

Royal



Yorkers

*With the latest Advices, Foreign and Domestick*

## REV WAR ENCAMPMENT ~ FORT GEORGE Niagara-On-The-Lake ~ July 29 & 30

Hopefully this newsletter will be in your *hot little hands* in time to remind you of the Fort George Rev War Encampment. The event takes place on July 29 & 30 at Fort George in the town of Niagara-On-The-Lake.

The schedule will be a fairly typical Rev War event, with Saturday morning devoted to each Army's formation, safety inspection and unit drills. Brigade of the American Revolution safety regulations apply, with some additions by Parks Canada, which are in no way onerous.

Soon after lunch, there's a battle to establish siege lines, followed by the building of siege works, patrols and skirmishes.

In late afternoon, all the ladies who wish to participate are welcome to join in the celebration of Lady Polly Johnson's birthday with a 'fashion' parade. Proper period dress representing all levels of society is most welcome. Of course, modern dress is not.

After the evening meal, there's a dusk battle where the fort will be defended against an attack. As darkness falls, the attack is assisted by fireworks to simulate a bombardment.

Once the battle is over and safety inspections complete, the troops are dismissed and invited to attend a free beer-drinking tavern run by the fort's staff. Bring your own period drinking vessel or use the plastic provided. If units want to set up their own punch-drinking taverns, that's entirely acceptable.

The Sunday schedule will be similar to Saturday, except the fort will end up in the hands of the Crown. Camps will be struck in the late afternoon.

All meals will be supplied by the

Friends of Fort George. These will not be period correct. That does not mean that units cannot set up kitchen or recreational camp fires. That's each unit's choice, as long as the fires are positioned correctly in the camp. Fires are to be laid directly on the sod and all unused firewood is to be restacked at the end of the event.

Indoor washrooms with showers are a very short walk from both the Crown and Congress camps. Potable water is readily available.

All Yorkers should bring alternate kit so that they can join the Marksmen as

rebel Continentals. Different shirts, waistcoats, hats, whatever makes you appear different than a Yorker, will do the trick. If you've got nothing different, you can appear with a fatigue hat and waistcoat and do the job. We will have opportunities to be ourselves and whip some butt, but the lack of rebels makes it necessary to take on this alternate role for part of this event. AND, we will take pride in showing the rebels what REAL Continentals were capable of.

L/Col Gavin Watt

## ROSE MUSEUM EVENT Waupoos ~ August 26 & 27

This event is in Loyalist country. Just like Adolphustown, this is a place where our loyalist founders settled and started this province. Waupoos is in Cataragui Township No.5 where British and German veterans were settled beside their loyalist compatriots.

### The Event

**Activities:** We are still developing the schedule, but here are some details without timings.

First, we are there to help the Rose Museum, so we'll do some Show & Tell stuff, probably in relays by unit, or combinations of units. That duty will involve relating to the public, telling them about who we are and what we represent. Each unit will think about how to best entertain the visitors with some wee, imaginative scenarios. This will be a 'public contact' event, so members should be ready to be friendly and outgoing.

As well, visitors to the museum will be encouraged to walk the few hundred yards down to our camp, so we better have it 18C at all times and be very willing to show folks through and talk to them, rather than ignore them like usual.

A major activity will be wargames on the adjacent property, which has belonged to my wife Gill's family since the 1950's. This property is known as Heald's Pond Farm and dates back to the 1784 settlement by British Regulars, Nathan Heald and Boods North.

The part of the property that we will 'play' on is heavily wooded, with a few 200+-year-old trees - supposedly one of the few remaining, original woodlots in Ontario. My nephew has cut a number of trails through the woods and there's a gravelled road from the 'highway' down to the lake.

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*Ladies, ladies. No need to fight over who gets to wear the cap!*  
 (Lewis Walpole Library. 1774.)

## New Fashion'd Ladies' Caps at the Following Prices

A selection of fine sewn cambrick caps in the newest taste -

Single piece Band	\$50
2-piece Band whip gathered	\$55
Single piece Band doubled	\$55
2 piece Band with Ruffles	\$60
Lappet Cap	\$60
Lappet Cap with Ruffles	\$75
No Custom Work.	

