup> Regiment who lately joined that corps has been obliged to come on shore sick & the Surgeon informs me he can that he can not possibly go with the Regiment he is so bad ...”* The muster of Capt. Grant’s Company taken at Piscataway on Apr. 30, 1777 listed Rose as “*Sick in Brittan*” and the next muster of the same company dated at Philadelphia on Mar. 28, 1778 listed him as “*Transf<sup>d</sup> to Additional Comp<sup>y</sup> 25 [May 1777].*” A “*Return of Additional Companies in Quarters in North Britain 1<sup>st</sup> April 1777*” lists Lieut. Rose at absent and “*Sick in Sutherland shire.*” Lt. Rose died a few months later on Sept. 16, 1777.

Commissions: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. June 30, 1760 (87<sup>th</sup> Regt. or Highland Volunteers, also Keith’s Highlanders); 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Aug. 4, 1762 (87<sup>th</sup> Regt. or Highland Volunteers); Lt. Half-pay May 24, 1763 (87<sup>th</sup> Regt.); Lt. from Half-pay Jan. 23, 1776 (42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Transferred to 42<sup>nd</sup> Additional Company May 25, 1777; Died Sept. 16, 1777 (Additional Company, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.).

**References:** “The Eighty-Seventh: or Keith’s Highlanders” in *Territorial Soldiering in the North-East of Scotland during 1759-1814*, John Malcolm Bulloch, Aberdeen University, Aberdeen, 1914, pp. 23-28; TNA, Succession Book of the 87<sup>th</sup> Regt., *War Office; Succession Books* at WO 25/209; TNA, Viscount Barrington to Lord John Murray, Feb. 8, 1776, *War Office: Out-letters* at WO 4/96, p. 49; TNA, Lord John Murray to Viscount Barrington, Feb. 13, Apr. 14, Apr. 15 and Apr. 22, 1776, *War Office: In-letters* at WO 1/993; TNA, Robert Skene to Lord Barrington, Apr. 20, 1776 and Apr. 28, 1776 at WO 1/865, f. 463 and ff. 479-480; TNA, Sir James Adolphus Oughton to Viscount Barrington, Apr. 23, 1776 at WO 1/865, p. 419; TNA, Muster of Capt. Grant’s Company taken at Philadelphia on Mar. 28, 1778; *War Office: General Muster Books and Pay Lists, 42nd Foot* at WO 12/5479; TNA, *Return of Additional Companies in*

*Quarters in North Britain 1<sup>st</sup> April 1777, War Office: Monthly Returns at WO 17/854; TNA, Viscount Barrington to Sir William Howe, Nov. 4, 1777, Guy Carleton, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Dorchester: Papers at PRO 30/55/7, f. 106926.*



Edgerston House

Picture Source: *Family Records and Events*, by Livingston Rutherford, De Vinne Press, New York, 1894, Google Books, after p. 72.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Rutherford Capt.".

**Rutherford, Capt. John.** Born at the estate of Scraisburgh (adjacent to Hunthill), Roxburghshire, Scotland in 1746, John Rutherford was the second son of Thomas Rutherford, M. D., younger of Edgerston and his wife Martha Towne (daughter of Alderman Towne of York). Rutherford's parents died at Barbados in 1749 and he was sent to Scotland to the care of his grandfather, Sir John Rutherford of Edgerston. Edgerston is located about eight miles south of Jedburgh in the Borders region.

John's older brother, Richard Rutherford became a Master and Commander in the Royal Navy. His uncle, Maj. John Rutherford of Edgerston, 62<sup>nd</sup> (Royal American) Regt., was killed at the Battle of Ticonderoga in 1758 and his cousin Archibald Rutherford was a Captain in the 27<sup>th</sup> Regt. in America.

When Rutherford was fifteen, he was sent to New York to live with his father's younger brother, Walter Rutherford, a former Captain in the 60<sup>th</sup> Regt. (Royal Americans), who had retired from the army around 1761 and settled in America. Capt. Walter Rutherford married Mary Alexander (daughter of William Alexander, called Lord Stirling and later a Maj. General in the rebel army during the American War for Independence).

Walter Rutherford had amassed a considerable fortune in America, and soon after John Rutherford's arrival he sent his nephew to Fort Detroit with supplies for the garrison. While outside Detroit on May 6, 1763, Rutherford was taken prisoner by the Chippewa tribe. He was adopted by the tribe, but escaped on Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> of that year. Rutherford would carry a colorful reminder of his captivity with him for the rest of

his life as he explained, "... my arms presented the appearance or impressions, one of a turkey's foot, the other of a flower in pink or purple dyes. I had thus been tattooed by the savages as a mark set upon me as belonging to their tribe, and such is the indelible effect upon the part punctured, that the impression will remain as fresh through life as on the first day of the operation." His adventures continued soon after he escaped to Detroit as he volunteered to sail to Fort Niagara for supplies for the garrison. On the return trip, the schooner he was on was wrecked in a storm about twenty miles from the mouth of Lake Erie. The crew and passengers made it to shore and were required to build positions to defend themselves from Native American attacks. Rutherford explained that "*We were detained in this place, which we called "Lover's Leap," for twenty-four days, as we could not get a reinforcement of batteaux to carry us off to Niagara. It was here that I first entered upon duty as private soldier.*" Eventually, a rescue party escorted the schooner's passengers back to Fort Niagara.



Capt. Walter Rutherford's House Adjacent to St. Paul's Church, Broadway, New York

Picture Source: *Family Records and Events*, Livingston Rutherford, De Vinne Press, New York, 1894, Google Books, after p. 96.

Rutherford concluded his narrative by reporting "*When at Niagara, I determined not to attempt fortune longer in the woods, and resolved to go to New York, where after residing some time with my uncle, I proceeded to join the 42nd Regiment...*" Walter Rutherford's house was adjacent to St. Paul's Church, now called St. Paul's Chapel, (an Episcopal chapel located at Broadway and Vesey St., New York). A full account of Rutherford's captivity, escape and shipwreck is provided in Appendix C in this volume.

Rutherford's commission in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. was dated May 13, 1764. He described his initial service writing "*I proceeded to join the 42nd Regiment, in which corps I had obtained an Ensigncy, at the time when they were preparing for an expedition against the Shawanese and Delaware Indians to the westward, under General [Henry] Bouquet.*" Bouquet began to assemble his forces at Carlisle, Pennsylvania on Aug. 5, 1764 and finally marched out of Fort Pitt on Oct. 3, 1764 to begin his Muskingum expedition. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. returned to Fort Pitt with Col. Bouquet on Nov. 28, 1764.

Strangely, Rutherford's initial commission as an Ensign is not listed in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Succession Book and he is not listed in the Army List for 1765 and 1767. In the 1768 Army List Rutherford is listed as an Ensign, but no date of rank is shown. In the 1769 Army List Rutherford is finally shown with a date of

rank for his Ensigny as May 13, 1764. The slow record keeping is likely associated with the isolated nature of the regiment's service on the western frontier.

Three years after joining the Royal Highlanders, Rutherford returned with the regiment to Ireland in 1767 and was promoted to Lieutenant there in Mar. 1770. While in Ireland Rutherford married his first wife Eleanor Chalk (daughter of Thomas Chalk Esq. of Artane and Grange, County Dublin and his wife Anne Gordon) in 1769.



Courtyard buildings, Gunthwaite Hall

Picture Source: Geograph, copyright Wendy North, Creative Commons Lic.

Godfrey Bosville recorded a July 1769 visit by Ens. Rutherford to Gunthwaite Hall, England with Chap. M<sup>c</sup>Lagan, writing that “...there was an Officer who came along with him in that Regiment whose Mother is an Acquaintance of M<sup>rs</sup>. Bosville is now here, M<sup>r</sup>. Rutherford that was a Prisoner among the Savages who seemed to be a very good natur<sup>d</sup> young man...”

Rutherford sailed with the regiment to America in April 1776 and General Orders dated Aug. 19<sup>th</sup> appointed Lt. Rutherford to be Adjutant of the provisional 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. (in America) commanded by Brevet-Maj. William Grant. He served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion in New York/New Jersey campaign of 1776-1777 and the Philadelphia campaign of 1777-1778.

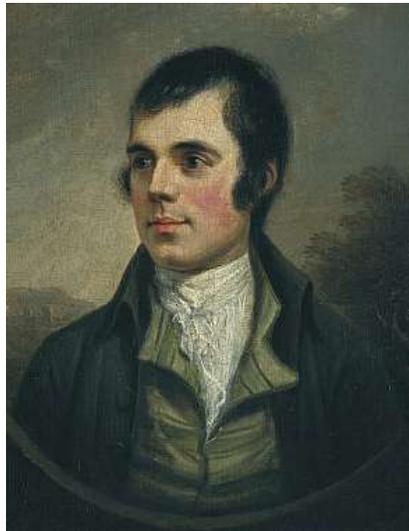
In Sept. 1778 Rutherford was promoted to Capt. Lieutenant in place of his friend John Peebles who was promoted to Captain in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company. Peebles thought his friend was treated unfairly in this transaction reporting in his journal that “...one [Lt. James] Campbell from 57<sup>th</sup> put in on us [as Captain], with I think great injustice to Rutherford who has only got the Capt. L<sup>ty</sup> ...” Although promoted to the General's Company in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion in Sept. 1778, Rutherford may have remained doing duty as Adjutant of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. The General Orders did not announce a new adjutant for that battalion until Sgt. Maj. James Rose was promoted on Aug. 30, 1779 “...vice Rutherford who resigns that Office...”

Rutherford took part in the raid on Portsmouth, Virginia in May 1779 and was elected by the officers to the additional duty of Regimental Paymaster in Sept. 1779, replacing retiring Capt. John M<sup>c</sup>Intosh. Capt. Rutherford took part in the occupation of Stony Point, New York that same year and served at the Siege of Charleston, South Carolina in 1780.

On Feb. 8, 1781, Lt. Col. Duncan M<sup>c</sup>Pherson was promoted to Major in the 71<sup>st</sup> Highland Regt. and Rutherford was promoted to Captain in his place (effective to the date of his Capt. Lieutenancy of Aug. 18, 1778). Rutherford served with a line battalion for the relief attempt for Cornwallis' army in Oct. 1781.

Rutherford's wife, Eleanor, was in America with him for at least a portion of the war, being noted in visits in as early as March 1778 by Capt. Peebles. According to Peebles, Rutherford and his wife returned to Britain in Dec. 1781 saddened by the death of their son who had been born in early November. *The Royal Gazette* for December 4, 1782 recorded Rutherford's return to America writing "*NEW-YORK, December 4...last Sunday arrived the ship Ruby, Captain Morrison; from Glasgow, she left port the 2d of October last. In her came passenger Captain Rutherford, of 42d regiment, and several other Gentlemen.*" Rutherford was again listed as on leave commencing Apr. 1783. This leave at the time of the regimental review conducted by Maj. Gen. John Campbell at Halifax, Nova Scotia on June 9, 1784 is consistent with a War Office document listing leaves of absences which read "*42<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>... Capt<sup>n</sup> Rutherford 12 M<sup>o</sup> from D<sup>o</sup> [28 Ap<sup>l</sup> 84] D<sup>o</sup> [on his Priv<sup>t</sup> Aff<sup>s</sup>].*"

Soon after the period of Rutherford's leave expired, Rutherford retired from the regiment in Aug. 1785 and settled at his estate of Mossburnford (inherited on his older brother's death) on the banks of the Jed River, about fifty miles south-southeast of Edinburgh. He remained a friend and correspondent of Capt. Peebles long after the American war.



Robert Burns by Alexander Naysmyth, Scottish National Portrait Gallery

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons.

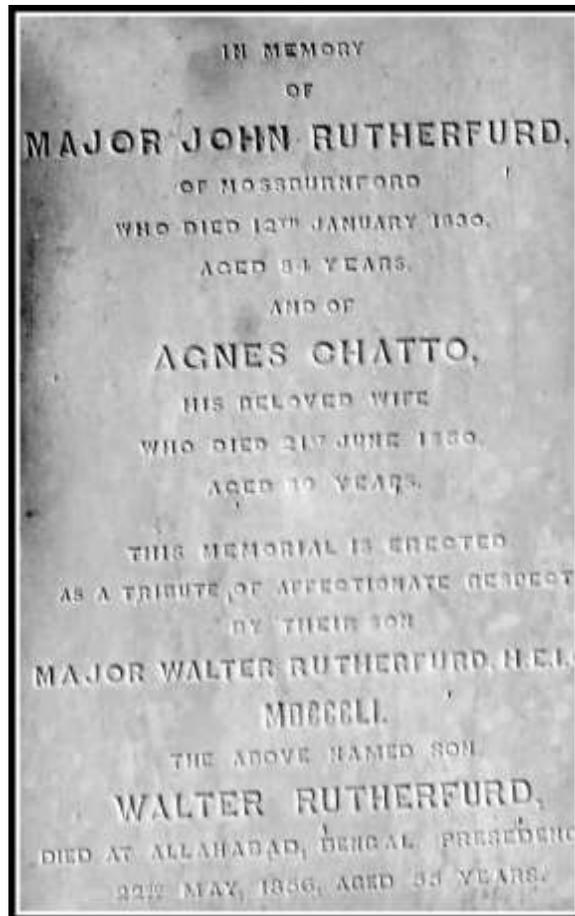
Rutherford, nicknamed "*the Little Major,*" became a familiar figure in the Jedburgh district of the Borders. During a tour of the area in May 1787, the famous Scottish poet, Robert Burns, dined with Rutherford and his family at Hunthill House and recorded his visit saying "*Go about two miles out of Jedburgh to a roup of parks – meet a polite, soldier-like gentleman, a Captain Rutherford, who had been many years through the wilds of America, a prisoner among the Indians... Dine with Capt. Rutherford – the Captain a polite fellow, fond of money in his farming way; showed a particular respect to my bardship – his lady exactly a proper matrimonial second part for him. Miss Rutherford a beautiful girl, but too far gone woman to expose so much of a fine swelling bosom – her face very fine.*"

On Aug. 26, 1797, during a riot tied to the implementation of the Scotch Militia Act of 1797, Rutherford was injured while Major of the "*western troop of Roxburghshire yeomanry*" when he was knocked from his horse by a stone and beaten. On Jan. 13, 1798 the War Office announced "*Roxburghshire Gentlemen and Yeomanry Cavalry. Captain John Rutherford to be Major Commandant, vice Sir James Pringle, who resigns.*" The Yeomanry was embodied into a regiment on Apr. 23, 1798 as the Dumfries Militia or 4<sup>th</sup> North British Militia and "*John Rutherford of Mossburnford, previously Captain in the 42d Foot, was appointed Major.*" Rutherford's son, Charles was also a lieutenant in the regiment from 1796 to about 1800. Rutherford resigned his Majority in Mar. 1799.

John and Eleanor Rutherford had five children that survived to adulthood (John, Capt., 72<sup>nd</sup> Regt. died in 1813; Charles, a Lt. in the militia and the HEIC; Thomas Rutherford M.D. of Farrington; Martha and Eleanor) before his wife Eleanor died on Jan. 23, 1799.

*The Scots Magazine* for Jan. 1800 published the announcement of 54-year old Rutherford's second marriage to a 19-year old bride writing "*Marriages...Jan...21. At Edinburgh, John Rutherford, Esq; of Mossburnford, to Miss Agnes Chatto, daughter of the Rev. Mr. Andrew Chatto, late of Mainhouse [and wife Agnes Tennant]*" Maj. and Mrs. Rutherford had one son, Walter Rutherford.

In 1803, Rutherford rejoined the Militia as a Company Commander in the Roxburghshire Volunteer Infantry. He noted in a Dec. 1804 letter to his longtime friend Capt. Peebles that he had "*...been playing soldier for three weeks lately with the Roxburgh shire Volunteer as upon permanent duty at Kelso upon which occasion we received much applause...*" Fifty-nine year old Rutherford left the militia the next year as he noted in a letter to Capt. Peebles in Dec. 1805 that "*...we were upon perman' duty last year at Kelso\_ I have given up my company in the Roxburghshire I am no longer fit for dashing John!*"



Maj. Rutherford's Tomb Marker in Ruins of Jedburgh Abbey

Picture Source: Courtesy of Gary Rutherford Harding.

*Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine* for March, 1830 recorded Rutherford's death writing "[Jan] 12. At Jedburgh, Major John Rutherford, late of Mossburnford, in his 84th year."

Commissions: Ens. May 13, 1764; Lt. Mar. 31, 1770; Adj. Aug. 19, 1776 (2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. – in America); Capt. Lieut. Sept. 17 – effective Aug. 18, 1778; Resigned as Adjutant 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. in America Aug. 31, 1779; Capt. Feb. 8, 1781 – effective to date of Capt. Lt. Aug. 18, 1778; Retired Aug. 26, 1785; Maj. Commandant Jan. 13, 1798 (Roxburghshire Gentlemen and Yeomanry Cavalry); Maj. Apr. 23, 1798 (4<sup>th</sup> or Dumfriesshire Regt. of Militia); Retired Mar. 21, 1799 (4<sup>th</sup> or Dumfriesshire Regt. of Militia); Capt. Nov. 29, 1803 (Roxburghshire Volunteer Infantry); Retired approximately Dec. 1805.

**Rutherford**, Capt. John: E-mail from Gary Rutherford Harding, Oct. 5, 2014 providing Maj. Rutherford's early history and grave marker photo; *Genealogical History of the Rutherford Family*, William K. Rutherford, Kenneth Rutherford, and Anna Clay Zimmerman Rutherford, Pub. W. K. Rutherford, 1986, p. 18; *A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain and Ireland*, Sir Bernard Burke, Ulster King of Arms, Part II, London: Harrison, Pall Mall, 1863, p. 1310, Google Books; *The Annals of a Border Club (The Jedforest) and Biographical Notices of the Families Connected Therewith*, George Tancred of Weens, T. S. Smail, Jedburgh (Scotland), 1899, Google Books, pp. 382-395; John Rutherford to his Uncle Capt. Walter Rutherford, Grenadier Co., 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 60<sup>th</sup> Regt., Niagara, Aug. 20, 1763, in *Family Records and Events, Compiled Principally from the Original Manuscripts in the Rutherford Collection*, Livingston Rutherford, De Vinne Press, New York, 1894, Google Books, pp. 113-115; "Rutherford's Narrative – An Episode in the Pontiac War – An Unpublished Manuscript by Lieut. Rutherford of the Black Watch," Thomas Hodgins, Esq., *Transactions of the Canadian Institute, Volume III, 1891-92*,

Printed for the Canadian Institute, Toronto, 1893, Google Books, pp. 229-252; *The General Correspondence of James Boswell, 1766 – 1769*, Volume 2: 1768 – 1769, The Yale Editions of the Private Papers of James Boswell, Research Edition, Correspondence: Volume 7, Ed. by Richard C. Cole, Peter S. Baker and Rachel McClellan, Yale University Press, New Haven, 1997, pp. 203-204; *London Gazette*, Nov. 14-17, 1778, pp. 1-2, July 3, 1781 pp. 2-3, Sept. 6-10, 1785, pp. 1-2; Jan. 9-13, 1798, pp. 1-2, Apr. 21-24, 1798, p. 1; Nov. 26, 1803, pp. 2,4; General Orders, Dyker's Ferry, Staten Island Aug. 19, 1776, at New York Aug. 30, 1779 and at New York on Feb. 8, 1781; TNA, *War Office: General Muster Books and Pay Lists, 42nd Foot* at WO 12/5479; *Royal Gazette*, New York, Sept. 19, 1778; Scottish Ministers Index for Morebattle at [www.dwalker.pwp.bluevonder.co.uk](http://www.dwalker.pwp.bluevonder.co.uk); *Peebles' Journal*, Mar. 19 and Sept. 18, 1778, May 2, May 24, Aug. 2, Sept. 22, 1779, Nov. 14, 21, 23-24, 1781; *Royal Gazette*, Dec. 4, 1782; TNA, Leaves of Absences for 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Officers at the End of the American War, Undated, Likely Late 1783, *War Office: Out-letters* at WO 4/275, p. 343; TNA, *Secretary at War, Out-letters* at WO 4/275, p. 343; TNA, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. review, June 9, 1784, *War Office: Inspection Returns, Foreign* at WO 27/52, 75124; TNA, WO 4/276, pp. 75-76. (f. 38); *The History and Antiquities of Roxburghshire and Adjacent Districts*, Vol. III, Alexander Jeffrey, Thomas C. Jack, Edinburgh, 1859, pp. 175-176; *Poems Songs and Letters Being the Complete Works of Robert Burns*, Ed. Alexander Smith, Macmillan and Co., London, 1868, Google Books, p. 569; *A History of the Scottish Borderers Militia, Compiled from Authentic Sources*, Rev. Robert W. Weir, The Herald Office, Dumfries, 1877, Google Books, p. 8; *Scots Magazine*, Jan. 1800, p. 71 and Oct. 1813, p. 959; *Fasti Ecclesiae Scotticanae, The Succession of Ministers in the Church of Scotland from the Restoration*, Vol. II, Hugh Scott, D. D., Oliver and Boyd, Edinburgh, 1917; *Rulewater and Its People: An Account of the Valley of the Rule and Its Inhabitants*, George Tancroy of Weens, University Press, Edinburgh, 1907, Google Books, pp. 58- 61; *Royal Gazette*, Dec. 4, 1782; *A History of the Scottish Borderers Militia*, Rev. Robert W. Weir, Herald Office, Dumfries, 1877, Google Books, pp. 4- 9, 59 and 62; Fourth (or Dumfriesshire) Militia Regiment in the Army Lists for Feb, 1799 and Sept. 1799; NRS, John Rutherford to John Peebles, Mossburnford Dec. 22, 1804 and Dec. 2, 1805, *Cunningham of Thortoun Papers* at GD21/417 items 5 and 9; Roxburgh: - Services of Heirs, 1636-1847 at [www.Ancestry.com](http://www.Ancestry.com); *Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine*, Vol. XXVII, March, 1830, William Blackwood, Edinburgh, 1830, Google Books, p. 551.



Reproduction 26<sup>th</sup> Regt. Uniform Button

**Sinclair**, Lt. John. John Sinclair was born in Scotland in 1754. He was initially commissioned Ensign in the 26<sup>th</sup> Regt. in July 1782, while the regiment was stationed at Tynemouth Barracks, located about nine miles east of Newcastle upon Tyne at the mouth of the River Tyne.

About eight months after Sinclair's commission in the 26<sup>th</sup> Regt. and as that regiment was making preparations to march to its new post at Musselburgh, Scotland, the War Office announced on Mar. 4, 1783 "2d, 71st Regiment of Foot, Ensign John Sinclair, of the 26th Regiment, to be Lieutenant, vice James Abercrombie." The "2<sup>d</sup> 71<sup>st</sup>" Regt., commanded by Lt. Col. Commandant Alexander, Earl Balcarres (former Capt., 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.), had been split off from the 71<sup>st</sup> Highland Regt. in America on the death of that regiment's Colonel, Maj. Gen. Simon Fraser in 1782. The "2<sup>d</sup> 71<sup>st</sup>" Regt. initially was made up of the two Additional Companies of the 71<sup>st</sup> Highlanders that were stationed in Scotland to provide recruits for the regiment in America.

When the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. was formed in 1779 both Additional (or recruiting) Companies of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, were transferred to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. As a result, the battalion in America did not have a source for new recruits to make up for losses. On Jan. 21, 1783, the Secretary at War notified Lord Murray that "I have the honor to acq<sup>t</sup>. Your Lop: that H. M. has been pleased to direct that the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the 42<sup>d</sup>: Reg<sup>t</sup>. of Foot, under your Command, should be augmented with one Company for the purpose of recruiting, which Company is to consist of 1 Captain, 2 Lieutenants, 1 Ensign, 10 Serjeants, 10 Corporals, 4 Drummers, & 30 Private men; & that directions have been given to the (2<sup>d</sup>:) – 71<sup>st</sup>: Reg<sup>t</sup>:"

*of Foot, to turn over accordingly, 1 Captain, 2 Lieutenants, & 1 Ensign, of one of the additional Companys to the 1<sup>st</sup>: Battalion of Your Regiment...*” The transfer was made effective as of Dec. 25, 1782.

The Apr. 5, 1783 muster at Perth of Capt. William Nairne’s Company in the 2<sup>d</sup> 71<sup>st</sup>” Regt. indicated Nairne and Ens. Cornelius Wallace were “*Transferred to 1<sup>st</sup>. B: 42<sup>d</sup>. Reg<sup>t</sup>. 25<sup>th</sup>. Dec<sup>r</sup>”* along with two “*Vacant*” Lieutenancies formerly held by Lieutenants James Abercrombie and John Story. However, the annotated War Office copy of the annual Army List for 1783 showing officers of “2<sup>d</sup> 71<sup>st</sup>” Regt. transferred to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. included Nairne, Lt. John Herring, Lt. John Sinclair, and Ens. Alexander Innes. The annotated War Office copy of the Army List for 1782 is marked “*John Sinclair 17 Feb 83 fr 26 F, v Abercrombie*” Later versions of the Army List show his promotion date as effective on Jan. 17, 1783, but the *Annotated Annual Army List for 1783* also shows a mark-up with the date as Feb. 17, 1783 which is consistent with the Commission Books.

Neither Lt. Sinclair nor Lt. Herring are mentioned in the above Perth muster. All three transferred subalterns were commissioned in the “2<sup>d</sup> 71<sup>st</sup>” Regt. after the date the regiment was ordered to turn a company over to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. and accordingly their actual date of service in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. cannot be precisely determined. All three subalterns were very junior in their respective ranks which likely is the reason for their selection for transfer.

Besides the officers, soldiers of the “12<sup>th</sup> Company” of the “2<sup>d</sup> 71<sup>st</sup>” Regt. were transferred to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. The muster of Capt. John Elphinston’s Company at Perth on Apr. 5 has a note that “*the Captain, two Lieutenants, one Ensign, four Serjeants, four Corporals, two Drummers from the 12<sup>th</sup> Company transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battn 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt 25<sup>th</sup> Dec, and twenty seven Effective private men.*” The officers mentioned in this note did not come from Elphinston’s company but rather as discussed above.

Once formed, however, Capt. Nairne’s Additional Company did not serve long in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Highlanders due to the reduction of the army at the end of the American war. On June 23, 1783, the Secretary at War notified Gen. Lord Murray that “*... I have the honour to acq<sup>t</sup>: You, that the men to be Discharged in Consequence of the Reduction of the Additional Companies, are to have the usual Bounty of fourteen days Subsistence beyond the time of their Discharge, to carry them to their respective Homes; those excepted who were enlisted in Scotland or Ireland who are to receive twenty one or twenty eight Days Sub<sup>”</sup>sce according to the Distance...*” Accordingly, Capt. Nairne’s Additional Company was disbanded and the officers went out on Half-pay.

In 1793 the Earl of Breadalbane offered to raise a two battalion regiment in response to hostilities with France and on June 15<sup>th</sup> of that year the war Office announced “*Perthshire Regiment of Fencible Men. John Earl of Breadalbane to be Colonel...2d Battalion...To be Lieutenants...John Sinclair...*” Sinclair’s commission was dated Mar. 1, 1793 and he served with the Fencibles about a year before resigning in July 1794.

Lt. Sinclair returned to Half-pay status of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. until the War Office announced in *The London Gazette*, for Apr. 30 – May 3, 1796 “*Commissions signed by His Majesty for the Army in Ireland...89<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot, Lieutenant John Sinclair, from the Half Pay of the 42d Foot, to be Lieutenant, vice [L.] Legge, exchanged. Dated as above [March 31, 1796].*” The 89<sup>th</sup> Regt. was commanded by Maj. Gen. Andrew Gordon.

In 1799 the 89<sup>th</sup> Regt. was ordered from Ireland to garrison the Mediterranean island of Minorca which had just been captured by Sir Charles Stuart. When Adm. Lord Nelson recommended sending troops to Sicily to counter the army of French Gen. Championnet, Lord Blayney was sent with the 89<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> Regiments for that duty.

The 89<sup>th</sup> Regt. was next ordered from Malta to join Sir Ralph Abercromby's Egypt expedition and sailed from Malta on Dec. 19, 1800. The 89<sup>th</sup> Regt. was present at all the engagements in Egypt and on the surrender of Cairo the 89<sup>th</sup> Regt. was assigned to the garrison. Lt. Sinclair retired on June 11, 1802.

Commissions: Ens. July 12, 1782 (26<sup>th</sup> Regt.); Lt. Feb. 17, 1783 (Second 71<sup>st</sup> Regt. of (Highland) Foot); Lt. by transfer effective Dec. 25, 1782 (42<sup>nd</sup> Additional Company); Lt. Half-pay June 1783 (1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Lt. June 15 1793 (effective Mar. 1, 1793) 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., Perthshire (or Breadalbane) Regiment of Fencible Men; Lt. Half-pay July 2, 1794 (42<sup>nd</sup> Regt); Lt. from Half-pay Mar. 31, 1796 (89<sup>th</sup> Regt.); Retired June 11, 1802 (89<sup>th</sup> Regt.).

Sources: E-mail from Dr. John Houlding to Paul Pace, July 31, 2012; *Historical Record of the Twenty-sixth or Cameronian Regiment*, Ed. Thomas Carter, W. O. Mitchell, Military Publisher, London, 1867, Google Books, p. 93; *London Gazette*, July 23-27, 1782, p. 3, Mar. 1-4, 1783, p. 1, June 11-15, 1793, pp. 491-492, July 8-12, 1794, p. 697, Apr. 30 – May 3, 1796, p. 5; TNA, *War Office: Published Army Lists, 1782* at WO 65/32, p. 146, 1783 at WO 65/33 (Copy of missing page 146 for "2d 71st" Regt. provided by Mr. Ed Brumby ), 1799 at WO 65/49, p. 294) and 1801 at WO 65/51 p. 328; TNA, *Commission Books* at WO25/37, pp. 59 and 203; TNA, *War Office: Out letters*, WO 4/120, p. 208; TNA, *Musters of Capt. Wm. Nairne's and Capt. John Elphinston's Companies, 2<sup>nd</sup> 71<sup>st</sup> Regt.*, Apr. 5, 1783, *War Office: General Muster Books and Pay Lists, 71<sup>st</sup> Foot* at WO 12/7847; TNA, Richard Fitz Patrick to Lord Murray, June 23, 1783, *War Office: Out-letters* at WO 4/122, pp. 142-143 (f. 73); *A Military History of Perthshire 1660 – 1902*, Ed. The Marchioness of Tullibardine, R. A. & J. Hay, Perth, 1908, Google Books, p. 178; *A History of the British Army in Malta*, Malta Family History website; Biography of Andrew Thomas, Lord Blaney in *Dictionary of National Biography*, Vol. 5 , Sir Leslie Stephen, Sir Sidney Lee, Smith, Elder, & co., 1886, Google Books, p. 207.

**Smith, Quartermaster Colin.** In 1775 Sgt. Colin Smith was serving in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. as Quartermaster Sergeant. Although the regimental establishment did not list a specific position of "*Quarter-Master Serjeant*" the title commonly appears in promotion orders, military journals and manuals during this period. Capt. Bennett Cuthbertson, in his *System for the Complete Interior management and Oeconomy of a Battalion of Infantry* (1776), writing of the qualifications of a Sergeant-Major discusses the seniority of the Quartermaster Sergeant notes that "... *the Quarter-master-serjeant only should be allowed to inhabit the room or tent he [the Sergeant Major] does, as being an inferior staff-officer, and having, as well as the Serjeant-major, business of consequence to transact in the writing-way, in which they may be of assistance to each other.*"

Quartermaster Sgt. Smith was likely performing most of the duties of the Quartermaster at the time of his promotion as Lt. William Graham was Quartermaster in name only. Lord John Murray wrote the Secretary at War about the situation on Feb. 7, 1776 indicating "... *Lieu' W<sup>m</sup> Graham who is Quarter Master, but it seems has never acted as Such, his father the late Lieu'. Colonel attained it from the Lord Lieutenant [of Ireland] five years ago: I have taken the liberty of inclosing in another Cover two of his Letters, with a Copy of mine to Lieu' Colonel [Thomas] Stirling and his answer that your Lordship may be fully inform'd of what he writes of both these Officers. As it is of the Greatest consequence to the Regiment especially at present for me to have a careful Quarter M<sup>r</sup>. and a greater charge in the Royal Highland Regiment than any other to take care of the Plaids & hose, and see them properly made by the Manufacturers and delivered out, to the amount of Eighteen or nineteen thousand yards contracted for this year. Shall transmit his Memorial (when I receive it from head Quarters) to your Lordship.... I have just Rec<sup>d</sup>. a letter from my Lieu' Colonel that he wished Sincerely that I had a Quarter Master that would fully do the duty as there is great occasion for it. Which I flatter my self will plead my Excuse for giving your Lordship so much trouble of perusing at your leisure the letters sent with this. ...*" Unlike English regiments whose uniforms were almost entirely procured by the regimental agents, the colonels of the Highland regiments had to make arrangements for the Highland portion of the annual uniforms themselves. This included the belted plaids, hose material and bonnets.

Lord Murray wrote to the Secretary at War regarding Lt. William Graham's resignation as Quartermaster on Feb. 10, 1776 indicating "... I had the honor to write to your Lordship the 7<sup>th</sup>. Inst<sup>d</sup>. and have Since Rec<sup>d</sup> Lieut. W<sup>m</sup> Graham demision of Quarter Master, which I have the honor to inclose, and beg leave to be informed if I may recommend a Quarter Master in his room..." With Graham's resignation, Sgt. Smith was appointed Quartermaster with a date of rank of Mar. 20, 1776. The War-Office announced on Apr. 2, 1776...42d Regiment of Foot... Quarter-Master Serjeant Colin Smith to be Quarter-Master, vice William Graham."

Quartermaster Smith traveled to America on the transport *Henry and Joseph* with Adj. Hugh Fraser and a number of men from the different companies of the regiment. After sailing on Apr. 29, 1776 as part of a fleet with the 71<sup>st</sup> Highland Regt. under the protection of *HMS Flora*, the ships of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. were scattered by a severe storm on May 4<sup>th</sup>. After the storm the *Henry & Joseph* transport was able to link up with four transports carrying troops of the 71<sup>st</sup> Highland Regt. Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., 71<sup>st</sup> Highland Regt., on the transport *George* assumed command of the five transports and issued general orders for the conduct of the troops on the transports on May 18, 1776. Under those orders each transport was given a flag symbol, that of the *Henry & Joseph* being "...A white Pendant at the top Gall<sup>t</sup> Mast Head ..." Further, Lt. Col. Campbell ordered that "...In case of an attack, the troops on board the several Transports are to be quartered properly to the small arms, they are to appear in their Regimental coats and vests keep up their fire till they are close alongside the Rebel Vessel at which period they are to throw in their shot and instantly board with sword in hand which I am persuaded will be executed with that spirit and intrepidity that has ever distinguished a chosen corps of Highlanders in the heat of action."

