



Officer, 42nd Regt. by Harry Payne

Picture Source: *History of the 42nd Royal Highlanders – “The Black Watch”...1729-1893*, Lt. Col. Percy Groves, W. & A. K. Johnston, Edinburgh, 1893, Google Books.

Appendix B

Commanders, Staff Officers and Volunteers

Introduction

The purpose of this appendix is to provide a brief description of the command and staff assignments of the 42nd or Royal Highland Regiment during the American War for Independence and to identify the Volunteers serving in the regiment who were commissioned during the war.

The first section of the appendix identifies the officers and staff of the 42nd Regt in America, which was termed the 1st Battalion, 42nd Regt. after a second battalion was raised in Scotland in 1779-1780 for service in South Africa and India. Because the large 42nd Regt. was temporarily split into two provisional battalions on its arrival in America in 1776, the second section of this appendix explains the organization and identifies the command and staff assignments in those two temporary battalions where possible. The material is presented in three columns. The first identifies the officer or staff member's name, the second the period of service in the listed position and the final column notes the reason the officer or staff member left the assignment. Also provided are period definitions of the specific positions.

The third section identifies the Volunteers, serving in the ranks at their own expense until vacancies arose and were commissioned in the 42nd Highlanders and other regiments during the American war.

The details of the officer's or staff member's service are provided in detail in Appendix A.

Command and Staff Assignments, 42nd or Royal Highland Regiment

Colonel

"Colonel. The commander in chief of a regiment, either of horse, foot or dragoons, in England..." (Ref.: *Military Dictionary*, London, 1778.)

Name	Dates	Reason for Departure
Colonel of the 42 nd Regt. (1 st and 2 nd Battalions after Mar. 21, 1780)		
Gen. Lord John Murray	Apr. 25, 1745 – May 26, 1787	Died

Note: Gen. Lord Murray, as a senior officer in the army, did not serve with the regiment in America.

Lieutenant Colonels

"Lieutenant Colonel of Horse, Foot, or Dragoons. The second officer in a regiment, and should be a man of great experience; knowing how to attack or defend a post, lead the regiment in battle, and how to make a good retreat. He is to see the regiment kept to their exercise [training], and is to know the qualifications of all the officers of the regiment. In the absence of the colonel he commands the regiment..." (Ref.: *Military Dictionary*, London, 1778.)

Name	Dates	Reason for Departure
Lt. Colonel, 42 nd Regt. (1 st Battalion after Mar. 21, 1780).		
Thomas Stirling	Sept. 7, 1771 – Feb. 13, 1782	Promoted 71 st Regt.
Charles Graham	Apr. 28, 1782 – Nov. 30, 1796	Promoted 5 th West India Regt.
Lt. Colonel, 2 nd Battalion, 42 nd Regt. in Scotland and India (after Mar. 21, 1780).		
Norman MacLeod of MacLeod	Mar. 21, 1780 – Aug. 11, 1786	2 nd Bn. became 73 rd Regt.

Note: Lt. Col. MacLeod began the American war as a Captain in the 1st Battalion, 71st Highland Regt.

Majors

“Major of a Regiment of Horse or Foot, is the next officer to the lieutenant colonel, and generally made from the eldest captain. He is to take care that the regiment be well exercised, that it be drawn up in good order at a review, or upon a parade or any other occasion; to see it march in good order, and to rally it in case of it being broke. He is the only officer among the foot that is allowed to be on horseback in time of action, that he may be the readier to execute the colonel’s orders, either in advancing or drawing off the regiment. He has an adjutant for his assistant.” (Ref.: *Military Dictionary*, London, 1778.)

Name	Dates	Reason for Departure
Major, 42 nd Regt. (1 st Battalion after Mar. 21, 1780)		
William Murray	Sept. 7, 1771 – Oct. 5, 1777	Promoted 27 th Regt.
William Grant	Oct. 5, 1777 – Aug. 25, 1778	Retired
Charles Graham	Aug. 25, 1778 – Feb. 13, 1782	Promoted 42 nd Regt.
Walter Home	Apr. 28, 1782 – Mar. 16, 1791	Retired
Majors 2 nd Battalion, 42 nd Regt. in Scotland and India after Mar. 21, 1780		
Patrick Graham	Mar. 21, 1780 – Oct. 23, 1781	Died
John Campbell	Oct. 23, 1781 – Mar. 23, 1784	Died
Hay Macdowal	Mar. 24, 1784 – Apr. 22, 1786	Renamed as 73 rd Regt.

Captains 42nd Regt. (Termed the 1st Battalion after Mar. 21, 1780)

“Captain. The commander in chief of a company of foot or troop of horse or dragoons. He is to march, or fight, at the head of his company... A captain has the power of making serjeants and corporals in his own company. He ought to be very vigilant, and acquainted with the dispositions of all his men.” (Ref.: *Military Dictionary*, London, 1778.)