NB: I deal in READY MONEY only.

Mistress Watt,  
 Duncan's Company KRR NY

*Available at Fort George*

### T-Shirts for Sale

There are now two designs of shirts: a *General Purpose* version about "Coming Soon to a Valley Near You"; and a specific Light Infantry one. There is one each of both designs available in XL. Contact the Colonel and make the purchase. Shirts cost \$10 each. We will be placing a new order for shirts, so please send your order with size to the Colonel at [gk.watt@sympatico.ca](mailto:gk.watt@sympatico.ca).



### Also For Sale

A new supply of superbly made *drinking mugs* and *dog dishes* were recently received. There is one ration dish left at \$30.00. Place your order at the above address.

### Coming Events

- July 29 & 30**    **Rev War Encampment**  
 – Fort George, NOTL
- Aug 26 & 27**    **Rose House Museum**  
 – Picton, ON
- Sept 16**        **Thornhill Parade**  
 – Thornhill, ON
- Sept 31 & Oct 1** **225<sup>th</sup> West Canada Creek**  
 (2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Event)  
 – Poland, NY
- Oct 21 & 22**    **Siege of Yorktown**  
 – Endview Plantation, VA



*...I already told ya lad, I wasn't in  
 "Pirates of the Caribbean"!*

(Continued from page 1)

At the lake, there's a harbour, i.e. Heald's Pond, and four simple cottages, the inside of which will be off limits, although working around them shouldn't be a problem as long as we play safe and sensible. We've got 100+ acres to work in and we won't be bored for a second.

We can expect some kids and adults wandering around down near the lake and maybe in the bush, but we can tell them to buzz off or the family ogre, Uncle Gavin, will beat their freakin' heads in. A set of scenarios utilizing the trails, road and clearings will be developed to occupy our purile minds.

Our current plan is to pit the Hanau Jägers, Butler's and King's Rangers against the Yorkers and Marksmen, but we'll have to wait till we see what we've got before we firm that up.

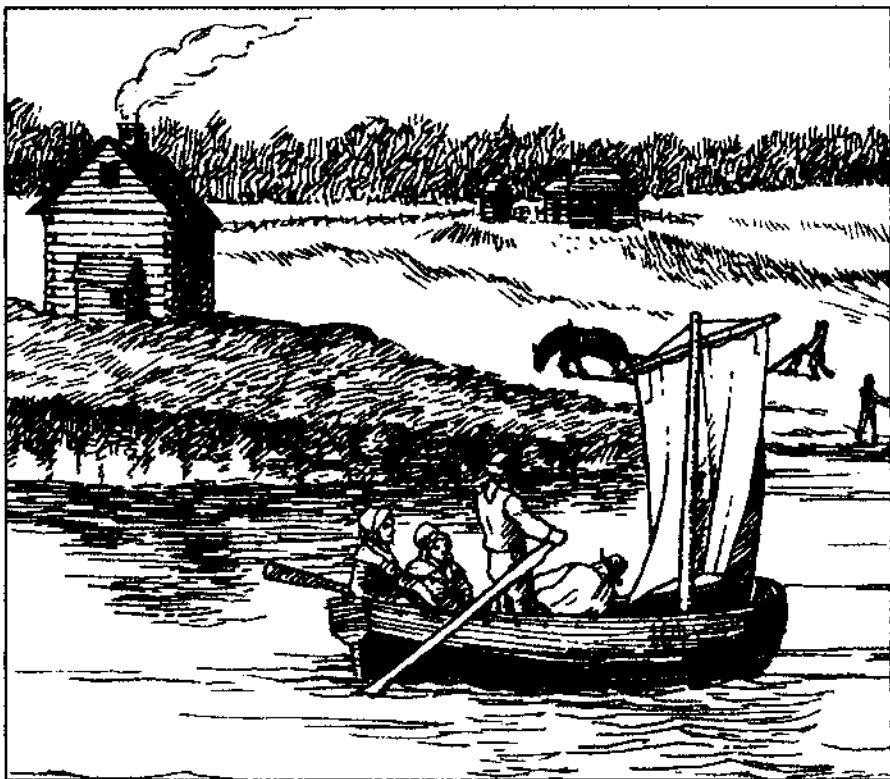
**Amenities:** Our camp, set on the edge of the woods, should be excellent, as members can retire under the trees for some shade at the height of the day. We will try to have straw and for sure will have some portajohns, but potable water will not be near the camp. It will be available at the museum, which is a few hundred yards off. Quinte's Isle/Prince Edward County/The County is subject to drought in August, so we shouldn't be profligate with the museum's water.