Upon arrival at Staten Island, New York, Smith served with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion in New York/New Jersey campaign of 1776-1777, the Philadelphia campaign of 1777-1778. He continued to serve with the regiment for the Raid on Portsmouth, Virginia and the occupation of Stony Point, New York in 1779.

Capt. Peebles recorded Smith's death on Dec. 21, 1779 writing that he "...Hear<sup>d</sup> to day the Qr. Mr. Smith shot himself yesterday in the Store, tis supposed on account of some clandestine management on the Virginia expedition." Smith was succeeded by Quartermaster Sgt. Hector M<sup>c</sup>Lean.

Quartermaster Smith's widow, Margaret Smith, applied for "Royal Bounty and Compassion" for herself and two children from London in July 1784.

Commissions/Appointments: Quartermaster Sgt. Prior to 1776; Quartermaster Mar. 20, 1776; Died Dec. 20, 1779.

**References:** *System for the Complete Interior Management and Oeconomy of a Battalion of Infantry*, Capt. Bennett Cuthbertson, A. Gray, Bristol, 1776, Google Books, p. 117; *Stewart's Sketches* p. 367; TNA, Lord John Murray to Viscount Barrington, Feb. 7 and 10, 1776, *War Office: In-letters* at WO 1/993; *London Gazette*, Mar. 30 –Apr. 2, 1776, p. 2; NRS, "Gen. Orders for Troops on Board Transports Under the Command of Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., 71<sup>st</sup> Regt., May 18, 1776," *Transcripts of records from various locations* at RH2/8/80 (original in Concord Free Public Library, Mass. ) transcribed by P. D. Albertson, Sept. 2009; General Orders, New York, Oct. 25, 1780; *Peebles' Journal*, Dec. 21, 1779; TNA, *War Office: Widows' Pensions* and Bounty, Application Papers at WO 25/3104/5/19.

**Smith, M. D.**, Surgeon's Mate Donald. Mate Smith was born in 1756 at Croft-Brackley, Glenorchy, in Argyllshire (about fifteen miles north of Inveraray). Smith's older brother was Rev. Dr. John Smith, later of the Highland Church at Campbeltown and a Gaelic literature scholar. The *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticanæ*, a book on the succession of Ministers in the Church of Scotland, identifies Donald and John Smith's parents as "John M Lulich or S. and Mary Campbell"

Dr. Smith received a degree from St. Andrews medical college and was a surgeon in Crieff. At that time degrees were often awarded by St. Andrews to those already practicing medicine and did not require attendance at the college. Smith was appointed Surgeon's Mate around Dec. 1778 (effective back to Sept. 1777) and appears in America for the first time in the muster of the General's Company taken at Newtown, Long Island on Dec. 28, 1778.

Dr. Robert Jackson of the 71<sup>st</sup> Highlanders described his life as a Surgeon's Mate in that regiment in 1778 writing "... *Furnished with the not very luxurious outfit of a soldier's tent, blanket, and ration, he never in his life, perhaps, enjoyed a day of more unalloyed and hearty content, as he was often heard to declare, than when he joined the 71st. Though reclining on a bundle of straw, and after a dinner of which salt pork had formed the whole bill of fare, he felt comparatively as if he had been translated to Paradise... A division of labour now took place between himself and the other hospital mate of the corps; he undertaking the hospital duties, and his colleague those of the camp...*"

Dr. Jackson also described the hospital of the 71<sup>st</sup> Regt. writing "...*The term hospital in relation to our mate might mislead the reader, were it not explained to apply to a turf hut, which had been a commissary's store whose contents having been translated, it may be presumed, to a better place, their cast-off hovel was constituted a hospital...The hut had luckily one quality that ought to distinguish all hospitals, for, if deficient in other respects, it was at least water-tight in the roof. The height in its rear, was covered with wood, and it occurred to our mate that he might avail himself of the circumstance for the benefit of his patients. Accordingly, he proposed to have erected all round his hospital, platforms of wicker-work by a common fatigue party, which would serve as, comparatively speaking, comfortable couches for the sick...*"

Dr. Smith served with the line battalions for the remainder of the war including the Raid on Portsmouth, Virginia in May 1779, the occupation of Stony Point, New York in 1779, the Siege of Charleston, South Carolina in 1780 and the relief attempt for Cornwallis' army in 1781.

Smith had an keen interest in the collection of the ancient poems of Gaelic poet Ossian as highlighted by his scholar brother Rev. Dr. John Smith in his 1780 work titled "*A Dissertation on the Authenticity of Ossian's Poems*" in which he wrote "*Among the correspondents who were most active and successful in procuring me several pieces from persons and places that I could have no intercourse with myself, were...Donald Smith under-surgeon in the 42d regiment.*"

As the war drew to a close, Dr. Smith temporarily left the medical profession and accepted Gen. Sir Guy Carleton's commission to serve as an infantry officer. General Orders issued on Oct. 26, 1782 announced "... *The Commander in Chief has been pleased to appoint Donald Smith Gent<sup>n</sup>. to be an Ensign in the 2<sup>d</sup> Batt<sup>n</sup>. of the 84<sup>th</sup>. Reg<sup>t</sup>. by purchase of a Blank Commission dated 24<sup>th</sup>. Nov<sup>r</sup>. 1779.*"

The next year, on Aug. 17, 1783, General Orders were issued at New York for the reduction of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. 84<sup>th</sup> Regt. and other regiments. The orders reported King George III's directions to Sir Guy Carleton that "... *we have thought fit that our Forces under your Command and in N<sup>o</sup> America be forthwith reduced, Our will and pleasure is that ... The 2<sup>d</sup> Batt: of our 84<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> or Royal Highland Emigrants Commanded by yourself ... are to be entirely disbanded as soon as the same can possibly be done...*" Accordingly, Ens. Donald Smith went out on Half-Pay of the 84<sup>th</sup> Highland Regt. where he remained listed until the annotated War Office copy of the annual Army List for 1810 shows him struck from the list of Half-Pay Ensigns of the "*84th Foot, 2d Battalion*" and marked "*D<sup>d</sup> 1803.*" This date for his death is likely not be accurate as shown below.



Obverse  
CAST OF MEDAL



Reverse  
CAST OF MEDAL

Medal Awarded to Lt. Donald Smith, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Breadalbane Fencibles

Picture Source: *A Military History of Perthshire, 1660-1902*, Ed. Marchioness of Tullibardine, Perth, 1908, Google Books, p. 149.

On June 15, 1793 the War Office announced the formation of a new Fencible regiment writing “*Perthshire Regiment of Fencible Men. John Earl of Breadalbane to be Colonel....To be Surgeon Donald Smith...*” This regiment was also called the Breadalbane Fencibles after its Colonel. About two years later on July 11, 1795, the War Office announced “*...3d Battalion of the Breadalbane Regiment of Fencible Infantry. Major John Earl of Breadalbane, from the 78<sup>th</sup> Foot, to be Colonel, with the permanent Rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the Army... To be Lieutenants, Lieutenant Donald Smith..., from the 1st Battalion. To be Surgeon, Dr. Donald Smith ...*” Based on this order it appears Dr. Smith held both a subaltern’s and the surgeon’s position in the regiment. The Feb. 1799 Army list shows Surg. and Lt. Smith assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn., Breadalbane Fencibles stationed at Londonderry, Ireland. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Breadalbane Fencibles was disbanded July 28, 1802.

The 1805 “*Report of the Committee of the Highland Society of Scotland Appointed to Inquire into the nature and Authenticity of the POEMS OF OSSIAN*” included a note in the introduction that the “*Committee takes this opportunity of returning its thanks to the various gentlemen who have contributed information, manuscripts, or other documents, with regard to the object of its inquiries. It hopes it may, without offence to others, particularly mention the names of... Dr Donald Smith, late surgeon to the Breadalbane Fencibles, one of the best Celtic scholars of the present time, the Committee would endeavour to express its obligation, were not its thanks rendered unnecessary by those of the Society itself, voted to that gentleman, in a manner most justly due to the ability and unwearied attention with which he has assisted the Committee in the progress of this business; an assistance, without which, its Report could never have been completed.*”

A London newspaper, the *British Press*, reported on July 11, 1804 on an award by the Highland Society of Scotland to Dr. Smith for his work on the Ossian report. The newspaper wrote “*... and the Meeting further, for the reasons mentioned in the report, voted a piece of plate, with a suitable inscription, to Dr. Donald Smith, a gentleman of distinguished erudition, and particularly of the most acknowledged*

*eminence in Celtic literature, as a mark of their sense of the great benefit the Committee had derived from his knowledge and services in that business...*”

Donald Smith died at Edinburgh in 1805 as recorded in the *Scots Magazine, and Edinburgh Literary Miscellany For June 1805* which read “*DEATHS... May... 22. At Edinburgh, after a short illness, Dr Donald Smith, late surgeon to the Breadalbane fencibles. In him the country has lost a scholar and antiquary, whose extent of knowledge, acuteness, and industry, have seldom been equalled. In Celtic literature he perhaps exceeded all his contemporaries. He possessed many virtues and excellent qualities, accompanied with the most simple and unassuming manners.*” An article in *The Edinburgh Encyclopedia* of 1830 referred to him as “*...Dr. Donald Smith, the first Gaelic scholar of his country...*”

Commissions/Warrants: Surgeons Mate approximately Dec. 1778 – effective Sept. 11, 1777 (42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Ens. Oct. 26, 1782 – effective Nov. 24, 1779 (2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., 84<sup>th</sup> Regt. – Royal Highland Emigrants); Ens. Half-Pay Aug. 1783 (2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., 84<sup>th</sup> Regt. or Royal Highland Emigrants); Surgeon, June 15, 1793 – effective Mar. 1, 1793 (Perthshire Regt. of Fencible Men); Ens. and Surgeon Mar. 19, 1793 (Perthshire Regt. of Fencible Men); Surgeon and Lt. Dec. 9, 1794 (3<sup>rd</sup> Bn., Breadalbane Regt. of Fencible Infantry – Reduced 1802).

**References:** “John Smith” in *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticanæ, the Succession of Ministers in the Church of Scotland from the Reformation, Vol. IV, by Hew Scott, D. D., Oliver and Boyd, Edinburgh, 1923, p. 50*; “John Smith” in *Dictionary of National Biography*, Volume LIII, Ed. Sir Sidney Lee, Smith, Elder, & Co., London, 1898, Google Books, p. 79; *Scottish Gaelic Studies*, Volumes 14, H. Milford, Oxford University Press, 1983, p. 11; *Wikipedia* article on “University of St Andrews School of Medicine”; *View of the Formation Discipline and Economy of Armies*, Robert Jackson, M. D., Parker, Furnivall and Parker, London, 1845, Google Books, pp. xxix, xxx and xxxii; TNA, Muster report of Gen. Lord John Murray’s Co., Newtown Long Island, Dec. 28, 1778; *War Office: General Muster Books and Pay Lists, 42<sup>nd</sup> Foot* at WO 12/5479; “*List of the Officers of the 42<sup>d</sup> or Royal Highland Regiment of Foot Commanded by the R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> Lord John Murray*” from the Regimental Agents dated approximately Dec. 6, 1778 in the *Lord John Murray Papers*; General Orders, Lefferts House (New York), Oct. 26, 1782; “Breadalbane Regiment. 1<sup>st</sup> Bat.” in the *List of the Officers of the Several Regiments and Corps of Fencible Cavalry and Infantry...*, War Office, May 14, 1795, Google Books; “Fencible Infantry... Breadalbane, 3d Bat.” in the *Monthly Army List, Corrected to the First February, 1799*, War Office, p. 40; “The Forgotten Army: Fencible Regiments of Great Britain 1793-1816”, Ron McGuian, Napoleonic Series, June 2003, at [www.napoleon-series.org](http://www.napoleon-series.org); TNA, *Commission Books* at WO25/116, Part 2, p. 236; *London Gazette*, July 7, 1795, pp. 3-5; “A Dissertation on the Authenticity of Ossian’s Poems” in *Galic Antiquities*, John Smith, T. Cadell, London, 1780, Google Books, footnote p. 128; *In Defence of Ossian*, Keith Norman MacDonald, M.D., Reprinted from the Oban Times, 1906, Google Books, p. 20; “The Reasons Why I believe in the Ossianic Poems,” Keith Norman MacDonald, M.D., in *The Celtic Monthly*, July 1904, No. 10, Vol. XII, Google Books, p. 188; *Edinburgh Encyclopedia*, Vol. XVI, by David Brewster, LL.D., William Blackwood, Edinburgh, 1830, Google Books, p. 182; *Report of the Committee of the Highland Society of Scotland Appointed to Inquire into the Nature and Authenticity of the POEMS OF OSSIAN*, Henry Mackenzie, Esq., University Press, Edinburgh, 1805, Google Books, pp. iii-iv; *British Press*, July 11, 1804, p. 4; *Scots Magazine, and Edinburgh Literary Miscellany For June 1805*, Edinburgh, 1805, Google Books, p. 486.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. Smith Capt". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and characteristic of the late 18th or early 19th century.

**Smith**, Brevet-Maj. John. John Smith was born in Scotland in 1732 and began his service in 1755 or 1756 as a Volunteer in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. in Ireland. Smith was commissioned in May 1757 in place of Ens. Archibald Lermont who was promoted. When Smith was recommended for an Ensigncy Lord Loudoun annotated the List of Commissions that he was the “*Son of Cornet Smith of MG Cholmondly’s.*” Lt. Gen. Hon. James Cholmondeley was the Colonel of the 6<sup>th</sup> Dragoons (Inniskillings) from Jan. 1750 to Oct. 1775.



*The Black Watch at Ticonderoga, July 8, 1758*, Jean Leon Gerome Ferris, 1909 for the Glens Falls Insurance Co.

Picture Source: Art and Picture Collection, New York Public Library. *New York Public Library Digital Collections*. <http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47e0-f478-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99>

After travelling with the regiment to America for the French and Indian War, Smith was wounded at the Battle of Ticonderoga, New York in July 1758 and was promoted to Lieutenant soon after the battle in place of Hugh M<sup>c</sup>Pherson who had been killed. In a letter he later sent to Lord Jeffrey Amherst Smith mentioned “...*Having had the Honour to serve as Lieutenant of Light Infantry under your Lordships Command in the Glorious Campaign during the late War in America...*”

After service with the regiment in the Caribbean in 1762, Smith marched with Col. Henry Bouquet to relieve Fort Pitt during Pontiac’s Rebellion including the Battle of Bushy Run near Pittsburgh in August 1763 and in Bouquet’s Muskingum expedition of 1764 to chastise the Ohio Indians. A Philadelphia advertisement for paying of bills for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. in Dec. 1763 lists “*Lieutenant John Smith, commanding said Regiment at Ligonier...*”

As a Lieutenant in 1765 Smith was second in command to then Capt. Thomas Stirling as their 100-man detachment made a 3000-mile expedition to occupy Fort de Chartres in Illinois and then to return to New York by way of New Orleans. Due to the expenses incurred on the trip he was described as being “*drowned in debt.*” Smith returned with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. to Ireland in 1767 and was promoted to Capt. Lieutenant in January 1775 in place of Capt. Lt. Thomas Robinson who had joined the 44<sup>th</sup> Regt.

As the regiment was preparing for the new war in America, the Secretary at War wrote Lord John Murray on Aug. 29, 1775 to advise him of an augmentation to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. to add Additional Companies for the recruiting Service. Lord Barrington wrote “... [His Majesty] *having been pleased to direct that the 42<sup>d</sup>. /or Royal Highland/ Reg<sup>t</sup>. of Foot under your Command, shall be further augmented with two additional Companies to be raised in Great Britain, ...I have the honor to send your Lordship a list of Officers appointed from half Pay to One of the additional Companies. The Officers for the other Company will be*

*appointed by a regular Regimental Promotion, your Lordship will therefore be pleased to Send me the Recommendation of this Succession...*” About six weeks later, on Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>, Lord Barrington again wrote to Lord John Murray regarding the appointments in the two Additional Companies indicating “... *I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship’s Letter of the 2<sup>d</sup>. Instant, with an annexed List of Officers of the Royal Highland Regiment of Foot, under your Command... 2<sup>d</sup>. Additional Company Captain John Smith, was Cap<sup>t</sup> Lieu<sup>t</sup> in 42<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>’...*” Smith’s Captaincy was dated Aug. 16, 1775.

Although Capt. Smith was initially assigned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Additional Company, Lord Murray reassigned him to a battalion company before the regiment sailed for America from Greenock on Apr. 29, 1776 under convoy of *HMS Flora*.



Rendering of *Andrew Doria* © 2006

Picture Source: *Andrew Doria - The First Salute, Inc.* Reproduced with Permission.

After *HMS Flora*’s convoy was broken up by storms on May 4, 1776, Capt. Smith and his entire company were captured on the transport *Oxford* on May 29, 1776 by the rebel brig *Andrew Doria*. Capt. Smith and Lt. Robert Franklin, along with three officers of the 71<sup>st</sup> Highland Regt. and two of their wives, were separated from their soldiers and placed on the 71<sup>st</sup> Regt. transport *Crawford* which had been sailing with the *Oxford*. The rebel prize crew of the *Crawford* sailed for an American port, but was intercepted by *HMS Cerberus* and retaken. Unfortunately, the *Crawford* was sent off again without protection and was taken for a second time by the rebels and the prisoners were sent to Maj. Gen. Nathaniel Greene’s Headquarters on Long Island. Capt. Smith and the others were then forwarded to New York, where Capt. Smith unsuccessfully attempted on June 30, 1776 to get the officers exchanged for rebel officers captured in Canada. After being held in New York City, the Officers and ladies were transported 100 miles up the North River to Esopus, where they remained on parole for ten weeks. The officers and wives were then moved to Morristown, New Jersey for seven weeks, before being moved to Brunswick for exchange. The exchange did not happen and the officers and wives were ordered to make a 200 mile overland journey into Pennsylvania. One of the other prisoners, Capt. Norman Macleod of MacLeod, 71<sup>st</sup> Regt., requested that rebel Gen. George Washington allow the ladies to travel to New York. Washington agreed and went further allowing the entire party to go to New York, requesting that Gen. Sir William Howe exchange rebel officers held by the British. Sgt. James Stirling wrote in a letter dated July 30, 1776, that while captured: “*Capt. Smith was ordered to drink confusion to the KING, upon which he most loyally and with a spirit despising all their threats, drank Success to the King and his arms both by sea and land.*” It is not clear how Sgt. Stirling would have come by this information as the captured officers were not released until well after Stirling’s letter was written.

Smith was exchanged in time to join the regiment at Pennington, New Jersey on Dec. 9, 1776 and served with the line battalion in the New Jersey campaign of 1777. It is not known if Smith’s company served as

a separate unit in the campaign as the muster of the company at Piscataway, New Jersey, on Apr. 30, 1777 showed “... *five Serjeants four Corporals two Drummers and Eighty six private men*” absent. These men were still being held by the rebels in Virginia after their capture in 1776. The companies of the regiment were leveled some time before the muster of Capt. Smith’s company at Philadelphia on Mar. 28, 1778. Eighteen recruits from the Additional Companies in Scotland were noted as joining the company on May 25, 1777. The 86 private men in the hands of the rebels were administratively redistributed across the companies of the regiment with Capt. Smith keeping only ten on his roster. As the Philadelphia muster above covered the period of Dec. 25, 1776 to June 24, 1777, it is likely the redistribution took place before the company embarked for the voyage to the Chesapeake on July 8<sup>th</sup>.

Capt. Smith served through the Philadelphia campaign of 1777-1778 with one of the line battalions before transferring to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Light Infantry Company in the summer of 1778. Smith had served in the Light Infantry during the French & Indian War and exchanged with Capt. George Dalrymple, a junior captain who had just recently purchased his Company. The muster report of Capt. Dalrymple’s Company at Newton, Long Island, on Dec. 28, 1778 noted the change reporting “...*Transferred to the Light Infantry 18 August 78 John Smith...*” However, the Light Infantry Company muster for the same period, performed later at Southampton, Long Island on Mar. 2, 1779, noted Smith’s joining as “*From the Regiment 25<sup>th</sup> June [1778]... John Smith Captain...*” The period between the conflicting dates includes the Battle of Monmouth, New Jersey on June 28, 1778, making Capt. Smith’s role in that battle unclear.

In Jan. 1779 Smith argued with Lt. Col. Stirling over the payment of Smith’s previous company when they were capture in 1776 and Smith was confined to quarters for a period as a result of the issue. Capt. Peebles appeared to take Smith’s side in the affair summarizing that “...*The Command<sup>s</sup> off’ought certainly to assist in recovering the Money he lost when taken, & then he will no doubt clear all the men...*” Capt. Peebles also noted at this period that Capt. Smith was a heavy drinker writing in August 1779 that he “...*Came home to Camp & din’d with Cap’ S: who always drinks too much...*”

On Oct. 26, 1779 Capt. Smith wrote to Gen. Lord Jeffrey Amherst requesting promotion in the newly authorized 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. being raised in Scotland. Smith wrote “... *Having had the Honour to serve as Lieutenant of Light Infantry under your Lordships Command in the Glorious Campaign during the late War in America, in the 42<sup>d</sup> Regiment, and having by the last Packet from England, that a Second Battalion was to be added to the Regiment and having served twenty three years as a Commissioned Officer, and been for some time past, Eldest Captain of the Regiment and Commanding the Light Infantry Company of it – In case a second Battalion should take place, makes me presume to address your Lordship, that no Junior Officer might be appointed Major, over my head ...*” Lord Amherst denied Smith’s request in a letter to the Captain on Dec. 6, 1779 writing “...*I have received the favour of your Letter of the 26<sup>th</sup> of October last. The proposed 2<sup>d</sup> Battalion for the 42<sup>d</sup> Regiment of Foot, being to be raised without expence to Government, and Lord John Murray having the recommendation of the Officers to compose that Battalion, you will perceive it not in my power to be of use to you on this occasion. ...*” Capt. John Peebles noted Smith’s disappointment in his journal writing “... *Wednesday 22<sup>d</sup> March...A letter from John Smith...he is disappointed in getting the Majority of the 2<sup>d</sup> Battalio[n] [Capt. John] M<sup>c</sup>Intosh was appointed & ‘tis tho’ [Capt. Patrick] Peter Graham will get it now, what luck some people have...*”

Capt. Smith left the 42<sup>nd</sup> Light Infantry Company on Dec. 5, 1779 for one of the line battalions, exchanging again with Capt. Dalrymple. At this time Smith was the senior Captain in the regiment and likely left the Light Infantry to command one of the two provisional line battalions in America. The next month he commanded a 100-man detachment of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. as part of Maj. Charles Lumm’s attack on Newark, New Jersey on Jan. 26, 1780. In the attack Lumm commanded the 44<sup>th</sup> Companies on the right and Capt. Smith commanded the Highlanders on the left, while the Hessians from the Landgrave Regt.

remained in reserve. Lumm summarized the results in a letter to Lt. Gen. Knyphausen with *“I have the Honor to report to your Excellency the Success of the Detachment you were pleased to intrust to my Command, consisting of the Flank Companies of the 44<sup>th</sup> – 100 of the 42<sup>nd</sup> and 100 Hessians for the purpose of striking a Rebel Post at New Ark.”*

Capt. Smith served with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. for the Siege of Charleston, South Carolina in May 1780 and the relief attempt for Cornwallis’ army in 1781 and continued with the regiment in garrison at Paulus Hook, New Jersey at the end of the war. General Orders issued at New York on July 2, 1783 included *“List of Promotions received from the War Office...To be Majors in the Army...John Smith 1<sup>st</sup> Batt: 42<sup>d</sup> 19 March 1783...”*

Soon after Smith’s promotion to Brevet-Major he died on July 25<sup>th</sup>. *The New York Gazette* reported Maj. Smith’s death writing *“New York, July 30, 1783. Last Friday evening died at Powles-Hook, Major John Smith, of the 42d, or Royal Highland Regiment, and on Sunday his remains were interred there with military honours. During a service of twenty-nine years, his conduct as an officer and a gentleman, was uniformly such as acquire him the greatest respect and esteem of that regiment in particular, and of numerous acquaintances, who now sincerely regret the loss of so valuable a friend.”*

Maj. Smith was said to have been buried on a hill near the site of *“St. Matthews’ Church”* in Sussex Street, Jersey City. There is currently, however, no church by that name on Sussex St., Jersey City. This hill was leveled in 1804 and it is not known what became of Maj. Smith’s remains.



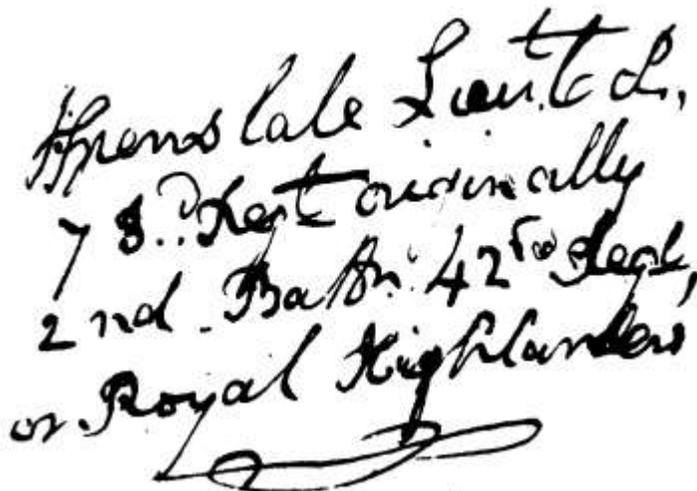
Brevet-Maj. John Smith’s Tombstone

Picture Source: *New-York Historical Society Quarterly Bulletin*, Vol. IV, July 1920, Google Books, p. 51.

Smith's tombstone was made from the stone originally used as the base for the Statue of King George III at Bowling Green Park pulled down by the rebels in New York City in July 1776. The epitaph carved on the back of the stone reads: "In Memory of//Major JOHN SMITH//of the//XLIInd or Royal Highland Reg//Who died 25 July 1783//In the 48<sup>th</sup> year of his Age//This Stone is erected//By the OFFICERS of that Reg//His//Bravery Generosity Humanity//During an honourable service//of 29 Years//Endeared him to the Soldiers//To his Acquaintance & Friends." The tombstone is currently held by the New York Historical Society.

Commissions: Ens. May 15, 1757; Lt. July 26, 1758, Capt. Lt. Jan. 14, 1775; Capt. Aug. 16, 1775 – effective Jan. 14, 1775 – based on Capt. Lt. date (2<sup>nd</sup> Additional Company, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Capt. prior to Apr. 29, 1776 (42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Capt. June 25, 1778 (42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Company); Capt. Dec. 5, 1779 (42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Maj. "in the Army" Mar. 19, 1783; Died July 25, 1783.

**Smith**, Capt. John: *Through So Many Dangers, The Memoirs and Adventures of Robert Kirk, Late of the Royal Highland Regiment*, Ed. Lt. Col. Ian McCulloch and Timothy Todish, Purple Mountain Press, Fleischmans, New York, 2004, p. 151; *Sons of the Mountains*, Vol. I, Ian Macpherson McCulloch, Purple Mountain Press, Fleischmans (NY), 2006, Note 67 on p. 348; *Sons of the Mountains*, Vol. 2, p. 31; "Succession of Colonels...Dragoons...6<sup>th</sup>, Inniskilling..." *Pennsylvania Gazette*, Dec. 29, 1763; John Smith to Robert Van Rensselaer, June 30, 1776 in *Provincial Convention, Committee of Safety and Council of Safety of the State of New-York, 1775-1776-1777*, Vol. II, Printed by Thurlow Weed, Albany, 1842, pp. 297-298; Army List 1779, p. 278; TNA, Viscount Barrington to Lord John Murray, Aug. 29, 1775, *War Office: Out-letters* at WO 4/94, p. 217 (f. 111) and Oct. 11, 1775 at WO 4/94, pp. 384-6 (ff. 195-196); Lt. Col Stirling to Lord John Murray, Amboy Camp, June 24, 1777, *Lord John Murray Papers; Peebles' Journal*, Jan. 17, 1779, Aug. 3, 1779 and Mar. 22, 1780; Excerpts of a letter from New York, dated Dec. 18, 1776, from the Lady of Capt. Norman MacLeod of MacLeod of the 71<sup>st</sup> Regt. to a friend in Scotland in *Scots Magazine*, April 1777, pp. 189-191; TNA, John Smith, to Lord Jeffrey Amherst, Oct. 26, 1779, *War Office: Baron Jeffrey Amherst, Commander-in-Chief: Papers* at WO 34/156 Pt. 2, f. 463; Lord Jeffrey Amherst, to John Smith, Dec. 6, 1779 at WO 34/232, p. 587; TNA, Charles Lumm to Wilhelm von Knyphausen, Jan. 26, 1780, Sec. of State. Military Dispatches at CO 5/100, pp. 75-77; General Orders, New York, July 2, 1783; *Royal Gazette*, New York, July 30, 1783; *Progress of New York in a Century, 1776-1876, An Address Delivered Before the New York Historical Society, December 7, 1875*, John Austin Stevens, Printed for the Society, New York; 1876, Google Books, pp. 13-14; *Magazine of American History with Notes and Queries*, Volume IV, John Austin Stevens, A. S. Barnes & Company, New York, 1880, Google Books; *Royal Gazette*, July 9 1783.



Signature Source and Note: Hand signed Postscript to the Introduction to *Memoir of the Life and Character of the late Lieut.-Colonel John Campbell*, James Spens, Privately Printed, Edinburgh, 1836, Google Books. Although the signature block appears to cite the 78<sup>th</sup> Regt., a close examination reveals it is the 73<sup>rd</sup> Regt., matching Spens' actual assignment.

**Spens, Ens. James.** Spens was born in Edinburgh Parish on Nov. 5, 1761 and was the eldest son and heir of Dr. Nathaniel Spens of Edinburgh (son of the 15<sup>th</sup> Laird of Lathallan, Fifeshire). Dr. Spens purchased the estate of Craigsanquhar in 1792 and was President of the Royal College of Physicians in 1794. Ens. Spens' mother was Mary Milliken, daughter of James Milliken of Milliken, Renfrewshire and his wife Jean Macdowall, daughter of Alexander Macdowall of Garthland.

Spens was initially commissioned Ensign Mar. 1779 in the Southern Regt. of Fencible Men raised by Col. Henry, Duke of Buccleuch. In Oct. 1779 Spens transferred to a 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Additional Company with an effective date of June 1778 in place of Ens. Alexander Macgregor of Balhaldie who had been promoted.

Spens traveled to America in the spring of 1780, but returned almost immediately as noted in an entry in Capt. Peebles journal saying "*Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May 1780... got a packet of letters brot from New York...they came from Scotland by the Ruby on whom En<sup>sn</sup> Spens has taken his passage but he got a L<sup>icy</sup>. in the 2<sup>d</sup> Batt<sup>n</sup>...*" On July 29, 1779 Lord Jeffrey Amherst, Commander in Chief, His Majesty's Forces had notified Lord John Murray of the King's acceptance of Lord Murray proposal to raise a second battalion to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Like the other officers of in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Spens date of rank at Lt. was held until the battalion was complete and accepted in Mar. 1780.

Lt. Spens embarked with the battalion for a secret expedition against South Africa at Portsmouth, England on Jan. 20-21, 1781 and after numerous delays sailed on Mar. 12<sup>th</sup> along with the 98<sup>th</sup> and 100<sup>th</sup> Regiments. After an encounter with a French fleet in the Azores and a cancelled attempt to attack the Cape of Good Hope, the fleet arrived at Bombay (now Mumbai) in March 1782, a year after leaving Britain and sailed on to Madras (now Chennai), arriving on Apr. 13, 1782.

Spens was promoted to Captain in May 1783 in place of Capt. Thomas Dalyell who had been killed in India. After the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. was renamed the 73<sup>rd</sup> Highland Regt. in 1786, Capt. Spens remained with that regiment when it moved to Cawenpore in 1787 and to the coast of Malabar in 1791 where he was promoted to Major in April 1791 in place of Maj. Hay Macdowal. Spens was promoted to Lt. Colonel in the army in 1795 and a Lt. Col. of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Highland Regt. in Sept. 1795.

Spens married his first wife Isabella Elizabeth MacLeod (sister of Lt. Col. Norman MacLeod of MacLeod of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.) in 1787. Isabella Spens, however, soon died at Dinapore, Bengal in India on Dec. 19, 1787.



Caroline Park, Granton, Edinburgh, 2008 by Ronnie Leask

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from Geograph

Spens married his second wife Frances Stuart (daughter of the late Sir John Stewart, of Allanbank, Bart., Berwickshire and his wife Frances Coutts) on Feb. 16, 1797 at Caroline Park, Edinburgh. They had one surviving child, James Spens, born in 1797. His wife died at age 27 in 1798 at Fort St. George, Madras, India, likely from the effects of childbirth as their daughter Frances died at birth four days earlier.

Spens retired from the 73<sup>rd</sup> Highland Regt. Aug. 30, 1798 but served in 1800 as Maj. Commandant of the Royal Edinburgh Volunteer Artillery, in 1803 as Lt. Colonel of the Royal Edinburgh Volunteers and as the Commandant of the Royal Edinburgh Volunteer Artillery in 1803.



Dr. Nathaniel Spens in the Field Uniform of the Royal Company of Archers, 1791 by Raeburn.

Picture Source: *The History of the Royal Company of Archers*, James Balfour Paul, Wm. Blackwood and Sons, Edinburgh, 1875, Google Books, Plate III. Dr. Spens was the father of James Spens.

On June 14, 1790 Spens was admitted into the Royal Company of Archers where his father had been a member since 1750. The ceremonial organization was later called *The Queen's Body-Guard for Scotland*. In 1793 he presented two medals made of *pagoda* coins that were part of the money paid the Army by Tipu Sultan at the Treaty of Seringapatam in 1792.



The Pagoda Medal established by Maj. James Spens, 1793



The Royal Prize, won by Lt. Col. James Spens, 1804

Picture Source: *The History of the Royal Company of Archers*, James Balfour Paul, Wm. Blackwood and Sons, Edinburgh, 1875, Google Books, Plate X.]

Spens married his third wife Elizabeth Joanna Davidson (daughter of John Davidson Esq. of Ravelrig, Mid-Lothian and Hannah MacKenzie) on Feb. 6, 1804 in Edinburgh. He had no surviving children by his second wife, but had eight children by his third wife, (Nathaniel Spens of Craigsanquhar, Hannah, Mary, Mary, John, Elizabeth, Francis and John Spens, M.D.). In 1799, Spens' father, Dr. Nathaniel Spens, made over the property of Craigsanquhar to him. This estate in Cupar, Fife is located about nine miles west of St. Andrews.