Name	Dates	Reason for Departure
Brev.-Maj. William Grant	July 23, 1758 – Oct. 5, 1777	Promoted 42 nd Regt.
Alexander Donaldson	Mar. 31, 1770 – Dec. 19, 1777	Promoted 76 th Regt.
Hon. George Mackenzie	Dec. 12, 1770 – Dec. 20, 1777	Promoted 73 rd Regt.
Brev.-Maj. James M ^c Pherson	Sept. 1, 1771 – June 5, 1778	Retired
Charles Graham	Sept. 7, 1771 – Aug. 25, 1778	Promoted 42 nd Regt.
Archibald Erskine	Sept. 7, 1771 – Dec. 6, 1778	Promoted 22 nd Regt.
Brev.-Maj. John Smith	Jan. 14, 1775 – July 25, 1783	Died
Brev.-Lt. Col. Duncan M ^c Pherson	Aug. 15, 1775 – Dec. 31, 1780	Promoted 71 st Regt.
John M ^c Intosh	Aug. 16, 1775 – Sept. 20, 1779	Retired
Charles Grant	Mar. 20, 1776 – Oct. 1784	Retired
John Peebles	Aug. 18, 1778 – Feb. 2, 1782	Retired
James Campbell	Aug. 18, 1778 – Nov. 25, 1790	Died
John Rutherford	Aug. 18, 1778 – Aug. 26, 1785	Retired
George Dalrymple	Aug. 25, 1778 – Mar. 16, 1791	Promoted 42 nd Regt.
Patrick Graham	Sept. 8, 1778 – Mar. 21, 1781	Promoted in 2 nd Bn.
David Anstruther	Dec. 6, 1778 – Apr. 4, 1794	Transfer to Indpt. Co.
Hay Macdowal	Sept. 20, 1779 – Mar. 21, 1780	Transferred to 2 nd Bn.
Robert Potts	July 27, 1783 – Feb. 22, 1793	Retired
William Dickson of Kilbucho	Feb. 2, 1782 – Jan. 24, 1795	Promoted 42 nd Regt.

Captain - Lieutenants

“Captain-Lieutenant. The commanding officer of the colonel’s troop, or company, in every regiment. He commands as the youngest captain, tho’ in reality he is only lieutenant, the colonel being himself captain...” (Ref.: *Military Dictionary*, London, 1778.)

Name	Dates	Reason for Departure
John M ^c Intosh	Aug. 16, 1775 – Oct. 5, 1777	Promoted 42 nd Regt.
John Peebles	Oct. 5, 1777 – Aug. 18, 1778	Promoted 42 nd Regt.
John Rutherford	Aug. 18, 1778 – Dec. 31, 1780	Promoted 42 nd Regt.
Robert Potts	Dec. 31, 1780 – July 27, 1783	Promoted 42 nd Regt.
Robert Franklin	July 27, 1783 – Aug. 31, 1785	Died

Staff or Warrant Officers

Chaplain

“Chaplain. The Chaplain to be indefatigable in his attention to the morals of the Corps; He is to consider it his indispensable duty by precepts and good example, to check the Spirit of Vice, and promote a love for virtue. He is to visit the Sick, administer consolation to the afflicted, and at his leisure hours pay a charitable regard to the School of the Battalion. – The Corps to attend divine Service regularly every Sunday...” (Ref.: *Standing Orders 71st Highland Regt.*, June 3, 1778, Transcribed by P. D. Albertsen, 71st Fraser’s Highlanders Research Group, from Archibald Campbell’s personal copy in the possession of Canna House, Canna Isle, Scotland.)

Name	Dates	Reason for Departure
James M ^c Lagan	June 15, 1764 – Aug. 8, 1787	Retired

Adjutant

“...Adjutant. An officer who eases the major of the burthen of his duty, and performs it in his absence. He receives the orders every night from the brigade major; after which carrying them to the colonel, he delivers them out to the serjeants in the ring. When detachments are to be made, he gives the number to be furnished by each company, and assigns the hour and place of rendezvous. He also places the guards, distributes ammunition, &c...” (Ref.: *Military Dictionary*, 1778.)

Name	Dates	Reason for Departure
Hugh Fraser	Mar. 20, 1776 – Apr. 6, 1791	Promoted 42 nd Regt.

Quarter Masters

“Quarter Master. The Quartermaster is Chargeable with all the Arms, Accoutrements, Clothing, Stores and Ammunition of the Battalion; of which he is to make regular entries in a set of Books, specifying the General State, together with the Receipts, and issues of every month in so regular a manner, that the Balance of Stores in his possession may be accurately ascertained on an sudden emergency, and deficiencies immediately replaced. He is to Regulate the distribution of

Carriages for the Baggage, Sick & Wounded; and to procede the march of the Battalion, for the purpose of clearing Roads, and for settling every necessary arrangement in Camp, Quarters or Cantonments. He is to receive and issue all articles of Coal, Wood, Forage, and Provisions; and is answerable that a strict attention be paid to their Quality, and Quantity, at the time of their being delivered. He is also answerable, that every means possible Shall be used to keep the Camp Cantonement and Quarters clean & wholesome. – The Pioneers and Camp Colourmen to be entirely under his direction.” (Ref.: Standing Orders 71st Highland Regt., June 3, 1778, f. 5.)

Name	Dates	Reason for Departure
Colin Smith	Mar. 20, 1776 – Dec. 20, 1779	Committed Suicide
Hector M ^c Lean	Oct. 25, 1780 – Apr. 4, 1794	Promoted to Indpt. Co.

Surgeons

“Surgeons. The Surgeons or their Mates, must attend the Battalion on all General Parades, and Field Days, to be present at all punishments, and to give in to their respective Commanding Officers every Morning at troop beating, A return of the Sick and lame under their care; specifying the names of the men, and the Companies to which they belong ...” (Ref.: Standing Orders 71st Highland Regt., June 4, 1778, f. 8.)

Name	Dates	Reason for Departure
Alexander Potts	Apr. 10, 1764 – Sept. 11, 1777	Promoted Gen. Hosp.
William Robertson	Sept. 11, 1777- June 18, 1793	Promoted Hosp. Staff

Surgeon’s Mates

Name	Dates	Reason for Departure
William Robertson	May 1, 1774 – Sept. 11, 1777	Promoted 42 nd Regt.
Alexander Stewart	Aug. 25, 1775 – After June 1784	Retired
James Mitchell	Sept. 13, 1777 – Apr. 4, 1778	Transfer to 37 th Regt.
Donald Smith	Dec. 1778 – Oct. 26, 1782	Promoted 84 th Regt.

