

## Extract from Recruiting act 1756.

Three commissioners empowered to levy and cause to be levied within their several jurisdictions and lands such able-bodied men as do not follow or exercise any lawful calling or employment or have not some other lawful and sufficient support and maintenance to serve his majesty as soldiers. and to call on the assistance of Parish and town officers, and to meet in their respective subdivisions, according to the appointment of the justices and commissioners aforesaid, and to issue warrants and constableness etc requiring and commanding every or any one of them to make or cause to be made a general search within their respective parishes etc, for all such persons as they can find, who are or shall appear to be within the description of this act. and bring all such persons before the commissioners at such time and place as shall have been appointed by the justices and commissioners aforesaid for the second meeting of the said commissioners in their respective subdivisions, which time and place shall be prefixed on the said warrants and precept respectively.

And afterwards the said commissioners, within their respective lands and divisions, shall meet at such convenient time or times, as they shall think fit, in order to issue their like warrants or precepts, for making general searches for persons within the said descriptions, and for bringing them before the commissioners at any future times and places appointed by the justices and commissioners aforesaid during the continuance of this act.

If the second meeting appointed to be held in any subdivision, shall be at so great distance of time as may render it inconvenient to issue warrants for bringing persons before such commissioners & the second meeting, then the commissioners of such sub-division may adjourn themselves to some convenient day previous to such second meeting in order to issue their warrants aforesaid.

After such second meeting, constables etc may without tarrying for such warrants as aforesaid may search for and secure such persons as come within the description of this act, and convey them before the commissioners to be listed.



Commissioners to examine the said persons and if found proper for the service, to deliver them over to the military officers and to give receipt for them, and to pay the parish and town officers for their trouble 20 shillings for every such man. and to the church wardens a sum not exceeding 40 S. nor less than 5/- if such a man have a wife or family, as shall be settled by the commissioners.

Able-bodied men only to be enlisted free from ruptures and every other distemper or bodily weakness or infirmity and none under 17 or over 45 years of age. nor papist nor under 5.4.

All inhabitants to be required to be assisting herein.

Clerks to be appointed by the commissioners at their first general meeting ~~hunn-----~~ Clerk to be paid by the commissioners 2/- for every man enlisted.

Commissioners may levy a fine not exceeding £10 for neglect of duty ( on constables)  
Persons obstructing the execution of this act to be fined £10.

Persons who have a vote on the election of members to parliament not liable to be listed.

Impressed men to be discharged after five years if they demand it.

That from and after the 15/ May 1756 until the 15 Oct following all harvest labourers and persons at Hay harvest and corn harvestwork within the time aforesaid within the kingdom of Great Britain, shall not be impressed by virtue of this act, but shall be free and exemptd from the same during the time aforesaid, provided they have a certificate under the hand of the minister or one of the churchwardens, or overseer of the poor, or elders of the parish or place or place where they live allowed under the hand and seal of one justice of the peace of the same county--- and which certificate shall be given gratis.



Recruits made for Liut Nicholas Sutherland  
of Captain Sincliar's company in the first Battalion  
of Highlanders.

Another list calls it Col Montgomery's 1 Batt. of Highlanders  
this list is dated 1757. Jan 29  
Of 26 men 4 were shoemakers and two were tailors.

Cash and sundries in order to screen them from other  
recruiting officers. This amounts to £17 for 17 men £1 each

Another account gives the sum of £78 for levy money for 26 men  
and for 23 men £69  
Advances of pay ( paid by D. G. £90

D. G. list of expenses for recruiting of men for Liut N Suth.  
include 8d spent at the mercate. and expenses for a paper.  
' paid for ribbands 7/6

Another account dated Qud 24th 1755 signed by corp G Hosie  
recruiting corporal for the Royal £ 4.4 ' and that on acc.  
Capt. James Patterson of said reg.

Aother account dated 1755 for recruiting for the Royal  
includes £ 3½ guineas for 3 recruits from Strathnaver.  
This is signed by Sergeant Alex Smith of the Royal  
and includes a sum of £60 to be paid 10 after date to  
D. G. at the Laugh Coffee house in Eginburgh

A dispute about the Highland garb

On this regiment the Fencibles) being disbanded in 1762  
there were some inquiries about clothing drums etc  
belonging to the Earl of Sutherland. from this it appears  
that one of the pipers ran away with his pipes, and  
a hachet man with his apron. The letters are signed by  
Liut Donald Williamson of Barniskirk.

March 1763 received from Liut Williamson the foll. atticles  
belonging to the Earl of Sutherland 100 gredrums capes  
111 greaders capes 4 drums and drumsticks.



There are many attestations taken by various persons  
~~Barraz~~ Sutherland Shyberscross. It is interesting to  
read these descriptions of Highland soldiers so long dead.