Spens was the author of the book "*Memoir of the Life and Character of the late Lieut.-Colonel John Campbell, Major, 2d Batt. 42d Regiment, or Royal Highlanders*" published in Edinburgh in 1836. He was a member of the Highland Society of Scotland, joining in 1790 and was General Vice-President for Fife of the "*Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, District Committee for the South and West of Scotland.*"

Spens died in 1840 as reported by the *Perthshire Courier* of Aug. 27, 1840 which wrote "*DEATHS...At Edinburgh, on the 17th instant, Lieut.-Col. James Spens, of Craigsanquhar, in the 79th year of his age.*"

Commissions: Ens. Mar. 29, 1779 (Southern Regt. of Fencible Men in North Britain); Ens. Oct. 30, 1779 - effective June 5, 1778 (42<sup>nd</sup> Additional Company); Lt. Mar. 21, 1780 (2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Capt. May 24, 1783 (2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Capt. Apr. 22, 1786 - effective May 24, 1783 (2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Admission to Royal Company of Archers June 14, 1790; Maj. Apr. 6, 1791 (73<sup>rd</sup> Highland Regt.); Lt. Col. "*in the Army*" Apr. 13, 1795; Lt. Col. Sept. 1, 1795 (73<sup>rd</sup> Highland Regt.); Retired Aug. 30, 1798 (73<sup>rd</sup> Highland Regt.); Maj. Commandant July 10, 1800 (Royal Edinburgh Volunteer Artillery); Brig. Gen. June 9, 1801 (Royal Company of Archers); Lt. Col. May 26, 1803 (Royal Edinburgh Volunteers); Lt. Col. Commandant June 4, 1803 (Royal Edinburgh Volunteer Artillery).

**References:** NRS, *Papers of the Spens Family* at GD334/6, 13-22; NRS, at GD334 Commissions of Col. James Spens as Ens., Southern Regt. of Fencible Men – 14, Ens. 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. – 13, Lt. 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. – 15, Capt. 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. – 16, Maj. 73<sup>rd</sup> Regt. – 17, Lt. Col. in the Army – 18, Lt. Col. 73<sup>rd</sup> Regt. – 19, Maj. Commandant of the Royal Edinburgh Volunteer Artillery – 20, Lt. Col. of the Royal Edinburgh Volunteers – 21, Lt. Col. Commandant of the Royal Edinburgh Volunteer Artillery – 22, Diploma of admission, Royal Company of Archers, in favour of Colonel James Spens – 26, and as Brig. Gen., Royal Company of Archers – 27; TNA, *War Office: Out-letters* at WO 4/274, pp. 235-236 (ff. 118V-119); *London Gazette*, Apr. 6-10, 1779, p. 1, Oct. 26-29, 1779, p. 1, Mar. 14-18, 1780, pp. 1-2;

Aug. 29-Sept. 2, 1780, p. 1, June 5-8, 1784, pp. 1-2, Apr. 5, 1791, pp. 2-3, Apr. 21, 1795, pp. 2-5, Sept. 29, 1795, July 20-23, 1799, pp. 1-2, July 8, 1800, pp. 4-5, July 2, 1803, pp. 1-2 and July 23-26, 1803, pp. 1-2; General Orders, James Island, Mar. 25, 1780; *Peebles' Journal*, May 28, 1780; "*List of Officers of the 2<sup>d</sup> Bat<sup>n</sup> of the 42<sup>d</sup> or Royal Highland Regiment*," *Lord John Murray Papers*; Seventy-Third Regt. in *Stewart's Sketches* Vol. II, 1822, Google Books, p. 200; 73<sup>rd</sup> Regt. Army List 1799; *A Dictionary of the Anonymous and Pseudonymous Literature of Great Britain: Including the Works...*, Samuel Halkett, John Laing, Henry Benjamin Wheatley, Edinburgh: William Paterson, 1883, p. 1571; *A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain and Ireland*, Sir Bernard Burke, Ulster King of Arms, Part II, Fourth Edition, Harrison, London, 1863, p. 1410, Google Books; *The History of the Royal Company of Archers: The Queen's Body-Guard for Scotland*, James Balfour Paul, William Blackwood and Sons, Edinburgh and London, 1885, Google Books, pp. 333, 373, Google Books; *Scots Magazine*, July 1788, p. 362, Feb. 1797, p. 143, Sept. 1798, p. 653, Feb. 1804, p. 157; *History of the Edinburgh, or Queen's Regiment Light Infantry Militia (Now) Third Battalion the Royal Scots*, Maj. Robert C. Dudgeon, William Blackwood and Sons, Edinburgh, 1882, Google Books, p. 162; *Asiatic Annual Register for the Year 1799*, Printed for J. Debrett, London, 1801, Google Books, p. 132; *History of the County of Fife, From the Earliest Period to the Present Time*, John M. Leighton, Joseph Swan, Glasgow, 1840, Google Books, p. 57; *The Asiatic Annual Register or View of the History of Hindustan, and of the Politics, Commerce and Literature of Asia, for the Year 1799*, J. Debrett, London, 1801, Google Books, p. 132; *Edinburgh Almanack, Universal Scots and Imperial Register for 1828*, Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh, 1827, Google Books, p. 356; *Fort St. George*, Mrs. Frank Penny, Swan Sonnenschein & Co., London, 1900, Google Books, p. 215; *Prize Essays and Transactions of the Highland Society of Scotland*, Second Ed., Vol. I, Henry Mackenzie, Archibald Constable and Co., Edinburgh, 1812, Google Books, p. lxxxvi; *Perthshire Chronicle*, Aug. 27, 1840, p. 2.

*John Spens*

**Spens, Younger of Stonelaw**, Lt. John. Spens was the eldest son of John Spens of Stonelaw and his wife, Elizabeth Gray (daughter of John Gray, of Dalmarnock and Carntyne). Stonelaw is in Lanarkshire, in the Parish of Rutherglen, and is about six miles south of the center of Glasgow. Spens' younger brother, George Spens, was an Ensign in the 16<sup>th</sup> Regt.

On Feb. 17, 1776, Lord John Murray submitted several names to the War Office for promotions in the regiment. Lord Murray wrote "...*Forty Second or Royal Highland Reg<sup>t</sup> of Foot Ensign George Dalrymple to be Lieutenant vice Robert Reid by purchase John Spence Gen<sup>l</sup>. to be Ensign vice Dalrymple by D<sup>o</sup> [ditto]...*"

Spens served with the line battalion in the New York/New Jersey campaign of 1776-1777 and the Philadelphia campaign of 1777. He was promoted to Lieutenant in Nov. 1777 in place of Lt. John Macdonald who retired.

The muster of Capt. John M<sup>c</sup>Intosh's Company taken at Bedford, Long Island on Jul. 27, 1778 listed Spens as "*Transferred to Additional's 18<sup>th</sup> March 1778.*" In April 1778 Spens returned to Scotland as noted by Lt. Peebles, who wrote: "*Friday 17<sup>th</sup>...Lts. Spens & Franklin sail<sup>d</sup> today for Corke the former to join the Additional's & recruit...*" Spens' assignment to the Additional's may have been associated with ill health as he was granted a six month leave by Gen. Sir William Howe starting Apr. 13, 1778 with the annotation "*42<sup>d</sup>. Regiment ... Lieu<sup>t</sup>. John Spence.. Bad State of Health – Certificate from Physicians...*"

In Sept. 1778 Lt. Spens went to the Orkney Islands off the northern coast of Scotland to collect recruits that would be assigned to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. as a result of the 1778 Press Act, which empowered the justices of the peace and the commissioners of the land tax to deliver men to the recruiting officers. The act authorized the enlistment "*...all able-bodied idle, and disorderly Persons, who could not, upon Examination, prove themselves to exercise and industriously follow some lawful Trade or Employment, or to have some Substance sufficient for their Support and Maintenance.*"

Following the declaration of war by France in 1778 and by Spain in May 1779, noblemen and gentlemen came forward with offers to raise regular army regiments at their own expense; and from July to Aug. 1779 thirteen regiments of infantry for general service the regiments were approved. In response to a request from Spens at Glasgow on July 11, 1779 for promotion in one of the “*New Corps*,” the Secretary of War replied on July 20<sup>th</sup> that “...*As the appointments of Officers to the New Corps is left by the King entirely to the discretion of those Gentlemen who raise them, I cannot take any part with respect to the application made in your letter of the 11<sup>th</sup> inst...*”



Col. John Reid of Straloch

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

Just three days after Spens’ promotion request was denied, on July 23<sup>rd</sup> the King approved a new regiment to be raised by Col. John Reid of Straloch, a former Brevet-Lt. Colonel of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. during the French and Indian War. The new regiment would later enter the line as the 95<sup>th</sup> Regt. On Aug. 27<sup>th</sup> Gen. Lord Jeffrey Amherst, Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty’s Forces, wrote to the Secretary at War and indicated “... *I have the honour to send you herewith a List of Officers which have been approved by the King for ...Colonel Reid’s ...Lt. John Spencer of 42<sup>d</sup> Foot... to be Capt. Lieutenant...*” About a week after Spens’ appointment, on Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>, Col. Reid wrote to the War Office requesting “...*As he expects to raise a Number of Men in the Citys of Edin<sup>r</sup> and Glasgow, he begs leave of absence for two of his Officers in particular, who he thinks are the least liable to objection. Viz Lieu<sup>t</sup> MacNeil of the 1<sup>st</sup> Foot...and Lieu<sup>t</sup> Spence of the 42<sup>d</sup> Regiment whose presence here is not in the least degree necessary. He therefore begs to know M<sup>r</sup> Morse’s opinion, whether these Gentlemen may not proceed without farther delay on their Journey, as the Recruiting Service is very much retarded.*”

Once formed, the 95<sup>th</sup> Regt was assigned to the defense of the Island of Jersey about fourteen miles west of the coast of the Cotentin Peninsula of Normandy, France, but Capt. Lt. Spens was absent recruiting during the Battle of Jersey on Jan. 6, 1781 which repelled a French invasion of the island. As a result of the death of Maj. Francis Pierson, a vacancy arose for a Company and the Colonel picked the second ranking Lieutenant over Capt. Lt. Spens, supposedly because Spens had missed the Jersey battle.

However, the selected officer, Lt. Gilbert Waugh, was also not present at the battle. The officers of the regiment sent a memorial to Gen. Lord Amherst, Commander-in-Chief to correct the injustice to Spens writing “...*That it is represented to the Memorialists, under the strongest marks of authenticity, that your Lordship has been induced to recommend Lieutenant General [sic, actually Gilbert] Waugh to his Majesty for the vacant company in the said regiment, in case of a promotion. That they humbly conceive it to be in consequence of the absence of captain Lieutenant John Spens from the action of St. Hilier’s, on the 6th of Jan. last; or, of his merits as an officer, not having been represented by his Colonel to your Lordship. Thus they beg leave to inform your Lordship, that Lieutenant Gilbert Waugh was likewise absent, being in Guernsey at that time. That Captain-Lieutenant Spens has served in the 42d regiment four campaigns in America, where he had the honour to receive in public orders, Lieutenant-General Sir William Howe’s thanks for his conduct; and that he is now absent on the recruiting service...*”

The next year on Nov. 2, 1782 the War Office announced Spens’ promotion writing “...*95th Regiment of Foot, Captain-Lieutenant John Spens to be Captain of a Company, vice John Jeffer.*” Just five months later On Apr. 2, 1783, the War Office announced Spens’ further promotion writing “...*95th Regiment of Foot, Captain John Spens to be Major, vice James Corbett...*”

Near the end of the war the 95<sup>th</sup> Regt. was reduced and Spens went on Half-Pay in May 1783. Although he never returned to active service Spens continued to obtain promotions while on Half-Pay in the 95<sup>th</sup> Regt. He was commissioned Lt. Colonel “*in the Army*” in 1794, Colonel in 1798, Maj. General in 1805 and Lt. General in 1811.

Spens was also was elected Provost for the borough of Rutherglen in 1791 and Rev. David Ure, in his 1793 history of Rutherglen parish near Glasgow described Maj. Spens’ agricultural expertise writing “...*No person in the parish is, at present, carrying on improvements in agriculture, with greater spirit and success, than Major John Spens of Stonelaw. Finding, on his leaving the service, that his estate was not in the very best condition, his first care was to lay it out in proper inclosures, the largest of which does not exceed 16 acres. He incloses chiefly with ditch and hedge...*”

Rev. Ure continued his description of the parish including Spens’ other major endeavor writing “*Minerals. – The coal works carried on at Stonelaw, by Major John Spens, are of long standing...At present, about 126 persons are employed in the works...two wheeled waggons are commonly used...The whole...is drawn by a single horse, which goes to Glasgow three times a day. Glasgow is distant from Stonelaw 3 ½ miles...A considerable quantity of iron stone is turned out along with the coal at Stonelaw...and is delivered at Clyde iron-work...*” An 1856 description of the area around Glasgow described Stonelaw writing “...*Stonelaw, the vicinity of which is finely timbered, having been extensively planted about sixty years ago by Major Spens, the proprietor of the estate.*”

Spens married Hannah Forster Nelson in Rutherglen on Mar. 29, 1803, but had no surviving children. Gen. Spens’ death notice was published in Blackwood’s *Edinburgh Magazine* for Sept. 1821 saying: “[July] 24. *At Rutherglen, Lieut.-General John Spens, of Stonelaw.*”

The attending physician’s letter attached to Mrs. Spencer’s 1821 pension application describes Spens’ last days. Dr. John Towers wrote “*Glasgow 7<sup>th</sup> Dec’ 1821 I hereby Certify that I attended the late L<sup>t</sup>: General John Spens during his last illness to the periods of his decease, which took place at Rutherglen in the County of Lanark on Monday the twenty third day of July last, & he was interred in the Church Yard of Rutherglen on Saturday the twenty eighth of July. I can give no particular name to his complaint, the principal Symptom being extreme debility, induced by his advanced age, over fatigue & previous stomach Complaints – Given on fact & Conscience by John Towers C. M.*”

Commissions: Ens. Feb. 24, 1776; Lt. Nov. 11, 1777; Transferred to 42<sup>nd</sup> Additional Company Mar. 18, 1778; Capt. Lt. Apr. 9, 1780 (95<sup>th</sup> Regt.); Capt. Oct. 29, 1782 (95<sup>th</sup> Regt.); Maj. Apr. 5, 1783 (95<sup>th</sup> Regt.); Maj. Half-pay May 31, 1783 (95<sup>th</sup> Regt.); Lt. Col. “in the army” Mar. 1, 1794; Col. “in the army” Jan. 1, 1798; Maj. Gen. Jan 1, 1805; Lt. Gen. June 4, 1811.

**References:** TNA, Lord John Murray to the War Office, Feb. 17, 1776, *War Office: In-letters* at WO 1/993; *London Gazette*, Mar. 2, 1776, p. 2, Jan. 20-24, 1778, p. 2, Apr. 25-29, 1780, p. 4, Oct. 29 – Nov. 2, 1782, p. 1; Apr. 12, 1783, pp. 4-5, Sept. 6, 1794, pp. 2-3, Feb. 13, 1798, pp. 2-3 and Jan. 8, 1805, pp. 2-3; General Orders, Philadelphia, Nov. 11, 1777 and New York, Sept. 8, 1780; “*List of the Officers of the 42<sup>d</sup> or Royal Highland Regim’ of Foot Commanded by the R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> Lord John Murray,*” *Lord John Murray Papers*; NRS, *Peebles’ Journal*, Apr. 17, 1778; TNA, *War Office: In-letters, Commanders-in-Chief, North America* at WO 1/10, p. 374 (f. 185); TNA, *War Office: Officer’s Birth Certificates, Wills and Personal Papers* at WO 42/43, S372, pp. 207-208; *A History of the British Army*, Vol. III, 1763-1793, Hon. J. W. Fortescue, Macmillan and Co., Ltd., London, 1902, Google Books, p. 290; TNA, Charles Jenkinson to John Spens, July 20, 1779, *War Office: Out-letters* at WO 4/106, p. 407 (f. 201); “John (Robertson) Reid, of Straloch” in *Sons of the Mountain*, Vol. II, p. 5; TNA, Lord Amherst to Charles Jenkinson, Aug. 27, 1779 at WO 34/231 ff. 210-211; Col. John Reid, 95<sup>th</sup> Regt., to Leonard Morse, War Office, Sept. 6, 1779, *War Office: Baron Jeffrey Amherst, Commander-in-Chief: Papers* at WO 34/155, f. 100; *Dublin Evening Post*, Mar. 31, 1781, p. 4; *The Royal Military Calendar, or Army Service and Commission Book*, Ed. John Philippart, p. 179; *A Topographical Dictionary of Scotland and the Islands in the British Seas*; Vol. II, Nicholas Carlisle, G. and W. Nicol, London, 1813, No page numbers- alphabetical; *A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain and Ireland, Vol. I*, John Bernard Burke, Esq., Henry Colburn, London, 1847, Google Books, p. 497; *The History of Rutherglen and East-Kilbride*, David Ure, David Niven, Glasgow, 1793, pp. 113-115; *Gentleman’s Magazine*, Vol. XXVI, New series, 1846, July to December inclusive, Sylvanus Urban, John Bowyer Nichols and Son, London, 1846, Google Books, p. 333; *Territorial Soldiering in the North-East of Scotland during 1759-1814*, John Malcolm Bulloch, M.A. Printed for the University, Aberdeen, 1914, p. 102; “Parish of Rutherglen” Rev. Mr. David Urk in *The Statistical Account of Scotland, Drawn up from the Communications of the Ministers of the Different Parishes*, Sir John Sinclair, Bart., William Creech, Edinburgh, 1793, Google Books, pp. 8-9; *Edinburgh Magazine or Literary Miscellany*, for October 1802, Google Books, p. 314; *Blackwood’s Edinburgh Magazine*, Vol. X, August – December, 1821, William Blackwood, Edinburgh, 1821, Google Books, p. 239; *Rambles Round Glasgow, Descriptive, Historical, and Traditional*, Hugh M’Donald, Thomas Murray and Son, Glasgow, 1856, Google Books, p. 92; *Edinburgh Annual Register, For 1821*, Vol. Fourteenth, Parts I and II, Archibald Constable and Co., Edinburgh, 1823, Google Books, p. 364.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alex<sup>r</sup>. Stewart" on the top line and "Lieut." on the bottom line. The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and characteristic of the late 18th or early 19th century.

**Stewart, Younger of Cloichfoldich**, Lt. Alexander. Stewart was born in Dec. 1756 and was the eldest son of Robert Stewart, 2<sup>nd</sup> of Cloichfoldich and his wife Susan Fleming, daughter of Robert Fleming of Moness. Cloichfoldich is in Perthshire, on the north side of the River Tay, about five miles northwest of Aberfeldy, where the Highland Regt. was first embodied in 1739.

On Aug. 28, 1775 the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. was augmented by adding two Additional Companies for the Recruiting Service and the Secretary at War wrote Lord John Murray on Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> regarding Officer Appointments in the Additional Companies. Lord Barrington wrote “...I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship’s Letter of the 2<sup>d</sup>. Instant, with an annexed List of Officers of the Royal Highland Regiment of Foot, under your Command... Alexander Stewart Gent. to be Ensign vice [Alexander] Grant ...” Ens. Stewart’s commission was set at the date of the augmentation.

Lord John Murray wrote the Duke of Atholl on Jan. 4, 1776 to ask for his assistance in recruiting for the regiment noting “...I beg your Grace will please lett me know if you have or intent writing to some in

*Atholl of your desire of having some recruits for... M<sup>r</sup> Stewart of Clockfoldick for his Son who is an Ensign...*”

Five months later, on Mar. 14, 1776, Lord John Murray wrote the Secretary at War regarding the Additional Companies indicating “... *I have the honor to inclose the list of Officers for the two additional Companys, as they are now placed, in obedience to your Lordships orders... 2 Company Cap<sup>t</sup>. James M<sup>c</sup>Pherson... Ensign Alexander Stewart.*”

On Apr. 2, 1776 Lord John Murray again wrote to the Secretary at War regarding officer assignments and included a discussion of Ens. Stewart who had not yet joined the regiment. Lord Murray wrote “... *I had the honor to write your Lordship this morning which I sent by Express to Edinburgh, to be in time to be Sent from thence by this nights post. Ensign Lord William Murray, & Alex<sup>r</sup>. Stewart, have by their Friends interest got 15 men, or more for their Appointments. the last is not yet come from Abroad, but expected very Soon by his Father, But I beg leave that application be made to His Majesty, if your Lordship thinks proper, for Six months leave to each, M<sup>r</sup>. Stewart is 19 years of age, & a very likely Young Man...*” About three weeks later, on Apr. 22<sup>nd</sup>, Lord Murray wrote to the Secretary at War regarding locations for Additional Companies and again discussed Ens. Stewart. Lord Murray wrote “...*I am honored by your Lordships letter of the 15<sup>th</sup>. Ins<sup>t</sup>: I shall write your Lordship Commands to Ensign Stewarts father, & Acquaint him to recruit for his Son till his Arrival...*” Stewart returned to Scotland before mid-summer as he is listed present in the muster of Capt. James M<sup>c</sup>Pherson’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Additional Company dated at Glasgow on July 4, 1776.

On Sept. 9, 1777 the Secretary at War wrote to Gen. Lord John Murray to deny reimbursement for Stewart’s expenses for a trip to Cork, Ireland on behalf of the Duke of Argyle, who commanded British Forces in Scotland. Lord Barrington wrote “... *I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship’s Letter of the 3<sup>d</sup> instant, and in answer thereto am to acquaint you ...With respect to Ensign Stewart, if he has been put to any extraordinary Expences in going to and returning from Corke, I apprehend the Duke of Argyle, who ordered him on that Service, will be properest person to take them into consideration. Any arrangement your Lordship may think proper to make in consequence of Ensign Stewart’s application for leave to join the Battalion in America, I shall have no objection to...*”

As a result of a complaint to the War Office regarding the commission dates of Ens. Stewart and several other officers by Lt. John Campbell’s father, Lord Barrington wrote to Gen. Sir William Howe, the Commander-in-Chief in America, on Nov. 19, 1777 to correct Campbell’s commission date. Lord Barrington wrote “...*I am to acquaint you that M<sup>r</sup> Campbell’s Appointment to an Ensigncy having taken place a considerable time before those of the other Ensigns notified on the Augmentation, altho’ by some Mistake his Commission was dated later than those of Ensigns [Alexander] M<sup>c</sup>Leod, [Robert] Rollo, Lord W<sup>m</sup> Murray, and Stewart, the King was pleased to direct that he should have his proper Rank given him: which was accordingly done by a New Commission bearing date the 10<sup>th</sup> of August 1775.*”

Still in Scotland, Stewart obtained a Lieutenancy in the regiment in Dec. 1777, taking the place of Lt. William Rose, who had died in Scotland.

When Lt. William Stewart was transferred to an Invalid Company because of his severe wound received at the battle of Piscataway, New Jersey in May 1777, Lt. Alexander Stewart took his place. The muster report for Lt. Col. Grant’s Company dated at “*Camp at Bedford 27<sup>th</sup> July 1778*” reads “*Lieutenants... Removed to the Invalids 10<sup>th</sup> March 1778 William Stewart Received from Additional 10<sup>th</sup> D<sup>o</sup> [Ditto] D<sup>o</sup> Alex<sup>r</sup> Stewart.*”

If the Mar. 10, 1778 is not an administrative date, but rather the actual date of his joining Lt. Col. Grant's Company, then Lt. Stewart would have been present for the return of the army from Philadelphia and the Battle of Monmouth, New Jersey on June 28, 1778. In Oct. 1778 he became the senior Lieutenant of Lt. Col. Stirling's Company and was likely the acting commander of that company for the remainder of the war including the Raid on Portsmouth, Virginia in May, 1779, the occupation of Stony Point, New York in the Fall of 1779, the Siege of Charleston, South Carolina in 1780 and the relief attempt for Cornwallis' army in Virginia in 1781.

At the end of the war, in Oct. 1783, Stewart sailed with the regiment to Canada and was present for the Regimental Review conducted by Maj. Gen. John Campbell at Halifax on June 9, 1784.

A War Office letter dated Oct. 6, 1785 approved a leave of absence granting "*Lt. Stewart} of 42<sup>d</sup>. Reg<sup>t</sup>. {6 Months from 7<sup>th</sup>. May 1785, on his P. Aff<sup>s</sup> [Private Affairs]...*" His leave was extended by another War Office letter dated Jan. 4, 1786 which approved "*Leaves of absence... A[lexander] Stewart} of 42<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>: 1<sup>st</sup> B<sup>n</sup>: 6 Months from 3<sup>d</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>: 1785 P[rivate]. A[ffairs].*"

The 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. remained in Canada until it embarked for Britain in Aug. 1789. After arriving at Portsmouth, the regiment marched about 350 miles north and spent the winter at Tynemouth Barracks at the mouth of the River Tyne. In Nov. 1790 the regiment marched to Edinburgh castle for the winter. While there, Lt. Stewart was promoted to Capt. Lieutenant on Mar. 16, 1791, as part of the string of promotions tied to the retirement of Maj. Walter Home. Stewart obtained a Company the next year on Aug. 8, 1792, when the Marquis of Huntley moved to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Foot Guards Regt.

In 1796 the regiment was split between Gibraltar and the West Indies. Stewart served with the West Indies detachment and when Major Robert Pigot Chrystie died of the fever in June 1796 Stewart was promoted to Second Major of the regiment and in December of that year to first Major. He participated in the capture of Minorca by the army under the Hon. Charles Stuart in 1798, and in March 1799 was seconded to the staff as quartermaster general to the forces serving in Minorca with the rank of Lt. Colonel in the army. Former Surg. William Robertson wrote Maj. John Peebles about Stewart in Dec. in Dec. 1799 indicating "*... Of our Old Corps I have heard nothing lately... Lt Col. Alexander Stewart the Quarter Master Gen<sup>l</sup> Minorca is making money fast he got that thru your Old friend Charles Stewart who was here some time ...*" Dr. Robertson added more on Stewart's promotion in another letter to Capt. Peebles dated Apr. 28, 1800. Robertson wrote "*...Al: Stewart Quarter M<sup>r</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> and of Course L<sup>t</sup>: Col: Your friend Stuart gave it to him in a handsome manner as a reward for great alacrity and attention at a post where he commanded, there had no attack been made upon it.*"



*The Battle of Alexandria, 21 March 1801* by Philip James de Loutherbourg

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

In Aug. 1800, Brevet-Lt. Col. Stewart served with the regiment in the army under Sir Ralph Abercromby, which threatened Cadiz, and ultimately proceeded to Egypt. After Lt. Col. William Dickson was wounded in the Battle of Alexandria on Mar. 21, 1801, Stewart commanded the regiment in the Battle against the “*French Invincibles*.” An 1803 history of the army discusses Stewart writing “*Alexander Stewart, first major of the regiment; and then, commander; [William] Dickson, and James Stewart, the two lieutenant-colonels, having been wounded on the 8th. Alexander Stewart, though but little turned of forty, has been twenty-eight years an officer in that regiment: he is the eldest son of a very respectable gentleman, Robert Stewart, esq. of Clochfollidgh, in the county of Perth. James, his younger brother, was on the expedition, captain of Lord Keith’s ship.*”

As a result of claims that an individual in another regiment captured the flag of the “*French Invincibles*” rather than by Brev.-Lt. Col. James Stirling, Stewart and Stirling wrote a description of the day’s events which was published as “*Narrative (by Authority) of the Movements of the Royal Highland Regiment on the 21st of March, 1801.*”

The return of the regiment to Britain in 1801 was documented in the *Aberdeen Journal* which wrote “*London, Dec. 26...The remainder of the gallant 42d, or Royal Highlanders, are arrived at Spithead, last from Gibraltar, in good health and high spirits. Col. James Stewart, with three companies, are on the Ceres frigate. Three companies under the command of Col. Alex. Stewart, came home about three weeks since in the Resource, and the remainder of the regiment, under the command of Colonel William Dickson, are also arrived in the Dolphin frigate, having touched at Malta and Gibraltar...*” In recognition of his service in Egypt Stewart was awarded an engraved highland broadsword which read “*From The Athole Club to Lieut.-Col’ Alex’ Stewart of the 42<sup>d</sup> or Royal Reg<sup>t</sup> of Highlanders, in testimony of their esteem for his gallant conduct in Egypt on the 21 March 1801.*”

Although he had been inoculated previously *The Gentlemen's Magazine* in 1803 described Stewart's bout with smallpox writing "...How many cases there have been of supposed inoculation of the latter which have proved unsuccessful. Among many instances which I heard of among the people even of the late expedition to Egypt, let me offer one. The name of Stuart, lieutenant colonel of the 42d regiment, may be recognized by many of your reader: I mean the worthy officer whose signature has been published on the late dispute respecting what has been called the "Invincible Standard." I do not remember any in the expedition more marked with the Small-pox. He told me, when going about the fleet in Marmorice harbour vaccinating the soldiers and sailors, that he had been inoculated for the Small-pox when a boy, and had been considered as having gone through the disease very favourably; but that he had afterwards taken it in the natural way – you see what I have suffered from it."

The London newspaper, *Morning Post* reported on Apr. 9, 1803 that "Colonel ALEXANDER STEWART, of the 42d Regiment, lays dangerously ill in Edinburgh; he has had a paralytic stroke." About seventeen months later, on Sept. 15, 1804, the War Office announced Stewart's retirement writing "...42d Regiment of Foot... Captain James Grant to be Major, by Purchase, vice Stewart, who retires." On his father's death, Lt. Col. Stewart inherited the estate, becoming 3<sup>rd</sup> of Cloichfoldich.

Never having married, Stewart died in 1808. *The Gentleman's Magazine* recorded his death on May 23, 1808 writing "At Clochfoldich, in Scotland, Lieut.-col. Alexander Stewart, late of the 42d Foot; in which regiment he served 30 years, and commanded it on the 21st March, 1801, in the battle of Alexandria."

Commissions: Ens. Aug. 28 1775; Ens. Mar. 14, 1776 (2<sup>nd</sup> Additional Company, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Lt. Dec. 17, 1777 (2<sup>nd</sup> Additional Company, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Lt. Transferred to Regt. Mar. 10, 1778; Capt. Lt. Mar. 16, 1791; Capt. Aug. 8, 1792; Maj. June 24, 1796; Lt. Col. "in the army" Jan. 24, 1799; Seconded as Quartermaster Gen., Minorca, Mar. 19, 1799; Brevet-Lt. Col. Aug. 1800 (42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Retired Sept. 7, 1804 (42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.).

**References:** *The History of the Reign of George III*, Vol. II, Robert Bissett, LLD, E. Littell, Philadelphia, 1828, Google Book, p. 618; *Historic Memorials of the Stewarts of Forthergill Perthshire and Their Male Descendants*, Ed. Charles Poyntz Stewart, Printed for Private Circulation by W. & A. K. Johnston, Edinburgh, 1879, Google Books, p. 37; "Fleming of Moss" at the website of the Perthshire Heritage Trust; *The New Statistical Account of Scotland, Vol. X, Perth*, William Blackwood and Sons, Edinburgh, 1845, Google Books, pp. 712-713; *Traditions of Loch Tay*, Ewen MacDougall at <http://www.commentonline.co.uk/>; TNA, Viscount Barrington to Lord John Murray, Oct. 11, 1775, *War Office: Out-letters* at WO 4/94, pp. 384-6 (ff. 195-196); TNA, Lord John Murray to Viscount Barrington, Mar. 14, Apr. 2, and Apr. 22, 1776, *War Office: In-letters* at WO 1/993; Lord John Murray to 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Atholl, Banner Cross, Jan. 4, 1776, Ref: 65(2) 3, *Blair Castle*; TNA, Viscount Barrington to Sir William Howe, Nov. 19, 1777, *War Office: Out-letters, America* at WO 4/274, p. 36 (f. 19); TNA, Viscount Barrington to Lord John Murray, Sept. 9, 1777, *War Office: Out-letters* at WO 4/100, p. 389; General Orders, Philadelphia, Dec. 17, 1777 in *Royal Gazette* (New York), Jan. 17, 1778; TNA, Muster of Capt. Grant's Co., Bedford, Jul. 27, 1778, *War Office: General Muster Books and Pay Lists, 42nd Foot* at WO 12/5479; TNA, Regimental Review conducted by Maj. Gen. John Campbell at Halifax, Nova Scotia on June 9, 1784, *War Office: Inspection Returns, Foreign* at WO27/52; *List of the Officers of the 42<sup>d</sup> or Royal Highland Regim<sup>t</sup> of Foot Commanded by the R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> Lord John Murray, Lord John Murray Papers*; TNA, *Secretary-at-War, Out-letters, America* at WO 4/276, pp. 75-76. (f. 38) and pp. 94-95 (f. 48); *London Gazette*, Mar. 15, 1791, pp. 1-2, Aug. 7-11, 1792, pp. 2-3, Aug. 2-6, 1796, pp. 2-3, Mar. 16-19, 1799, pp. 2-3; May 12-16, 1801; and Sept. 11-15, 1804, pp. 1-2; TNA, *War Office Description and Succession Books, 42 Foot, 1 Battn.* at WO25/380, f. 13; NRS, Dr. William Robertson to Maj. John Peebles, Dec. 20, 1799, *Papers of the Cuninghame Family of Thornton* at GD21/401/2-3; *The New Annual Register of General Repository of History, Politics, and Literature for the Year 1799*, printed for John Stockdale, London, 1805, Google Books, p. 179; *Aberdeen Journal*, Dec. 30, 1801, p. 4; *Stewart's Sketches* Vol. I, pp. 439-499; *The History of the Reign of George III to the Termination of the Late War*, Vol. VI, Robert Bissett, T. W. Longman and O. Rees, London, 1803, Google Books, Footnote on p. 425; *Gentleman's Magazine and Historical Chronicle, For the year MDCCCIII*, Vol. LXXIII, Part the Second, Sylvanus Urban, Nichols and Son, London, 1803, Google Books, p. 609; *History of the British Expedition to Egypt...*, Lt. Col. Robert Thomas Wilson, Sold by T. Egerton, Military Library, Whitehall, London, 1803, Google Books, pp. 372-374; *Morning Post* (London), Apr. 9, 1803, p. 3; *Gentleman's Magazine and Historical Chronicle for the Year 1808*, Vol. LXXVIII, Part the First,

Sylvanus Urban, Gent., Sold by J. Harris, London, 1808, Google Books, p. 561. *Edinburgh Annual Register*, 1808, p. 247.

**Stewart**, Surgeon's Mate Alexander. Born in Scotland in 1756, Stewart was appointed as a Surgeon's Mate in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. in Aug. 1775 as the regiment was increasing strength for the American war. He remained in that position for the remainder of the war serving with the line battalion in New York/New Jersey campaign of 1776-1777, the Philadelphia campaign of 1777-1778, the Raid on Portsmouth, Virginia in May 1779, the Siege of Charleston, South Carolina in 1780, and the relief attempt for Cornwallis' army in 1781. He continued with the regiment to Canada at the end of the war in Oct. 1783 and was still present for the regimental review conducted by Maj. Gen. Campbell at Halifax, Nova Scotia on June 9, 1784.