Temporary Battalion Organization in America

On June 25, 1775 the establishment or strength of the 42nd or Royal Highland Regt. was increased to 46 officers and staff, 100 noncommissioned officers, 22 musicians and 1000 private men for a total of 1168 officers and men.¹ In June 29th Lord John Murray was notified that the regiment would be increased by two more companies.

The Royal Highlanders were made up of twelve companies when the regiment prepared to embark for America in April 1776. Capt. Alexander Donaldson’s 1st Additional Company and Capt. James M^cPherson’s 2nd Additional Company remained in Scotland on the Recruiting Service.

On arrival in America, Capt. Hon. George Mackenzie’s 42nd Light Infantry Company was assigned to the composite 1st Lt. Infantry Battalion and Capt. Charles Graham’s 42nd Grenadier Company was assigned to the composite 4th British Grenadier Battalion. Capt. John Smith’s

battalion company on the transport *Oxford* was captured by an American warship while sailing to America.

With the size of the 42nd Regt. considerably larger than the other British regiments, local army orders were issued to alter the regimental organization when it arrived in America. Commander-in-Chief Gen. Sir William Howe's Orders dated on Staten Island, New York at "*Dyker's ferry, 6th Aug^t 1776*" directed that "...*The 42^d Reg^t to be formed into two battalions, under the Command of Lt Col [Thomas] Stirling. – [Brevet] Major [William] Grant of that Regiment is appointed second Major to it...*"² Lt. Col. Stirling explained the new organization in a letter to his sister dated Aug. 9th where he wrote "...*our Battⁿ is formed into two of which I am chief Major [William] Murray commands the first and Major [William] Grant the 2^d ...*"³

The seven remaining line companies were assigned to two provisional battalions, each with their own commander and battalion staff officers. Based on traditions of the army, the senior company (Gen. Lord John Murray's) was assigned to the 1st Battalion and the next company in seniority (Lt. Col. Thomas Stirling's) likely went to the second Battalion. Maj. William Murray's Company, as next in seniority would be assigned to the battalion he commanded and Brevet Major William Grant would then have his own company assigned to his battalion. The three remaining companies in rank order were Capt. Archibald Erskine's, Brevet-Maj. Duncan McPherson's and Capt. Charles Grant's, resulting in Erskine's and Grant's assigned to the 1st Battalion and McPherson's to the 2nd. It is likely the provisional battalions were not reorganized each time a company commander was replaced due to the administrative burden that would ensue. Sometime after April 1777 Capt. Smith's company was reformed with recruits from Scotland and soldiers transferred from the other seven companies and was likely assigned to the lower strength second battalion.

Maj. Murray's 1st Battalion kept the existing regimental staff officers in his battalion. Brevet-Maj. Grant's 2nd Battalion had no staff officers until General Orders dated at "*Head Quarters Staten Island 19th Aug^t 1776*" announced "...*Lt John Rutherford is appointed adjutant and Serj^t Ja^s Stirling to do the duty of Q^r M^r [Quartermaster] to the 2^d Battⁿ of the 42^d Reg^t.*"⁴

There are considerable gaps in the understanding of these temporary battalions based on the limited existing documentation of the organization. The commanders of the two battalions remained the same until Maj. Murray was promoted into another regiment in Oct. 1777. At that time it appears that Maj. William Grant retained his command of the 2nd Battalion, leaving command of the 1st Battalion to the senior captain. Because documentation of captain assignments to the two battalions has not been located, the senior captain of the 1st battalion during the period Oct. 1777 to Aug. 1778 cannot be identified. However, when Maj. Grant retired that month Maj. Charles Graham assumed command of the 1st Battalion, and the command of the 2nd Battalion went to the senior captain of that battalion. From an analysis of the "*WEEKLY STATE of The Two Battalions of the 42^d or Roy^l H R^t of Foot, Commanded by Major Charles Graham 22^d April 1780*"⁵ at Charleston, South Carolina the commander of the 2nd Battalion can be derived to be Capt. John Smith at that period. Capt. Smith returned from the Lt. Infantry Company on Dec. 5, 1779, likely to assume command of the 2nd Battalion.

Although General Orders issued by the Commander-in-Chief established the two battalions, no similar order was ever issued to counter that original order. General Orders were issued at the end of the war, effective Aug. 25, 1783, to reduce the regiment and it is likely the consolidation took place at that time.

The 2nd Battalion formed under Brevet-Maj. Grant in America should not be confused with the “official” 2nd Battalion, 42nd Regt. under Gen. Lord Murray and Lt. Col. Norman MacLeod of Macleod that was formed in 1779-1780. That battalion sailed for South Africa and India in 1781 and was eventually renamed as the 73rd Highland Regt. in 1786.

Notes:

1. “Establishment of the 42^d./or Royal Highland/ Regiment of Foot from 25th. June 1775” at TNA, War Office Out-Letters, General Letters, July 1775-Nov. 1775 at WO 4/94, pp. 130-131 (f. 68).
2. “Orderly Book, 4th Battⁿ Grenad^{rs}, 4th Battalion Grenadiers.”
3. National Records of Scotland, Inventory Acc. 12290, *Additional papers of the family of Graham of Airth, and other related families, notably (Graham) Stirling of Ardoch and Strowan, and Stirling of Kippendavie*, Box 1, Folder 3: Sir Thomas Stirling of Ardoch and Strowan (5) 1776-1807.
4. “Orderly Book, 4th Battⁿ Grenad^{rs}, 4th Battalion Grenadiers.”
5. “WEEKLY STATE of The Two Battalions of the 42^d or Roy^l H R^t of Foot, Commanded by Major Charles Graham 22^d April 1780” in the Sir Henry Clinton Papers, William Clements Library.

