

Making A Rope

The rope made by James Ross at Macduff was produced in a long building called a rope works.

There are two main points to understand about rope-making:

- 1. several strands of twine are twisted together, for strength
- 2. the rope must be kept under tension while it is being twisted

You can demonstrate these points for yourself and make a length of miniature rope.

Work with a partner.

- cut 3 equal lengths of string, about 14 inches long
- knot them together; one of you holds onto the knot, keeping the strings taught
- the other person twists each string in turn (keep hold of them as you finish and don't let them unwind)

You will need to look at the string before you start twisting. In which direction is the string already twisted? If it twists to the right, you must twist to the right also (or the other way round, if it twists to the left!).

When you have 3 twisted strings in your hand, twist all 3 together in the opposite direction, keeping the tension firm all the time. This will now look like a mini rope.

Bind the ends by whipping them with a piece of wool.

Whipping is done like this:

- cut a piece of wool about 8 inches long and fold it in half
- lay the loop end against your rope, a good inch from the loose ends
- take one end of the wool and wrap it neatly around the rope, working upwards towards the loop

Card 2 (back)

- as you get close to the loop, put the wool through the back of it
- take the other end of the wool and pull gently so that the loop slides under the whipping
- whip the other end of your rope the same way
- trim all loose ends

Try this using different types and thicknesses of twine!

In James Ross's day, jute was used for making rope. This is a natural fibre from a plant.

Dundee became a major centre for processing jute, in the 1800s.

Most rope these days is made from synthetic fibres.

You can find out how to make a skipping rope out of twisted plastic carrier bags, at:

www.highlightskids.com/Express/Crafts/Games/C0894_jumprope.asp



The soldier on the left is wearing a Captain's uniform.

The soldier on the right is dressed in a typical Loyal Volunteer's uniform of the 1790s, as worn by James Ross.



The Poet, the Politician and the Ropemaker

How old were they really?

The list of Loyal Volunteers written in 1795 (part of it reproduced below) gave an approximate age for each man.

On the back of this card, you will find their names and dates of births, as they appear in the Old Parish Records.

• Find out how old each Volunteer was, when he signed up for duty in May 1795

First name	Second name	Occupation	Age range
James	Joass	Wright	16 to 20
William	Peterkin	Weaver	16 to 20
James	Bissett	Merchant	16 to 20
James	Ross	Ropemaker	16 to 20
William	Paterson	Weaver	20 to 30
John	Raffan	Wright	20 to 30
James	Club	-	20 to 30
Peter	Murray	Wright	30 to 45
John	Findlater	Shoemaker	30 to 45

Card 4 (back)

James, lawful son to Alex. Joass & Helen Ross February 23rd 1777 William, lawful son to Will. Peterkin & Jannet Downie June 24th 1774 James, lawful son to William Bisset & Isabel Bruce April 14th 1776 James, lawful son to John Ross & Isabel Findlater December 3rd 1780 William, lawful son to Alex. Paterson & Marg. West April 21st 1771 March 14th 1771 John, lawful son to John Raffan and Isobel Gow James, lawful son to Alexander Club & Elspeth Walson March 14th 1764 Peter, lawful son to Walter Murray & Anne Andrew February 24th 1760 John, lawful son to John Findlater & Jannet Gordon April 4th 1761

Note: we cannot be 100% certain that the names above were the men later listed as Volunteers, because it was not compulsory to register a child's birth until 1855.

All of the above were born in the Macduff area, however.

From the Aberdeen Journal, January 1793

Louis crossed on foot the first court; in the second he mounted into a carriage ...
the Executioner awaited him at the Place de la Revolution, where Louis arrived
at ten minutes after 10 o'clock.

Further Particulars

His Majesty wore a great coat of the fashion of those which are commonly worn with other coats by the French, of a dark colour, black silk breeches and stockings, all together neat, and his hair was dressed.

Every account states that he advanced towards the awful apparatus with a calmness which astonished everyone ...