Stewart spent time in India after leaving the regiment as Capt. Rutherford wrote to his friend Capt. Peebles about Stewart in 1798 saying "*Mate Stuart— returned from the East Indies possessed of a Competent fortune – seeking for amusement in the change of scene – and in pursuit of pleasure in various modes you may recollect him awkward, Timid & taciturn – He is now quite the reverse*"

Former Surg. William Robertson wrote Maj. John Peebles in April 1800 about Stewart noting "...*My old ass<sup>nt</sup> Stewart keeps close in London – He w<sup>s</sup> about in June last in Perthshire – I wish he was exercising his talents w<sup>ch</sup> are far above mediocrity...*"

Appointment: Surgeon's Mate Aug. 25, 1775.

**References:** "*List of the Officers of the 42<sup>d</sup> or Royal Highland Regim<sup>t</sup> of Foot Commanded by the R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> Lord John Murray,*" *Lord John Murray Papers*; TNA, Regimental Review conducted by Maj. Gen. John Campbell at Halifax, Nova Scotia on June 9, 1784, *War Office: Inspection Returns, Foreign* at WO27/52; NRS, Letter from John Rutherford to John Peebles, Feb. 2, 1798, *Cunningham of Thortoun Papers* at GD21/417 item 2; NRS, Dr. William Robertson to John Peebles, Apr. 28, 1800, *Papers of the Cuninghame Family of Thorntoun* at GD21/401/3.



Reproduction 82<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Uniform Button

Signature Source: *Nova Scotia Land Petitions*, 1786, Guysborough County, p. 204.

**Stewart**, Lt. George. The Succession Book for the 82<sup>nd</sup> Regt. (Duke of Hamilton's) provides a listing of the officers commissioned when the regiment was established in 1778. First names are not given for several of the ensigns including a listing for "...*Stewart .... [Ensign] 5 do [Jan 78]...*" *The London Gazette* for July 21-25, 1778 published the War Office announcement of the establishment of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Regt. and listed "*To be LIEUTENANTS... George Stewart, Gent.*" This entry was in error, in that it should have listed Stewart as an Ensign. Ens. Stewart is easily confused with another officer of the same regiment with a similar name, George Walker Stewart. Only one "*Stewart*" (likely George Stewart) is listed in the

regiment's succession book until Sept. 1780. Ens. George Stewart was promoted to Lt. in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Regt. on Sept. 18, 1780, the same day as Lt. George Walker Stewart.

Ens. George Stewart served with 82<sup>nd</sup> Regt. in New York, arriving in 1779 and had to explain himself to the New York Commandant who questioned his conduct in a Sept. 1779 letter writing "... that a Store House belonging to John Somendike, Inhabitant of this City, was broke open on the Evening of the 31<sup>st</sup> August last by a party of Soldiers of the 82<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> acting under your Orders, who turned out Sundry Goods and Merchandize (the property of the said Somendike) into the Street, whereby he is likely to sustain a very considerable loss, & that the said Store was taken possession of by you for the Baggage of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>. " The issue was apparently resolved to the Commandant's satisfaction as Sir Henry Clinton's General Orders for Aug. 26, 1780 announced "...Ens Stewart 82<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> ...appointed Assistants to the Quarter Master General Department in... Nova Scotia." Shortly thereafter, as discussed above, Stewart was promoted to Lieutenant in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Regt.

Lt. Stewart transferred to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. in Sept. 1781 in place of Lt. James Cramond who died Aug. 30, 1781. After his transfer Stewart was listed in his first company muster as assigned as "Assistant to Q<sup>r</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> Department." Accordingly it is likely he not did serve directly with the regiment in the American war.



Reproduction 60<sup>th</sup> Regt. Uniform Button

Stewart held his commission in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. for only about seven months before he was assigned by Sir Guy Carleton to carry dispatches to the Lt. Governor of Jamaica in April 1782. He returned to New York with responses to the dispatches in July 1782. During that period, General Orders on May 4, 1782 announced "... The Commander in Chief has been pleased to make the following Promotions...4<sup>th</sup> Battalion 60<sup>th</sup> Regiment... Lieutenant George Stuart from 42<sup>d</sup> Regiment to be Captain Lieut<sup>r</sup> Vice [George] Meggs promoted} [4<sup>th</sup> May 1782]..."



Reproduction 33<sup>rd</sup> Regt. Uniform Button

Stewart did not remain long in the Royal American Regt. for on Oct. 12, 1782 General Orders announced "His Excellency the Commander in Chief has been pleased to make the following Promotions 33<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> Capt<sup>n</sup> Lieut George Stewart from 4<sup>th</sup> Batt<sup>n</sup> 60<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> to be Capt<sup>n</sup> vice [Capt. Lt. Hon. Charles William] Curzen who exchanges 11<sup>th</sup> October 82..." This order should have reflected a transfer at the same rank to be Capt. Lieutenant of the 33<sup>rd</sup> (or The 1<sup>st</sup> Yorkshire West Riding) Regt. as shown in the annotated War Office copy of the annual Army List for 1782. With most of the troops of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Regt. still in prisoner of war camps after the surrender at Yorktown in 1781 Capt. Lt. Stewart remained on the army staff. "A List of General and Staff Officers On the Establishment in North-America" from about 1783 shows "Quarter-Master-General's Department... Assistants do. [Q. M. Generals] ... {Capt. George Stewart..."

At the end of the American war the 33<sup>rd</sup> Regt. went to Nova Scotia with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. While in Nova Scotia, Capt. Lt. Stewart submitted a land claim for 500 acres to the Governor on July 18, 1786. Stewart wrote "...*That your Memorialist was appointed a Muster Master for taking and settling the claims of Loyalists disbanded Soldiers and others to His Majesty's Royal bounty of Provisions and executed such appointment in the year 1784 to the Satisfaction of the Commander in Chief and your Excellency as by the returns presented to your Excellency will appear – That your Memorialist is desirous of settling an Old Trusty Servant and his family in this Province and therefore request's That your Excellency will be pleased to Order a Warrant of Survey to be made out to him for Five Hundred Acres of Land in the County of Sydney.*" Stewart was approved for four hundred acres on July 19, 1786, but the survey for the land was done for Five hundred acres.

After service in Canada, the 33<sup>rd</sup> Regt. returned to Britain where Stewart was promoted to a Company on July 21, 1790. Because of his service as a Capt. Lieutenant, Stewart's date of rank as Captain was Oct. 11, 1782. Stewart was promoted to Major "*in the Army*" in 1794 and to Lt. Colonel "*in the Army*" in 1798.

In Aug. 1799 Brevet-Lt. Col. Stewart left the 33<sup>rd</sup> Regt. to take a Majority in the 35<sup>th</sup> or Dorsetshire Regt. and served in that regiment for about seven years including campaigns in Holland in 1799 under the Duke of York, and in Minorca and arrived at Malta in July 1800. Maj. Stewart, in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, remained to garrison Malta while the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion returned to Britain. While at Malta, in 1805, the King ordered the regiment's title changed from "*The Dorsetshire Regiment*" to "*The Sussex Regiment.*"

Stewart married Elizabeth Taylor, daughter of Walter Taylor of Castle Taylor (Galway, Ireland), before 1805. Stewart and his wife had at least one child, Hester Mary Stewart (1805-1824).

On July 31, 1806 Stewart transferred as a Major to "*Major-General Ramsay's Regiment*" (Retitled the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ceylon Regt. in 1808) but was only briefly assigned to this regiment before exchanging to Irish Half-Pay in the 9<sup>th</sup> Garrison Battalion in November of that year. He was promoted to Colonel "*in the Army*" in 1808 while still on half-pay and is still shown on Irish Half-Pay in the Army List for 1812 but is not listed in the List of 1813. Consistent with the Army List Stewart likely died around 1812, the year his wife Elizabeth remarried to Francis Synge, Esq., of Glamore Castle (Wicklow, Ireland).

This officer is sometimes confused with a colonel of the same name who served with the Argyle Fencibles in the Irish Rebellion of 1798 and specifically at the Battle of Ballynahinch on June 12<sup>th</sup> of that year. This same officer was likely the one to serve as Assistant Adjutant-General in Ireland who died at his lodgings in Kilkenny in 1809.

Commissions: Ens. Jan 5, 1778 (82<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Asst. Quartermaster Gen., Nova Scotia, Aug. 26, 1780; Lt. Sept. 18, 1780 (82<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Lt. Sept. 21, 1781 – effective Sept. 1, 1781 (42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Capt. Lt. May 4, 1782 (4<sup>th</sup> Bn., 60<sup>th</sup> or Royal American Regt.); Capt. Lt. Oct. 11, 1782 (33<sup>rd</sup> Regt.); Capt. July 21, 1790 – effective to Capt. Lt. date of Oct. 11, 1782 (33<sup>rd</sup> or the 1<sup>st</sup> Yorkshire West Riding Regt.); Maj. "*in the Army*" Mar. 1, 1794; Lt. Col. "*in the Army*" Jan. 1, 1798; Maj. Aug. 5, 1799 (1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 35<sup>th</sup> or the Dorsetshire Regt. - The Sussex Regt after 1805); Maj. July 31, 1806 (Major-General William Ramsay's Regiment – later the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ceylon Regt. in 1808); Maj. exchanged to Irish Half-pay Nov. 13, 1806 (9<sup>th</sup> Garrison Bn.); Col. "*in the Army*" Apr. 25, 1808.

**References:** Document related to British 82<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of Foot, 26 June 1781. Cox & Co. Manuscript item no. GLC 1450.403 in The Gilder Lehrman Collection, courtesy of The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History; Maj. of Brigade Edward Williams to Ens. Stewart, New York, Sept. 2, 1779 in "Official Letters of Major General James Pattison, Commandant of New York, Part II," *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1875*, Printed for the Society, New York, 1876, Google Books, pp. 260-261; General Orders dated at New York on Aug. 26,

1780, Sept. 21, 1781, and May 4, 1782, and at Leffert's House on Oct. 12, 1782; *London Gazette* for July 21-25, 1778, p. 2, July 3, 1781 pp. 2-3, July 13, 1782 p. 3, Dec. 3, 1782, p. 3, July 20, 1790, p. 2, Sept. 6-9, 1794, pp. 2-5, Jan. 6, 1798, pp. 2-4, Aug. 10-13, 1799, pp. 1,3, Aug. 5-9, 1806, pp. 2, 4, Nov. 15-18, 1806, pp. 1-2 and May 3-7, 1808, pp. 2-3; Memorial from Capt. George Stewart, 60<sup>th</sup> Regt. Gen. Sir Guy Carleton dated July 8, 1782 in *Report on Manuscripts in the Royal Institution of Great Britain*, Vol. III, Historical Manuscripts Commission, His Majesty's Stationary Office, London, 1807, Google Books, pp. 13 and 82; Nova Scotia Archives, *Land papers 1765-1800*, Guysborough County, 1786, p. 204; *Edinburgh Magazine or Literary Miscellany*, Vol. VII, New Series, Printed for James Symington, Murray and High, London, 1796, Google Books, p. 406; TNA, "*A List of General and Staff Officers On the Establishment in North-America*" undated – approx. 1783 at WO 65/164; "History of the 35<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot, 1798-1806 at [www.btinternet.com/~the35thfootproject](http://www.btinternet.com/~the35thfootproject); *An Historical Memoir of the 35th Royal Sussex Regiment of Foot*, Richard Trimen, Southampton Times Newspaper and Printing and Publishing Co., Southampton, 1873, Google Books, pp. 84 and 232; *Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain & Ireland*, Vol. II, Sir Bernard Burke, Harrison, London, 1882, Google Books, p. 1570; *La Belle Assemblée*, Vol. XXX, London, May, 1824, Google Books, p. 234; *Gentleman's Magazine and Historical Review*, July, 1856, Google Books, p.126; *Dublin, Ireland, Probate Record and Marriage License Index*, 1270-1858, p. 1024; *London Star*, June 7, 1809, p. 4.



Detail of Portrait of Lt. James Stewart, c. 1781

Picture Source: Alexander John Good

*James Stewart 42 1782*

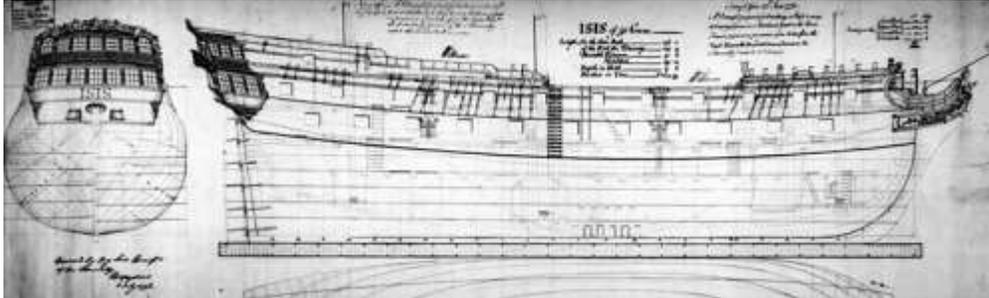
**Stewart**, Lt. James. Nicknamed "Little Stewart" by some of his fellow officers, Stewart was born Mar. 23, 1758 and was the second son of Jacobite supporter Charles Stewart of Shambellie (also Shambelly) and his wife Ann Hay (daughter of Dr. James Hay of Dumfries). Shambellie is located about eighty miles south of Edinburgh near Dumfries. Stewart of Shambellie also maintained a townhouse on St. Michael Street, Dumfries that is currently part of the Mechanics' Institute.



A-355

Reproduction 5<sup>th</sup> Regt. Uniform Button

James Stewart was commissioned an Ensign Aug. 15, 1775 in Capt. Haslam's new 11<sup>th</sup> (or Additional) Company of the 5<sup>th</sup> Regt. The regiment was then serving in Boston, but as an officer of an Additional Company, Stewart's assignment was to recruit for replacements in Britain to make up for the regiment's losses.



Detail of Plan for *HMS Isis*, 1774

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from UK *National Maritime Museum*

Ens. Stewart embarked onboard the 6-gun transport *Archer* at Portsmouth for his trip to America on Mar. 25, 1777 and sailed the next day under convoy of the 50-gun *HMS Isis*. The *Archer* was nearly stove in on Apr. 3 when the stern of the transport *Union* was blown into the midships of the *Archer* causing considerable damage and forcing the entire fleet to halt until the *Archer* was repaired. Twenty three days later, on Apr. 26, a Rebel schooner of 10-12 guns bore down on *Archer* and began firing. The soldiers on board *Archer* began a heavy fire of musketry until the schooner lowered her colors and bore off leaving no casualties on the *Archer*. The transport arrived at New York on May 26 and the officers were greeted by Commander-in-Chief Gen. Sir William Howe.

Ens. Stewart was wounded in Battle of Germantown, Pennsylvania on Oct. 4, 1777. On that day a large rebel force attacked the advance units of the British defenses outside the rebel Capitol of Philadelphia. Several companies of the 40<sup>th</sup> Regt. took a strong position at the Chew House where they were attacked by a strong force of the rebels. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 55<sup>th</sup> Regiments advanced from a position on the right and drove off the rebel troops from near the Chew House and pursued them for some distance. Ten soldiers of the 5<sup>th</sup> Regt. were killed in the battle and 46 were wounded. Gen. Howe's casualty report for the battle was printed in the Nov. 1777 *Scots Magazine* indicating "Return of the Killed, Wounded, and Missing, of the army under the command of Gen. Howe, in the engagement with the rebel-army at German-town in Pennsylvania, Oct. 4, 1777...5th reg...Ens<sup>s</sup> Thomas and Stewart, wounded..."

A few weeks after the battle, on Oct. 31, General Orders announced "The Commander in Chief has been pleased to make the following Promotions... 42<sup>d</sup> Regiment. ... Ensign James Stuart, from 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment, to be Lieutenant, vice [Thomas] Littleton removed [to the 5<sup>th</sup> Regt.]} 7<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1777 ..." Stewart briefly documented his joining of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. in a letter to Col. David Stewart (Garth) after the war saying: "About the close of the American campaign 1777 I was appointed a Lt in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt and a little before the Army went into Winter quarter at Philadelphia I joined the Light Company serving with the first Batt under [Lt. Col.] Sir Rob' Abercromby Summer and Winter I shared with them the severest duty I was ever engaged in till taken with [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown..."

Assigned to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Light Infantry Company and serving with the company in a composite British Light Infantry Battalion, Stewart participated on the right flank during the Battle of Monmouth during the return

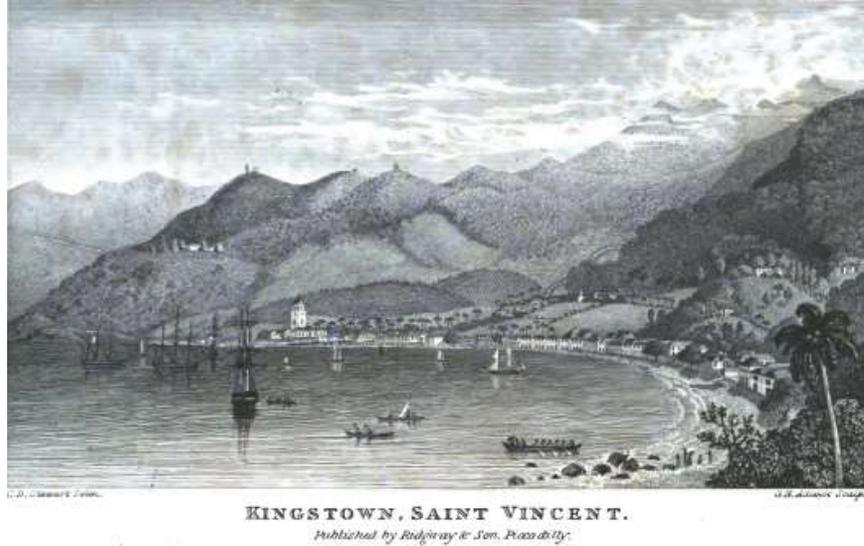
to New York from Philadelphia in June 1778, the taking of Stony Point and Verplanck's Point, New York on May 30-June 2, 1779 and the Siege of Charleston, South Carolina in 1779-1780.

On Mar. 20, 1781 the 42<sup>nd</sup> Light Infantry Company sailed with Maj. Gen. William Phillips to join the Virginia campaign of 1781 which ended in the surrender of the company to the American and French armies at Yorktown, Virginia in Oct. 1781. Like most of the officers, Stewart was placed on parole and did not go to the prisoner of war camp with the men of his company. A listing of the paroled officers sailing for New York on the 320-Ton transport *Lord Mulgrave* after the surrender showed "... Light Infantry ...Lieutenant... Stewart 42d..." However, the *Lord Mulgrave* transport did not make it to New York and was feared lost. The ship ended up in Charleston, South Carolina and Stewart and most of the other officers from the *Lord Mulgrave* eventually returned to New York in mid-December. After Yorktown, Stewart returned to Britain and in his letter to Col. Stewart wrote "*I came home & went to France a prisoner till the peace absolved me ...*"

On Oct. 1783, after the regiment had embarked on transports for Halifax, Nova Scotia, Stewart was transferred on paper from the Light Infantry Company to Capt. Charles Grant's battalion company. The muster of Capt. Grant's Company at Halifax, Nova Scotia, on Jan. 17, 1784 lists Stewart as "...Received f<sup>m</sup> Cap<sup>t</sup> Dalrymple's Comp<sup>y</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1783 In Europe By Sir Henry Clintons Leave..." Stewart is listed as still on leave approved by Sir Henry Clinton (since Oct. 19, 1781) in the June 9, 1784 regimental review at Halifax. An army report of officers on leave dated around the end of 1783 read "...Leaves of Absences... Stewart} 42<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> {12 M<sup>o</sup> from 4 Mar 84 for his Health..."

Stewart returned to the regiment in Canada as he wrote to Col. Stewart saying "...In 1785 I joined at Nova Scotia & was detached once more till 1789 when I came home with the Regt." The detail of his detachment is not recorded, but two companies were stationed away from the regiment on Prince Edwards Island during the period. After returning to Scotland, Stewart continued to advance in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. He was promoted to Capt. Lieutenant effective Nov. 24, 1790, as part of the chain of promotions resulting from the death of Capt. James Campbell. When Maj. Walter Home retired in Mar. 1791, Capt. Dalrymple was promoted to the Majority and Stewart took Dalrymple's Company.

Stewart was promoted to Major in Oct. 1795 and two months later in Dec. 1795 a severe storm struck the fleet carrying Sir Ralph Abercromby's expedition to the West Indies including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Five companies under Lt. Col William Dickson of Kilbucho were forced back to Portsmouth while Maj. Stewart and five companies continued on with Abercromby.



Picture Source: An Historical Account of the Island of Saint Vincent, Charles Shephard, London, 1831, Google Books, frontispiece

Stewart led the five companies of the regiment in the attack on St. Vincent on June 10, 1796, and when Lt. Col. Charles Graham obtained command of a West India regiment in December, Stewart was promoted to second Lt. Colonel behind Lt. Col. Dickson.

On Feb. 2, 1798 former Capt. John Rutherford wrote to former Capt. John Peebles, about seeing their old comrades. Rutherford wrote "...When in Ed<sup>r</sup> [Edinburgh] lately I saw little Stewart as we used to call him now L<sup>t</sup> Co<sup>l</sup> to the 42<sup>d</sup> he expects to be obliged to join at Gibraltar – is in tolerable health – after his W. Indies campaign during which I am told he distinguished himself upon one or two occasions ..." Stewart and the five companies rejoined the regiment at Gibraltar in 1798 and took part in the capture of Minorca.



*The landing of British troops at Aboukir, 8 March 1801, by Philip James de Loutherbourg*

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons from the *National Galleries Scotland*.

In Aug. 1800, Stewart and the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. joined the army under Sir Ralph Abercromby, which threatened Cadiz, and ultimately proceeded to Egypt in March 1801 where he took part in the amphibious assault at Aboukir Bay, near Alexandria, Egypt on Mar. 8, 1801. On May 9, 1801, the *London Gazette* listed the casualties from Egypt reporting “...*Downing-Street, May 9, 1801. A DISPATCH addressed to the Right Honorable Henry Dundas... from General Sir Ralph Abercromby, K. B. Commander in Chief of His Majesty’s Troops serving in the Mediterranean. Camp before Alexandria, March 16, 1801...OFFICERS WOUNDED...42d Regiment.—Lieutenant-Colonel James Stewart...*”



Detail of *The East Indiaman Ceres off the Spithead Depicted in Four Different Views*, Thomas Luny, 1788

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons from Sir Max Aitken Museum, Cowes, Isle of Wight

*The Aberdeen Journal* of Dec. 30, 1801 reported the return of 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. to Britain writing “*London, Dec. 26...The remainder of the gallant 42d, or Royal Highlanders, are arrived at Spithead, last from*

*Gibraltar, in good health and high spirits. Col. James Stewart, with three companies, are on the Ceres frigate... The Ceres and Dolphin are put under quarantine."*

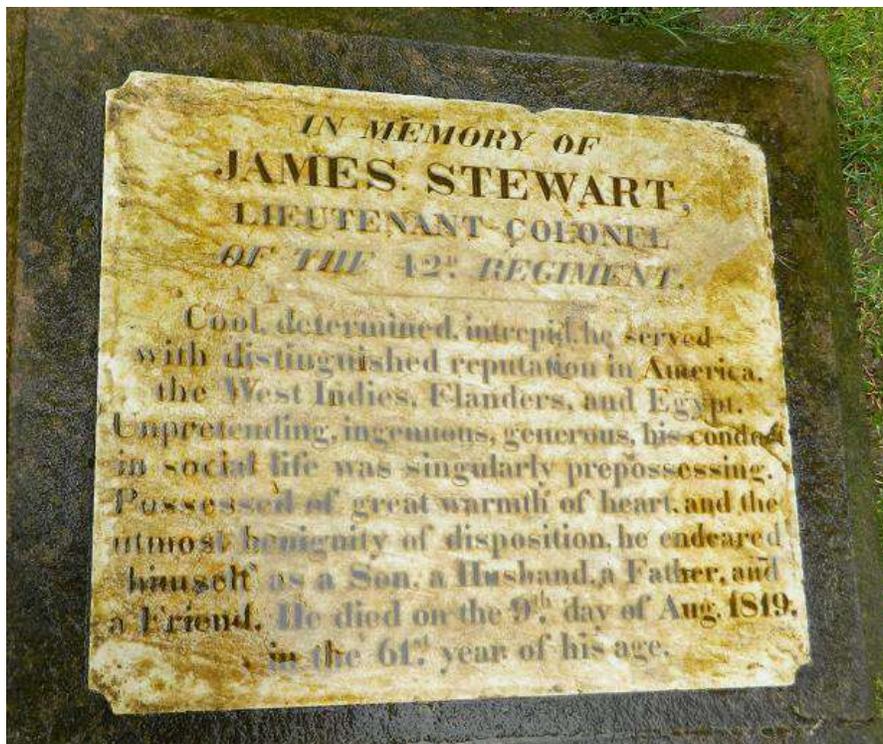
The Magistrates and Provost of Dumfries presented a sword to Lt. Col. Stewart on Mar. 1, 1803 noting it was "...as a testimony of sincere esteem for you as their Townsman, and of high respect for your military services to your King and Country..." Stewart thanked the magistrates writing "To the fortune which cast my lot with that of the 42d regiment, I must ascribe the honour conferred upon me by the Magistrates and Council of Dumfries. That my conduct, has been known to most of them, during the long period of my services with: that corps, is a source of satisfaction which greatly enhances, in my estimation, this testimony of their maried approbation. This Sword shall be devoted to the service of the Standard to which it is now attached; and to deserve this flattering expression of their esteem, shall be the ambition of my life. Convey to them, Sir, the assurance of my warmest gratitude; and accept of my best thanks for the polite and obliging manner, in which you have fulfilled their commission. I have the honour to be, &c. J. STEWART, Lt. Col. 42D R. H. Reg. EDINR."

Based on the date of rank of his replacement, Lt. Col. Stewart retired from the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. in Sept. 1804. However, about three months later, the War Office announced "War-Office, December 22, 1804...STAFF. James Stewart, Esq; late Lieutenant-Colonel in the 42d Foot, to be an Inspecting Field-Officer of Yeomanry and Volunteer Corps in North Britain, with the temporary Rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the Army." *The General Almanack of Scotland* for 1809 still has Lt. Col. Stewart listed in this position.

Before he retired, Lt. Col. Stewart and his first wife Williamina Kerr (daughter of the late William Kerr, Esq; of the General Post Office) were married at Edinburgh on Dec. 20, 1802 and had one child. A marker (below) at Sweetheart Abbey records that she died in childbirth of their only child, Williamina Helen Stewart, who was born in Edinburgh on Apr. 22, 1804, and married Lt. Col. Forbes Leith of Whitehaugh. There is an 1849 portrait of Stewart and his wife in the Black Watch Regimental Museum in Perth.

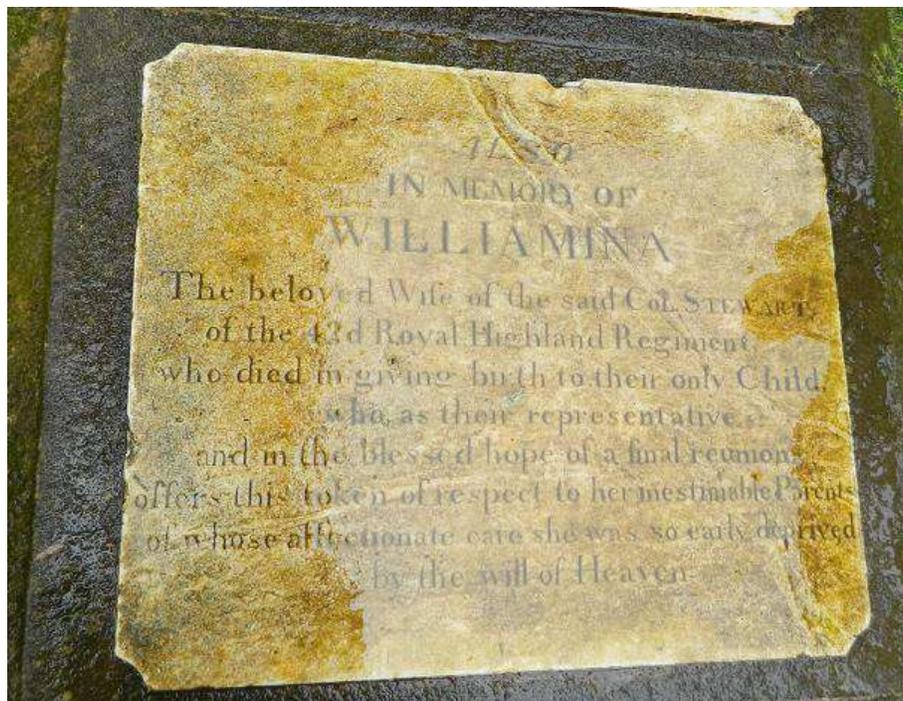
*The Royal Military Chronicle or British Officer's Monthly Register and Military Mentor* for February, 1811 records a second marriage for Lt. Col. Stewart writing "MARRIAGES...At Aberdeen, Lieutenant-colonel James Stewart, late of the 42d royal Highland regiment of foot, to Miss Isabella Byres, eldest daughter of the late Robert Byres, Esq." Stewart had no children from this marriage.

*The Edinburgh Annual Register* recorded Stewart's death at age 61 on Aug. 9, 1819 writing "At Moffat, Colonel James Stewart, late of the 42d regiment." He and his first wife were buried at Sweetheart Abbey at New Abbey, Dumfries.



Memorial of Lt. Col. James Stewart, Sweetheart Abbey

Picture Source: *Find a Grave* Memorial No. 111972922



Memorial of Williamina Kerr Stewart, Sweetheart Abbey

Picture Source: *Find a Grave* Memorial Nos. 111972976



Ruins of Entrance to Sweetheart Abbey, New Abbey, Dumfries, Ron Waller Aug. 2006.

Picture Source: Wikipedia

Commissions: Ens. Aug. 15, 1775 (5<sup>th</sup> Regt.); Lt. Oct. 31 – effective Oct. 7, 1777 (42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Company); Lt. Oct. 25, 1783 (42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Capt. Lt. Nov. 24, 1790; Capt. Mar. 16, 1791 – effective to Capt. Lt. date Nov. 24, 1790; Maj. Oct. 21, 1795; Lt. Col. Dec. 14, 1796; Retired Sept. 7, 1804 (42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Lt. Col. (Temporary) and Inspecting Field-Officer of Yeomanry and Volunteer Corps in North Britain Dec. 22, 1804.

**References:** NRS, John Rutherford to John Peebles, Feb. 2, 1798, *Cunningham of Thortoun Papers* at GD21/417, item 2; *The Historical Families of Dumfriesshire and the Border Wars*, C. L. Johnstone, 1878; *History of the Lands and Their Owners in Galloway*, Vol. 5<sup>th</sup>, P. H. M<sup>c</sup>Kerlie, William Paterson, Edinburgh, 1874, Google Books, p. 13; General Orders, Boston, Nov. 10, 1775 and at Philadelphia, Oct. 31, 1777; *Historical Record of the Fifth Regiment of Foot or Northumberland Fusiliers*, W. Clowes and Sons, London, 1838, p. 47; *Journal of an Ensign in the 1<sup>st</sup> Regt. of Foot Guards, 1777-1779*, Private Collection; “Return of the Killed, Wounded, and Missing, of the army under the command of Gen. Howe, in the engagement with the rebel-army at German-town in Pennsylvania, Oct. 4, 1777,” *Scots Magazine*, Nov. 1777, p. 604; *London Gazette*, Jan. 20-24, 1778, p. 2, Nov. 23–27, 1790, p. 3, Mar. 15-19, 1791, pp. 1-2, Oct. 20-24, 1795, pp. 5, 7, Dec. 17-20, 1796, p. 2, May 5-9, 1801, pp. 1,3, Sept. 22-25, 1804, p. 1, and Dec. 18-22, 1804, p. 1529; “Officers and Servants to go on Board the Lord Mulgrave Transport, Oct. 1781,” No. 31591, U.S. National Archives, *Revolutionary War, Miscellaneous Numbered Records*; TNA, Regimental Review conducted by Maj. Gen. John Campbell at Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 9, 1784, *War Office: Inspection Returns, Foreign*, at WO27/52, 75124; TNA, *Leaves of Absences for 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Officers at the End of the American War*, Undated, Likely Late 1783, *War Office: Out-letters* at WO 4/275, p. 343 (The late 1783 date is an estimate based on page 273 of the same volume dated June 9, 1783); *Stewart’s Sketches*, Vol. I, pp. 422-430, and 439; TNA, *War Office: Description and Succession Books, 42 Foot, 1 Battn* at WO25/380, f. 13; *Aberdeen Journal*, Dec. 30, 1801, p. 4.; *The Royal Military Chronicle or British Officer’s Monthly Register and Military Mentor for February, 1811*, Google Books, p. 324; *Blackwood’s Edinburgh Magazine*, Feb. 1828, Google Books, p. 269; *A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain and Ireland*, Sir Bernard Burke, Ulster King of Arms, Part I, Fourth Edition, Harrison, London, 1862, Google Books p. 495; *Stewart’s Sketches*, Vol. I, pp. 451-453; *History of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Royal Highlanders – “The Black Watch,”* Lt. Col. Percy Groves, W. & A. K. Johnston, Edinburgh, 1893, Google Books, p. 10; *Edinburgh Magazine, or Literary Miscellany*, Vol. XX, Edinburgh, 1802, Google Books, p. 477; *Edinburgh Advertiser*, Mar. 15-18, 1803; NRS, Charles Irvine to Alexander Irvine, introducing Col. James Stewart, Dec. 24, 1805, *Papers Relating to the Family of Irvine of Drum* at GD1/865/33; NRS, Correspondence of David Stewart of Garth, *Irvine Robertson Papers* at GD1/53 and <http://www.jamesirvinerobertson.co.uk>; *The General Almanack of Scotland and General Register for 1809*, Printed for J. and A. Duncan, Edinburgh, 1809, p. 192; *The Families of Moir and Byres*, Andrew J. Mitchell Gill of Savock, Scott & Ferguson, Edinburgh, 1885, Google Books, p. 124; *Edinburgh Annual Register for 1819*, Vol. Twelfth, Parts I and II, Archibald Constable and Co., Edinburgh, 1823, Google Books, p. 538.



Silver-plated Reproduction Marine Officer Uniform Button

*Wm Stewart Lt Regt*

**Stewart, Lt. William.** Born around 1740 in Atholl, Scotland, Stewart wrote in a 1778 memorial that he had “...*Nineteen Years Service...*” and in a 1780 memorial that he had been “...*an Officer in His Majestys Service upwards of twenty years...*” These memorials imply Stewart had joined the Marines in 1759 or 1760. He may have served in the ranks or as a Volunteer because his first commission was as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the 16<sup>th</sup> Company on Jan. 2, 1761. The Army List of 1756 shows 80 Companies of Marines assigned to Chatham, Plymouth and Portsmouth with the 16<sup>th</sup> Company assigned to Portsmouth under Capt. James Dundas.



*The Capture of Havana, 1762: The Morro Castle and the Boom Defence Before the Attack*, by Dominic Serres, 1770.

