

FAMOUS LETTERS IN CANADIAN HISTORY

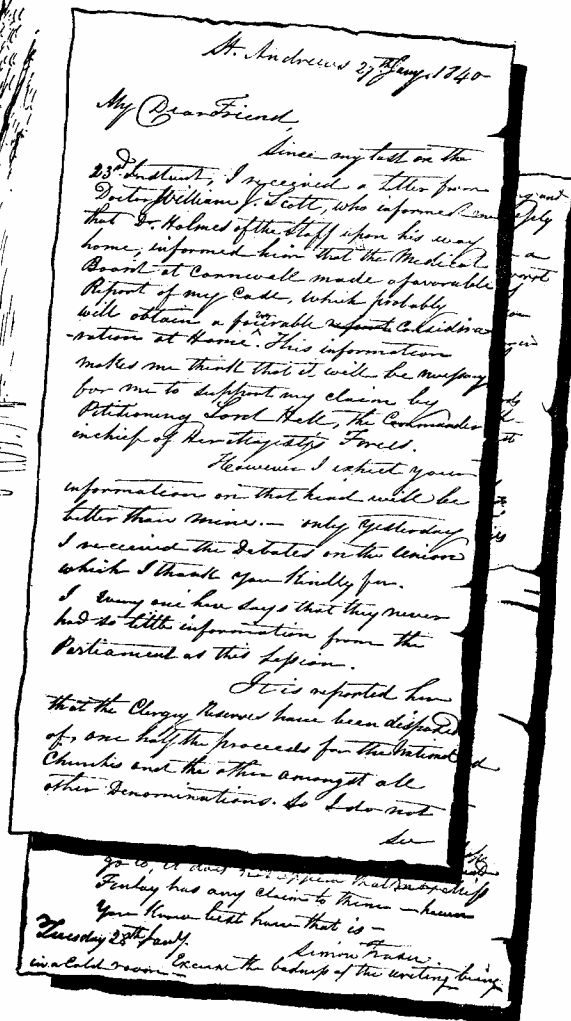


Fame Fades

For Simon Fraser, the days of glory were long over when he wrote this letter of concern about a military pension to his friend Donald McDonnell, MLA and former commander of the First Regiment of the Stormont Militia.

But 32 years before in his prime, Fraser had completed one of the epic exploration trips of all times when he travelled from Fort George to Mosquiam near the mouth of the mighty British Columbia river which bears his name. He was personally disappointed, though, because he thought he was descending the Columbia River.

After retiring from the Northwest Company Mr. Fraser retired to his native St. Andrews near Cornwall and



tried his hand at several ventures before ending his days in poverty.

He had been injured in a fall while serving in Quebec in 1838 with the Stormont Militia and eventually was given a small pension through efforts of Mr. McDonnell and other friends.

Simon Fraser Concerned About Pension

St. Andrew's, 27th of January, 1840

My dear friend:

Since my last on the 23rd instant I received a letter from Dr. William J. Scott who informed me that Dr. Holmes of the (military medical) staff upon his way home informed him that the medical board at Cornwall made a favorable report upon my case which probably will obtain a favorable consideration at home. This information makes me think it will be necessary for me to support my claim by petitioning Lord Hill, the

commander in chief of Her Majesty's Forces.

However I expect your information on that hand will be better than mine. Only yesterday I received the debates on the union which I thank you kindly for.

Every one here says that they never had so little information from the Parliament as this session . . .

SIMON FRASER.

Excuse the badness of the writing being in a cold room.