Command and Staff Assignments 1st and 2nd (Provisional) Battalions, 42nd or Royal Highland Regt. in America, Aug. 1776 – Oct. 1783

<u>Names</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Reason for Departure</u>
<u>1st Battalion</u>		
Major		
William Murray	Aug. 6, 1776 – Oct. 5, 1777	Promoted 27 th Regt.
Senior Captain	Oct. 5, 1777 – Aug. 25, 1778	
Charles Graham	Aug. 25, 1778 – Feb. 13, 1782	Promoted 42 nd Regt.
Walter Home	Apr. 28, 1782 – Aug. 25, 1783	Battalions consolidated
Adjutant		
Hugh Fraser	Mar. 20, 1776 – Aug. 25, 1783	Battalions consolidated
Quartermaster		
Colin Smith	Mar. 20, 1776 – Dec. 20, 1779	Died
None	Dec. 20, 1779 – Oct. 25, 1780	
Hector M ^c Lean	Oct. 25, 1780 – Aug. 25, 1783	Battalions consolidated
<u>2nd Battalion</u>		
Majors		
William Grant	Aug. 6, 1776 - Aug. 25, 1778	Retired
Senior Captain	Aug. 25, 1778 – Dec. 5, 1779	
Capt. John Smith	Dec. 5, 1779 – July 25, 1783	Died
Senior Captain	July 25, 1783 – Aug. 25, 1783	Battalions consolidated
Adjutants		
Lt. John Rutherford	Aug. 19, 1776 – Aug. 31, 1779	Promoted 42 nd Regt.
Sgt. Maj. James Rose	Aug. 31, 1779 – Aug. 25, 1783	Battalions consolidated
Quartermaster		
Sgt. James Stirling	Aug. 19, 1776 – Nov. 22, 1778	Promoted 42 nd Regt.
Sgt. Hector M ^c Lean	Nov. 22, 1778 – Oct. 25, 1780	Promoted 42 nd Regt.
Unknown	Oct. 25, 1780 – Aug. 25, 1783	Battalions consolidated

Volunteers

“Volunteers. Gentlemen, who, without any certain post, pay or employment, in the forces of command, put themselves at their own expence upon warlike expeditions, and run into dangers only to gain honour and employment.” (Ref.: Military Dictionary, 1778.)

Volunteers Promoted from the 42nd or Royal Highland Regiment

Volunteer	Date	Promotion
Alexander Fraser	Dec. 28, 1775	Promoted 71 st Regt.
Allan M ^c Lean	Aug. 27, 1776	Promoted 42 nd Regt.
Alexander Brodie	Sept. 15, 1776	Promoted 10 th Regt. [“Inlisted 23 ^d Feb ^y 1776”]
Alexander Innes	Sept. 21, 1776	Promoted 42 nd Regt.
Neil Stewart	Feb. 23, 1777	Promoted King’s Orange Rangers
Sgt. James Stirling	Apr. 22, 1777	Promoted 42 nd Regt.
George MacKenzie	Sept. 12, 1777	Promoted 27 th Regt.
George Campbell	Sept. 27, 1777	Promoted 42 nd Regt. [“ Inlisted 24 th June ”]
William M ^c Donald	Oct. 5, 1777	Promoted 42 nd Regt.
William MacIntosh	Nov. 3, 1777	Promoted 71 st Regt.
Jonathan Anderson	Nov. 19, 1777	Promoted [possibly 40 th Regt.] [“Inlisted 25 th June 1777”]
Alexander Grant	Mar. 18, 1778	Promoted 42 nd Regt.
Kenneth Calendar	Aug. 3, 1778	Promoted 42 nd Regt.
William Frazer	Aug. 3, 1778	Promoted 42 nd Regt.
Dugal Campbell	Oct. 18, 1778	Promoted 42 nd Regt.
John Robertson	Oct. 19, 1778	Promoted 42 nd Regt.
David Sutherland	Feb. 2, 1779	Promoted 42 nd Regt.
James Alston	Aug. 24, 1779	Promoted 42 nd Regt.
William Frazer	Aug. 25, 1779	Promoted 42 nd Regt.
Sgt. John Stewart	Nov. 5, 1779	Promoted 2 nd Bn., 42 nd Regt. but thought dead in New York. Had been captured by rebels and later escaped.
William Fraser	Feb. 13, 1780	Promoted 42 nd Regt.
John Macpherson	Mar. 27, 1780	Promoted 2 nd Bn., 42 nd Regt.
William Edmunstoune	Dec. 31, 1780	Promoted 42 nd Regt.
William Macleod,	Sept. 29, 1781	Promoted 20 th Regt.
Brevet-Adj. James Rose	Jan. 1, 1781	Promoted 42 nd Regt.
Donald M ^c Niven	May 4, 1782	Promoted 42 nd Regt.
William Campbell	Apr. 29, 1783	Promoted British Legion

Volunteer Correspondence

Letter from Secretary at War Viscount Barrington to Lt. Col. Thomas Stirling, 42nd Regt., to Discharge Volunteer Alexander Fraser, London, Dec. 28, 1775

War Office 28th Dec^r 1775

Sir,

Major Gen^l [Simon] Fraser having named for an Ensigncy in His Regiment, Alexander Fraser /Son of Simon Fraser Erchit/ who now carries Arms in the Grenadier Company of the 42^d /or R.H./ Reg^t of Foot, under your command, I am to signify to you H.M.P. [His Majesty’s Pleasure] that you give the said Alexander Fraser his Discharge.