Note: there is no running water at the cottages and locals do not drink out of the lake.

We may have a supply of chopped firewood, but the proximity to an endless supply of deadfall will probably be the real answer. Secure parking is close at hand and it will simply be a matter of obscuring our vehicles.

McGeachie and his extended family will be supplying a keg of locally-brewed, lovely dark ale, courtesy of my nephew's procurement, so be prepared. If you don't like the sound of that, bring a supply of your own poison.

Swimming/bathing is available in the lake, but be warned, the Zebra mussels have left zillions of very small, very sharp shells and the lake bottom is covered in small rocks, so you MUST have bathing shoes/sandals of some kind. My relatives would appreciate it



if you would have a bathing suit, as we don't want to shock the little kiddies with your man- or womanhood, or lack of same. If you expect to wade in and cool off, pls come prepared with both items.

**Warning:** See the note about the cemetery below. Immediately south of the cemetery is a field above the sand 'cliffs' which are above the lakeshore. It has quite a lot of poison ivy, so be careful. To my ever vigilant eye, I think this is the only location on the farm for the damn stuff.

**Special Requests:** Just to the east of the camp is an old cemetery in which several of Gill's relatives are buried. This is an old plot, going back to the first settlement and supposedly a Hessian soldier was buried there, but none of the really old stones remain. Gill's mother resuscitated this plot and it's a lovely place. Everyone is welcome to visit, but please do not use the cemetery as part of our wargames and please enter the place with respect.

One other special thought - we are used to camping and wargaming in the hottest, driest weather and I don't ever recall causing a fire, but I would ask that everyone be extremely vigilant to be sure that none of our campfires or cartridge papers set one off.

If a fire does start, it will need everyone to immediately pitch in to beat it out. There's no point thinking we can douse a fire with water if it's in the bush; it will require immediate manual effort and everyone should get rid of their cartridge pouches before they wade in to beat it out. Instantaneous reaction is critical, as the fire service is many, many miles away.

#### Getting There

**From the east:** American members will likely cross at the Ivy Lea Bridge near Alexandra Bay/Gananoque and get onto the 401 heading westwards. You pass the Kingston and Napanee exits, looking for the Marysburgh Road/Deseronto, which is 49. Go south on 49 passing the Tyendenagia Fort Hunter Mohawk Reserve and cross the Skyway Bridge onto Quintes Isle. Pass by a cement factory and continue on 49 into Picton.

In town, you pass a Hospital, a beer-store and the County Fair Grounds to a three-way intersection at the east end of the main drag where there's a stop sign. (If you have food, ice or drink shopping to do, do it in Picton)

Turn left onto 33 and go down a steep hill. At the bottom, turn right onto 8 and drive out of Picton past a

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(Continued from page 3)

Birdhouse Park to a 'Y' intersection with 17, but you continue to the left on 8.

Keep on 8. Go past the intersection with 25 and make a sharp turn at the junction with 13 staying on 8 down a hill. A bit further along, you'll come to a sign "Waupoos," but the community is very strung out, so you've still got a way to go. Shortly after the sign, you'll see a beautiful Loyalist two story, white Georgian home on your left at the intersection with the Keltars Sideroad. You take a sharp right and stay on 8. Soon after, there's a second sharp turn, this time left. You are still on 8. You go past a pub, the Duchess of Marysburgh, on your right and pass a turnoff for the Marina. (A resupply of ice may be bought at the marina). Keep going.