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

The 1780 memorial indicated “*That your Lordship’s Memorialist ... was during the last war at the taking of Martinico and the Havanna.*” The British fleet had arrived at Martinique on Jan. 8, 1762 and the French surrendered on Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>. The fleet then sailed from Martinique on May 6<sup>th</sup> and arrived at Havana, Cuba on June 6<sup>th</sup>. The El Morro fortress fell on July 30<sup>th</sup> and the city surrendered on Aug. 14, 1762.

In 1763, at the end of the Seven Years War, ten companies of Marines were reduced and Stewart went out on Half-Pay. However, late in 1763, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Stewart came back out of Half-Pay to join the 4<sup>th</sup> Company

and remained in that company until transferring to the 14<sup>th</sup> Company, still a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, in 1770. He was promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant in the 68<sup>th</sup> Company of Marines in Dec. 1773.

On Aug. 15, 1775 the Secretary at War wrote to Gen. Lord John Murray, Col., 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., that “...*I have the honor to acquaint you that His Majesty has been pleased to appoint the Officers mentioned in the annexed List to be Lieutenants and Ensigns in the 42<sup>d</sup>/or Royal Highland/ Regiment of Foot under your Command in consequence of the intended augmentation. – The notification will not be issued ‘till the additional Lieutenants are named when the Dates of the several Commissions respectively will be arranged; In the mean time these Officers may be employed on the recruiting Duty...Lieut<sup>t</sup> William Stewart of the Marines, to be Lieutenant...*” Stewart’s date of rank at Lieutenant in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. was set at Sept 4, 1775. Lord John Murray sent a letter to the Duke of Atholl on Jan. 4, 1776 writing “...*I beg your Grace will please lett me know if you have or intent writing to some in Atholl of your desire ... to assist Lieut<sup>t</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Stewart Recruiting there...*”

Stewart was initially assigned to an Additional Company on the Recruiting Service but before the regiment sailed from Greenock on Apr. 29, 1776, he was reassigned to Capt. Archibald Erskine’s Company. He travelled to America on the transport *Bowman*, which was the first of the regiment’s transports to arrive at Halifax, Nova Scotia on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Upon arrival at New York with Gen. Sir William Howe’s fleet, Lt. Stewart served with a line battalion in the New York/New Jersey campaign of 1776/1777.

On May, 10, 1777, while commanding the forty pickets of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. at Piscataway, New Jersey, Stewart was wounded in a rebel attack. Stewart’s wounding was described by Chap. James M<sup>c</sup>Lagan who wrote Lord Murray “...*when about 4 o’clock in the afternoon, a body of about 2,000 of them attacked our Picquet at once. L<sup>t</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Stewart who was at the head of this little body, opposed them with great Spirit,...Before the Picquet could have been properly Supported L<sup>t</sup> Stewart had his right thigh broke by a Musket shot about 4 inches above the knee, three serjeants and Six Men were killed, Major [Duncan] M<sup>c</sup>Pherson & 17 Non-commissioned Officers & Soldiers were all wounded – While assistance was a coming the Enemy came up to Lieut<sup>t</sup> Stewart, some of them were for Bayoneting him & others not...*” *The New-York Gazette and the Weekly Mercury* account of the battle noted “*It is worthy of Remark, that the Brave but unfortunate Lieutenant Stewart, who was wounded in this Action, has been three Times attacked when commanding the Picket at the same Post.*”

Stewart later described his service in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. and the Battle of Piscataway in a memorial. He wrote “...*That your Lordship’s Memorialist Served in America under the Command of His Excellency Sir William Howe, was present with the 42<sup>d</sup> Regiment in every material Action until the tenth day of may 1777; when having The Command of the Picquet Guard (Consisting of Forty men) in the Cantonment of Piscataway in the Jerseys he was attacked by a Body of Rebels, who endeavoured to Dislodge the Picquet and Break in upon the Cantonments. That towards the Close of the Action your Lordships Memorialist was wounded with a Rifle Ball which Passed through the Lower part of his thigh and Shattered the Bone, So as utterly to Deprive him of the use of his Limb. which your Lordship’s memorialist only Consider as the Chance of War.*”

Based on the seriousness of Stewart’s wound, Lt. Col. Thomas Stirling decided to involuntarily transfer him to an Invalid Company in Britain. Accordingly the War Office announced on Nov. 25, 1777 “*Lieutenant William Stewart, of the 42d Regiment to be Lieutenant in Captain [George] Coote’s Independent Company of Invalids at Land Guard Fort, vice Samuel Hadley.*” Landguard Fort guarded the entrance to Harwich Harbor about ninety miles northeast of London.



Landguard Fort circa 1716

Picture Source: *The History of Landguard Fort, in Suffolk*, Maj. John Henry Leslie, Eyre and Spottiswoode, London, 1898, Google Books, facing p. 68.

Stewart did not immediately leave America and attempted to reverse Lt. Col. Stirling's decision with a memorial in 1778 to Gen. Sir William Howe. In that memorial he wrote *"That your Memorialist had on the 10<sup>th</sup> Day of May last, the misfortune to be Wounded at Piscataqua in the Jersey's and was since for nine Months confined to his Bed, That your Memorialist received a Letter from Lieu<sup>t</sup> Col: Stirling of Date the 5<sup>th</sup> of last March, acquainting him of his being transferred into the Invalids in England. That your Memorialist was much alarmed at such proceedings, weak and feeble as he was undertook a Passage from New York to Head Quarters, and on his arrival to his great astonishment, found his Commission had been superceded. That your Memorialist has neither directly nor indirectly made any Tender or Resignation of his Commission to which he was appointed by His Majesty, by a transfer from the Marines, particularly to serve in America."* Stewart requested *"...that Nineteen Years Service and his present unhappy Condition may entitle him to your Excellency's protection & restore him to his former Rank & Commission in the 42<sup>d</sup> or Royal Highland Reg<sup>t</sup> ..."* Capt. Lt. John Peebles described Stewart's condition in his journal on Mar. 13, 1778 writing: *"Poor Stewart who was wounded 10<sup>th</sup> May at Piscataway is recover<sup>d</sup> pretty well, but lost the use of his leg..."*

Gen. Howe forwarded Stewart's memorial to the War Office in April 1778, and Secretary at War Viscount Barrington replied directly to Lt. Stewart on June 26<sup>th</sup> to explain the reason for his transfer writing *"...In removing you to the Invalids, I acted merely in compliance with the recommendations of Lord John Murray and Lieu<sup>t</sup> Col<sup>o</sup> Stirling and concluded that the Change would not have been proposed without your Sollicitation – I am truly concerned that it has taken Place; And, if the Commander in Chief should think proper to reinstate you in the 42<sup>d</sup> Regim<sup>t</sup> it shall have my hearty concurrence. ..."*

The Secretary at War also wrote to the new Commander-in-Chief in America, Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, a few days later on June 29, 1778 indicating *"... Sir Will<sup>m</sup> [Howe] sent me a memorial from Lieu<sup>t</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Stewart formerly of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> who complains of having been removed to the Invalids against his inclination. The change was made here at the particular request of Lord John Murray & / through him / of Lieu<sup>t</sup> Col. Sterling; and I concluded it to be M<sup>r</sup> Stewarts own desire. But as the contrary appears, if you shou<sup>d</sup> think proper to restore him to his place in the 42<sup>nd</sup> or to settle an exchange for him with any old Lieu<sup>t</sup> who may be desirous of coming into the Invalids, it shall have my hearty concurrence..."* However, with no exchange being made, Stewart returned to Britain. The muster of Capt. Charles

Grant's Company taken at Philadelphia on Mar. 28, 1778 listed Stewart as "...Removed to the Invalids 18<sup>th</sup> March 1778 ...". However, because of the delays associated with Stewart's attempt to stay in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. the Invalid Office Report of Capt. George Coote's Independent Company of Invalids at Landguard Fort on Aug. 18, 1778 listed him "*Lieut. Will. Stuart never saw this gentleman\_ has not joined\_*"

Stewart finally arrived in Britain in late 1778 after escorting invalid soldiers discharged in America. He was directed by Mathew Lewis of the War Office on Dec. 14 that "*I am directed by the Secretary at War to send you the enclosed order for quartering at Chelsea such of the Invalids from the Army in N<sup>o</sup>. America as are discharged and recommended to the Bounty and if they should not be able to march thither you will hire a Lighter for that purpose With respect to such of the Men as are discharged and not recommended they are to be discharged on being disembarked...*"

On May 29, 1779 the War office announced "*Lieutenant William Stewart, of the Invalids at Land guard Fort, to be Captain of Sandown Port, vice John Wogan.*" Sandown Fort, also called Sandown Port, was on the Isle of Wight in the English Channel about twenty miles from Portsmouth. Although Stewart retained his rank as Lieutenant, the commander of the Fort was called the Captain and sometimes the governor, regardless of his army rank.



Detail from *Sandown Fort*, by Thomas Rowlandson

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *Google Art Project* and *Yale Center for British Art*

*The Annual Register* for 1781 described Sandown Fort writing "*Sandown fort commands a bay on the south-east side of the island, where there is a good landing-place. It is a very low square building, flanked by four bastions, and encompassed by a ditch. Being esteemed of the greatest consequence of any fort in the island, it has an establishment of a master gunner, and thirty soldiers; but this has since been reduced, and the pay of twenty-two soldiers applied to encreasing the salaries of the master gunners of the other forts. It has been much neglected, but lately has been put into repair at a very considerable expense to the crown, and the apartments made fit for the reception of the captain, who resides here in the summer.*"

In 1779 Stewart wrote from the Isle of Wight to the Secretary at War for promotion. He wrote on Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> that "*When I had the Honor of waiting on your last you were So Good as to say you would mention my name to Lord, or, General Amherst for a Company of Invalids. I hope your goodness will pardon this Liberty as my friend Colonel Stuart is abroad and no friends in England at present. I shall only add that Sandown Fort yields only fourty pounds Annually*"

Unsuccessful with the Secretary at War, around April 1780 Stewart sent a memorial to Commander-in-Chief Lord Jeffrey Amherst describing his service in the Marines and 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. and again asking for promotion. He wrote "*... That your Lordship's Memorialist with all duty and respect begs leave to*

*Submit His Case to your Lordship's most Humane and Candid Consideration Hoping from his long Servicis and Sufferings to be Considered not Unworthy of a Company of Invalids or to be removed from Sandown Fort to a Better of which your Lordship's memorialist may Enjoy the full Emoluments...*" About a year later, on July 21, 1781, the War-Office announced "...*Capt. William Stewart, of Sandown port, to be Captain in the army.*" Subsequent annual Army Lists showed Stewart's date of rank as July 4, 1781.



Interior of Barracks at Berwick circa 1799

Picture Source: *The History of Berwick Upon Tweed*, John Fuller, M. D.,  
Printed for Bell & Bradfute, Edinburgh, 1799, Google Books, following p. 174.

A little over two weeks after Capt. Stewart's promotion, on July 20, 1781, he exchanged with Capt. Thomas Nothey to take command of one of three Independent Companies of Invalids at Berwick-Upon-Tweed on the Scottish border. Francis Grose's description of Berwick was published in *European Magazine* in Dec. 1790 where he wrote "*The Town of Berwick upon Tweed is at present a modern fortification, into which you pass by a handsome stone bridge of sixteen arches, built by Queen Elizabeth, who also erected convenient and comfortable barracks for the invalids who constantly do garrison duty here...*"

Based on their mention in the announcements of the commissions of other officers assigned to their companies published in *The London Gazette*, Capt. Stewart exchanged with Capt. James Graham, who commanded an Independent Company of Invalids at Guernsey, sometime between Jan. 31, 1784 and Oct. 22, 1785. The Army Lists for 1787 and 1791 both show Capt. Stewart commanding one of the six Invalid Companies at Guernsey, with no date of rank shown, except his Captaincy "*in the army*" of July 4, 1781.

About seven years later, on June 16, 1792, the War Office announced "...*INVALIDS. Captain Sylvester Muirson, from the Invalids in North Britain, to be Captain of an Independent Company at Guernsey, vice William Stewart, removed to North Britain.*"



Detail from *View of Clarence Battery at Fort George, Guernsey*, by Manxruler, 2014

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

After five years with an Invalid Company in Scotland, Capt. Stewart returned to one of the nine companies at Guernsey where he remained until 1802. The War Office announced the move on Nov. 28, 1797 when it wrote in *The London Gazette* “...INVALIDS. Captain Clement Archer, from the 16th Light Dragoons, to be Captain of an Independent Company of Invalids in North Britain, vice Stewart, removed to a Company at Guernsey.”

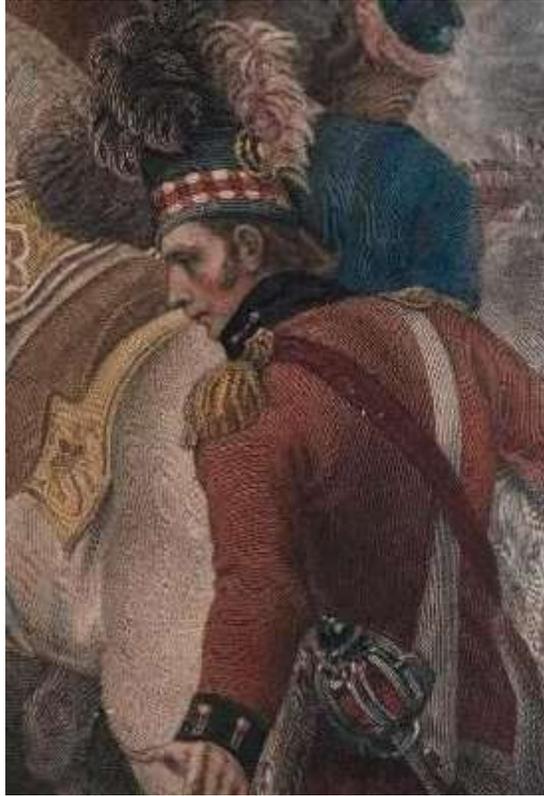
On Dec. 14, 1802 the War Office published the formation of Royal Garrison Battalions announcing “OFFICERS of the Royal Garrison Battalions. Commissions to be dated 25th December instant...5th Royal Garrison Battalion. To be Captains... Captain William Stewart, from the Invalids...” Stewart was placed on the “Retired List” sometime after this appointment, but returned to service in 1805 as announced by the War Office on Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>. The announcement read “5th Royal Veteran Battalion, Captain William Stewart, from the Retired List, to be Captain of a Company, vice Bourne, who is placed on the Retired List...” Stewart is still shown as a Captain in the 5<sup>th</sup> Royal Garrison Bn. in the Army List of 1805 which was published Feb. 1, 1805.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> Royal Veteran Battalion page of the annotated War Office copy of the annual Army List for 1813, Capt. William Stewart (date of rank 21 Feb. 1805) is crossed out and marked “R List” indicating he was moved to the retired list. The annual Army List for 1821 still lists Stewart as “OFFICERS Who have been allowed to Retire ON THEIR FULL PAY... INVALIDS... Independent Companies... Captain – {...William Stewart [Rank in the army] 4 July [1781].”

*Blackwood’s Edinburgh Magazine* for June 1826 carried Stewart’s obituary writing, “Deaths...Capt...Wm. Stewart, Retired Invalids, Homerton 2 Jan. 1826.” Homerton is in London about seven miles northwest of Buckingham Palace.

Commissions: Volunteer or Enlisted Marine 1759 or 1760; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Jan 2, 1761 (16<sup>th</sup> Company, Marines); 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Half-Pay 1763 (16<sup>th</sup> Company, Marines); 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. from half-Pay June 8, 1763 – effective Jan. 2, 1761 (4<sup>th</sup> Company, Marines); 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. 1770 (14<sup>th</sup> Company, Marines); 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Dec. 1, 1773 (68<sup>th</sup> Company, Marines); Lt. Sep. 4, 1775 (42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Lt. Nov. 25, 1777 – effective Oct. 29, 1777 (Capt. George Coote’s Independent Company of Invalids, Landguard Fort); Capt. (as Lt.) May 12, 1779 (Sandown Fort, Isle of Wight); Capt. “*in the Army*” July 4, 1781; Capt. July 20, 1781 (Independent Company of Invalids, Berwick); Capt. 1787 (Independent Company of Invalids, Guernsey); Capt. June 14, 1792 (Independent Company of Invalids, North Britain); Capt. Nov. 15, 1797 (Independent Company of Invalids, Guernsey); Capt. Dec. 25, 1802 (5<sup>th</sup> Royal Garrison Bn.); Capt. Feb. 21, 1805 (5<sup>th</sup> Royal Veteran Bn.). Capt. Apr. 29, 1813 (Retired and Reduced Officers receiving Full Pay. Late Independent Companies of Invalids).

**References:** Marine and Invalid Commission History from Dr. John Houlding; Army List 1767, p. 179; TNA, *Commission Books, Series I, 1773-1775* at WO25/32, p107; TNA, Viscount Barrington to Lord John Murray, Aug. 15, 1775, *War Office: Out-letters* at WO 4/94, p. 136; Lord John Murray to 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Atholl, Jan. 4, 1776, Ref: 65(2) in Letter from Mrs. Jane Anderson, Blair Castle to Mr. Ed. Brumby, Elgin, Scotland enclosing documents related to Highland recruiting (undated – about 2000)]; TNA, Lt. William Stewart to Sir William Howe, Apr. 1778, *War Office: In-letters* at WO 1/10 p. 182 and *Guy Carleton, 1st Baron Dorchester: Papers* at PRO 30/55/10 f. 107003; *New-York Gazette and the Weekly Mercury*, May 19, 1777; NRS, William Murray to Mungo Murray, June 5, 1777, *Murray of Lintrose Papers* at GD68/2/73; Chap. McLagan to Lord John Murray, Piscataway, May 31, 1777 in the *Lord John Murray Papers*; *Peebles’ Journal*, Mar. 13, 1778; TNA, *War Office: In-letters, Commander-in-Chief, North America* at WO 1/10, p. 182; TNA, Sir William Howe to Viscount Barrington, Apr. 20, 1778, with Memorial of Lt. William Stewart at PRO 30/55/10, f. 107003; TNA, Viscount Barrington to William Stewart, June 26, 1778, *War Office: Out-letters, America* at WO 4/274, f. 54 (p. 106); Viscount Barrington to Sir Henry Clinton, June 29, 1778 at WO 4/274, ff. 55V-56 (pp. 109-110); General Orders, Philadelphia, Mar. 19, 1778; *London Gazette*, Nov. 22, 1777, p. 1; May 29-June 1, 1779, p. 2, July 28-31, 1781, p. 1, June 12-16, 1792, p. 9, Nov. 25-28, 1797, p. 2, Dec. 11-14, 1802, pp. 1-3 and Feb. 19-23, 1805, p. 5; TNA, “Alterations while Printing” section of *War Office: Printed Annual Army List for 1779* at WO 65/29; *Sons of the Mountains*, Vol. I, McCulloch, pp. 271-282; TNA, *War Office: Baron Jeffrey Amherst, Commander-in-Chief Papers* at WO 34/188, f. 81V; TNA, *War Office: Out-letters* at WO 4/104, p. 347 (f. 173); TNA, WO 34/156 pt.1, f. 117; TNA, William Stewart to Lord Jeffery Amherst, approximately Apr. 1780, at WO 34/162 f. 148; *Scots Magazine*, Aug. 1781, p. 448; “The London Review and Literary Journal for December 1790” in *European Magazine*, Dec. 1790, Google Books, p. 425; “Antiquities” in *The Annual Register...For the Year 1781*, printed for J. Dodsley, London, 1782, Google Books, pp. 120-121; TNA, Printed Annual Army List for 1821 at WO 65/75, pp. 403, 407; *Blackwood’s Edinburgh Magazine*, Vol. XIX, June, 1826, William Blackwood, Edinburgh, 1826, Google Books, p. 762.



Maj. James Stirling, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., in detail of 1805 engraving *The Death of General Sir Ralph Abercromby, K.B.* by Francis Legat after 1802 painting by Thomas Stodhard, Republished by R. Bowyer & M. Parkes, 1828.

Source: Anne S. K. Brown Military Collection, Brown Univ.

*Stirling Lieut*

**Stirling**, Lt. James. Born in Scotland about 1759, Stirling was the illegitimate son of James Stirling, eleventh of Craigharnet (called “*Old Burrie*” due to a burr in his speech) who had been out in the ‘45 as a member of the Prince’s Life Guards. Author John Guthrie Smith best explains Lt. Stirling’s early life in his 1886 book *The Parish of Strathblane* writing “*There is a spreading old plane tree just near the entrance of the new avenue to Craigharnet from the Strathblane side, and under its shade stood a cottage where lived a worthy pair, one of whose daughters was a pretty girl, who was dairymaid at Craighend farm, just across the public road. “Burrie” used to visit this lass, and by and by in this humble home a son was born to them named James Stirling. James after a time lived in the “big house” and was treated like a son of the family, but on some occasion he received, or supposed he received, an insult about his birth. High-spirited and energetic, he at once left Craigharnet, and it was not for some considerable time that it was found he had enlisted as a private in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Royal Highlanders. He rose rapidly to the highest grade of non-commissioned officers in this regiment, and then, at the request of the colonel, his father purchased him a commission.*”

James Stirling was serving as a Sergeant in Lt. Col. Thomas Stirling's Company when the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. sailed for America in April 1776. Having sailed on the transport *Brilliant*, Sgt. Stirling wrote back to a "M<sup>r</sup>. Fagan" from Staten Island, New York on July 30<sup>th</sup> about his arrival. Stirling wrote "...*This comes to acquaint you that I am well at present blessed be God for it, I hope this will you and family in the same, we were five days sailing from Greenwich till by a great storm of wind our Fleet was parsed from one another and our ship and other six & joined [Adm. Richard] Lord Howes fleet at Halifax six weeks after we left Greenock, but we got an onset by a privateer before we joined Lord Howe and would fought her altho' we had nothing but small arms but she was more afraid than us for she would fain attacked us but when she came near and seeing us all under arms she sheered off again, and we saw her no more till we saw her a prize by one of our own Frigates in the harbour, when we came within sight of this Island, as soon as the Yankies saw the fleet knowing it was the Royal Highlanders that was in it they would not shag upon our landing but got off to the Jerseys that very night we landed for they would see the Devil as see us... the Hessians is arrived here and is very clever men and a great many of them can catch balls as they are fired from the gun and put the balls into their pocket for they are brought up at the school of black art now when they [the rebels] see such armies coming against them they are losing heart, they have sent a flag of truce but I believe there is no regard paid to it, for I believe burning and slaying will be their fortune if they come not into our measures, it is prodigious warm here for we are not able to wear our cloaths for the heat, and the thunder & lightning is awful that if the like was to be heard in Scotland you would imagine it was the last day for there hardly a day passes without it and seldom rains with it but when is along with it you never saw any thing equal to it and it is so heavy does not last long the fruits of all kinds is very plenty however we think no on one of the apples than to make stone fights with one another for our diversion so I hope again matters be settled that I shall have a plantation of my own and be equal with some of your Glasgow Merchants...*"

About a week after his letter, General Orders issued on Aug. 6, 1776 directed the "...42<sup>d</sup> Regiment to be formed into two battalions under the command of Lt. Col. Stirling." Accordingly the line companies of the regiment were split into two smaller provisional battalions of about 400 men each. Maj. William Murray was appointed to command the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion and Maj. William Grant the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. Because the new 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion did not have the standard set of staff officers General Orders for Aug. 19<sup>th</sup> directed that "*Lt John Rutherford is appointed adjutant and Serjeant James Stirling to do the duty of QM to the 2<sup>d</sup> battalion 42<sup>d</sup> Regt.*"

Brevet-Quartermaster Stirling served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion in New York/New Jersey campaign of 1776-1777 and on Apr. 24, 1777 General Orders announced "...*The Commander in Chief has been pleas'd to make the following Promotions ... 42<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>... James Sterling Gent; to be Ensign by Purchase vice [Alexander] M<sup>c</sup>Leod promoted} D<sup>o</sup> [22<sup>d</sup> April 1777]."* Lt. Col. Stirling was instrumental in Ens. Stirling's commission as discussed in a letter from Lt. Col. Stirling to his brother in late 1777 where he wrote "...*I was in hopes you would have acknowledged a Letter I wrote you from Piscataway in which was an order on Craighbarnet from his son James for £300 Ster<sup>s</sup> being the price of an Ensigncy I purchased for him in our Reg<sup>t</sup>... he is a very deserving lad and wants to be countinanced besides, M<sup>r</sup> Stirling told me he would go what lengths I thought proper for his advancement as did his son John at Glasgow.*"

Ens. Stirling continued as Quartermaster to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion for the Philadelphia campaign of 1777. In Jan. 1778, Stirling attempted to take supplies under a flag of truce to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. prisoners of war at Lancaster, Pennsylvania along with several other officers including Capt. Thomas Sandford, Quartermaster of the Guards, and Loyalist Capt. MacLeod. Stirling and MacLeod were turned back because "*Gen<sup>l</sup> W... refused to suffer Cap<sup>t</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Leod & Lieu<sup>t</sup> Stirling to proceed with Capt. Sandford, & that they two returned from the Spread Eagle [Tavern] for Philadelphia...*" There was a controversy associated with this expedition discussed in a deposition from rebel Capt. James Christy dated Feb. 2, 1778. Christy wrote that "... *two Bags containing bills of Credit were discovered to be in a Waggon*

*belonging to the party under Cap<sup>t</sup> Sandford, & that being damaged by wet, the bags were opened & dried, & that orders were given by Col. Bradford, deputy Commissary of prisoners, to send the said paper money back; back by Cap<sup>t</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Leod & Lieu<sup>t</sup> Sterling; that Lieu<sup>t</sup> Sterling, with seeming surprize at said discovery, alledged that he was ignorant that the s<sup>d</sup> Baggs were in the waggons of said flag of Truce, or any of them; that this dep<sup>t</sup> heard & understood among the British party attending said flag, that one Mr. Franks had ordered, or was supposed to have ordered the bags afores<sup>d</sup>, to be put into one of the Waggons attending them...*"

In April 1778 following one of several attempts by Lord John Murray to obtain approval to raise a second battalion to the regiment, the War Office sent back observations regarding Lord Murray's recommendations for officers for the new battalion. One of the comments questioned why Ens. Stirling was not selected for a lieutenancy and Lord Murray replied "... *The five Lieutenants Robertson, Campbell, M<sup>c</sup>Leod, Munro, and M<sup>c</sup>Donald, no doubt deserve preferment, and will be moved forward by the Elder Lieu<sup>t</sup>s. getting companies, being now on Service in America, they could not assist in recruiting for a second Battalion. The Ensigns Innes and Stirling are omitted for the same Reasons and it is probable they are Lieu<sup>t</sup>s. before this from the chance of Promotion with the Army...*"

During the Battle of Monmouth, New Jersey on June 28, 1778, Stirling (who was mounted as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Quartermaster) had his horse killed underneath him but was uninjured in the long battle. After returning to New York, he was promoted to Lieutenant in Aug. 1778 vice Lt. Lord William Murray who left the regiment for a Company in the 77<sup>th</sup> Atholl Highland Regt.

Three months later, on Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>, Stirling resigned his position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Quartermaster and moved to Gen. Lord John Murray's Company in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.

Lt. Stirling continued with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion for the Raid on Portsmouth, Virginia and the occupation of Stony Point, New York in 1779, the Siege of Charleston, South Carolina in 1780 and the relief attempt for Earl Cornwallis' army in 1781. He transferred from the General's Company to the Light Infantry Company on May 17, 1783 as the freed light infantry soldiers captured at Yorktown were returning to the regiment in New York.

At the end of the war, Stirling was sent to Britain to escort 177 soldiers of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., who were entitled to be discharged and who embarked on the transport *Steady* on Oct. 19, 1783 for the journey home. Stirling remained in Scotland for a six-month leave after returning with the discharged troops. An undated list of Leaves of Absences for 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. officers from late 1783 read "*Leaves of Absences... L<sup>ets</sup> Stirling } 42<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> { 6 M<sup>o</sup> from 15 Jan<sup>y</sup> 84 D<sup>o</sup> [on his Priv<sup>t</sup> Aff<sup>rs</sup>]*..." An extension to his leave of absence was approved by the war Office on Nov. 3, 1784 writing "*Leaves of Absence... Lieut. Stirling 42<sup>d</sup>. Regt 1<sup>st</sup>. Batt<sup>n</sup>. { 6 [Months] from 5<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>. D<sup>o</sup> [on Private Affairs]...*"

Stirling and his wife, Jean Fisher had a daughter, Joan, who was born at Craigbarnet, May 17, 1785 and later married Lt. John Home, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Stirling and his wife also had one son, James, born in 1792, who was later a Captain in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.

Following his leave of absence Stirling joined the regiment in Halifax, Nova Scotia. In 1786 he went with two companies to the Island of St. John (now Prince Edward Island), where he was stationed until the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. was ordered to return to Britain in 1789.

Lt. Stirling was promoted to Capt. Lieutenant in Aug. 1792 when Capt. Lt. Alexander Stewart was promoted. He obtained a Company on Oct. 21, 1795 when Capt. James Stewart was promoted to Major

and about a year later, on Dec. 20, 1796, the War office announced "...42d Ditto [Regiment of Foot] ... Captain James Sterling to be Major, vice [James] Stewart..."

*The United Service Journal and Naval and Military Magazine* of 1835 contained an account of Stirling's later career writing "In September, 1793, he joined the army under the command of the Duke of York, at Menin, and returned to Nieupoort, then besieged by the French, and afterwards joined the expedition under the Earl of Moira. In 1794 he was present with the army under the Duke of York in Flanders, and remained with it during the retreat through Holland and Westphalia. He returned to England in 1795; and in May, 1796, war with Spain having been declared, he went to Gibraltar. He was at the capture of Minorca by the expedition under the command of Sir C. Stuart, the 18th of November, 1798. In August, 1800, he joined the army under Sir R. Abercromby, and went to Egypt; he commanded the left wing of the regiment in the early part of the action of March, and attacked and annihilated the French Invincibles at the Bridge of Lodi. He took its standard from the officer that carried it without resistance, and saved the lives of six officers and seventy-four men, being all that remained alive after the charge by the wing of the regiment under his command: he was severely wounded in the foot by a grape-shot, but did not quit the field."

As briefly mentioned above, in Aug. 1800, Stirling and the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. joined the army under Sir Ralph Abercromby, which threatened Cadiz, and ultimately proceeded to Egypt in March 1801 where Maj. Stirling gained national fame at the Battle of Alexandria. Maj. Stirling and Maj. Alexander Stewart recorded the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.'s role in the battle writing: "On the morning of the 21st of March ... Brigadier General [Hildebrand] Oakes ordered the left Wing of the 42d to advance. Major Stirling, who commanded this wing, gained the left of the redoubt, in which the 28th regiment had taken post and were engaged, when he immediately encountered the enemy in front. They were at this time endeavouring to force the redoubt, the ruins and the corps which communicated from thence to the sea. To the left of the major's position, the road from Alexandria to Aboukir passes through a considerable hollow, which separated the 42d from the guards, a space which was unoccupied by any troops in the first line. On this road the officers of the light company descried and gave information of a column of the enemy, directing its march upon their flank, and having with them a standard and a field-piece. The major himself soon after ascertained this column to be French, and directed the officer, commanding the light company, to be ready to form front to his Rank, in case any attempt should be made to turn it. The firing at this time was very smart, both in his front and to the right. Passing by the rear, he had just reached the right of the wing he commanded, when he heard a discharge of grape, and on returning rapidly to the left, saw a French battalion in his rear, with a field-piece and six horses, and two loaded camels behind them. Conceiving himself likely be placed between two fires, he did not hesitate to order the wing to face to the right about and charge. The order was obeyed with a spirited promptness, which insured the discomfiture of part of this corps, and obtained possession of the gun. The head of the enemy's column, followed by Major Stirling, directed its movements on the ruins, and was met by the right wing of the 42d, under Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Stewart, who here joined in the conflict. Thus pressed, a part of the column sought shelter in the ruins, which they entered, receiving the fire of some companies of the 58th regiment. The 42d at this time closed in with them, and their standard was taken from the bearer by Major Stirling, who consigned it in charge to a noncommissioned officer. The survivors of the enemy immediately surrendered, and were marched prisoners to the beach, by Ensign [Thomas] Hillas of the 42d regiment..." As a result of this action, where he was wounded severely in the foot by a grape shot, but did not quit the field, Stirling became known throughout Scotland as the officer who had captured the standard of the "French Invincibles." The actual unit that surrendered was the 900-man French 21<sup>st</sup> Demi-Brigade which had earned the nickname "the Invincibles" for their success in the recent Italian Campaign.



Medal prepared by the London Highland Society for the Officers and Men of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. commemorating their victory at Alexandria, and portraying Maj. Stirling's capture of the French Colors.

Picture Source: Photo courtesy of Roan Hackney, *The London Medal Company*

The regiment was present at the reduction of Grand Cairo and Alexandria, and embarked for England in September 1801. Former Capt. Rutherford took note of Stirling's return to his friend former Capt. Peebles on Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> 1802 writing *"...I see no cause to regret that I do not command a regiment nor participate in the well merited applauses bestowed upon those of our old Corps who are lately returned from the land of Egypt – You would see how Stirling was received at a Ball in Edinburgh as this days paper informs me, also at Glasgow..."*

On May 11, 1802 the War office announced *"... HIS Majesty has been pleased to appoint...MAJORS... James Stirling of the 42d Foot... To be LIEUTENANT-COLONELS in the Army..."* Two year later on Sept. 15, 1804 the War Office announced Stirling's next promotion writing *"...42d Regiment of Foot, Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel James Stirling to be Lieutenant-Colonel, without Purchase..."* Stirling's strict but benevolent approach was indicated by his nickname in the regiment of *"Old Daddy."*

Stirling was in command of the regiment when it was ordered to Gibraltar in Sept. 1805. He is noted as speaking with a *"broad Scotch accent"* and was a staunch defender of the regiment's bagpipes. In 1806 a visiting Spanish noblewomen criticized his regimental pipers saying the *"...instrument being a bad one of the kind, and much out of tune."* Stirling quickly remarked to her British escort before walking away *"Hang her bad taste for music I tell her that if she canna admire the bag-pipes she's no worthy of the honour done her this day by the 42nd pipes, nor of any further nautis."*

*The United Service Journal* continued with Stirling's later career writing *"In August, 1808, he joined the army in Lisbon, under the command of Sir H. Dalrymple, and afterwards marched into Spain under Sir J. Moore, and retreated to Corunna, where he commanded his regiment in the battle of the 16th of January,*

1809." After an 1830 account of the battle questioned the regiment's courage Stirling countered the account in a letter to the *Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine*. The magazine published Stirling's account writing in part "*LETTER FROM MAJOR-GENERAL STIRLING. TO THE EDITOR. SIR, A FEW days ago I perused the "Annals of the Peninsular Campaigns," and at page 92, vol. ii., it is stated, that, from some misapprehension, the 42d Regiment had retired at the battle of Corunna. Having had the honour to command the 42d Regiment in that action, I feel it incumbent on me to state to you, that what relates to the 42d (under that paragraph) is very inaccurate: The 42d never retired, as therein stated, or evinced occasion for "a brief but animating address from the General...The grenadiers and first company, not hearing my word of command to halt, continued the charge a little in advance, as did the light company also, when I was ordered by Lord William Bentinck, commanding the brigade, to recall them, and form them in line with the regiment; and in that position, as directed by Sir John Moore, the corps continued in close action with the enemy, until night put an end to the contest..."*" J. STIRLING, Major-Gen. Late Lieut.-Col. 42d Regiment."