Lieut. Colo Stirling, or
Officer commanding the 42^d
/or R.H./ Reg^t of Foot,
at Glasgow –

I have the honor to be
Sir &c
Barrington

Source and Note: TNA, *Secretary at War, Out Letters*, WO 4/95, p. 287. Maj. Gen. Simon Fraser was Colonel of the 71st Regt., known as Fraser's Highlanders.

Letter from Gen. Lord John Murray, Col., 42nd Regt. to Secretary at War Viscount Barrington, Recommending Vol. Neil Stewart for an Ensigncy, Glasgow, Apr. 15, 1776

My Lord

I have the honor to Acquaint your Lordship that in consequence of L^t Gen^l S^r. Ja^s. Ad Oughton orders the battalion of the 42^d. or Royal Highland Reg^t. of Foot marched this Morning to Greenock about 24. miles where they were ordered to embark on their arrival this day... on the occasion that Lieu^t. [William] Rose should be Superceded, I humbly beg leave that the Succession may go in the Battalion, and that Ensign Alex^r. M^cKenzie be appointed Lieu^t. in his place, who has been above fourteen years an Ensign in the Army, was Lieu^t. for two or three Months, be again appointed Lieu^t. vice [William] Rose and Neill Stewart Gen^l. a Volunteer who is gone with the battalion this morning, an Atholl Gentleman & a handsome Man, be appointed if it is His Majestys Pleasure to be Ensign vice M^cKenzie... I have the honor to be

My Lord

Glasgow 15th April

Your Lordships most humble & most obed^t Serv^t.

1776.

John Murray

Source and Note: TNA, *War Office In-Letters: 3. General Correspondence: b. Series II: M-R, 1776* at WO 1/993. "Neill Stewart Gen^l. a Volunteer" was not promoted by the War Office at this time, but accepted a commission on Feb. 23, 1777 in Brig. Gen. Oliver DeLancey's Provincial Corps.

General and 4th British Grenadier Battalion Orders on Volunteers, New York, Sept. 18, 1776

Head Q^{rs} New York Island 18th Sept^r 1776...

A Return of Volunteers & to what Corps Attach'd with their respective dates of Service to be given in tomorrow at Orderly time –

B:O:) ...

Those Gentlemen that call themselves Volunteers, having been sent to the 4th Battⁿ as Private Soldiers it is the Majors Orders that they attend all Parades & are not exempt from any duty; Duties of fatigue they are at liberty to exchange with the Men ...

Source: "Orderly Book, 4th Battⁿ Grenad^{rs}, 4th Battalion Grenadiers" in "13 notebooks containing the journal of Lt. [latterly Capt.] John Peebles of the 42nd or Royal Highland Regiment, during the American War of Independence," National Records of Scotland, at GD 21/492/2, *Papers of the Cuninghame Family of Thortoun, 1776-1782*, Edinburgh. The 4th British Grenadier Battalion consisted of the 42nd Grenadier Co. and the two 71st Highland Regt. Grenadier Companies.

Letter from Gen. Lord John Murray, Col., 42nd Regt. to Secretary at War Viscount Barrington, Forwarding a Return from the 42nd Regt., Bannercross, Dec. 28, 1776

My Lord

I have the honor to acquaint your Lordship have received a letter from Lieu^t. Colonel [Thomas] Stirling inclosing a Return, the first I have had Since the Royal Highland Reg^t. Sailed from Greenock, dated Camp at White Plains 31st. Oct^r... I have the honor to be with the Greatest Regard

My Lord
Your Lordships most faithfull and most obedient Serv^t.
John Murray

Banner cross
28th. Dec^r. 1776.

[Enclosure]

Extract Return 42^d. or Royal Highland Reg^t.
Dated Camp at White Plains 31st. October 1776...
Promotions...

Volunteer [Allan] M^cLean from 43. Ensign vice [Alexander] Grant D^o. [27th. August 76] {date
D^o. Neill Stewart appointed Lieu^t. in Gen [Oliver] Delancys Corps.
D^o. Alex^r. Brodie appointed Ensign by purchase in 10th. foot....

Source and Notes: TNA, *War Office In-Letters: 3. General Correspondence*: b. Series II: M-R, 1776 at WO 1/993. The report may be in error regarding the Provincial unit for Vol. Neill Stewart. A Lt. of that name was commissioned in the King's Orange Rangers on Dec. 31, 1776.

General Order Issued for Listing of Volunteers, Brunswick, New Jersey, May 3, 1777

Head Quarters Brunswick 3^d May 1777...

The Commander in chief orders a Return of the Volunteers of the Army with the dates of their Respective Service to be given in as Soon as Possible.

Source: *William Howe orderly book*, Great Britain. Army, 1776-1778, William L. Clements Library, Univ. of Mich.

**Vol. William M^cDonald Promoted to Ensign, 42nd Regt., Philadelphia,
Oct 31, 1777**

[Gen. Sir William Howe's Orders] Head Quarters Philadelphia 31st Oct. 1777...

The Commander in Chief has been pleased to make the following Promotions...
42^d Regiment. ..

William M^cDonald, Volunteer, to be Ensign vice [Gavin] Drummond promoted } 5th Oct.
1777...

Source and Note: "The Kemble Papers." Sixteen year old William M^cDonald was the son of Lt. John Macdonald who retired at the same time to take a Majority in the Maryland Loyalists.

Promotion Orders Vol. Alexander Grant, 42nd Regt., Philadelphia, Mar. 19, 1778

[Gen. Sir William Howe's Orders] Head Quarters Philadelphia 19th March 1778.