They were little men for the most part, five foot four  
five foot five many even smaller. Here is one George Gray  
aged 21 years five feet - inches high Fair complexion  
light brown hair, brown eyes. Another William Gun Five ft  
6 inches. hair and complexion brown grey eyes.

William McKintosh was only five feet three inches high.

fair complexion light brown hair blue eyes. I have not  
yet come on one of six feet. The names are the names of  
the country now. McKenzie, Munro McKay etc. They cover  
all classes of workmen. Labourers, for the most part  
but there is a weaver, shoemaker taylor. There were quite  
a number who were shoemakers and one wonders whether the  
shoemaking trade was not a flourishing one since so many  
were willing to leave their lasts for a musket, and there  
were no mass production shoes to take their place, a shoe-  
maker made shoes in those days, and a man must have shoes  
to his feet. Then there were the drummers, children of  
12 to 16 years of age.

Soldiers could be released to help farmers to get the  
harvest in. Then there is a list of Sutherland fencibles  
whose parents stand greatly in need of their help for the  
down-lay of the crop.. Christian McKay needs either  
of her two sons.



if deemed fit for his majesty's service by the recruiting officer were deemed listed as soldiers.

This act was undoubtedly hailed by some people as an ideal way of getting undesirable or unpopular characters out of the country, and undoubtedly it must have opened the way to great abuses, but even with such wide powers as the act conferred, did not make the commissioners' job an easy one. For no sooner was some unfortunate pointed out as suitable for arrest to be pressed than as likely as not some laird or tacksman claimed him as a respectable character in his own service.

Lord Sutherland's factor was on the qui vive to prevent any such man from being carried off, and he roundly accuses the Sheriff Substitute of Sutherland and Caithness when he arrested several men, of whom, he said, he had had many complaints of theiving over a long period. Whereupon the factor <sup>immediately</sup> ~~was ready to defend their integrity and said they were not men employed with the factor~~ <sup>and said they were not men employed with the factor</sup> with the view of handing them over to the recruiting sergeant.

Eighteenth century correspondants did not mince their words. There <sup>was</sup> ~~was~~ none of <sup>any</sup> ~~those~~ suave <sup>and</sup> ~~and~~ sentences that tell the irate "his remarks have been duly noted and are receiving every attention". The Sheriff Substitute's reply was a vigorous defence of his action.



Oct 12 1759

Liut Adam Henderson thanks the Earl for his appointment to the regiment says he has had very bad success in caithness in recruiting , has only got one man, howevr he seems to have got a few more later on. However in Nov. he is still apologising says he has tried every means in his power . There is a return of 70 men. 2 corps. and 1 drummer by Bighouse. 9th Oct 1759, so perhaps they preferred to enlist under the chief

28 jan 1760. Liut Dishing-ton at Cromarty wants men - fisher -men for the navy., but D. G. replies that the country has been so drained of men that he knows of none. However should he hear of any suitable he will send them

A previous letter says that Lord Sutherland had given orders to all the proprietors that one man in every six should be give over for the navy. In Feb he wites that he cannont understand the difficulty of raising men, that he had been offered good land - men inatead of fishers. He complains of his letters being unanswered

The soldier got 3/- a week for his food and 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d a day bread money to be paid out of the 3/-

The remaining 6d a week together with the allowwnow for poundage and bread money to forma fund of supplies with necessayies amounting to £3. 5. 5. per ann.



I suspect they will be whipt. It is a great loss to their comrades when the furlo men do not return regularly for am persuaded there are a great many of the men who have had no leave of absense as yet who stand as much in need of it as those who have got it. There are two of my Lord's tennants in strathnaver, one Wilm. McKay, the other Farquhair McKay to who I heard his Ldp promise furlo, but they have been overlooked. It will cost you no more trouble than to send their names, with any others you want home to Major Ross and they will have leave given them. I would chuse that Ld S.'s men should at least have their share of any favour that can be given.

The two men I have mentioned are in the grenadier company. As I have the honor at present to command His Lordships Company in Captain Gunn's absense. I shall endeavour to inform myself of the men who stand in most need of leave

Dr. Sir

Yr most Obit. Hble Sert.  
Don. Williamson.

Notes about Angus Gunn a Chelsea Pennsioner.

There has been a roup of his effects. These are not very great ~~dear~~ dear three cows, a bull (weath this) a stirk a young goat. Two whole chairs and two broken ones a timber bowl, two plates, a table cloth, a saucepan, a pair of creels a pair of sheets. He had ten sheep and ewes and a few tools. All these fetches £20

They were sold to pay a debt

#### X. SOLDIERS LETTER

NEW Castle upon Tyne. 20th May 1756.