Writing under the pseudonym *Philo Scotus*, Phillip Barrington Ainslie wrote about an eye witness account of Lt. Col. Stirling at the Jan. 9, 1809 Spanish Battle of Corunna. Ainslie wrote "*Some year's after, I met and conversed with a colour-sergeant of the 42nd (who had been severely wounded at Corunna), respecting the position of the gallant Highlanders when the French advanced. His reply was most characteristic: 'Weel, yer honour, ye see, we were drawn up in line. Some o' us had faan, for the cannon-shot came thick; but no' a man but stood as firm and dour as Craig Alachy (a high mountain in Badenoch, and the slogan cry of the clan Grant). The Cornel, honest man, just walked about in front o' us wi' a bit switch in his hand, as quietly as if he had been on the parade on the Castle Hill o' Embro'. Naething anger'd him till we cam' to the charge; and then he was aye foremost, and just like a wild boar.'*"

*The United Service Journal* account of Stirling's career continued writing "... In July, 1809, he went to Walcheren, under the command of the Earl of Chatham; and in April. 1812, he sailed for the Peninsula, and joined the army of the Duke of Wellington. He was present at the battle of Salamanca, siege of Burgos, and retreat into Portugal, in 1812. When the British re-entered Spain, he was with the army during all the operations, excepting at the battle of Vittoria, when he was on the mountains in pursuit of a division of the enemy. He was present at the battle of the Pyrenees, and had a horse twice wounded under him; and on the enemy being forced beyond the Pyrenees, he remained encamped on the heights of Moya for upwards of three months, till, reduced by fatigue and ill health, he was obliged to retire to the rear. He commanded the Highland Brigade from July, 1812 to November, 1813, and the Royal Highland Regiment upwards of ten years."

On June 4, 1811 the War Office announced "...*HIS Royal Highness the Prince Regent has been pleased, in the Name and on Behalf of His Majesty, to appoint... LIEUTENANT-COLONELS... James Stirling, of 42d Foot... To be COLONELS in the Army.*"

*The Sussex Advertiser* in Lewes published an article about Lt. Col. Stirling on Mar. 23, 1812 describing a ceremonial sword presented to him. The article read "*LAST Saturday being the anniversary of the battle of Alexandria, in which the 42d or Royal Highlanders, so nobly distinguished themselves, the Officers and men decorated their caps with sprigs of laurel, in commemoration of the victory, and in honour of the day. The Officers appeared in their best uniforms, and Colonel Stirling wore an elegant sabre, a present from the Non-commissioned Officers and Privates as a mark of the respect they owe him. The scabbard is highly wrought and richly gilt, and the blade beautifully ornamented with various emblematical devices, and inscriptions. The centre exhibits these words. "A Testimony of Esteem and respect from the Non-commissioned Officers and Privates of the Royal Highlanders, to Lieutenant Colonel James Stirling, their Commanding Officer," bounded on one side by the Colonel's arms, motto, semper fidelis; and on*

*the other, in a sort of transverse border, by the countries in which he served, viz. America, Germany, Egypt, Spain, and Holland. In short this sabre is a very honourable and flattering testimony of the Colonel's worth."*



Detail of Field Marshal Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington, 1815-16, by Thomas Lawrence

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from the *Wellington Museum*, London

Stirling's performance in the Peninsula Campaign was recognized by the Duke of Wellington in a letter from 1813, in which he wrote "*Colonel Stirling of the 42nd is going to England, I believe with an intention of retiring from the service, and he has expressed a desire that I should recommend him to His Royal Highness. I believe he is perfectly well known to His Royal Highness; and I have only to add my testimony to that of other officers under whom he has served, and I believe it is universally admitted that there is not anywhere a more gallant soldier than he is. Believe me, &c Wellington*"

*The United Service Journal* summarized Stirling's career with the conclusion "*During a period of forty-two years, which he served in this regiment, he had only once leave of absence for six months, and was present in every skirmish or battle that the regiment was engaged in during that period twenty-seven years of it in foreign climates. Since the commencement of the war in 1793, he twice lost his baggage, was once taken prisoner at sea, was twice wounded, and once shipwrecked...*"

Stirling's performance in Spain was recognized in a Horse Guards proclamation on Oct. 7, 1813 which announced "*...The Prince Regent is therefore graciously pleased to command, in the name and on the behalf of His majesty, that in commemoration of the brilliant victories obtained by His Majesty's arms in the battles of Roleia and Vaneria, Corunna, Talavera de la Reyna, Rusaco, Barrosa, Fuentes de Oner, Albuhera, and Salamanca, and in the assaults and captures of Ciudad Rodrigo and Badajos, the under-mentioned Officers of the Army, present on those occasions, shall enjoy the privilege of bearing badges of distinction... Officers entitled to wear a Medal and two Clasps... Colonel James Stirling, 42d Foot...*"

The next year, on June 7, 1814, the War Office announced "*...His Royal Highness the Prince Regent has been pleased, in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty, to appoint the following Officers to take rank by Brevet as undermentioned: the commissions to be dated June 4, 1814... COLONELS... James Stirling, of 42d Foot... To be MAJOR-GENERALS in the Army...*"

Stirling was appointed to his last command on June 17, 1815 when the War Office announced "*...GARRISONS. Major-General James Stirling to be Lieutenant-Governor of Cork [Ireland], vice Colonel [William] Dickson, deceased. Dated June 8, 1815.*" The annual pay for the Lt. Governor of Cork in 1815 was set at £182 10s.

After leaving the Army in 1822, Stirling lived at his estate at Eskbank, about seven miles southeast of the center of Edinburgh. He was welcomed back to Musselburgh with a public dinner and showed both his wit and his sensitivity to his humble beginnings in the ranks. An old anecdote records that at a public dinner the toast of his health was proposed by one of his old acquaintances who said *“I remember the general when he was hurling a barrow fu’ of turnips”* to which Stirling replied *“If I had possessed your brains I would have been hurling turnips yet.”*

Stirling’s death in 1834 was recorded in the *United Service Journal and Naval and Military Magazine* for Jan. 1835 which wrote *“Dec. 12, at Musselburgh, (N.B.) after a few days’ illness, Major General James Stirling, Lieut.-Governor of Cork.”*



Maj. Gen. James Stirling’s Tomb, Inveresk Parish Kirkyard, Musselburgh, by Kim Traynor

Picture Source: Geograph

At his funeral where a detachment of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. fired a military salute over his grave, Stirling was buried in the churchyard of Inveresk, a village and a coastal parish of northeast Edinburghshire. His gravesite was described as *“...A beautiful Egypto-Grecian monument of freestone has been erected in the church-yard of Inveresk to the memory of Major-General Stirling. It is divided into three compartments; in the central of which is a sarcophagus, on which rest the sword, sash, and hat with general’s plume, together with the standard of the Bridge of Lodi. On the plynth is a coronal of oak-leaves and acorns; the side compartments having those of willow. On the side of the sarcophagus under the inscription *Erected by his grand-children-“Alexandria, Corunna, Pyrenees”* is the epitaph by Dr. Moir: *“Sacred to the memory of Major-General JAMES STIRLING, Lieutenant-Governor of Cork, and for forty-two years an officer in the 42d Royal Highlanders. With a wing of that national corps he annihilated the French Invincibles in Egypt, and took their standard with his own hand. He commanded that regiment through the Peninsular war, and after twenty-seven years of foreign service he retired in 1813 into private life,**

where, cultivating the virtues which adorn the Christian character, he died, full of years and honours, at his villa of Eskbank, 12th December 1834. His remains, borne hither by his veteran companions in arms, are here interred." Also buried with Maj. Gen Stirling are his wife, Jean Fisher who died in 1844 at age 94, his son, Capt. James Stirling, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., his daughter Joanna Stirling and her husband Capt. John Home, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.

Commissions: Private 1774, Sgt. before 1776; Brevet-Quartermaster Aug. 19, 1776 (2<sup>nd</sup> Provisional Bn., 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. in America); Ens. Apr. 22, 1777; Lt. Aug. 3, 1778; Resigned as 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. Quartermaster Nov. 22, 1778; Lt. May 17, 1783 (42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Company); Capt. Lt. Aug. 8, 1792; Capt. Oct. 21 1795 – Date of Rank Aug. 8, 1792; Maj. Dec. 14, 1796; Lt. Col. "in the Army" Apr. 29, 1802; Lt. Col. Sept. 7, 1804 (42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Col. "in the army" June 4, 1811; Maj. Gen. June 4, 1814; Lt. Governor of Cork June 8, 1815; Retired Dec. 31, 1822.

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Maj. Gen. Sir Thomas Stirling by Benjamin Marshall



Maj. Gen. Sir Thomas Stirling after Benjamin West, said to be by Stirling's batman

Picture Source and Note: The Black Watch Castle & Museum. The buttons arranged in pairs identifies the uniform of as that of a Maj. General

*Thos. Stirling*  
*Lt. Col.*

**Stirling, Younger of Ardoch**, Brevet-Maj. Gen. Thomas. Born Oct. 8, 1731 in St. Petersburg, Russia, and called "*Tom*" by his family, Stirling was the second son of Sir Henry (Hary) Stirling, 3<sup>rd</sup> Baronet of Ardoch (Perthshire).



Remains of Ardoch Roman Fort, by Dr. Richard Murray

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

Stirling's father, Sir Henry, travelled to Russia in 1716 to arrange for Czar Peter the Great's support for a British government pardon for his uncle, Sir John Erskine of Alva. Sir John had supported the Jacobite rebellion of 1715 by "*The Old Pretender*," James Francis Edward Stuart (Catholic son of King James II and half-brother to Queen Anne), who had attempted to ascend to the throne of England by force of arms. Sir Henry's other uncle, Dr. Robert Erskine, was the personnel physician of Peter the Great and influenced the Czar to support the Jacobite cause. Sir Henry was an agent of the Jacobite Court and became so heavily involved in Russian politics that he remained in Russia and in 1726 he married Anne Gordon, daughter Adm. Thomas Gordon (a native of Aberdeen, Admiral of the Russian Baltic Squadron and Governor of Kronstadt).



Adm. Thomas Gordon (1658-1741)

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons from the National Trust for Scotland

Adm. Gordon, a former Capt. in the Scots Royal Navy and later in the Royal Navy, refused to take the oath of loyalty to King George I and resigned his commission. He was engaged in the service of Peter the Great in 1717 and also served as an intermediary between Russia and *The Old Pretender*." James Stuart

wrote to Adm. Gordon on Nov. 18, 1729 and ended the letter with “...*The family here are in good health which with my compliments to Sir Hary Stirling is all I have to add to the assurance of my constant kindness.*”

In 1737, at the age of six, Thomas Stirling left Russia with his older brother William, and returned to Scotland. The young brothers were placed in the care of Sir Henry’s sister Isobel and her husband, Patrick Linton of Pendreich. After the death of Adm. Gordon in 1741, Sir Henry and his wife returned to Scotland and reunited with their children.



Miniature of Ens. Thomas Stirling in the Uniform of Marjoribanks’ Regt. of the Scots Brigade

Picture Source: *A Military History of Perthshire 1660-1902*, Ed. The Marchioness of Tullibardine, R. A. & J. Hay, Perth, 1908, p. 387.

Stirling’s brother William was a Lieutenant in Gen. Stewart’s Regt., Scots Brigade in Dutch service, and on Sept. 30, 1747, at age sixteen, Thomas Stirling was commissioned Ensign, in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Gen. Maj. Alexander Marjoribanks’ Regt. in the Brigade. Stirling was likely a replacement for one of the fifteen officers of the regiment killed in the Battle of Lauffeld, (Riemst, Belgium) on June 20<sup>th</sup>. Following the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle ending the War of the Austrian Succession in Apr. 1748, Marjoribanks’ Regt. was stationed at “*the Bosch*” (’s-Hertogenbosch, in southern Netherlands) until 1750; followed by two years at Gorcum (also Gorinchem) in western Netherlands. Stirling was placed on “*pensioned*” status in 1752 but was ordered to active duty again as an Ensign in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the same regiment Oct. 31, 1756.

An entry in Maj. Gen. Lord John Murray’s letter book dated at London on July 16, 1757 lists the officers for three new compaies authorized for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., including the entry under Capt. James Murray’s Company that read “...*Lieu<sup>t</sup>. Thomas Stirling from Marjoribanks 2 Lieu<sup>t</sup>...*” However, another entry a few pages later lists:

“*Officers of the Three Additional Companys*  
*Captains – James Stewart { of orrat [Urrard] 18 July 1758 Perthshire*  
*James Murray { 20 July D<sup>o</sup> D<sup>o</sup>*  
*Thomas Stirling { [page torn off]*

Capt. William Mercer had been removed from the list of captains, and Stirling substituted in his place. *The Military History of Perthshire* indicates Stirling was nominated by James Murray, 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Atholl.

Stirling raised the required number of soldiers and joined the regiment as a Captain in July 1757. At the end of October the additional companies marched from Perth to Glasgow, where they remained till November 15, when they marched to Greenock and embarked in transports for Cork enroute to America.

Capt. Stirling sailed for North America in November 1757 with the three 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Additional Companies in a fleet under the protection of the 50-gun *HMS Hampshire* and arrived in mid-Mar. 1758. One of the fleet transports, *Anandale*, was damaged in a severe storm and had to make port in Lisbon, Portugal to repair a leak. After restarting its journey, *Anandale* was blown so far off its intended course for New York (and with another leak) that it landed at St. John's, Antigua in the Caribbean on Apr. 33. The account in the *New York Mercury* of May 22, 1758 reported the transport carried "70 highlanders" and Capt. Stirling has been mentioned as the senior British officer on the transport. Contrary to this account, *Lloyd's Evening Post*, of Sept. 13-15, 1758 reported that "...We have certain information, that the *Anandale*, [George] Johnston, Master, in which was Lieut. Simon Blair, with two other Lieutenants, one Ensign, and 167 men under his command, of Lord John Murray's additional highland companies, is safely arrived at Antigua..."

Although Capt. Stirling arrived in America prior to the Battle of Ticonderoga, he did not participate in that bloody battle with the French on July 8, 1758. Maj. Gen. James Abercrombie reported on the location of the three 42<sup>nd</sup> Additional Companies (Capt. James Murray's, Capt. James Stewart's and Capt. Stirling's) shortly before the battle. Abercrombie wrote from his camp at Fort George on June 29<sup>th</sup> that "...I have left two additional Companies of Lord John Murray's, with four Companies of Provincials, computed at 100 each, to garrison Fort Edward... The other additional Company of the 42<sup>d</sup>., which was blown into Antego [Antigua], I hear, is arrived at New York, which I have ordered up to Albany." Sir Robert Menzie explained Stirling's absence from the bloody assault on Ticonderoga in a letter to Murray of Strowan on Aug. 31, 1758. He wrote that "...The affair has been hard upon their Regiment, having 7 officer killed and 18 wounded. Capt: Murray is Gen<sup>l</sup> Abercrombie's principal aid de camp, and Jammie Stewart is with the old Reg<sup>l</sup> in place of Capt. [John] Reid, who was not able to undergo the fatigue, which was the reason Capt: Murray and his being took away from their own companies, which with Capt: Stirling's are at Fort Edward..." Sir Robert provided addition details of Stirling's Company based on an update he received from New York on July 16. He wrote on Sept. 6 that "...after the additional companies arrived at F<sup>t</sup> Edward, the best men were picked out to compleat the Regiment in place of sick and old men that were put in their place. That, as Capt<sup>n</sup> Reid was left behind sick at Albany, he was appointed to his company and Reid to the add<sup>tl</sup>s, as Capt<sup>n</sup> Abercrombie was to Capt<sup>n</sup> Murray's company, Capt. Murray being the General's principal Aid de camp. That the add<sup>l</sup> companies, with Capt<sup>s</sup> Stirling, Reid, & Abercrombie, &<sup>c</sup>, were left at F<sup>t</sup> Edward, where they had nothing to do but to Garrison the Fort and divert themselves."

Accordingly Stirling did not join the main body of the regiment until late summer of 1758. He participated in Lord Amherst's 1759 expedition against Forts Ticonderoga and Crown Point, and the 1760 campaign against Montreal.

Leaving Canada, Stirling served with the regiment in the British campaign in West Indies. The fleet arrived at Martinique on Jan. 8, 1762 and the French surrendered on Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>. Stirling was wounded in the attack as reflected in the casualty list that read "... Return of the Killed, Wounded, and Missing, of the Army under the Command of his Excellency Major-General Monckton, at the Attack of the Enemy's

*Redoubts, Intrenchments, and Breastworks, between Case navierre, and merne Tartenson, on the 24th Day of January 1762... Wounded... 1st battalion of royal highlanders...Capt. Thomas Stirling...*”



*The Capture of Havana, 1762: The Morro Castle and the Boom Defence Before the Attack, by Dominic Serres, 1770*

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

Despite his wound at Martinique, Stirling recovered sufficiently to take part in the attack on Havana, Cuba later that year. The fleet sailed from Martinique on May 6<sup>th</sup> and arrived at Havana a month later. The *El Morro* fortress fell on July 30<sup>th</sup> and the city surrendered on Aug. 14, 1762. However, like many men of the regiment, Stirling fell seriously ill with fever in Cuba and returned to Scotland to recover. He did not rejoin the regiment until 1765.



Reconstructed gatehouse and front curtain wall at Fort DeChartres, Illinois

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

Upon returning to the regiment at Fort Pitt in western Pennsylvania, Capt. Stirling gained considerable notoriety when he was ordered to take a company-sized detachment down the Ohio River to the Illinois country to accept control of Fort DeChartres from the French. Maj. Gen. Thomas Gage wrote to Sir William Johnson on Sept. 8, 1765 that Lt. Col. John Reid has selected Stirling noting that he was “...a

*very good & proper Person for such a Business, to take Possession.” The Leeds Intelligencer reported Stirling’s departure in 1765 writing “Fort Pitt. Aug. 22. To-morrow Captain Thomas Stirling, with 100 men of the 42d regiment, leaves this place in battoes, to go and take possession of the Illinois; Col. Croghan, the Indian agent, having settled satisfactory preliminaries with the French Indians, and obtained their consent to our possession of their country...” Fort DeChartres is located about four miles west of Prairie du Rocher, Illinois. As each of the regiment’s eight remaining companies was reduced at the end of the American to “...consist of 1 Capt. 1 Lieut 1 Ens. 2 Serj. 1 Drummer, 2 Corp: & 45 Effective Private” Stirling’s detachment consisted of approximately a quarter of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Highlanders with a few artillerymen.*

*A month into the journey, Capt. Stirling had a harrowing encounter with a bear as he wrote about in his journal of the expedition. On Sept. 22, 1765 he noted “About one o’clock seeing a large Bear swimming across the river I made the rowers pull hard to come with him before he landed, but he had got ashore before we came up. However, as he stopped on the shore to draw breath & look at us before he went into the wood, I took a shot at him & hit him but did not kill. Jumping ashore, I pursued him as he ran into the wood with my bayonet fixed & just as he was scrambling up the bank came up with him & ran the bayonet into his posteriors & followed him into the wood. Finding he could not make his Escape, he turned upon me very fiercely & raising himself on his hind feet advanced upon me. I, trusting to my bayonet, stood my ground & drove it up to the Muzzle of the piece in his breast but that, far from killing him, enraged him the more. Laying his fore paws across the gun, he snapped the bayonet in two & ran at me. I had then nothing but my heels to trust, which would not have saved me from his merciless paws, as the Slipperiness of the ground retarded my flight, had not two of the soldiers followed me with setting poles in their hands. Seeing my danger, they ran up to assistance, by labouring at the Bear with the poles till he turned upon them, which gave me the time just to throw cartridge into my fuzee & shoot him thru the head, as he was standing on end to seize one of the men. He was a monstrous Creature. I had him skinned. He measured above 6 feet long.”*

*Stirling’s trip to the Illinois took from Aug. 24 to Oct. 9, 1765 and on arrival he accepted the transfer of Fort DeChartres from the French commander. After assuming command of the area, Stirling’s detachment garrisoned the fort until December when the permanent garrison from the 34<sup>th</sup> Regt. arrived. Maj. Robert Farmer, 34<sup>th</sup> Regt., described the departure of Stirling’s detachment from the fort to Maj. Gen. Hon. Thomas Gage, on Dec. 16-19, 1765 writing “I have the Honor to Inform Your Excellency of my Safe Arrival here, the 2<sup>d</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> ... The Arrival of Captain Stirling, with the Detachment of the 42<sup>d</sup> Regiment at this place before me, was of the utmost Service... I am Sorry to Acquaint Your Excellency that there is likely to be a Scarcity of Provisions in this Country, in Consequence of which, I was obliged to Send Capt<sup>n</sup> Stirling with his Detachment down the Mississippi, it being impracticable for them to Join their Regiment by the Ohio at this Season of the Year, agreable to Your Excellency’s orders & instructions, I Hope You will not find the Route Attended with more Expence to the Government than the Other, as the Batteau’s they take with them, will Serve in the Spring, to bring up the Recruits for this Regiment, which are now in West Florida...”*



Sloop *Liberty and Property*, right

Picture Source: *The Ancient Port of Whitby*, Richard Weatherill, Horne and Son, Whitby, 1908, Google Books, p. 64.

Using the bateaux off the 34<sup>th</sup> Regt., Stirling and his detachment travelled down the Mississippi River to New Orleans where they were well received by the French governor. At that point Capt. Stirling traded their bateaux to the 21<sup>st</sup> Regt. in exchange for that regiment's sloop *Liberty and Property*. After a stop in Pensacola, in the West Florida colony, the sloop arrived at New York in June 1766. Maj. Gen. Thomas Gage described the return of Capt. Stirling's detachment to Gov. Penn of Pennsylvania on June 15, 1766 writing "*A Detachment of the Royal Highland Regiment which took Possession of the Illinois Country, is just arrived in this Port from Pensacola, and as they will March on the 17 Ins<sup>t</sup>. for Philadelphia, I am to beg the favour of you to give Directions that they may be supplied with Quarters and Carriages when they shall enter the Province of Pennsylvania, according to the Act of Parliament made in that respect; and that they may be also provided with Quarters in Philadelphia, where the Detachment is to remain till further Orders. I have the honour to transmit you herewith a Return of their Numbers... Return of a Detachment of the 42<sup>d</sup> Regiment, order'd to March to Philadelphia: 1 Captain, 3 Subalterns, 1 Mate, 5 Serjeants, 2 Drums, & 102 Rank and File.*"

Having successfully completed their 3000 mile expedition, Capt. Stirling and his men were recognized in Regimental Orders in Philadelphia dated Oct. 16, 1766 which announced "*Captain Thomas Stirling having presented a memorial to the Commander in Chief [Gen. Thomas Gage], of the officers and men of the Detachment under his command, for an allowance to be made them, for their extraordinary trouble and fatigue in taking possession of the Illinois; which memorial His Excellency has transmitted to His Majesty but not yet received any answer, however Captain Stirling has this day received a Letter from the Commander in Chief desiring him to return his thanks to the Officers and men of that Detachment for their Services on that Expedition and mentions that he is in hopes from the reasonableness of the request that some allowances be made them; the men of the detachment to be made acquainted with this order this evening at retreat beating.*"

One of the officers of the Illinois expedition, Lt. James Eidingtoun (also written as Eddington), found himself in severe financial hardship following the long trip. Because of his service in the war, Lt. Eidingtoun obtained a 2000 acre tract of land in Cumberland County New York (later split between Vermont and New Hampshire) but sold his tract to Capt. Stirling for the "*Sum of Eighty Pounds, Current Lawfull Money of the said Province of New York...*" In 1768 Stirling was awarded a land grant of 3000 acres in New York for his own service during the French war, but how Capt. Stirling disposed of these combined 5000 acres has not been recorded.

In 1767 Capt. Stirling returned with the regiment for garrison duty in Galway, Ireland. Three years later when the regiment was in Dublin, Maj. John Reid of Starch expressed a wish to sell his Majority. Capt. Stirling offered to purchase at an over-regulation price, but because he was third in line of seniority, he was disappointed and Capt. Thomas Graeme of Duchray succeeded to the majority. Maj. Graeme was promoted to Lt. Colonel later that year and Capt. Stirling succeeded to the Majority on Dec. 12, 1770. The *Scots Magazine* of Feb. 1771 recorded the promotion writing “... *Capt. Thomas Stirling, of the 42d regiment of foot, (the Royal Highlanders), is promoted to be Major of that regiment, by purchase. — This gentleman was pitched upon by Gen. Gage, commander in chief in America to take possession of the Illinois country in 1765, having a hundred men under his command...*”



Isle of Man, 2013

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *Image Science & Analysis Laboratory, NASA Johnson Space Center*. (221 sq. miles).

During the period the 42<sup>nd</sup> Highlanders were stationed in Ireland, the Military Establishment of that Kingdom was responsible for supplying a Major, Surgeon's mate and four companies (later three companies) for the garrison of the Isle of Man in the Irish Sea. The 42<sup>nd</sup> regt. was assumed the Isle of Man duty on Dec. 26, 1770 with their new major in command. On Feb. 6, 1771, Maj. Stirling contacted his friend, William Graham of Airth, from Douglas in the island, writing “... *thank you for your congratulation on my preferment it has had no violent effects upon me hitherto, either as to joy, or changing my disposition in playing the command:<sup>s</sup> Officer, nor I hope will not the next step when I get it, in short I took it, as Yorick says, every fine Lady takes a Compliment, as a matter of right... as for my health I want not restoratives but Purifiers...*” About six weeks later, on Mar. 31<sup>st</sup>, Lt. Gen. Lord John Murray, Col., 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., wrote Stirling at Douglas regarding his new command indicating “...*I had the favour and would have wrote you again Sooner, but delay'd it till I got franks, having nothing Particulair to Mention, and know you'l take care the 4 Companys under your Command are kept in proper Discipline, and if any thing Extraordinary happens, hopes youl always & regulairly Acquaint me...*”

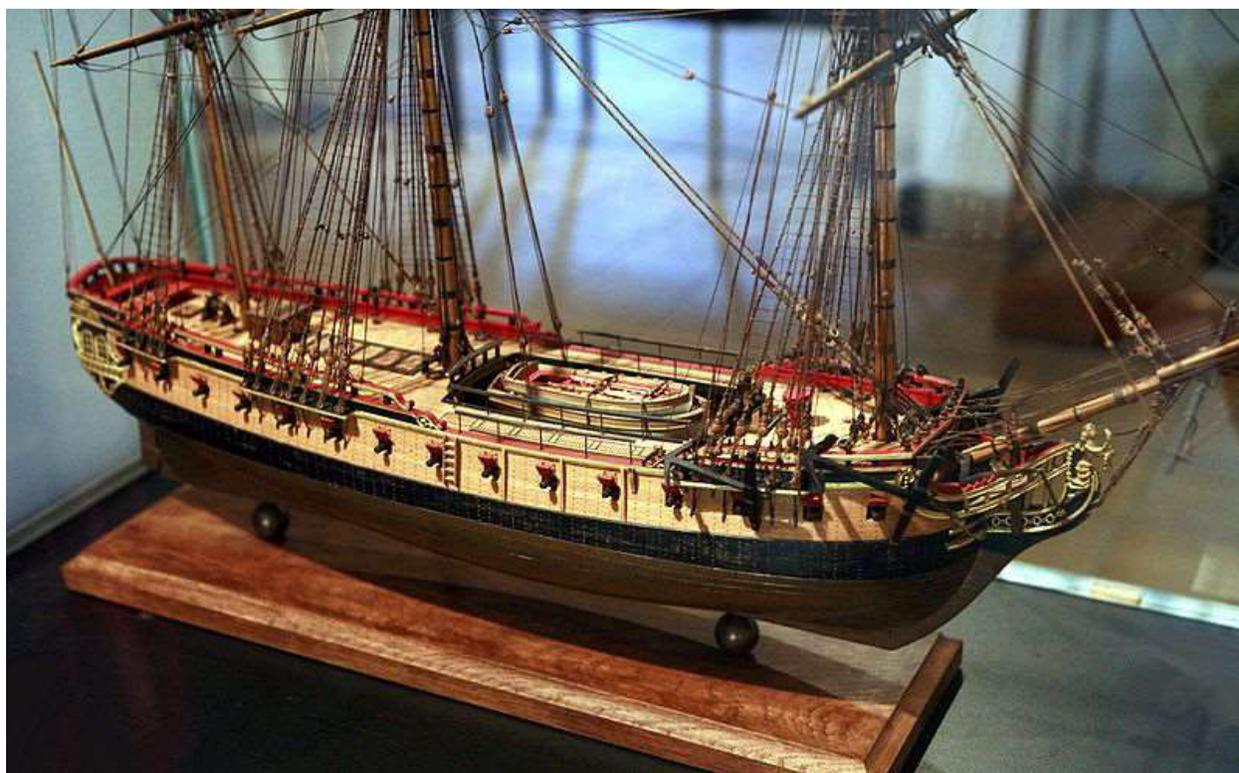
*As my Reg<sup>t</sup>. has always been Esteem'd for their good behaviour in whatever Quarters they have been, don't doubt they will be so in the Isle of Man where I was the first time the late Duke of Atholl was there, if any of my acquaintances there are living pray lett me know it, and make my Comp<sup>ts</sup>. to them, and write me the prices of the Different provisions & Liqueours. Please make my Comp<sup>ts</sup>. to Governour [John] Wood, & the Officers of the Corps and I am Sincerly S<sup>r</sup>. Your Most &c...*”

Just nine months after obtaining his Majority, Stirling obtained the Lt. Colonelcy of the regiment in Sept. 1771 when Lt. Col. Graeme retired. Stirling was relieved of command on the Isle of Man, replaced by Maj. William Murray.

Stirling returned to Scotland on leave in 1774 as Capt. James M<sup>c</sup>Pherson wrote to his brother-in-law on June 27<sup>th</sup> that “...Col<sup>l</sup> Stirling is just now come home ... The Reg<sup>t</sup> is now at Waterford about a hundred miles beyond Dublin ...”

In July 1775, Stirling and the regiment returned to Scotland to augment the regiment’s strength up from 18 sergeants, 12 musicians and 370 rank & file to 50 sergeants, 22 drummers and pipers and 1050 rank & file with orders to sail to America to join Sir William Howe’s army to put down the rebellion of the American colonists.

There was friction during this recruiting period between Stirling and Gen. Lord John Murray, Colonel of the regiment. Lt. Col. Stirling left Glasgow for Perthshire as Lord John Murray complained in a letter to the Secretary at War. Lord Murray wrote Viscount Barrington around late Aug. 1775 that “... Recruiting Officers are Stationed in the different places, the Recruiting will go on Briskly, & that we Shall Soon be compleat. but by the Return I rec<sup>d</sup> from Major [William] Murray the 29<sup>th</sup>. last month there was only Eleven Officers Recruiting Lieu<sup>t</sup>. Colonel Stirling was gone from Glasgow to visit his friends in the Shire of Perth, by whose leave I don’t know...” In Feb. 1776, Stirling complained to Col. James Murray that “...Lord John I find is very keen for a 2<sup>d</sup> Batt<sup>n</sup>, ... if he arranges his Officers as ill for it as he did for the Augmentation, it will go but poorly on, I have nothing but a paper War with him since I came here, which with a neglect & want of Countenance from above has made me Sick of my profession, and I do think will give it up when the service we are going on is over...”



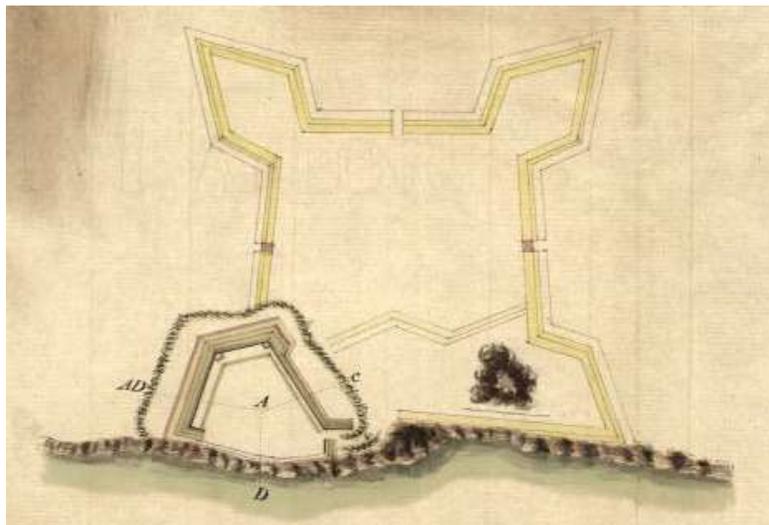
Model of 30-gun French Frigate *Vestale*, re-commissioned in 1761 as 32-gun *HMS Flora*,  
Scale model on display at the *Musée de la Marine* in Toulon, France

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons by Rama, 2009

After recruiting the companies up to their new higher authorization in Scotland, Stirling and the 42<sup>nd</sup> Highlanders departed for America from Greenock on April 29, 1776 under convoy of *HMS Flora* along with the 71<sup>st</sup> (Fraser's) Highland Regt. Stirling sailed on the transport *Brilliant* with 32 other transports, however, soon after the convoy departed it was dispersed by severe storms. Accordingly, after joining the army and fleet at Halifax, Nova Scotia, the *Brilliant* arrived at Staten Island, New York about July 8 with only three other transports of the regiment.

After the arrival of the remainder of the regiment at Staten Island by early August, General Orders issued on Aug. 6, 1776 directed the "...42<sup>d</sup> Regiment to be formed into two battalions under the command of Lt. Col. Stirling." Stirling commanded the regiment in the New York/New Jersey campaign of 1776-1777. He and the regiment were specifically recognized in General Orders for their role in the successful attack on Fort Washington, New York on Nov. 16, 1776, which stated "*The General is extremely sensible of the Universal Spirit and Alacrity which evidently animated all the Troops that were Yesterday engaged, and desires his particular thanks may be given ... To Lieut.-Col. Sterling, and the 42d. Regiment...*"

On June 13, 1777, Lt. Col. Stirling received his first temporary brigade command for the New Jersey campaign "...composed of the 33<sup>d</sup> and 2 battalions of the 42<sup>d</sup>." For the Philadelphia campaign of 1777-1778 the two battalions of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. were placed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade under Maj. Gen. Charles Grey.



Detail from British Map of "... REDOUBT at BILLINGSFORT and PLAN of the REBEL FORT marked yellow."

Picture Source: Library of Congress, Map Division.