The Commander in Chief has been pleased to make the following Promotions:
42^d Regiment...

Alexander Grant, Volunteer, to be Ensign vice [David] Crawford Promoted } 18th March 1778

Source: "The Kemble Papers."

**Excerpt of Letter from Gen. Sir William Howe, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to
Secretary at War Viscount Barrington and Memorial of Lt. Col. Thomas Stirling, 42nd Regt.
to Correct Commission Dates for Officers of the Regiment, Philadelphia, May 6, 1778**

Philadelphia 6th May 1778

My Lord

... The other Memorial is from Lieut. Colonel Stirling of the 42nd Regiment, pointing out a mistake in the promotions of Lieut: Lord William Murray, and Ensign Geo: Campbell of that Regiment, which I have rectified by recalling the Commissions first given to those Gentlemen and granting others bearing Date the 27th of Sept^r 1777 presuming upon His Majestys Approbation.

I have the Honor to be Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant

W Howe

Right Honb^{le} Lord Viscount Barrington &c &c &c

To His Excellency The Hon^{ble} Sir William Howe K.B. General and Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Forces in the Colonies laying on the Atlantic Ocean from Nova Scotia to West Florida inclusive &c &c &c

The Memorial of Lieu^t Colonel
Stirling Commanding the 42nd Regim^t

Humbly Sheweth

That on the 27th of September last year [1777], your Memorialist recommended the Sale of Lieu^t Dougal Campbell's Commission of said Regiment, and that Ensign Lord William Murray & Volunteer George Campbell might be appointed in the Succession by Purchase.

That soon after a Vacancy having happened in the Regiment by the Promotion of Major [William] Murray, your Memorialist recommended Ensign Gavin Drummond to be Lieutenant and Volunteer William M^cDonald to be Ensign in that Succession, both which your Excellency was pleased to agree to, and their Commissions have come out accordingly; But by some Mistake Lieu^t Lord William Murray's Commission and Ensign George Campbell, the first recommended, are dated 27th October 1777, and Lieu^t Drummond & Ensign M^cDonald's Commissions are dated the 5th October, by which means the latter Officers take Rank of the former, who were first recommended, and senior to them.

Your memorialist therefore pray your Excellency will be pleased to take the same into Consideration, and grant unto Lieu^t Lord William Murray and Ensign George Campbell their priority of Rank, in such manner as your Excellency may think fit.

Which is humbly submitted,

Tho^s Stirling

Lieu^t Colonel

Philadelphia 6th May 1778

Source: TNA, *Papers of Guy Carleton, 1st Baron Dorchester* at PRO 30/55/10 f. 10700 and *War Office In-Letters* at WO 1/10, pp. 389 and 443 and a copy at WO 1/11, pt. 1, p. 489 (f. 245).

Promotion Announcement for Officers of the 42nd Regt., New York, Aug. 19, 1778

The Commander in Chief has been pleased to make the following promotions...XLII. Volunteer, William Frazer, to be Ensign, vice [Allan] M^cLean, promoted... Volunteer ---- [Kenneth] Callender, to be Ensign, vice [James] Stirling, promoted...

Source: *Royal Gazette* (New York), August 19, 1778.

Promotion Orders for 42nd Regt. Officers, Philadelphia, Mar. 19, 1778

[Gen. Sir William Howe's Orders] Head Quarters Philadelphia 19th March 1778.

The Commander in Chief has been pleased to make the following Promotions:

42^d Regiment...

Alexander Grant, Volunteer, to be Ensign vice [Daniel] Crawford Promoted } 18th March 1778

Source: "The Kemble Papers."

Promotion Orders for 42nd Regt. Officers, New York, Nov. 5, 1778

[Gen. Sir Henry Clinton's Orders] Head Quarters New York 5th Nov^r 1778...

The Commander in Chief is pleased to make the following promotions...

42^d Regiment...

Volunteer Dugall Campbell to be Ensign vice George Campbell promoted } 18th ditto [Oct. 1778]

Volunteer John Robertson to be Ensign vice [Hugh] Fraser promoted } 19th ditto...

Source: "Orders, 1778-1782," *Sir Henry Clinton Papers*, Vol. 266, William L. Clements Library, Univ. of Mich.

42nd Regt. Officer Commission List from the Regimental Agents, London, About Mar. 9, 1779

List of the Officers of the 42^d or Royal Highland Regim^t of Foot Commanded by the R^t Hon^{ble}
Gen^l Lord John Murray...

Since making out this List, we have just rec^d advice at the War Office of the following promotions made by S^r Henry Clinton...

W^m Fraser Volunteer to be Ensign vice Allan McLean

D^o D^o [3 Aug^t 78]

[Kenneth] Callander Volunteer to be Ensign vice Stirling

D^o D^o

List of Promotions Sent in [Regt. Agent] M^r [Alexander] Andersons letter 9th March 1779...

John Robertson Vol^r to be Ensign vice H. [Hugh] Fraser 19 D^o [Oct. 1778]...

Source: *Lord John Murray Papers*.

2nd Battalion, 42nd Regt. Officer Commission List from Regimental Agent, London, Approximately Sept. 20, 1779

List of Officers of the 2^d Battⁿ of the 42^d or Royal Highland Regiment

Colonel Lord John Murray

Lieu^t Colonel Norman MacLeod 25th Sept^r 1778 Major 73^d Foot...

Ensigns

[Sgt.] John Stewart Volunteer in the 42^d on his way to join...

Source and Notes: *Lord John Murray Papers*. Vol. John Stewart, who had been a prisoner of war before he escaped, was thought to have died and was deleted before joining the 2nd Bn.