Sir. This is to ~~let~~ let you know that we are in good health at prsent blissed God for it hopping that these few lins will find you in the same. We arrived here the eight day of this month, but had bad weather on the march, we are all well in health at present and is lerning our exercise along with Donald McKay the corpl, that came to the country for us and is very kind. We beg as a faver to get ane answer on the first occasion. We hear that we shall come to Edinburgh Stirling and Pearth, but is not quite shour, and if so be we shall writ. Remember my love and duty to ~~my love and duty to my wife~~



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Soldiers Letters

New- Castle upon Tyne. Nov 2 1756.

Dear Sir.

I write this few lines hoping that this will find you in good health, as I am at present, blessed be God for it, and I humbly beg that you will do the utmost in your power for my father. I give my Lord a guinea, and at the same time he promised me a place, and I hope they will be wanting nothing that is in your power, as I was the livest help he had and being taken from him. I know your honor by proving his friend can greatly make his loss of me, and in so doing you will for ever oblige your poor petitioner, who in duty shall be bound to pray for your honor's happiness here and for your everlasting happiness hereafter.

All at present.

Your most humble servant.

John Sutherland.

P. S. I beg to be excused for my bad writing, but I shall hope the next will be better. If you please to be so good as to let me have your answer by the bearer.

Date etc torn

Dr. Sir.

Please your honour you will be so good as you promised to send me my wages. Six marks from Alex. McPherson in Brora, along with Thomas Sutherland and if he be not willing to give it Daniel Gunn will testify and I swear for as he knows about all that I got was a pair of shoes in place of two pair, and God knows I served faithfully for it. You sent your service to the lads and they returned the same to your honour in a loving manner, Hows you will remember the above and in so doing you will oblige your humble and affectionate servt.

Kinnes Munro

David Meay has his service to your honour and hopes you will take particular care of all that he trusted to you. David Meay.

Newcastle 29th Oct 1796

Dear Sir.

I received your kind letter upon the 17th Aug. I am very much obliged to you for your kindness about me and about my parents at home.

My Lord received from me three guineas of gold for



for till deliver in your hand, and I hope that you shall do the best use you can for me. 'I wrote till my father for to give my brother any trade the boy chuses, and you'll give my father what you'll think fit for apprenticeship for him. My Captain was so kind to me as that he gave me a furlong at the harvest work and I made the greatest part of the gold at the harvest work. My father is not able to keep the work longer than Whitsunday, and Dr. Sir I humbly beg you to give my father a bit land in any part you think of fit for him and I shall pay you in my own hand, and my father wrote to me that he was scarce of strw for the cattle, and then I hope that you will be so good as for looking on helping him and getting some strw for him, and remembering me to my dear father and mother and sister and brother.

These letters show that the men for the most part enlisted in the hope of benefitting their families. A father or mother left behind in Sutherland, but promised a bit of land if the son went with the regiment. They seem all to be in Lord Manners regiment, so they must have had some Highland company. but they longed to home again, and home and parents and their 'Loving friends' occupy their thoughts to the exclusion of other news. What about the haughty Lords of those days we hear of? A man could go to Lord Sutherland and give him three guineas for his old father in Sutherland. His Lordship thought to tell them they could send their letter in his private bag, and it would cost them nothing 'neither hear nor there.' Their captain was kind, so was the sergeant that taught the drill, in fact there seems to have been that good understanding between these raw Sutherland lads and their officers that one expects now -a-days, but is only part of the English tradition.

There is no need to be sentimental over their sufferings, for the regiment was disbanded after a year or two of service at home. Having once conquered the highlanders passion for home no doubt they were happy enough, but were they ever again happy in those poor highland crofts which meant so much to them when they left home?



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But Caa Th Earl of Sutherland.

Captains John Sutherland, Adam Gordon, Erick Sutherland  
Jame s Sutherland, Ino? McKay. torn

Among the Lieutenants      Duncan Forbes, Eneas McLeod.  
John Reid .

1759 Farr 43. Weldon 40. Golspy EE 30. Lairg 17.

Rogart 30 Clyne 10. Loth 19. Dornoch 16

Liut Walter Gray 14 Assint 41 Braemore 18 Lord Duffus 3  
Sundries 3.

Col. William Wymyss.    Ltut Col , Nicholas Sutherland.

1 Major James Sutherland , 2 Sir Roderick McKenzie.  
Captain. Geo. Sutherland Will. McLean. Walter Gray  
Charles Gordon ( Ardagh)

Among the Captain's lads. The names of Alex Dunbar.  
Hugh Scobie.

Derrybegg at the head of the Glean @ Orcha. Aug 23. 1759

Sir. Mr Dugald Gilchrist. I have thought proper to trouble your honor with these few lines. Hoping that you will be so good as to release this letter and send it by a trusty hand to Mr William Grant Chooles (school master in the parish oh Clyne in Sutherlandshire, and will let my friens knoww all things about me, which I am in hopes to hear good news from the country.

