

## 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo

### George Davidson 1776-1815....Hero of Waterloo Campaign

*by Betty Cosgrove, Huntly*

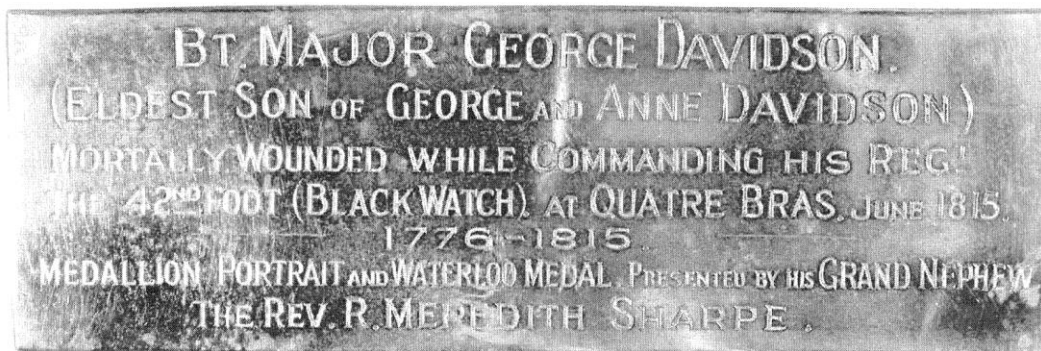


June 2015 marks the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. Our Clan Davidson archives include details of several different Davidsons who took part in this campaign. One of the most distinguished was George Davidson who died at Quatre Bras two days before the main battle at Waterloo.

George Davidson was a son of George Davidson, the Bank Agent for the Bank of Scotland in Huntly. He started his military career as an ensign in the Gordon Highlanders [The 100<sup>th</sup> Regt] when the regiment was first formed in the early 1790s. He married Jane Forsyth in 1801. By 1808 he had joined the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt [later known as the Black Watch] and took part in the Peninsular campaign fighting under Wellington, which saw the French eventually chased out of Portugal and Spain. George Davidson was promoted to Captain. Later, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regiment played a major role in the Waterloo campaign of June 1815, where George was fatally wounded at the Battle of Quatre Bras immediately before Waterloo. During this bitter battle, he briefly commanded his regiment after 3 senior officers were all killed in quick succession.



*The Waterloo Medal was awarded to any soldier of the British Army (including members of the King's German Legion) who took part in one or more of the following battles: Battle of Ligny (16 June 1815), Battle of Quatre Bras (16 June 1815), and the Battle of Waterloo (18 June 1815).*



*Brass Plaque commemorating the presentation of George Davidson's portrait and medal to Huntly Town Council*