When he prepared to speak, all was for a moment silent; the military music stopped, till ordered again to proceed by the savage directors of the sacrifice, and the voice of the dying King was drowned in clamour. However, he was heard distinctly to pronounce "I die innocent – I forgive -"

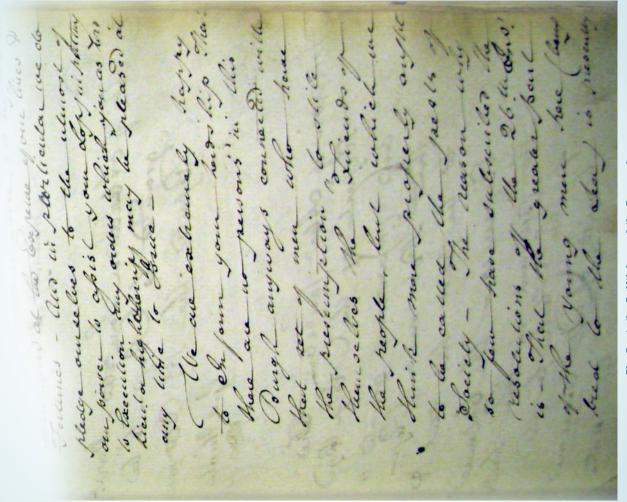
...The head of Louis was then struck off! And being exhibited, a thousand cries were heard of Vive Ia Nation, Vive Ia Republique Françoise!

Some volunteers dipt their pikes, others their handkerchiefs, in the blood of the King ...

The grave, in which the body was deposited, was fourteen feet deep, and seven in width.

Try to read this document in its original form.

Turn over for a typed version, if you need help.



The Poet, the Politician and the Ropemaker

TRANSCRIPT

to assist your Lordship putting to execution any orders which you as Lord ... and in particular we do pledge ourselves to the utmost of our power Lieutenant on high authority may be pleased at any time to issue.

have the presumption to style themselves the Friends of the People, but is that the greater part of the young men here (being bred to the sea) is the reason why so few have subscribed the resolution of the 26th inst. which we think more properly ought to be called the pests of Society persons in this Burgh anyways connected with that set of men who We are extremely happy to inform your Lordship that there are no presently

A Man's A Man For A' That

Is there, for honest poverty
That hangs his head and a' that;
The coward slave, we pass him by,
We dare be poor for a' that!
For a' that, and a' that,
Our toils obscure and a' that,
The rank is but the guinea's stamp,
The man's the gowd for a' that.

What though on hamely fare we dine,
Wear hoddin grey and a' that;
Gie fools their silks, and knaves their wine,
A man's a man for a' that!
For a' that and a' that,
Their tinsel show and a' that;
The honest man, though e'er sae poor,
Is king o' men for a' that!

Ye see yon birkie, ca'd a lord,
Wha struts and stares and a' that;
Though hundreds worship at his word,
He's but a coof for a' that.
For a' that and a' that,
His riband, star and a' that,
The man of independent mind
He looks and laughs at a' that.

A king can mak a belted knight,
A marquis, duke and a' that;
But an honest man's aboon his might,
Guid faith, he maunna fa' that!
For a' that and a' that,
Their dignities, and a' that,
The pith o' sense and pride o' worth,
Are higher rank than a' that.

Then let us pray that come it may As come it will for a' that That sense and worth, o'er a' the earth,
May bear the gree and a' that.
For a' that and a' that,
It's coming yet for a' that,
That man to man the world o'er,
Shall brothers be for a' that!

This song was chosen to mark the opening of the Scottish Parliament in 1999.

You can see it performed by Paolo Nutini, Alex Salmond and others on – www.bbc.co.uk/robertburns

Card 7 (back)

The Dumfries Volunteers

Does haughty Gaul invasion threat?
Then let the louns beware, Sir;
There's wooden Walls upon our seas,
And Volunteers on Shore, Sir:
The Nith shall run to Corsicon,
And Criffel sink in Solway,
Ere we permit a Foreign Foe
On British ground to rally!
We'll ne'er permit a Forien Foe
On British ground to rally!

O let us not like snarling curs,
I wrangling be divided,
Till, slap! Come in an uncoo loon,
And wi' a rung decide it!
Be Britain still to Britain true,
Amang oursels united;
For never but by British hands
Maun British wrangs be righted!
No! Never but by British hands
Shall British wrangs be righted!

The kettle o' the Kirk and State,
Perhaps a clout may fail in't;
But deil a foreign tinker loon
Shall ever ca'a a nail in't.
Our Fathers' bluid the kettle bought,
And wha wad dare to spoil it,
By heavens! The sacrilegious dog
Shall fuel be to boil it!
By heavens! The sacrilegious dog
Shall fuel be to boil it!

The wretch that would a tyrant own,
And the wretch, his true-born brother,
Who'd set the mob above the throne,
May they be damn'd together!
Who will not sing "God Save the King",
Shall hang as high's the steeple;
But while we sing "God Save the King",
We'll ne'er forget The People!
But while we sing "God Save the King",
We'll ne'er forget The People!