Sir, this comes with my kind complements to yourself  
Sir and to Mr William Forbes and all his family, and  
the people of the whole parish of Golspy. No Mor att  
present from your true and rusty frind James McKay  
Soldier. In Lord Charles' Manners Regiment of Foott



now lying at Fort William and fort Augustus in the Highlands of Scotland - - - self belongs to Captain William Plaistow's Company of the said regiment.

Levy money was £1 1 per head and subsistence was 6d a day.

The levy money varied and there was considerable competition for recruits. I believe officers had to produce a certain number of recruits to get commissions, and therefore were in some cases prepared to add to the levy money out of their own pockets. Recruits engaged to go and then backed out. Pay was 6<sup>d</sup> day.

Re this . Letter from three men at C--- To D. G.  
" Dr. Sir. 21st Feb 1757.

In consequence of your desire we went to some trouble to get recruits for the Earl, and gave earnest money to a few lads on this bounds, who refuse now absolutely to go, because their equals all do not go from here, and not only so but threaten that they'll take money from other officers, notwithstanding of their taking earnest money from us. The lads that engaged are John McKay alias Mchulchan in Achness. size 5. 2 etc. ----- we promised two guineas and a half to each of them, under which we could get none here, and have advanced a part of that already as is said.

Yr most aff, hum. servt.  
Robt. Gordon . Wm. McKay. W, Gordon.

X Men for captain Sinclair's Co got £3 . 3 levy money

Exerpts from the enlistment act 1757.

List of people to work act J/. D's Land Tax Comms. and Maj of Burghs.

" Three commissioners empowered to levy and cause to be levied within their several limits & jurisdictions all lawful able-bodied men as do not follow or exercise any lawful calling or employment, and have not some other lawful and sufficient support & maintenance., to serve his Majesty



## Recruiting

as soldiers -.-.- to make a search within their respective parishes for all such persons who are or shall appear th them to be within the description of this act ... and bring all such persons to the Comms. at such time and place as shall have been appointed.

Warrants had to be issued to enable persons to search. Comms: to examine such persons and if found proper to deliver them over to the military Officers= Officers to give receipt forthem, and to pay the parish and town officers for their trouble 20/- for every such man etc  
Ablebodied men only to be enlisted. Over 17 Under 45  
No papists. nor under five ft 4.  
All inhabitants to be required to assist therein.

From 15 May to 15 Oct all persons working on harvest work to be exempt. provided they have a certificate under the hands of the minister and ~~his~~ churchwarden

A Discharge from Jean Murray spouse to John Suth. soldier Q Dec 1760. for three pounds to be paid her ann from her husbands pay.

A number of accounts to the Royal Infirmaary for sick soldiers. 16 days for a man cost 3/8.

Dornoch 22 June 1758.

Dr. Sir ( D. G. )

Adam Urquhart who pretends to be employed by you or Wm. Munro in Rhives for buying some timber at the Bonar. He seems to be too fond of military co. and as such envolved himself this night in co. with a recruiting party under the co. of E. John. Sutherland of Cambusavie. About the listing of him acting Maj had a deal of trouble. After all the only scruple he had was that he wd. not have an opportunity of fighting Donald Suth. now prisoner at the Tolbooth. of this Burgh. Upon which the said maj ordered him to close confinement and the stocks etc  
..... I think none has a more natural title to him than Cambusavie's son, the exigencies of whose family you are not a stranger to.

D. G. agreed to let the man go. He would rather he enlisted with a countryman than with another.



A letter from Henry Pelham to E. of S. saying " His Royal Highnes ( P. William?) has never spoken to me on the subject of your Lordships cl~~ai~~ms nor has there been any special report made by Sir E. Fraser ---- When other cl~~ai~~ms of a like nature are laid before the King I shall take care those of your Lords<sup>h</sup>ips are not forgotten.

These~~d~~ cl~~ai~~ms apparently included damages suffered by Sutherlanders during the ' rebel' invasion. and were not only Lord S. own losses.

Warrant for raising 10 companies in 1779 of 5 Ser<sup>g</sup>ts 5 corporals. 2 drummers each and 100 private men not to be sent out of great Brittain.

Amongst the damages of the ' 45 one man complains that he had the shoes and stockings taken off his feet. Many lost their shirts, a ewe , a horse, or swine, the smith was robbed of arms, the wife of meal, the wigmaker of his wigs and the merchants of stuffs snf groceries which included powdered sugar and butter ,also tobacco.

The fishermen lost their nets and were idle as they could not go fishing. Their boats broke loose and were damaged and they themselves had not been paid for ' attending' on Lord Loudon. by which I suppose is meant when he was ferried over into Sutherland.