

Simon Fraser of Oliver was gruesomely executed by the English after being captured in 1306. His head was displayed on a pike in London beside that of William Wallace. Other Frasers enjoyed happier fates. They have been social reformers, famous retailers and in one case a physician offering most peculiar cures.



# CASTLE FRASER IS A SPLENDID BARONIAL RESIDENCE COMPLETE WITH FAIRY TALE TURRETS WHICH LOOK MUCH THE SAME TODAY AS IN THE 17TH CENTURY

Fraser Clan tartan

Castle Fraser



Kinnaird Head Castle Lighthouse & Museum



## FRASER ATTRACTIONS

**Castle Fraser is a splendid baronial residence complete with fairy tale turrets which looks much the same today as in the 17th century.**

Beautifully furnished, with splendid gardens and woodland walks it is one of the leading heritage attractions near Aberdeen.

The castle has evolved and grown since the 1400s and reached its zenith in the late 16th century.

At that time the Frasers were so powerful that they even had the confidence to include openly Catholic decorative motifs, even though Scotland was still reverberating from the success of its Protestant Reformation.

In 1570 Sir Alexander Fraser of Philorth built a castle atop high cliffs looking out across the sea northeast of Fraserburgh.

It might have remained a relatively unremarkable castle had it not been bought from the Frasers in 1787 and used as the base for the first purpose-built lighthouse on the Scottish mainland.

The lantern, which used a revolutionary system of parabolic mirrors to magnify its light, was created by Thomas Smith who was responsible for Edinburgh's street lights and was Robert Louis Stevenson's grandfather.

It is now an extraordinary-looking structure with a round lighthouse tower reaching up from one corner of the old castle's roof.

Kinnaird Head is now home to the Museum of Scottish Lighthouses.

## FRASERBURGH

The Frasers of Philorth received rights over the fishing in the area round Faithlie from King James V and built a harbour to exploit them in the 1540s.

The work of Alexander Fraser, 7th of Philorth, to turn the area into a centre of commerce resulted in it being renamed in his honour.

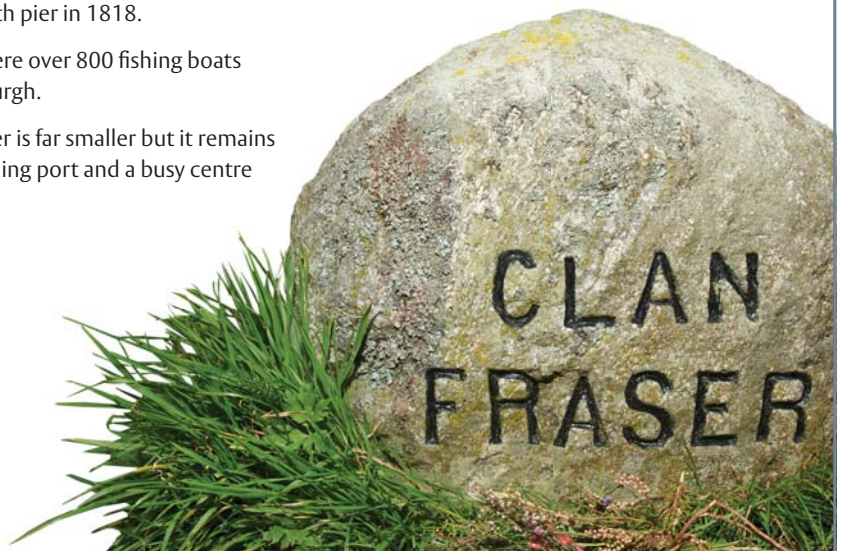
His son, also Alexander, even had dreams of creating a university.

While this never came about the Buchan town did become a free port and rapidly grew in importance.

The creation of a new north pier in the early 19th century attracted the herring drying industry and huge hauls of fish led to the building of a south pier in 1818.

By 1894 there were over 800 fishing boats based in Fraserburgh.

Today the number is far smaller but it remains an important fishing port and a busy centre for tourism.



Falkland Palace

Castle Fraser



# THE ATTEMPTED CURE INVOLVED SHAVING HER HEAD AND TYING PIGEONS TO HER FEET

## NOTABLE CHARACTERS

Thankfully medicine has improved since the days of Sir Alexander Fraizer. Educated in Aberdeen he rose to become physician to kings Charles I and Charles II.

The diarist Samuel Pepys says he was popular with rich men for curing their claps. When Queen Henrietta Maria was severely ill in 1663 the attempted cure involved shaving her head and tying pigeons to her feet.

Centuries earlier **Simon Fraser of Oliver** was a key figure in the Wars of Independence, leading the Scots to victory at Roslin in 1303.

After attending the inauguration of Robert the Bruce in 1306 he was captured and executed.

**Angelica Fraser** (1823-1910) had a different experience of London.

The twelfth child of an Aberdeen merchant she dedicated her life to social reform after an unhappy teenage love affair.

In 1879 Angelica moved to London and earned an enduring reputation for her work to help poor tailors.

**Hugh Fraser** (1903-66) had other links to the rag trade.

The son of a drapery warehouseman he built House of Fraser, one of Britain's most famous department store chains.

Born in Lanarkshire he left school in 1919 and went into his father's business at Fraser, Sons & Co. Emporium in Glasgow.

Sheer dedication saw him become managing director at 21.

He defied the economic depression of the 1930s and started buying rival stores.

Gradually his empire spread through Scotland to England and eventually took over Harrods in London.

# FRASER SITES

## 1 Castle Fraser:

Built in the later 16th century by Michael Fraser, 6th Laird of Muchall, and his son Andrew, the 1st Lord Fraser. Now in the ownership of the National Trust for Scotland.

## 2 Culloden:

At the Battle of Culloden in 1746, Frasers made up the largest centre regiment of the front line, with 400 men under Charles Fraser of Inverallochy, and Simon Fraser, Master of Lovat.

## 3 Falkland Palace:

Simon, 6th Lord Lovat, married Jean, daughter of James Stewart, 1st Lord Doune, at the Palace before James VI and Queen Anna.

## 4 Kinnaird Head Castle Lighthouse & Museum

Bought by the Frasers in 1787 and used as a base for the first purpose-built lighthouse on the Scottish mainland.



### Key to sites

- Historic Scotland
- National Trust Scotland
- Historic Houses Association

Detail of Falkland Palace



Culloden



Kinnaird Head Castle Lighthouse