Letter from Secretary at War Charles Jenkinson to Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander- in-Chief, North America Regarding Officers for the 2nd Battalion, 42nd Regt., London, Nov. 5, 1779

War Office 5th Nov^r 1779

Sir,

His Majesty having been pleased to direct a Second Battⁿ... to be raised and added to the 42^d /or R H / Regim^t of Foot commanded by Lord John Murray... I have the honor to acquaint you therewith, and to signify to you His Majesty's Pleasure, that of the Service will permit, you will allow... John Stewart Volunteer, acting as Sergeant in Lord John Murray's Company, who are now serving with the Forces under your Command, and who are proposed to have Commissions in the said second Battalion, to return home from N^o. America, that they may be assisting in raising the men wanted to complete the New Battalion to its Establishment.

I have the honor to be Sir &c

C Jenkinson

General Sir H. Clinton

&c &c &c

New York

Source and Note: TNA, *War Office, Out-letters, America, 1777-1780*, WO 4/274, p. 250 (f. 126).

Unfortunately, Sgt. and Vol. John Stewart, who had been a prisoner of war before he escaped, was thought to have died and was deleted before joining the 2nd Bn.

General Order Issued for Lists of Volunteers, New York, Nov. 24, 1779

Head Quarters New York 24th Nov^r 1779...

Memorandum

Unless the reports respecting Volunteers are made by the Command^s officers of Corps, with which they serve Specifying their time of Service, no promotions of Volunteers can take place ...

Source: "Orders, 1778-1782," *Sir Henry Clinton Papers*, Vol. 266, William L. Clements Library.

Letter from Retired-Maj. James M^cPherson, 42nd Regt., to Secretary at War Charles Jenkinson, Regarding His Son's Commission in the 2nd Battalion, 42nd Regt., Perth, Mar. 21, 1780

Right Hon^{ble} Sir

Permit me to use the freedom of informing you that Lord John Murray about a month ago did a son of mine the honor of appointing him an Ensign in his 2^d. Bat: – A few days ago I waited of His Lordship here and in the course of conversation he was pleased to inform me that as my Son was the last En^s. appointed by him to his 2^d. Bat: that of course he must be the youngest in the Bat: – As it is your province to Settle the rank of the Army may I presume to inform you that my son was for some time a Volunteer in one of the Additional Companys of his Lordship's 1st. Bat: – which in my weak opinion Should intitle him to Rank preferable to those never in the Service or at least equal chance with them – in this I may be wrong but cannot help having an opinion – therefore begs leave to submit the fate of my Son to you Sir – who is the fountain head for Settling these matters – if you are pleased to honor me with a return of this letter – my Direction – late Major 42^d. Reg^t. Glasgow – pardon this presumption – I have the honor to be with the utmost Respect – Right Hon^{ble} Sir

Your Most obed^t & most humble Serv^t

James M^cPherson

Perth 21st March 1780

[WO response outline on reverse]

Sir, I am to ack. &c The Commandant of a New Corps is always allowed to settle the Rank of such of his Ensigns as are not already in the Service, And I should not conceive that your Son can be reckoned to have been in the [illegible: Service?] by being a Volunteer with a Recruiting

Company at home – this question however will not be determined by me, but by Lord [Jeffery] Amherst

Source: TNA, *War Office In-Letters, 3. General Correspondence: b. Series II: N-W, 1780* at WO 1/1009, p. 323.

**General Order Issued for Listing of Volunteers and Recommendations,
Charleston, South Carolina, Mar. 22, 1780**

Head Quarters James Island 22^d March 1780...

The Commanding Officers of Regim^s are requested to give in to the Deputy Adjutant Gen^l return of such officers as are desirous to purchase, and also of the Volunteers attached to their several Corps, with their time of service and with such Recommendation as they may deserve to the Commander in Chiefs Attention.

Source: "Orders, 1778-1782," *Sir Henry Clinton Papers*, Vol. 266, William L. Clements Library.

**Promotion Orders for 42nd Regt. Volunteers, Williams's House, South Carolina,
Apr. 18, 1780**

[Gen. Sir Henry Clinton's Orders] Head Quarters Williams's House 18 April 1780
The Commander in Chief is pleased to make the follow^g Promotions...

42^d Regiment...

James Ashton [Alston] Volun ^r to be Ens ⁿ vice [Alexander] Grant promoted	24 d ^o . [Aug 79.]
W ^m Frazier Volun ^r to be Ens ⁿ vice W ^m Frazer D ^o	25 d ^o .
David Sutherland Volunteer to be Ensign vice [Henry] Graham	2 Feb 79...

Source: "Orders, 1778-1782," *Sir Henry Clinton Papers*, Vol. 266, William L. Clements Library, Univ. of Mich.

**Excerpt of Promotion List from Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief,
North America for King George III's Approval, with 42nd Regt. Volunteers
Before Charleston, May 9, 1780**

List of Promotions humbly submitted for His Majesty's Approbation in the Army in North America under the Command of General Sir Henry Clinton K.B. 9th May 1780...

42^d Regiment...

James Alston, Volunteer, to be Ensign, vice William Fraser promoted	24 th ditto.[Aug ^t . 1779.]
William Fraser, Volunteer, to be Ensign, vice William Fraser promoted	25 th ditto.
David Sutherland, Volunteer, to be Ensign, vice [Henry] Graham, promoted	2 ^d Feb ^y . 1779...

H Clinton

Source and Note: Brooklyn Historical Society, *Manuscript Collection Book 42*, folio # 27. Capt. Harry Munro served as a Lt. in the 42nd Regt. earlier in the war.

