

## BASTIDE THE SURVEYOR OF GLEN ARKLET

Quite often my wife Geraldine and I go for a walk on Signal Hill St. John's and look across the ocean from the most easterly point of North America towards Europe. I am reminded of a link between this place and my native Glen Arklet. For it here that Lt. (later General) Henry Bastide along with Lt. John Dumaresque surveyed Glen Arklet in 1712-1719

When the Board of Ordnance Surveyors assigned two teenagers - Lieutenants John Henri Bastide & John Dumaresque - to survey Glen Arklet in 1718 and draw up architectural plans of the fort at Inversnaid (spelled *Innersnait* on their maps and architectural drawings). Both were already seasoned military architects and surveyors having under taken projects from Fort Cloque the on Channel Islands. Thanks to the National Library of Scotland, has their maps and sketches plans of Glen Arklet and architectural maps and sketches of Glen Arklet are preserved for posterity in National Library of Scotland. When Dumaresque & Bastide surveyed Glen Arklet Corriearklet was a substantial farm town' and was the main administrative and the religious centre of the district and had substantial run-rig farming system and with 22 buildings that were occupied mostly McGregor and MacFarlane families, whose well-documented genealogical records reads like a who's who of the district's glitterati who had great influence locally far beyond Glen Arklet. 1719 and a 1742 plan, respectively, show 15 buildings. By 1817, there were only 6 buildings at Corriearklet and by 1820 while Thompson's map shows only one building, which is the only surviving farm house and is now a very nice B&B. During Bastide and Dumaresque's time in Glen Arklet, Rob Roy, who was bankrupt at the time, was living elsewhere to the west on the Duke of Argyll's land. Indeed the closest Lt. Bastide's and Rob Roy got to each other was at the Battle of Glen Shiel between the Jacobite/Spanish forces and Hanoverian forces on 10th June, 1719. This was Bastide's first great moment of glory in a long distinguished career; insofar he drew up the plan of battle on the spot which included Rob Roy's contingent of 40 MacGregors among the 1,000 strong Spanish/Jacobite Army. It was Bastide's sketches that gave victory to the 1600 strong and much better armed and prepared Hanoverian army. Rob Roy was badly wounded in the battle. Bastide went on to become essentially the Engineer under Major General Wolfe who, as a Brevet Major following the Battle of Culloden in 1745 was responsible building and/or rebuilding the roads throughout the Trossachs and beyond - including the old military road in Glen Arklet, the Loch Lomond road to Tyndrum, others in the district some of which are still main routes today.

During the French and Indian War (1754-1763) Wolfe and Bastide had lead roles in the American theater of the Seven Years War. While they both on the side, to say that they collaborate in good faith would be a misstatement, for they could not stand each other's company. Bastide, who was much older, thought of Wolfe as an arrogant youngster; whereas Wolfe thought Bastide was incompetent. In practice, they were both type A individuals and very clever soldiers. For example, for the British to succeed in America they first had to deal with the virtually impregnable French fort Louisbourg, Nova Scotia and later at the heights of Abraham in Quebec. In the case Louisbourg is was nae bother at a' for Bastide. He simply commandeered a Scottish emigrant 100 coal miners to tunnel under a weak spot in the fort and blew it up just in time for British his troops to enter and take control of the fort. While Bastide was based at Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia, he built a series of strategic forts including one to defend St. John's, Newfoundland. In addition there were many coastal artillery batteries to protect fishing villages such as Fort Amherst at the entrance to the St. John's harbour (named after Field Marshal Jeffery Amherst) and also Fort William. Despite that, the French forces occupied St. John's. But, on September 15, 1762 British forces, commanded by Amherst, defeated the French forces at the Battle of Signal Hill. On this occasion, Bastide (the surveyor of Glen Arklet) and Chief Military Engineer for North America) was incapacitated with gout and was confined to a battleship lying offshore. Nevertheless, true to form, he drew a battle plan for the siege of John's. The Battle for Signal Hill was the last battle of **Seven Years' War** which led to the Treaty of Paris in which the French conceded North America to the British.

1712

1817

1820

1865