Stirling received a separate command on Sept. 28, 1777 consisting of the 42<sup>nd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Regiments, which were ordered to seize the rebel fort at Billingsfort (also Billingsport), New Jersey in order to clear the Delaware River as a shipping route to Philadelphia. Gen. Sir William Howe described taking the fort in a letter back to London dated 1777 where he wrote "... *The Enemy had a Redoubt upon the Jersey Shore at a place called Billings Point with heavy Guns in it to prevent these Machines from being weighed up. Upon the Representation of Captain Hammond, commanding His Majesty's Ship Roebuck, who was lying off of Chester with some other Ships of War, that the Possession of Billings Point would give him the*

*lower Chevaux de Frize, the 10<sup>th</sup> and 42<sup>d</sup> Regiments were detached on the 29<sup>th</sup> under the command of Lieut<sup>t</sup> Colonel Stirling; This Detachment, crossing the River next Day from Chester, took Possession on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October of the Enemy's Works at the Point, which three hundred Men posted there, evacuated after Spiking the Guns and burning the Barracks. Lieutenant Colonel Stirling pursued them about two Miles, but to little Purpose as they retired with the utmost Precipitation – Captain Hammond immediately opened the Navigation of that Place by removing a part of the Chevaux de Frize...*

Due to his Billingsport assignment, Stirling and his regiment were absent from the unsuccessful rebel attack on Gen. Howe at Germantown on Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>. After taking the rebel capital of Philadelphia, Stirling and the regiment spent the winter in that city.

In Apr. 1778, Lt. Col. Stirling sent a memorial to the Secretary at War asking to be considered for the Colonelcy of the new Royal Glasgow Volunteers (83<sup>rd</sup> Regt.) emphasizing that he had “... *been above Thirty years an Officer, 13 of which in the rank of Captain during the last War in America, at the reduction of Martinico, & the Havannah, at the former of which place I was wounded, in 1765 I was pitched upon by Gen<sup>l</sup>: [Thomas] Gage to take possession of the Illinois Country with a detachment of 100 Men from Fort Pitt, this service I effected after being ten months out, and a tour of near 5000 Mile, without any expence to Government, tho another expedition cost many thousands – I have exerted myself in bringing the large augmentation to the 42<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>: into some order & discipline and fitting them for immediate service, & I flatter myself their behaviour during these two last Campaigns when I had the honour to command them, will reflect some merit upon my desire of being employed on all occasions & the repeated approbation of the Commander in Chief in publick orders, will likewise I hope plead on my behalf...*” Lt. Col. Stirling was unsuccessful with his memorial, the colonelcy of the Volunteers having previously gone to Brevet-Col. George Scott, 61<sup>st</sup> Regt.

After returning to New York with the army from Philadelphia and fighting in the Battle of Monmouth, New Jersey, Stirling commanded a brigade made up of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 42<sup>nd</sup> Regiments for Maj. Gen. Grey's raid on Bedford, Massachusetts in Sept. 1778 and on Sept. 11 commanded a 1200-man detachment that landed on Martha's Vineyard to collect stock for the army. The rebel commissary for Martha's Vineyard described Lt. Col. Stirling's actions on the island in his journal entry for Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> that read: “...*Col. Sterling then informed me and other inhabitants of the island that he had a message to deliver to the people. Then he recommended them to meet in a field for there was not room for them in doors, accordingly they met to the amount of several hundred. He informed us that we were to apply to New York for payment for the stock that they had received. I asked the Colonel if we best send a man in the fleet at this time for the payment to which the Colonel replied, we might if we chose but he recommended us to wait a little time before application was made.*”

In Feb. 1779, Stirling commanded a separate detachment of the 42<sup>nd</sup>, 33<sup>rd</sup> Regiments and the Light Companies of the Guards in a raid on Elizabethtown, New Jersey. The rebel *New Jersey Journal* actually complimented Stirling on this expedition saying: “*Colonel Stirling who commanded the detachment shewed himself throughout the whole expedition not only the officer, but the well bred gentlemen...*” In May of that year Stirling commanded a brigade consisting of the two battalions of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. and the 15<sup>th</sup> Regt. during Adm. Collier's Raid on Portsmouth, Virginia and led a separate detachment of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. to Kemp's Landing, where a number of rebel ships were burnt and a large amount of supplies were captured.

As the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. was waiting to sail for the Portsmouth raid, the loyal residents of Newtown on Long Island, paid a compliment to Stirling and the men of his regiment writing in the newspaper “*THE inhabitants of Newtown beg leave to make their hearty and grateful acknowledgement to Colonel Stirling, and the officers of the 42d regiment, for their equitable, polite, and friendly conduct, during their winter's*

*stay among them. They will ever retain an affectionate esteem and regard for them; and will never forget that they have been treated with all the justice and cordiality due to fellow citizens and subjects...*"

Stirling wrote in reply "*IT gives Colonel Stirling a very sensible pleasure to find the orderly and good behavior of the 42d or Royal Highland regiment, under his command, during their winter quarters in Newtown, has drawn so honourable acknowledgement from the inhabitants of that district...*"

During this period, Lt. Col. Stirling resisted Lord John Murray's authority to manage the assignments of officers of the regiment. Capt. John M<sup>c</sup>Intosh's letter to Lord Murray on Apr. 2, 1779 showed Stirling's attitude when he wrote "*...I did my Self the honor of writing your Lordship the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, in answer to yours of the 5 Decem<sup>r</sup> Requesting me to go home, and take the Command of the Additional Company; I told your Lordship I had no objections to go home – But that at present Colo<sup>l</sup> Stirling would not allow a Capt<sup>n</sup> to go home as he says one of the Additional Company is at Newfoundland – till your Lordship gets this matter Cleened up at the War Office. I must Remain with the Reg<sup>t</sup>...*" Stirling continued to resist Capt. M<sup>c</sup>Intosh's return to Scotland until Oct. 1779. M<sup>c</sup>Intosh explained his situation in a letter to Lord Murray on Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> writing "*... Yesterday Major [Charles] Graham shewed my your Lordships letter ordering me home to the Additional Companies, I am very Sorry it did not arrive Sooner, as it would have prevented my Quitting the Service, I have very pressing Affairs to settle in Brittain, and made repeated Application to Gen<sup>l</sup> Stirling for leave to go home, but in vain, and as he Seemed Determined to keep me here I took / though with Reluctance/ the Resolution of Selling my Company, and a Month ago the Affair was concluded, your Lordship may easily conceive the Regrett I feel in Quitting a profession, which I have made my Study for upwards of Twenty Years...*"

Despite Lt. Col. Stirling's conflict with Lord Murray, General Orders for May 1, 1779 announced Stirling had been appointed to the honorary position as Aide-de-Camp to the King effective Feb. 19, 1779 in place of John Douglass. This position did not change Stirling's command of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. and was considered equivalent in rank as Colonel "*in the army*".

A few months later on June 16, 1779, Gen. Sir Henry Clinton announced Stirling's promotion to be a Brigadier General while in America. Sir Henry assigned him to assume command of a brigade nicknamed by Capt. Peebles as the "*Royal Brigade*" consisting of the Royal Fusiliers (7<sup>th</sup> Regt.), Royal Welsh Fusiliers (23<sup>rd</sup> Regt.), and Royal Highlanders at Phillipsburg, New York. The "*Royal Brigade*" only lasted until June 30<sup>th</sup>, when the 7<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> Regiments were replaced with the 63<sup>rd</sup> and 64<sup>th</sup> Regiments. On May 15, 1780 Sir Henry Clinton reported the promotion of several Colonels to Lord George Germain writing "*...I have the Honor to notify to your Lordship that in Consequence of so few General Officers being present with this Army, I found it necessary to appoint Colonels Stirling and [James] Paterson, & Lieutenant Colonel [John] Leland, Brigadier General...*"



Photo of Stony Point Summit in 2014

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons by "Pi3.124"

After the rebel Brig. Gen. Anthony Wayne's seizure of Stony Point on the North (Hudson) River, 43 miles above New York, in July 1779, Brig. Gen. Stirling led his new brigade to retake the fort. *The Edinburgh Advertiser* described the event saying "*Brigadier-General Stirling was in the mean time embarked with the 42d, 63d, and 64th regiments, for the relief of Verplanks, or the recovery of Stoney Point. The northerly winds, rather uncommon at this season, opposed Brigadier-General Stirling's progress till the 19<sup>th</sup>, when, upon arriving within sight of Stoney Point, the enemy abandoned it with precipitation, and some circumstances of disgrace...*" The rebels did not give up on retaking these posts as described on the *Royal Gazette* for Aug. 14, 1779 that read "*Last Saturday night [Aug. 7] a detachment from Mr. Washington's army attempted a Coup de main upon General Stirling's picquet at Stoney Point, but their intentions were instantly counteracted by the General's dispositions, and they retired...*" On Sept. 11, while the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. was still posted at Stony Point, Capt. Peebles wrote in his journal that "*Brig' Stirling in N: York. Come down from Stony point two or 3 days ago ...*"

Although Brig. Gen. Stirling continued to be involved in personnel actions in the regiment, his general officer duties took him away from direct service with the regiment. On Oct. 22, 1779 Sir Henry Clinton ordered him to take a brigade consisting of the 57<sup>th</sup> Regt., four companies of the 80<sup>th</sup> Regt., the Volunteers of Ireland provincial regiment, and one company of the Royal Highland Emigrants provincial regiment to Halifax and to remain until the local commanders thought that that post was no longer threatened. Stirling replied to Sir Henry that "*...Upon a Conversation with the Admiral [Mariot Arbuthnot] I find he is clearly of opinion that the troops cannot return w<sup>t</sup> safety this season, he seems likewess to have laid aside his apprehensions of the Enemy going to Halifax if they are not there already...*" The expedition was cancelled by Gen. Clinton, after being advised by the Navy that the French fleet would not be able to make an attack because "*...the season is too advanced...*"

Before Stirling was to leave New York for Halifax Maj. Charles Graham, acting commander, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., and the captains of the regiment were concerned about the security of some regimental money still in Stirling's hands and sent him a petition by way of Maj. Graham to obtain a bond for the money, an action resented by Stirling.



Reproduction 17<sup>th</sup>, 42<sup>nd</sup>, 44<sup>th</sup> and 64<sup>th</sup> Regiments Uniform Buttons

Stirling's brigade assignment changed the next month as General Orders dated at New York on Nov. 18, 1779 directed the 17<sup>th</sup>, 42<sup>d</sup>, 44<sup>th</sup> and 64<sup>th</sup> Regiments to send returns to Brigade Major Mackenzie at Brig. Gen. Stirling's quarters.

Brig. Gen. Stirling remained in the New York area, when the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. joined Sir Henry Clinton's Charleston, South Carolina campaign in 1780 and commanded a brigade on Staten Island under the overall command of Hessian Lt. Gen. Wilhelm von Knyphausen. Stirling was successful in defeating an attack on that island by rebel Maj. Gen. William Alexander (called Lord Stirling) in Jan. 1780.

When Lt. Gen. von Knyphausen attacked the rebels in New Jersey on the night of June 6, 1780, Brig. Gen. Stirling was badly wounded by a musket ball in the leg while leading the advance. Capt. Peebles described the wound, which prevented further active service during the war, saying: "*B<sup>r</sup>. Gen<sup>l</sup>. Stirling was wounded near Elizabeth Town at their first going over by some skulking rascal from behind a house; his thigh bone broke, & very ill...*" A statue in Union Square, Elizabethtown marks the site of the attack on Stirling citing "*On this spot, at daybreak, June 7, 1780, began the fighting against the British forces moving toward Springfield. Here fell General Stirling at the head of the advancing column.... Erected by the State of New Jersey, A. D. 1905.*"

Lt. Col. James Stewart of the 1<sup>st</sup> Regt. of Foot Guards wrote to his father, Lord Blantyre, on Sept. 23, 1780 that "*I was yesterday in [New] York to see Poor General Stirling whose wound is healing, but notwithstanding the Surgeons are afraid that he will not have strength enough of constitution to get through. He has already suffered beyond description, having lain 4 months in one position without having been able to move, and that too in the very hottest weather, which has reduced him so low, that his Life is now in Danger from Weakness...*" Maj. Archibald Erskine, former Capt. in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. and brother of Stirling's sister-in-law, wrote to Stirling's brother on Oct. 9, 1780 to break the news that Stirling was not likely to survive his leg wound saying "*...the Surgeons told me yesterday that they think his cure almost impracticable unless he suffers amputation & that he still has strength sufficient for undergoing it, & therefore begd of Maj<sup>r</sup> [John] Small [84<sup>th</sup> Regt.] & me to speak to him on this head...but this he would by no means consent to & gave us to understand that nothing could alter the determined resolution he had taken from the first, of never suffering an operation to be performed on him, let the Surgeons opinion be what it would...*"

Despite the severity of his wound, Stirling survived and a year later wrote to his sister, Mrs. Anne Graham of his status saying "*New York June 6th 1781 this fatal day 12 months I got my Wound...Your prayers & good wishes for my recovery have been heard, as I am now quite well in my health and my wounds closed without any appearance of more bones coming away, and was it not for the pain in my knee when it is the least improperly moved which prevents my bearing the fatigue of a sea voyage and the jolting of a carriage, I should I believe have been tempted to have gone home in a fleet now under orders for sailing, I hop about on crutches in the house & back yard but have not ventured on the Street yet.*"

Lord John Murray reported Stirling's condition to the Secretary at War on Sept. 15, 1781 noting "*... I have rec<sup>d</sup> a letter from Brigadier Stirling (my Lieu<sup>t</sup>. Colonel) dated New York 1<sup>st</sup> July last, that he is now*

*intirely out of danger the wound not quite healed up, & no indication of the bone come away, which I am glad of, as I believe him to be a very good Officer...*” Two years later Stirling wrote his sister, Anne Graham, on Oct. 27, 1783 that “... *the leg is in an indifferent state the wound still open but I can walk a little way w<sup>t</sup> the assistance of a Staff & hope in time to get more strength in it...*” Maj. Gen. Stirling was later issued a pay warrant for £332,5s for the care of his wound as recorded in a listing of war expenses approved by Parliament which read: *1784...January 29<sup>th</sup> To Major General Thomas Stirling, for the Cure of a Wound received as he was leading the Van of the British Army against Rebels in New Jersey, the 6th June 1780...*”

Although still largely disabled, Stirling was recommended for promotion by Sir Henry Clinton to Maj. General in America in Dec. 1780 in a letter to Lord George Germain which indicated “*The general begs leave to represent the necessity of giving additional rank to the superior officers of the British in order to prevent the German officers of younger dates arriving at higher situations, their promotions being more rapid. He humbly proposes that the major-generals Robertson and Philips be employed as lieutenant-generals and that the brigadiers including Sterling be employed as major-generals...*” Accordingly Stirling was promoted to be a Maj. General in America by Orders dated May 27, 1781.

By Aug. 1781, Stirling was well enough to travel and attempted to find transportation to return to Britain. He wrote Maj. Archibald Erskine’s half-brother in Edinburgh on Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> that “...*I am uncertain as to the time when I shall leave this country, as I must wait for a fleet sailing for London, as the packets are not safe, inconvenient and the land journey from Falmouth more than I could bear.*”

Later that year as Stirling prepared to leave, Gen. Sir Henry Clinton recommended him to Sec. of State for the American Colonies Lord George Germain, writing on Dec. 5, 1781 “*Major General Stirling, who will have the honor the deliver this Letter to your Lordship, being now so much recovered of the very severe Wounds he received in Jersey, previous to my return from Charlestown in June 1780, as to take Advantage of the present Opportunity of returning to Europe, in the hopes of deriving benefit from the Bath Waters, and his native Air; I cannot suffer an Officer of his Merit to leave this Country without expressing to your Lordship my entire Approbation of his Services since I have had the honor to Command this Army, and the sincere regret I feel for the Occasion which deprives me of his very able Assistance.*”



*Comforts of Bath: The Bath* by Thomas Rowlandson 1798

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

Soon after sailing back to Britain Maj. Gen. Stirling travelled to Bath to take the waters, arriving Feb. 13, 1782.



Reproduction 71<sup>st</sup> Highland Regt. Uniform Button

A few days after Maj. Gen. Stirling arrived at Bath, on Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>, the War Office announced in the *London Gazette* “...To be Colonel of the 71st Regiment of Foot, vice Simon Fraser, deceased, Colonel Thomas Stirling, of 42d Foot.” Stirling sent a letter to Commander-in-Chief Lord Amherst the same day to thank him for the appointment writing “Permit me to return Your Lordship my warmest thanks, for the obliging part you took in my late appointment to the 1<sup>st</sup> Batt<sup>n</sup> 71<sup>st</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>: and for the friendship & patronage you have honoured me with ever since I had the honour of serving under Your Lordship, which I shall make my utmost study always to merit – This gracious mark of his Majestys favour...” The 71<sup>st</sup> Highlanders, which had been a two battalion regiment, was split into two distinct regiments with Stirling commanding the 71<sup>st</sup> Regt. and Brevet- Col. Alexander, Earl Balcarras commanding the new “2<sup>d</sup> 71<sup>st</sup>” Regt. as Lt. Col. Commandant. In May 1788, Stirling and Lord Balcarres made claims against the estate of Maj. Gen. Fraser to be compensated for the large amount of accoutrements that had been lost during the American war and were not turned over when they assumed command of their regiments. Stirling’s memorial to the War Office for assistance read in part “...That your Memorialist understanding that he was intitled to a complete set of accoutrements according to the Establishment at the time he received the Command of it; Made his demand accordingly upon the representative of General Fraser; who declared they would governed by the Opinion of the General’s Agents Mess<sup>rs</sup>. Ross and Ogilvie...”

About seven months after Stirling’s Colonelcy, on Nov. 26, 1782 the War Office announced “...HIS Majesty has been pleased to appoint...As likewise COLONELS... Thomas Stirling ... To be MAJOR-GENERALS...” This promotion in the Army was likely very welcome to Stirling as his previous Maj. Generalship was limited to service in America.

In 1783 Maj. Gen. Stirling unsuccessfully attempted to obtain a position for his nephew, Lt. Henry Graham, who had just gone out on Half-Pay from the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Stirling apologized to his sister Anne, Graham’s mother, on Oct. 27, 1783 writing from Edinburgh “...I am sorry my efforts have not been attended w<sup>l</sup> better success I find Henry is coming home on half pay the scheme of his serving on Ens<sup>ms</sup> pay not being allowed, I shall take care of him while here if he comes this way & send him off soon for Scotland as nothing can be done for him at present...” Stirling was eventually successful in getting a Lieutenancy in the 71<sup>st</sup> Regt. for Lt. Graham.

Following directions from the War Office, in mid Dec. 1783 Stirling ordered the 71<sup>st</sup> Highland Regt. to assemble at Glasgow and the regiment was disbanded on June 4, 1784. When his regiment was disbanded Stirling and his officers went out on Half-pay. He documented his long service in a “Memorandum of Sir Thomas Stirling’s services” which was presented to the Secretary of State for War in 1784 and preserved in the Strowan Charter chest as of 1908.

About five years later, in Apr. 1789, *The St. James’s Chronicle* reported that Maj. Gen Stirling was a candidate for the Colonelcy of the 71<sup>st</sup> Highland Regt. (renamed from the old 73<sup>rd</sup> Highland Regt. –

MacLeod's Highlanders). The Colonelcy was open following the death of Lord Macleod, but Stirling was disappointed in the appointment when it went instead to Maj. Gen. Hon. William Gordon.



41<sup>st</sup> Regt., Officer's Silver Button Design 1787-1813

Picture Source: *A History of the Services of the 41<sup>st</sup> (the Welch) Regiment*, Lt. and Adj. D. A. N. Lomax, Hiorns & Miller, Devonport, 1899, Google Books, p. 323

Maj. Gen. Stirling's disappointment did not last long as the following year the *London Gazette* reported "Commission signed by His Majesty for the Army in Ireland; dated January 13, 1790. 41<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Foot, Major-General Thomas Stirling to be Colonel, vice Major-General [Archibald] M<sup>c</sup>Nab, deceased." The 41<sup>st</sup> Regt. had previously been an invalid regiment, but it was ordered to "...be discontinued on the establishment as a corps of Invalids from the 25<sup>th</sup>... [Dec. 1787]..." Stirling served as Colonel of the 41<sup>st</sup> Regt. for eighteen years. In Ireland, the officers of Stirling's 41<sup>st</sup> Regt. presented him an octagonal silver patch box made in 1788 by Peter Carter of London. The box was engraved with "'The Officers of the 41<sup>st</sup> Regiment as a mark of regard and esteem for their worthy Colonel Major General Thomas Stirling presents him with this Box, Dublin 15 April 1792.'"

A published analysis of the landholders/voters in the 1788 and 1790 elections list Maj. Gen. Stirling for the 1788 list as "Major-General Thomas Stirling of Feddals. This is the vote conferred by Sir William Stirling, who has a good estate; married a sister of Mr. David Erskine and Mr. Erskine of Cardross; has a family; has not hitherto been in use to take the oaths to Government; Lord Graham may have influence" and for the 1790 list as "Major General Thomas Stirling of Feddals..." There were at least three estates in Perthshire with the name Feddals. Robert Graham Burden through his wife held Easter Feddal. Maj. Gen. Stirling likely held Middle and Wester Stirling which had been held by the Stirlings of Ardoch since the 1600's. Stirling's estate of Feddals contained Feddals, Kildees, Drummawhanie, Middle Feddal, Bennie, Cathkine and Dachlewan. Feddal House was located about thirteen miles north-northwest of the city of Stirling.

In 1794 Stirling bought the estate of Strowan, Perthshire for £12,000 and as "Strowan House" was being built in 1804, Maj. Gen. Stirling, lived in the house of Lochlane, adjoining his estate. Strowan is located about twenty miles west of Perth.



Armorial Bearings of Stirling of Ardoch

Picture Source: *The Stirlings of Keir and Their Family Papers*, William Fraser, privately Published, Edinburgh, 1858, p. 126.

Stirling's older brother, Sir William Stirling of Ardoch, died on July 26, 1799 and Stirling assumed the title of 5<sup>th</sup> Baronet of Ardoch.

On May 14, 1796 the War Office announced "...*HIS Majesty has been pleased to appoint...MAJOR-GENERALS...Thomas Stirling...To be LIEUTENANT-GENERALS in the Army...*" Five years later on Jan. 1, 1801 the War Office announced Stirling's final promotion writing "...*HIS Majesty has been pleased to appoint. LIEUTENANT-GENERALS...Thomas Stirling...To be GENERALS in the Army...*"

*The Edinburgh Annual Register* recorded Gen Stirling's death in 1808 listing: "*May...9. General Sir T. Stirling of Strowan Bart...*" Stirling had not married and therefore had no direct heirs. His "*trust-disposition*" or will dated Aug. 13, 1804, conveyed his estate of Strowan (and lesser estates of *Little Cowden*" in York County, "*Dalginross*" in Perthshire, and "*Glentarff*") to trustees with general directions to manage it and convey it to Graham of Airth's "*second son.*" The trustees were later sued in 1838 by Thomas James Stirling of Strowan concerning the details of the execution of the will.

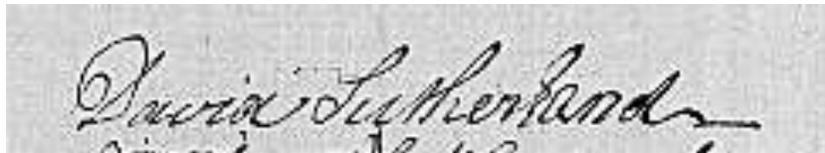
Commissions: Ens. Sept. 30, 1747 (1<sup>st</sup> Bn., Gen.-Major Marjoribank's Regt., Dutch Scots Brigade); Ens. on Half pay 1752 (1<sup>st</sup> Bn., Col. Marjoribank's Regt.); Ens. Oct. 31, 1756 (1<sup>st</sup> Bn., Col. Marjoribank's Regt.); Capt. July 24, 1757 (1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Maj. Dec. 12, 1770 (42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Lt. Col. Sept. 7, 1771; Aide de Camp to the King (Col. in the Army) Feb. 19, 1779; Brevet-Brig. Gen. June 15, 1779; Maj. Gen. in America July 27, 1781; Col. Feb. 13, 1782 (71<sup>st</sup> Highland Regt. – Disbanded June 4, 1784), Maj. Gen. Nov. 20, 1782; Maj. Gen and Col. Jan. 13, 1790 (41<sup>st</sup> Regt.); Lt. Gen. May 3, 1796; Gen. Jan. 1, 1801.

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**Stuart**, Lt. George – See **Stewart**, Lt. George.



Signature Source: TNA, WO 25/775, p. 214.

**Sutherland**, Ens. David. Ens. Sutherland was born around 1759 and was likely the son of Angus Sutherland from Dornoch, in Sutherland. In Sept. 1779 Grenadier Capt. John Peebles received a letter from Maj. Charles Graham "...recommending a Vol<sup>r</sup>. (a Mr. Sutherland) to the Gr<sup>rs</sup>..." Sutherland was still a Volunteer when commissioned Ensign in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. in place of Ens. Henry Graham who had been promoted. Sutherland's promotion was announced in General Orders for Apr. 18, 1780, but the commission was backdated to Feb. 1779. After his commissioning, Sutherland served in Capt. Smith's Company with one of the line battalions for the Siege of Charleston, South Carolina in 1780.

In Aug. 1780, Sutherland was involved in a confidential impropriety which the other Subalterns of the regiment required him to resolve. This issue came up in a 1781 court-martial of Sutherland where Lt. Alexander Stewart was asked "What does he know of M<sup>r</sup> Sutherland's breach of Promise?" Stewart replied "By a Letter, which Letter bearing date August 23<sup>d</sup> 1780 being produced for Court and read,

*contained Ensign Sutherland's promise of future good behavior, on Account of some improprieties by him committed and resented by the Subalterns of the Regiment, which promise Ensign Sutherland by no means kept."*

Separate from the subject of Sutherland's letter above, in July 1780 Sutherland intervened in the estate of his late cousin's deceased wife and obtained a Letter of Administration for Agnes (or Annie) Graham, of Brooklyn. Mr. David Campbell, "*Notary Publick, and Inhabitant of New York,*" representing the beneficiary of a very questionable Will challenged Sutherland's interference and publicly insulted the Ensign calling him a rascal or a Villain and charging him with near perjury. Sutherland failed to resolve the issue to the satisfaction of the subalterns which clearly meant he failed to challenge the civilian to a duel as would be expected by a gentleman.

On Aug. 30, 1781 Adj. Hugh Fraser sent a letter to Sutherland indicating "*Sir, I am directed by the Subalterns of the Regiment to insist on your clearing up that matter, which (lately) has reflected very much on your Character, and that they are surprised you took no steps (sooner) to settle it to their satisfaction.*" Unsatisfied by Sutherland's response, the subalterns of the regiment refused to do any duty with him until this perceived stain on the honor of the officers of the regiment was resolved.

Sutherland responded to the subalterns explaining why he had not yet demanded satisfaction from Mr. Campbell. Sutherland responded to Adj. Fraser that "*I received your Letter Yesterday directed by the Subalterns of the Regiment to insist on my clearing up that matter which has lately reflected very much on my Character – You'll please to signify to them – had I not conceived there was an impropriety in taken certain steps untill the matter which give rise to those aspersions was legally settled. I should have done it long before this, but I have for some time been in daily expectation of terminating the matter, which I flatter myself I shall accomplish early next Week, otherwise I shall not on that Account longer delay obtaining satisfaction to which I am entitled being anxiously impatient to vindicate my honour and reestablish myself in the opinion of the Gentlemen of the Regiment.*"

Maj. Charles Graham, commanding the regiment at that time, decided to bring Sutherland to a court-martial to resolve the issue. The results of Sutherland's September trial were published in General Orders as "*Headquarters, New York 13<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1781, Ensign David Sutherland of the 42<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> tried by the General Court Martial of which Maj<sup>r</sup> [John Bresse] Breese of the 54<sup>th</sup> Regiment is president accused by the Subalterns of the same Regiment of having acted in a manner unbecoming the character of an Officer and Gentleman. The Court having considered the Evidence in Support of the accusation together with the Prisoner's defense is of the opinion that the Prisoner Ensign David Sutherland is not guilty of the Charges brought against him and do therefore acquit him. The court is further of opinion that from the Information the Subalterns of the 42<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> had received suspecting Ens<sup>n</sup> Sutherland and the steps they took in consequence of such Information that they the Subaltern Officers of the 42<sup>d</sup> Regiment acted in a manner highly Justifiable & proper. The Commander in Chief is pleased to approve of the above sentence and orders Ens<sup>n</sup> Sutherland to be released from his arrest.*" (The full text of Sutherland's court-martial is shown in Appendix F of this volume.)

Sutherland continued his service with the regiment and received, in Capt. Peebles words, "*...a scratch in the thigh...*" during Loyalist Brig. Gen. Cortland Skinner's 1000-man expedition into Pleasant Valley and Middleton, New Jersey on June 20-22, 1781. Sutherland remained with the line battalion for the relief attempt for Cornwallis' army in 1781 but left the regiment a few months after Yorktown as noted in General Orders for Feb. 23, 1782 which announced "*Ens<sup>n</sup> Sutherland having desired leave to retire, The Commander in Chief is pleased to order a Blank Commission for an Ensigncy by purchase for his Benefit.*"

Part of the Court martial record indicated that Sutherland “... *has an elder Brother to the Southward on this Continent.*” There were three officers named Sutherland serving in the Southern campaign who may have been this brother.



Painting of Butler's Rangers soldier by Garth Dittick, 2011

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

After retiring from the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. in 1782, Sutherland did not return immediately to Scotland. A “*Return of Officers of the Corps of Rangers, Commanded by Lieu<sup>t</sup>.-Colonel John Butler*” from Niagara, New York in about 1784, lists Sutherland as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant and adds a remark that he “*Served a year as Volunteer 84<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>.*” However, Sutherland’s 1828 pension request does not mention service as a volunteer in the 84<sup>th</sup> or Royal Highland Emigrants Regt. It would most unusual for a former Ensign to serve as a Volunteer, so it is likely Lt. Col. Butler confused Sutherland’s prior commissioned service in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. In a later pension document, Sutherland dates his commission in the Rangers as “*about the year 1783*” and makes no mention of Volunteer service in the 84<sup>th</sup> Regt. His commission as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant was dated Aug. 25, 1783. After the end of the war Butler’s Rangers were reduced on June 24, 1784 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Sutherland went out on Half-pay.

As a result of a declaration by the first Chief Executive of Upper Canada (present Ontario), Lt. Gov. John Graves Simcoe, grants of land to deserving settlers were to be granted upon application to the governing Executive Council. Sutherland submitted his first petition Aug. 17, 1795 writing from Newark (now Niagara-on-the-Lake) “...*Most respectfully Sheweth That your Petitioner having served as a Lieutenant in the said Corps, untill the Conclusion of the late American War, thereby became entitled to two thousand acres of the waste Lands of the Crown and (having hitherto drawn no part there of) therefore prays that your Excellency may order that proportion to him assigned...*” The Executive Council granted 200 acres initially and indicated additional acres would be awarded after “... *he shall bone fide have made a Settlement.*”

Nine days after the land grant, Sutherland wrote the Acting Surveyor General with his development plans indicating “...*Previous to my Departure for the States, I take the Liberty of writing you & Requesting your good offices in my behalf with His Excell<sup>y</sup> whom I regret sincerely not to have been at Newark during the sitting of Council—tho I had repeatedly waited on him to have the honor of a conference—and presuming that should any difficulty arise with His Excellency as to his granting me the Lot I have asked*

*for on Nanticoke Creek. I take the liberty to inform you that should he be pleased to indulge me with the Lot which I think comprehends the Mill Seat, I will in the space of two years engage to build a grist Mill on it—In less than two months. I expect to have the pleasure of seeing you at Newark—when I may perhaps be enabled to make some improvement on my Lands...”*

Sutherland received the remainder of his allotted land after writing the Council from Newark on May 31, 1796. He wrote”... *“Humbly Sheweth—That your Memorialist in Compliance with the minute of Council, of the month of August last, is now come into this province for the express Purpose of settling on his Lot of Land in 4 Township on Lake Erie—Wherefore your Memorialist prays, That your Excell<sup>y</sup> would be pleased to order the Remainder of his Lands to be assigned to your Memorialist on the unlocated lands in the Home District ...”* The Council accepted Sutherland’s memorial and ordered he be assigned *“... his Military Land in the County of Lincoln.”*

Twenty-two years after Sutherland’s service in the American War, the War Office announced on Mar. 23, 1805 *“5th West India Regiment, ——— Sutherland, Gent. To be Ensign, without purchase, vice [Hyacinth] Fallon, promoted in the 3d West India Regiment.”* The 5<sup>th</sup> W. I. Regt. under Lt. Col. Thomas Barrow was then serving in Honduras and was made up of Creole and African slaves purchased to serve as soldiers in the regiment. About two years later on June 13, 1807 the War Office announced Sutherland’s promotion to Lieutenant in the same regiment. His commission was effective several months earlier on Feb. 11.

About five years later, at the end of 1812, Sutherland transferred to the 4<sup>th</sup> Royal Veteran Battalion, then serving in the garrison of Gibraltar. This battalion was disbanded at Deptford on Sept. 24, 1814 and Sutherland was soon assigned to *“A Garrison Company for Service in the Cape of Good Hope”* where he served until the company was disbanded in 1816 and Sutherland was put on the Retired with Full pay list.

On Dec. 3, 1819 the War Office announced *“7th Royal Veteran Battalion... To be Lieutenants... Lieutenant David Sutherland, from the late Staff Garrison Company, vice Cameron, whose appointment has not taken place. Dated 1st November 1819.”* Sutherland was about 50-years old at the time of this appointment.

The Army List of 1821 includes David Sutherland on the list of *“OFICERS Who have been allowed to Retire ON THEIR FULL PAY GARRISON COMPANIES... Staff....”* The List for 1831 shows Sutherland’s status unchanged.

In a 1828 pension application, Sutherland reported he was not married, and in the previous five years had resided on the Isle of Man (in the Irish Sea) and in London. He also marked the form to say he was willing to serve again although he was 69-years old at the time.