**General Order Issued for Quarterly Reports of Volunteers and Recommendations,
Phillipsburg, New York, June 30, 1780**

General Orders, Phillipsburg: 30th June 1780...

Returns will in future be expected every three months of Officers desirous to purchase and of volunteers serving with the different Corps expressing the date of Commissions, and time of service, together with such recommendations as the Commanding Officer may think proper to Add. Returns as above are to be given in the 1st July...

Source: "Orders, 1778-1782," *Sir Henry Clinton Papers*, Vol. 266, William L. Clements Library.

General Order Issued Providing Gen. Sir Henry Clinton's Guidance on Duties of Volunteers, New York, July 14, 1780

Head Qrs New York 14th July 1780...

His Excellency the commander in chief observes in the return of Volunteers delivered to him, the Names of several persons serving in other capacities, the General will be happy through the command^s Officers of Corps to hear the Military merit of Gentlemen of every description and the preferment they are thought deserving of but by Volunteers His Excellency can only understand young Gentlemen serving in the Ranks at their own Expense & expecting preferment from their good behavior...

Source: "Orders, 1778-1782," *Sir Henry Clinton Papers*, Vol. 266, William L. Clements Library.

Promotion Order for Vol. William Fraser to be Ensign in the 42nd Regt., New York, Sept. 13, 1780

[Gen. Sir Henry Clinton's Orders] Head Qrs N Y 13th Septem^r 1780...

The Commander in Chief has been pleased to make the following promotions.

42nd Reg^t:

Volun^r W^m Fraser, to be Ensign by purchase vice [Alexander] Home who retires } 13th Feb 1780...

Source and Note: "Orders, 1778-1782," *Sir Henry Clinton Papers*, Vol. 266, William L. Clements Library, Univ. of Mich. Fraser's promotion is listed in the annotated War Office copy of the annual Army List for 1780 (WO 65.30, f. 108) as "13 Sept 80." Ens. Fraser was the son of Lt. and Adjutant Hugh Fraser.

...

Promotion Announcements 42nd Regt., London, Jan. 9. 1781

War-Office, January 9, 1781...

42d Regiment of Foot...

Ditto, Volunteer William Fraser to be Ensign, vice Alexander Home.

Source and Note: *London Gazette*, Jan. 9, 1781 p. 2. There were three William Frasers serving as subalterns in the regiment during this period. The reader is referred to App. A, Officer Biographies to differentiate among the three officers.

Promotion Orders for 42nd Regt. Officers, New York, Feb. 8, 1781

[Gen. Sir Henry Clinton's Orders] Head Qrs NY 8th Febru^y 1781...

His Excellency the commander in chief has been pleased to make the following Promotions...

42^d Regiment...

Volunteer Will^m Edmonstone, to be Ensign vice [Kenneth] Calender promoted } d^o. [31st Dec^r 1780.] ...

Source: "Orders, 1778-1782," *Sir Henry Clinton Papers*, Vol. 266, William L. Clements Library, Univ. of Mich.

Promotion Orders for Brevet-Adj. James Rose, 42nd Regt., New York, Apr. 5, 1781

[Gen. Sir Henry Clinton's Orders] Head Qrs N York 5th April 1781...

His Excellency the Com^f in Chief has been pleased to make the following Promotions...
42^d Reg^t...
Volunteer Rose, to be Ensign vice [Dougall] Campbell prom^d 1st d^o... [1st Jan 1781]

Source and Notes: "Orders, 1778-1782," *Sir Henry Clinton Papers*, Vol. 266, William L. Clements Library, Univ. of Mich. James Rose was Sgt. Major of the regiment when he was promoted to Brevet-Adjutant of the provisional 2nd Battalion in America in Aug. 1779. Rose would not meet the usual definition of a Volunteer.

Promotion Orders for 42nd Regt. Officers, New York, May 4, 1782

[Gen. Sir Henry Clinton's Orders] Head Quarters New York 4th May 1782
The Commander in Chief has been pleased to make the following Promotions
42^d Regiment...
Volunteer Donald M^cNiven to be Ensign Vice [James] Alston promoted } d^o [4th May
1782]...

Source: "Orders, 1778-1782," *Sir Henry Clinton Papers*, Vol. 266, William L. Clements Library, Univ. of Mich.

Promotion Announcement, 42nd Regt. Officers, London, July 16, 1782

War-Office, July 16, 1782...
42d Regiment of Foot...
Ditto, Volunteer Donald M^cNiren [M^cNiven] to be Ensign, [vice James] Alston.

Source: *London Gazette*, July 13-16, 1782 p. 3.

General Order Issued to Clarify Volunteer Reports, Leffert's House, New York, Oct. 12, 1782

Head Quarters Lefferts House 12th Oct^r 82...

Mem.

The Adjutant General is under the Necessity of requesting when ever names of
Volunteers are given in mention be made of their Age time of Service & where they actually
are...

Source: TNA, *Entry Book of General Orders, Orders Issued by His Excellency General Sir Guy Carleton at New York*, at WO 28/9/215-216, ff. 286 – 482.

Promotion Order for Vol. William Campbell, 42nd Regt. in British Legion, New York, Apr. 29, 1783

Head Quarters New York 29 April 1783...

The Com^f in Chief has been pleased to make the following Promotions...

British Legion

Vol: W^m Campbell, 42^d Reg^t to be Cornet vice Stapleton removed to 54th Reg^t } 25 April 1783...

Source: TNA, *Entry Book of General Orders, Orders Issued by His Excellency General Sir Guy Carleton at New York*, at WO 28/9/215-216, ff. 286 – 482.