A guinea was a coin worth £1 and 1 shilling (in other words, 21 shillings).

- What was the value of the FIRST bounty, in shillings?
- What was the value of the SECOND bounty, in shillings?
- By how much as a percentage was the bounty raised?

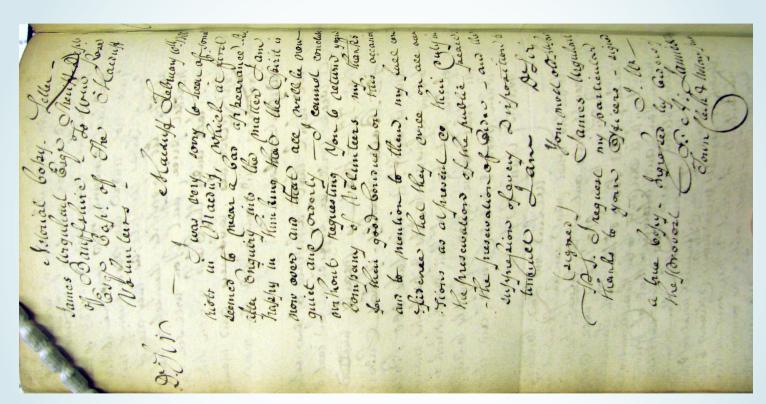
One guinea in 1790 would give you the same spending power as £58.83 today.

- ♦ How much would 2 guineas have been worth in 1790?
- How much would 20 guineas have been worth in 1790?
- Would you have accepted a bounty and gone to war?

Minting guineas was halted in 1799, due to a shortage of gold during the wars with France.

For more information on currency in the past, go to www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/currency





Card 9 (back) TRANSCRIPT

Notarial Copy - Letter -

to William Rose Esq., Captain of the Macduff Volunteers James Urquhart Esq. Sheriff Deputy of Banffshire

Macduff February 10th 1796

of the public peace – the preservation of order – and the suppression of return your Company of Volunteers my thanks for their good conduct on this occasion and to mention to them my full confidence that they will on all occasions as at present do their duty in the preservation quiet and orderly – I cannot conclude without requesting you to which at first seemed to mean a bad appearance – But happy in thinking that the spirit is now over and that all will be now I was very sorry to hear of some riots in Macduff,

disposition to tumult.

l am ...

(signed by James Urguhart and two others)

The Minister reported to the Sefsion that he had a Letter from the Trustees of the late Mil Golden of Buthlaw informing him that The had by how wice left \$50 Stor. Is the Non of the Town of Bruff to be disposed of al the direction of the Minister and Think Sofria. That sum is payable at Misty. The Sopion on account of the very toder Winter resolve to lay out part of this money for purchasing Meal & Toals for the March 1. 600 15/8: Gave out 9/10

ational Records of Scotland CH2/1109/4 page 1

Document showing people paying Hair Powder Tax in 1803 (see the last column but one, on the right)

An ASSESSMENT made upon the feveral inhabitants of the feveral Duties under mentioned, from Whitfunday 1802 to Whitfunday 1802	t. 4 Wheel Carriages 1	7 10				•				ient passed	Surveyor.
Date of House and Windows Industries Francisco Day, Day, Day, Day, Day, Day, Day, Day,	Frompred, Private U.G. Shape Constitute A Teel Clarifies	2 Wheel Car. & was by One Hones we are Lorde as one Hones wood Care.	Faxed Carts. Duty.	Flories for riding or drawing Car- riages with Four & Two Wheels.	Other Horico	s and Mulen. Dury.	ths compad.	Dogs.	Armor Bearin	Powder	TOTAL
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BOARDING and EDUCATION at BANFF. IN the ACADEMY at Banff, the following branches of A Education are taught-I. The Classics, Latin, and Greck, with Geography, and the Principles of Rhetorick, by Mr Cruick hank. . II. Writing, Arithmetic, Book-keeping, Mensuration, Algebra, Practical Geometry, Navigation, and Church Mulic, by Mr Simpson. III. The English Language, by the revd Mr Farquhar. IV. The French Tongue, by Le Chevalier De Villeblanche, a native of France, and a man of education. V Drawing, by Mr James Cordiner. VI. Infirumental Music, and Dancing, by Mr Cooper. Boarding and Education are given to young gentlemen by Mr Cruk hank, the head-mafter, at the rate of L. S. a quarter, and a guinea at Candlemais. ci The fituation of Bapfi is very healthy; and as it is a small town, it is happily free from the amusements and tempta-P. C tions, to frequent and to hurtful to youth in populous citius.