Photo of Dornoch Cathedral Cemetery by John Haslam, 2009

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

Lt. Sutherland's death is recorded in Dornoch as "*May 14 1835 Lieut. David Sutherland, Dornoch, aged 76 cause of death Palsey.*" He was buried in the Dornoch Churchyard. The Surgeon who attended him as he was dying, recorded the event writing "*...I Alexander M<sup>c</sup>: Ewan, Surgeon, do hereby Certify and Declare that I attended Lieutenant David Sutherland late of a Garrison Company residing in Dornoch in the County of Sutherland, during his last illness, for several Months before his death. – That the said Lieutenant David Sutherland was the [illegible – Enautin?] of the within Copied Will; that he died at Dornoch, from the effects of Rupture, on the 14<sup>th</sup>. day of May 1835. – Also that I saw his body after his death, & attended his funeral in the Church Yard of Dornoch where no Register of Burials is Kept; & that it was Supposed he was between Sixty & Seventy years of age when he died.*"

Commissions: Ens. (from Volunteer) Apr. 18, 1780 – effective Feb. 2, 1779 (42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Retired Feb. 28, 1782; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Aug. 25, 1783 (Lt. Col. Butler's Corps of Rangers); Reduced June 24, 1784 (Butler's Rangers); 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Half-pay June 25, 1784 (Butler's Rangers); Ens. Mar. 21, 1805 (5<sup>th</sup> West India Regt.); Lt. Feb. 11, 1807 (5<sup>th</sup> West India Regt.); Lt. Dec. 31, 1812 (4<sup>th</sup> Royal Veteran Bn.); Lt. Retired on Full Pay Sept. 24, 1814 (4<sup>th</sup> Royal Veteran Bn.); Lt. Oct. 27, 1814 (Staff Garrison Co.); Lt. Retired on Full Pay 1816 (Former Staff Garrison Co.); Lt. from Half-pay Dec. 3, 1819 – effective Nov. 1, 1819 (7<sup>th</sup> Royal Veteran Bn.).

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Tribune Printing House, Niagara (Ont.), 1893, Google Books; TNA, *British American Half Pay 1783* at WO 65/166 (Formerly WO 65 Index 5606), ff. 1, 18, 19, 24, 47, 48, 55, and 58; TNA, *Officers of the British American Forces placed on Half Pay and Allowances at the conclusion of the American War 1783* at WO 65/166 (formerly WO 65 Index 5606); "The Upper Canada Land Petitions of the Niagara Settlers," Transcribed by R. Robert Mutrie, Library and Archives Canada (RG 1), LAC "S" Bundle 1, Petition Numbers 71, 72 and 75; *Annual Army Lists for 1805*, p. 300, 1807, p. 316 and 1813, p. 369 and 1816, p. 483 (f. 481); *The Royal Military Chronicle, of British Officer's Monthly Register and Mentor*, March 1813, Google Books, p. 392; Posting on Scottish Military History Discussion Forum dated September 4 2002 by Theresa Coleman, Quebec, Canada, Subject: 7th Royal Veteran Battalion at [www.network54.com](http://www.network54.com); Postings on Sutherland Family List, at Rootsweb, Ancestry.com, by Theresa Coleman, Quebec, Canada, dated Feb. 25, 2002; Subject: David Sutherland by Barbara Stirling, dated April 25, 2001, Subject: Sutherlands. Note: There was another Lt. David Sutherland, b. 1763 at Gibraltar who served in the 25<sup>th</sup> Regt. at Gibraltar and was Capt. Lt. in 1789; *A List of the Officers of the Army and Royal Marines on Full and Half-Pay, 1821*, War Office, 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1821, Google Books, p. 420 and TNA, WO 65/75; *A List of the Officers of the Army and Royal Marines on Full, Retired, and Half-Pay, 1831*, War Office, Jan. 24, 1831, Google Books, p. 415; and TNA, WO 65/92; TNA, WO 22/775 f. 214; TNA, *War Office: Officers' Birth Certificates, Wills and Personal Papers* at WO 42/44, S554.

**West, Lt. James.** West was born in the village of Brill, Buckinghamshire and was baptized in All Saints Church on Nov. 5, 1732. West's granddaughter, Charlotte Saunders West, wrote of his family history indicating "*Captain James West was the youngest son of John West of Theme, Oxfordshire [and his wife Sarah] and grandson of John West, who married twice, first a sister of his cousin Lord De La War, second a daughter of Sir James Lambert Bt. who had issue. Captain James West had 2 brothers John and Obadiah. Both died in business, the latter farming his own lands.*" Brill, Buckinghamshire is located about fifteen miles northeast of Oxford.

Sixteen year old West embarked for India in March 1758 as a Volunteer in the 79<sup>th</sup> Regt. under Lt. Col. Commandant William Draper and was later commissioned Ensign in that regiment. The War Office annotated copy of the annual Army List for 1760 shows an annotation of his Ensigncy as "*James West 5 Dec. 1760*" but subsequent published versions show his date of rank as Feb. 2, 1759. The Commission Book matches the 1760 Annual List. He is, however, shown in the Annual List for 1761 (WO 65/10) as promoted to Lt. in Jan. 1760 making his 1759 Ensigncy listing as likely correct.

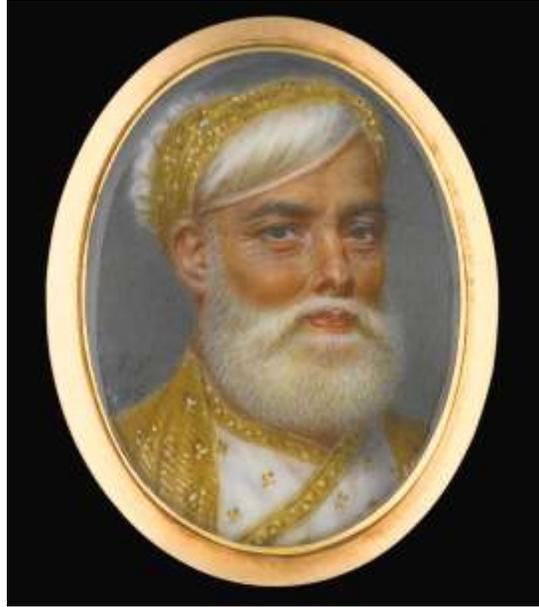
On Apr. 21, 1761 James married twenty-two year old, Madras born, Ann Innes, widow of Capt. John Innis and daughter of Capt. John De Morgan. Anne had had four children by Capt. Innes and an additional 15 children with Capt. West.

West resigned from the British Army in Aug. 1761 to enter the Nawaz (also Nabob) of Arcot's service. Arcot is located about 68 miles west of Chennai (formerly Madras), on the east coast of India.



Detail from Portrait of Sir William Draper, c. 1760 by Gainsborough

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons



Portrait of Muhammad Ali Khan Wallajah (1717-1795) Nawab of Arcot, by John Smart (1742-1811)

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

About a year later, in Aug. 1762, James West was a Captain of the Nawab's Irregulars (a small unit of about fifty Europeans) which sailed under Brig. Gen. William Draper to seize Manila, in the Philippines, from the Spanish, which was accomplished on Oct. 6, 1762. Based on the location of the birth of West's son James, who was born at Madras, India on May 1, 1764, it appears Capt. West returned from the Philippines before Aug 1763.

The *Book of Grants of Ground from 1774* has a residential listing in Poodoopauk (now Pudupet) for "*James West, 8 acres, Rent Pags. [Pagoda coins] 3.*" Pudupet is located about four miles southwest from Fort St. George, Chennai.

Based on the location of the births of two more of his children, it appears Capt. and Mrs. West returned to London between July 1773, when his son Thomas was born in Madras, and the birth of his daughter Elizabeth in London in Aug. 1774.

Six years later, on May 19, 1780 West was appointed Lieutenant in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. (in place of Lt. John Spens) as part of three-way commission deal with Lt. John Harris which resulted in the Hon. George Fraser joining the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. West never served with regiment and was immediately exchanged to half-pay of the late 122<sup>nd</sup> Regt. on May 26, 1780 in place of John Harris.

In Jan. 1778, the King commissioned nine gentlemen as Captains to raise independent companies of 100 private men in Wales. They were allowed to nominate the subalterns, and were subject to practically the same conditions as if each had been raising a regiment. The companies were subsequently united to form the 75<sup>th</sup> (Prince of Wales') Regt. and Lt. West returned to active service in the 75<sup>th</sup> Regt. in Aug. 1781. West's regiment was reduced in 1783, and the officers placed on Half-Pay status.



Fort St. George, Madras (now Chennai), India, 1754 by Jan Van Ryne

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

West returned to Madras sometime after his son Montagu's birth in London in Apr. 1782. In 1795 he petitioned the Governor of Madras to reestablish the position of "Cutwal" or Superintendent of the market and for himself to be appointed.

Capt. West died in Madras in 1802 and he was buried in the Compound of St. Mary's Church, Fort. St. George. His tombstone was inscribed "*JAMES WEST Esq., died 28<sup>th</sup> November 1802, aged 70 years.*" The annotated War Office copy of the annual Army List for 1803 shows West's name crossed off the Half-Pay list of the 75<sup>th</sup> Regt. and marked "*D<sup>d</sup>*" indicating he had died.

Commissions: Vol. Mar. 1758 (79<sup>th</sup> Regt.); Ens. Feb. 2, 1759 (79<sup>th</sup> Regt.); Lt. Jan. 10, 1760 (79<sup>th</sup> Regt.); Resigned Aug. 31, 1761 (79<sup>th</sup> Regt.); Capt. Aug. 1761 (Nawab of Arcot's Irregulars – Manila Expedition); Lt. May 19, 1780 (42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Lt. Exchanged to Irish Half-pay, May 26, 1780 (122<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Lt. from Half-pay Aug. 31, 1781 (75<sup>th</sup> or the Prince of Wales's Regt.); Lt. Half-pay 1783 (75<sup>th</sup> or Prince of Wales' Regt.). Died 1802 (Half-Pay 75<sup>th</sup> or Prince of Wales' Regt.).

**References:** Lt. West's early commission history from Dr. John Houlding's notes to Paul Pace; *My West Family* website at [web.onetel.net/uk/~pelhamwest](http://web.onetel.net/uk/~pelhamwest); *List of Inscriptions on Tombs or Monuments in Madras*, Vol. I, Julian James Cotton, Pub. by Superintendent, Govt. Press, Madras, 1945, pp. 54 and 69; TNA, *Commission Book* at WO25/112, p. 123v; *London Gazette* for May 27-30, 1780, p. 2 and Sept. 8-11, 1781, p. 1; General Orders, New York on Sept. 8, 1780; *The Organization of the British Army in the American Revolution*, by Edward E. Curtis, Yale Univ. Press, New Haven, 1926, Ch. 3, note 64.



The Keith House at Græme Park, Horsham, Pennsylvania (Home of John Young)

Picture courtesy of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

*John Young Esq*

**Young, Lt. John.** Born in Philadelphia on Nov. 6, 1757, Young was the son of James Young and his wife Mary Jane Græme, daughter of Dr. Thomas Græme of the estate of Græme Park at Horsham. Horsham is located about seventeen miles north of the center of Philadelphia. Based on the coat of arms on his seal, Young's father was also of Scots heritage and likely associated with Young of Auldbar (located sixteen miles northeast of Dundee). James Young was "*Commissary General of the Muster and Paymaster,*" Pennsylvania Regt. during the French and Indian War and later served as a Captain in the Continental Army. On his mother's side, Young was the first cousin of Lt. Col. Thomas Stirling, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Young spent much of his time with the Græmes, who were British sympathizers. Young's father described his son in 1765 writing "*John is really a good and fine boy – learns fast and loves the Academy.*"

Soon after the beginning of the American war, John Young wrote his Aunt, Elizabeth Ferguson, on July 1, 1775 from Philadelphia indicating "... *the late Action at Cha<sup>s</sup> Town [torn]. I cannot help saying I am sorry we are come to an open War, and that there are no Prospect of Peace: it might have been prophetically said of the first late Battle (at Lexington) "O curst Essay of Arms, disastrous Doom, Prelude of bloody Fields & Fight to come... Has G. [Gen. Thomas] Gages Proclamation made any Proselytes in your Part of the Country, or do the People still remain Americans? So far from its having any Effect here, [torn] fuller than since it was published [torn] Young-Fellows of my Acquaintance [torn] (as Volunteer) to the Camp at Cambridge... had Heaven bless'd me [torn] sufficient to maintain the Character of a Gentleman Volunteer, I would follow them immediately. I always had a Desire for a Military Life, but never more Than now, since I have had a small Specimen of it. I am just now going to the Parade & have not Time to say any more, but must take another Opportunity to tell you affectionately...*"

In Jan. 1776, nineteen-year old John Young broke with his father, a rebel officer, and left home "*with an Intention of serving his Majesty as a Volunteer in his Army at Boston.*" Young and his friend set off for

New York as he described in his journal where he wrote “... *Having long abhorred the new form of government erecting in America on the ruins of the Constitution of my country, and disdaining to submit to it on the 24<sup>th</sup> January, 1776, I set off, in company with my friend Mr. [Benjamin Bayton] Boynton, from Philadelphia, the place of our birth, for New-York, where two British men of war then lay. Having previously procured a few clothes and other necessaries, and hired horses, we mounted about 7 in the morning, with our portmanteaus behind us, and about £20 in our pockets; with all which we arrived safe the following evening at Powle’s [Paulus] Hook ferry, on the North river, opposite New York, where we were obliged to leave our horses, the horseboats having been all pressed to transport the Jersey troops, who were then returning from disarming the royalists on Long island. We got to Hull’s tavern in New-York, about eight o’clock in the evening, where we passed the night.*



Detail of HMS Asia in Halifax Harbour, 1797, by George Gustavus Lennox

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

*The next morning, after breakfast, we went to the Fly Market ferry, and desired one of the watermen to put us on board the [HMS] Asia, but he refused taking us unless we obtained a permit from the committee [of safety]; We accordingly went to the house of the chairman, who was not at home. After this disappointment, we sauntered down upon one of the wharves, rather with a view to pass away the time till the chairman should return, than anything else. While we were in this situation, a well-dressed man came down to us, and asked us if we wanted to go on board the Governor’s ship, (which lay opposite, moored astern of the Phoenix.) We told him that we had a little business with the Governor and would be very glad to go, had we but an opportunity. He then informed us, that he was himself going on board, and that we might go with him. He immediately hailed the ship, and a boat being sent to us, we stepped in with joyful hearts, and were in a few minutes on board. This gentleman, to whom we were so much indebted, was Major [Robert] Rogers, who was then a prisoner in New-York on parol; he was so obliging as to present us to the Governor, who treated us with the greatest hospitality and politeness. We dined with him that day, and in the evening went on board the Phoenix.”*



Detail of *HMS Rose* from *The Phoenix and the Rose engaged by the enemy's fire ships and galleys on Aug. 16, 1776* by D. Serres from a sketch by Sir James Wallace; published 1778.

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

New York Royal Governor William Tryon recommended Young for a commission to the British Commander in Boston, Gen. Sir William Howe, writing that “*Mr. John Young, a gentleman of property and character in the Colony of Pennsylvania, puts himself under your protection. His loyalty to his Sovereign induced him to fly from persecution,*” &c...” In addition to Gov. Tryon, Young also received letters of recommendation or introduction letter from William Ross to Capt. Mosely, *HMS Chatham*, William Rosser to Lt. George A. Pultney, *HMS Glasgow* and from Capt. Hugh Parker, *HMS Phoenix*, to Rear Adm. Molineux Shuldham.

Just a few days after boarding *HMS Phoenix*, Young’s father arrived in New York and wrote John twice pleading with him “...*If you will now return, all things may yet be well; I promise you my forgiveness, and never more to upbraid you with this rash step...*” and “...*I shall still pray the Supreme Being to bless you, but at the same time, that you may never prosper as an enemy to your native country...*”

At the end of Feb. 1776, Young was assigned to the ship *Sally* for his voyage to join Gen. Howe in Boston. The Mate of *HMS Asia*, Charles Smith, was assigned to command *Sally* and ordered to sail in convoy with the *Harriott* transport and the *Francis* sloop. While sailing to Boston, however, the *Sally* was shipwrecked on Mar. 6<sup>th</sup> on the eastern tip of Long Island at Montauk.



Detail of Photo of Montauk Point During a Storm, circa 1999

Picture Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Digital Visual Library at Wikimedia Commons

*The New-York Journal* for Mar. 14<sup>th</sup> wrote of the wreck indicating “From undoubted authority we can assure the Public, that a ship belonging to Messrs. Franklins, loaded with salt and wine, sometime ago taken by the men of war here, and sent for Boston, was, on Wednesday last cast away on the rocks on Montock point, at the east end of Long Island; the vessel is entirely bilged, and the salt all run out; the people had great difficulty to save their lives, some of them being much bruised when taken out of the water. There were 14 men and an officer belonging to the *Asia*, on board, who were all made prisoners, and on Monday they set off with a strong guard for this city, and may be expected in a day or two. -The officer is named Smith, and said to have been very active the night the *Asia* fired on the town; he behaved with great insolence, and ordered Colonel Mulford to provide a coach to carry him on board his ship.”

The New York Provincial Congress also recorded the shipwreck in their minutes for Mar. 11, 1776 writing that “John Chatfield, chairman of the committee of Easthampton, informs the committee of safety, March 11, 1776, that the ship “*Sally*,” belonging to Samuel Franklin of New York, taken by the British and sent for Boston, drove on shore at Montauk in a gale of wind; and that Charles Smith, mate of the “*Asia*,” man-of-war, three passengers, and ten seamen of the “*Asia*,” were sent under guard to New York, conducted by Lieutenant John Foster, with all letters and papers that were found on board”.

Taken into custody at the shipwreck, Young was examined by the Committee of Safety at East Hampton and his statement was read to the New York Committee. Concealing the true purpose of his voyage, Young said “... that he was born in Philadelphia, has been in New-York about a week, took a passage in the ship *Sally* for Boston, in order to get a passage to London, and there were only ten muskets put on board the ship *Sally*; and that Cap<sup>t</sup>. Smith hove a number of guns overboard after the ship got on shore, but don't know how many.”

The Minutes of the New York Committee of Safety, meeting on Mar. 17, 1776 recorded the disposition of John Young. The Committee wrote that it “...took into consideration the case of John Young, brought from East Hampton, now a prisoner at the barracks, and the letters and examinations relating to him, and thereupon made the following order, to wit: Ordered, That John Young, a native, and the son of a gentleman of Philadelphia, who, contrary to the will of his father, has entered as a volunteer into the ministerial service [British Army], and is now in custody in the barracks of this city, be safely conveyed to Philadelphia, together with certified copies of the several letters of recommendation found upon him in

*his passage to Boston; and the Right Honourable [William Alexander] the Earl of Stirling is hereby requested to supply such guard and furnish such other necessary means for the safe conveyance of the said John Young to Philadelphia so as his Lordship shall think proper."*

On his return to Philadelphia, Young was granted parole and allowed to return to Græme Park. He described the event in a later memorial writing "...He was a Year and six months a Prisoner with the Rebels before he was an Officer; he was then Ten Months a Lieutenant in Allen's Pennsylvania Loyalists..." As a result of joining the Royal Army, Young was charged with treason and his estate was seized "...consisting of nine Hundred Acres of Land in the Counties of Northampton and Westmoreland in the Province of Pennsylvania." Young was eventually awarded £1,100 by the British Government for his confiscated estate that he claimed was worth £3,395.

Eight days after the Battle of Germantown, on Oct. 12, 1777, Gen. Sir William Howe's Secretary, Capt. Roderick Mackenzie, wrote Provincial Lt. Col. William Allen appointing Young to be Lieutenant in 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Pennsylvania Loyalists. Young served with the battalion during the British occupation of Philadelphia and when the city was evacuated in June 1778, the Pennsylvania Loyalists marched with Gen. Sir Henry Clinton across New Jersey. During the Battle of Monmouth Courthouse on June 28, 1778 the battalion was charged with covering the right flank of the long baggage train. On their arrival in the New York area the Pennsylvania Loyalists were stationed on Long Island.

Soon after Lt. Young's arrival on Long Island from Philadelphia, General Orders on Aug. 15, 1778 announced his commission as an Ensign in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. in place of Ens. Alexander Innes who had been promoted to Lieutenant. Young's later memorial to Gen. Sir Henry Clinton recorded his promotion from the Provincials writing "... from which your Excellency had the Goodness to remove him at the Suit of Colonel Stirling to an Ensigncy in the 42<sup>d</sup> Regiment..." Young's account of Lt. Col. Stirling's role is consistent with Stirling's letter to his brother, which described Young saying "... Ja<sup>s</sup> Young's son who is as Royal as his father is opposite..."

In a 1779 letter, Young's aunt, Mrs. Elizabeth Fergusson, wrote a friend about his recent commission in the Royal Highlanders indicating "*My Nephew John Young you know very early show'd An Attachment to the British; near two years he was a Prisoner on his Parole with me at this Place, but on the British entering the Capitall in September 77 He joined them, He first got a Lieutenancy in the New Levies but had soon Interest Enough to get a Commission in His Old highland Regiment, Col. Sterling Commands; and Co<sup>l</sup> Sterlings Mother and M<sup>r</sup> Youngs Mother were own Sisters; so that He seems fix'd among them now for Life. He was always of a Military turn which I wish to Heaven he would have indulged in any way but the Line he moves in; for the Drawing His Sword against his Mother Country seems to me a most Heinous offence. I did every thing while he was with me to wean him from this unhappy Biass, but the Event too fully prov'd I could not prevail: ... indeed I show'd my bad Success where I was much more deeply interested than with him..."*

In April 1780, Young filed a complaint with Gen. Clinton over the selection of Ens. William Fraser to Lieutenant over him writing "...his Promotion, it is true, bore the same Date with Ensign Frazer's, but from the Circumstance of his longer Service, your memorialist's Name has always been precedent to Ensign Frazer's in the Regimental Returns, in the Roster of the Regiment, and in the List of the Army..." Young went so far as to request "...a Lieutenancy in some other Regiment of the Line, which your memorialist prays your Excellency to bestow on him." Young, however, remained with one of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. battalions for the Siege of Charleston, South Carolina in 1780 and was promoted to Lieutenant on May 30, 1780 in place of Lt. Alexander MacLeod, who was killed at Charleston.

On Jan. 26, 1781, Young was assigned to temporary duty outside the regiment in General Orders that read “*Lieu<sup>t</sup> Young, 42<sup>d</sup> Regiment, is appointed an Assistant in the Quarter Master Gen<sup>l</sup> Department.*” The Muster of Lt. Col. Stirling’s Company taken at Greenwich, New York on Feb. 13, 1782 still listed Young as “*An assistant to the Quarter Master Generals Department.*”

Young did not return to duty with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. and left America for Britain where he arrived in May 1783. The muster of Capt. Dickson’s Company at Paulus Hook, New Jersey on July 28, 1783 reported he had been “*Received from Majors Company 8<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1783 In Europe by the Comman<sup>r</sup> in Chiefs leave.*” The subsequent muster of the same company three months later on Oct. 6, 1783 reported Young was “*Reduced to half [pay] 24<sup>th</sup> August 1783 In Europe by the Commander in Chiefs leave.*”

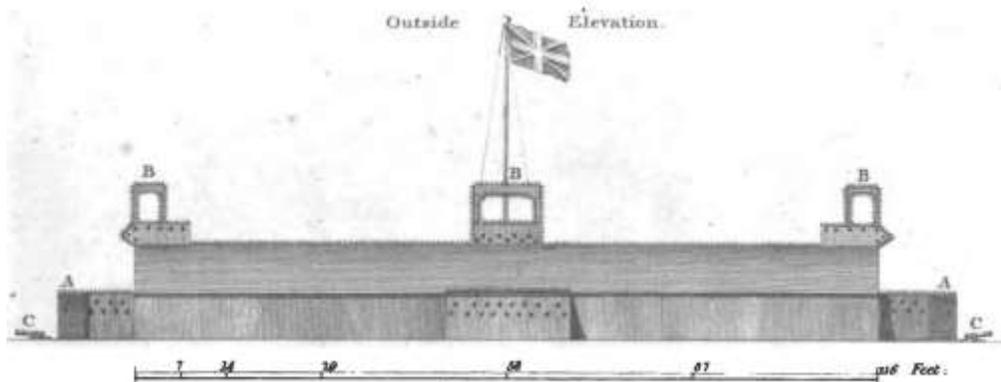
Maj. Charles Graham, who commanded the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. from 1779 until the end of the war, summarized Young’s service in the regiment in a letter from London dated Oct. 1, 1783. Graham wrote “*This is to certify that M<sup>r</sup> John Young of the City of Philadelphia in North America, served in the first battalion of the 42<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>. in the two Ranks of Ensign and Lieutenant with my Approbation as his Commanding Officer, from the 3<sup>d</sup> of August 1778 until the 24<sup>th</sup> June 1783 when he was reduced on halfpay.*”

Before leaving America Young prepared a will on Apr. 15, 1783 designating his nephew and niece, Samuel and Ann Smith, and Lt. Benjamin Bayton of the Pennsylvania Loyalists as his heirs. Samuel Smith was to receive tracts in Forks and other townships of Northampton County and Ann Smith was to receive a tract called Balgowan in Westmorland County.

When Young arrived in Britain he fell into hard times financially as described in a memorial to “*The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty’s Treasury*” where he wrote “*...That at the Conclusion of the Peace, and not till then, your Memorialist asked and obtained his Excellency Sir Guy Carleton’s Permission to come to England to solicit a Requit for the Loss of his Patrimony: and he has accordingly given a just State thereof to the Commissioners appointed by Act of Parliament for inquiring into the Services and Losses of American Loyalists; and from whom he has no Doubt of receiving such Recompence as his Case may merit. That Your Memorialist has been since his Arrival in England, (which was in May last) reduced upon half Pay as Lieutenant, Without Money, or the Means of obtaining it; plunged in Debt by the Expences of his Voyage and the further Expence of living in London, whether he came only to prosecute his Claim, he was reduced to the Necessity of parting with his last Resource, and selling the half of his half Pay, to save him from immediate Famine; The small Sum raised thereby is nearly expended, though it has been managed with penurious Frugality; and your Memorialist is now actually existing upon twenty Pounds a Year. Your Memorialist prays therefore that your Lordships would be pleased to take his Case into your Consideration, and allot him a temporary Support until his Claims are considered and determined on by the Commissioners aforesaid J<sup>no</sup>. Young.*”

In 1787 the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. was authorized to add two more companies to its Establishment. On Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> of that year Young wrote his aunt telling her he would be rejoining the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Strangely he indicated displeasure with the assignment writing “*...was yesterday informed that I was appointed to my old regiment in one of the additional companies to be raised. As soon, then, as war is determined on I shall be sent to the most remote and dreary corner on the island, in the most dreary season of the year, among people with whom I had long enough associated to dislike, to commence again an employment which I had practiced long enough to be sated with, by raising men in service of a country for which I have no particular affection.*” Apparently because of his dislike for the Highlanders, he returned to active service in the Army in a different regiment as posted by the War Office in an announcement on Nov. 24, 1787 which read “*60<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot, Lieutenant John Young, from Half-Pay of the 42<sup>d</sup> Regiment of Foot, is appointed to be Lieutenant, vice James Wakeley.*” His commission was backdated to Sept. 25, 1787.

In 1789 Young had a stroke which made it necessary for him to retire from the army. On Apr. 3, 1789 Gen. Lord Jeffrey Amherst approved his retirement from the 60<sup>th</sup> or Royal American Regt. writing to Secretary at War Sir George Yonge that “... *I reported to the King the situation of Lieut. John Young, of the 60<sup>th</sup> Foot, that I had transmitted his memorial to you; and that from his services, losses and paralytick state of health, he begged to be permitted to sell his Commission; and as Lieut. Pyott was desirous of remaining in the Army, I hope, he might be allowed to purchase of Lieut. Young. I therefore beg the favour of you to lay the same before His Majesty, and to desire the Commission may be dated on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April, by which Lieut. Pyott will retain his rank in the Army...*” In July of that year Young wrote to his aunt, Mrs. Ferguson, and mentioned that he had only recently recovered from a stroke and that his doctor had recommended a warmer climate. He had chosen to move to Provence or Languedoc in the south France. He translated and published “*D’Anville’s Compendium of Ancient Geography, with Plates: translated from the French.*” in 1791.



Plan for unfinished Bulama Blockhouse

Picture Source: *African Memoranda: Relative to an Attempt to Establish a British Settlement on the Island of Bulama*, Capt. Philip Beaver, R. N., Printed for C. and R. Baldwin, London, 1805, Google Books, after p. 280.

After retiring from the 60<sup>th</sup> Regt. and going to France to recuperate, Young entered into a venture with some military friends in 1791, to establish a British settlement on the uninhabited island of Bulama on the west coast of Africa. Young was elected lieutenant governor of the colony and the expedition consisting of two ships and a sloop set sail from Gravesend on Apr. 4, 1792. The colony was, however, unsuccessful and called by the lead naval officer as an “...*ill-contrived and badly executed, though well intended, expedition to the coast of Africa, in the year 1792.*” After a deadly attack by warriors from an adjacent island, Young and his wife, with many of the settlers, left the island to return to England just a few months later on July 19<sup>th</sup>. The settlement was completely abandoned in 1793.

Former Lt. Gov. Young wrote his Aunt, Elizabeth Graeme Fergusson, on Jan. 15, 1793 to describe his health, noting “...*I am returned from Africa my health so bad I could do no good There. My disorder lies in my head excruciating pain and at times an invincible Stupor. I have been Seven months in England four of which I have been confined to my Chamber, I can hardly write a line with ease. I am very ill – I am Dying I have destroyed all your Letters as you desired I am content to Dye.*”

Maj. Gen Stirling began an effort to provide for the long term support of his nephew, John Young in May 1793. Stirling wrote Lady Christian Graham (wife of *Thomas Graham, of Balgowan*), who recently provided £50 to support Young. Stirling requested “... *your kind assurance of applying to M<sup>r</sup>. [Henry]*

*Dundas [Minister for War] for some small annuity or secure place to protect him from future want; I take the liberty of mentioning in case M<sup>r</sup> Dundas should make any difficulty of procuring a pension or sinecum place, that an Ensigncy in the Invalids would answer equally well, & As M<sup>r</sup> Young was a loyalist and served in the Army in America it gives him some pretension, it may be objected that he sold out of the Army, but it was want off health that forced him to that measure, as he could not possibly join his Reg<sup>t</sup> & the Country was then likely to be involved in a war with Spain so that no delay could be procured. He got a compensation from the Commissioners for his losses in America but it was so small an amount that great part of it was spent hanging on in London before he received it...*



Edinburgh Castle from the south west, by Kim Traynor, 2012

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

Stirling's efforts were successful. On July 23<sup>rd</sup> the War Office announced "... *John Young, Gent, late a Lieutenant in the 60th. Foot, to be Ensign in [Capt. John] Lord Elphinstone's Independent Company of Invalids in North Britain, vice Hanson, approved for a Lieutenancy in the 78th Foot.*" As Capt. Lord Elphinstone had been appointed Lt. Governor of Edinburgh Castle in 1781 that was likely the location of his invalid company.



St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London

Picture Source: Wikipedia Commons, by ChrisO

Lt. Young was still assigned to Lord Elphinstone's company when he died in London on Nov. 15, 1797 at age 40. He is buried at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, London. Young's Aunt, Elizabeth Ferguson, who arranged his burial, had three stanzas of poetry engraved on his stone. The first stanza read:

*Far distant from the soil where thy last breath  
Seal'd the sad measure of they various woes;  
One female friend Laments they mournful death  
Yet why Lament what only gave repose?*

Young's wife Elizabeth, applied for "...his MAJESTY'S Royal Bounty and Compassion" in an application dated Apr. 11, 1798. Her affidavit read "...Elizabeth Young – came this day before me, and made Oath that she was lawfully married to John Young – late a Lieutenant – in the retired Invalids – ~~commanded by~~ and ever since his Decease she has continued a Widow, and is so at this present Time; and that she has no other Pension, Allowance, or Provision made for her by the Government, either in Great-Britain or Ireland, without the Pension she hopes to receive by his Majesty's Bounty. Elizabeth Young Sworn before me this 3<sup>rd</sup>. Day of January 1798..."

Commissions and Appointments: Lt. (approx.) Sept. 1777 (1<sup>st</sup> Bn., Pennsylvania Loyalists); Ens. Aug. 15 – effective Aug. 3, 1778 (42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Lt. May 30 – effective May 15, 1780; Asst. QM Gen. Dept. Jan. 26, 1781 (Seconded from 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Lt. Half-pay June 24, 1783 (42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.); Lt. Sep. 25, 1787 (3<sup>rd</sup> Bn., 60<sup>th</sup> or Royal American Regt.), Retired April 2, 1789 (60<sup>th</sup> or Royal American Regt.); Lt. Gov. British Colony of Bulama, Africa Feb. 2, 1792 (left colony July 1792.); Ens. July 23 – effective Mar. 8, 1793 (Capt. John, Lord Elphinstone's Independent Company Invalids – North Britain); Died Apr. 25, 1794 (Capt. John, Lord Elphinstone's Independent Company Invalids).

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Gilbert Young, M. D., William S. Young (pub.), Philadelphia, 1869, Google Books, p. 49; *A Regimental Chronicle and List of Officers of the 60<sup>th</sup> or the King's Royal Rifle Corps, Formerly The 62<sup>nd</sup> or Royal American Regiment of Foot*, Nesbit Willoughby Wallace, Harrison Pall Mall, London, 1879, Google Books, pp. 112-114; TNA, Undated Memorial of Lt. John Young, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., *Audit Office: American Loyalist Claims* at AO13/95 f. 484; *Rootsweb* message 0920519110, Lynda Wohleb Shaffer, Mar. 3, 1999; *Stewart's Sketches*, Vol. I, p. 401; Lord Jeffrey Amherst to Sir George Yonge, Apr. 3, 1789 in "Leaves They Have Touched" Dr. Henry Scadding, *Canadian Journal of Science, Literature, and History*, Vol. XIV, The Editing Committee of the Canadian Institute, The Canadian Institute, Toronto, 1875, Google Books, p. 84; *History of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania*, Vol. 2, William Joseph Buck, Unigraphic, 1884, Google Books Snippet, p. 889; *African Memoranda: Relative to an Attempt to Establish a British Settlement on the Island of Bulama, on the Western Coast of Africa, in the Year 1792*, Capt. Philip Beaver, Royal Navy, C. and R. Baldwin, London, 1805, Google Books, pp. i and 9 and Documents pp. 1, 433, 439 and 442; John Young to Elizabeth Graeme Fergusson, Jan. 15, 1793, *Most Learned Woman in America: A Life of Elizabeth Graeme Fergusson*, Anne M. Ousterhout, Penn State Press, 2010, p. 314; NRS, Thomas Stirling to Lady Christian Graham, Lochlan, May 10, 1793, *Papers of the Dundas Family of Melville* at GD51/6/74, transcribed by Mr. Ed Brumby; NRS, Requests made to Henry Dundas and Robert Dundas, 1st and 2nd Viscounts Melville and their successors, for appointments and favours, 1780-1882, *Papers of the Dundas Family of Melville* at GD51/6/54; *Military Loyalists of the American Revolution: Officers and Regiments, 1775-1783*, Walter T. Dornfest, McFarland & Company, Jefferson (NC), 2011, p. 367. Note: a second Lt. John Young (from the 8<sup>th</sup> Regt.) was appointed to the 60<sup>th</sup> Regt. on Sept. 6, 1788 vice Philip Masseria. He exchanged to half-pay in orders dated Dec. 1, 1789 and Apr. 11, 1789; Find A Grave Memorial # 34089827; TNA, *War Office, Widows' Pensions and Bounty Application Papers* at WO25/3107/3/24.

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