You'll pass some really old homes, in particular a beautiful, white clapboard home with incredibly pretty windows. It's owned by the Hicks family - Rev War descendants of Regulars. You come to a couple of fruit/vegetable outlets on your left and a quite new, well-built Winery on your right. Immediately after this comes a small municipal hall, a church hall and a small Anglican Church all one after the other. You're at the intersection with the Bongard Crossroad - named after a German Rev War veteran.

Go slow and look up to the left to the

stone house on the hill. It's currently an apple winery selling superb cider products. That wonderful building was erected for a Dr. David, the surgeon of the Brunswick Light Infantry. You are very close now to the museum.

You pass a number of lovely old homes and an idiotic modern one built by a sculptor. You pass a couple of old Loyalist-period homes on the right and left and, about 2km after the sculptor's place, you'll see the Rose Museum on your left. It comes up unexpectedly, soon after you pass a little log house on your right. The Rose House is a quite tiny, single-story place, the second home of a disbanded German soldier. The whole area was settled in the first wave by British and German veterans and, in the second wave, by Royal Yorkers, King's Rangers and others.

Just after the museum, there will be a sign on your right pointing to the laneway leading down to the camp.

**From Kingston/Bath:** Take the Loyalist Parkway to the Glenora Ferry. On the other side of the ferry, there's the fishery building and a brewery that mark the large industry founded by Loyalist Peter Van Alstine. Off the ferry, take 33 toward Picton, but very soon turn left onto 7, the Lake of the Mountain Road. Go up that steep hill, through the village, past the pub/restaurant and the remarkable lake whose water drove the mills below at Glenora. Not too far along, turn right

onto 25 and travel to a 'T' intersection with 8 where you turn left and follow the instructions above.

**From the west:** Past the exit for Brighton/Colborne and the highway Service Centre, you exit at the Wooler Road, which you take south to 33 and turn right onto the Loyalist Parkway towards Picton. At Carrying Place, you cross over the Murray Canal on a swing bridge onto Quinte's Isle and keep on 33. Just after the turnoff for Consequoy, you watch for County Road No.1 - the Schoharie Road. Yep, I mean it, although they most often spell it, Schoharie. (Cherry Valley and Milford are other local communities named after villages in New York)

Turn left onto County Road No.1 and continue past Lake Consequoy, past two stopsigns that you'll be very careful going through, past a drive-in theatre to a third stopsign which is the junction with 33. Diagonally to your right, you'll see a beautiful old, stone Loyalist home that is now a major hostelry called the Waring House where rich people eat meals and take vacations.

Turn left onto 33 and drive into Picton. You go right through the town past a number of historic buildings and at the end of the main drag you come to a stop sign. You turn right at the sign and from there on pick up the instructions above for from the east.

The Colonel

## Thornhill Parade ~ Sat, Sept 16

This year the Thornhill parade will take place on Saturday, September 16. We are looking forward to a good turnout of Yorkers from the Toronto area for this one. We must provide a minimum of 25 muskets for the parade in order to receive our stipend from the organizers. In addition to the Yorkers, we are counting on troops from Brant's Volunteers, Brunswick Light Infantry and Queen's Rangers to assist with the demonstrations and populate the beer tent.

Although the parade doesn't step off until 12 noon, you should plan to arrive by 11 a.m. Everyone should assemble at the Presbyterian Church parking lot opposite the Oak Bank pond on Centre Street in Thornhill. You are advised to come west from Bathurst St along Centre St., since the eastern roads and Yonge St. will be closed in advance of the parade.



Loyalist Fife & Drum Corp

# BUS ARRANGEMENTS FOR YORKTOWN



There appears to be a great deal of Yorker interest in the Yorktown event, which takes place on October 20, 21 and 22. However, for many the +12-hour drive may be a deterrent. For this reason, Mike Manning of the Grenadier Company has been investigating the possibility of chartering a bus for the trip.

Many of you have already seen the e-mail that Mike sent out a few weeks ago. If enough interest can be generated, the bus will set out from Kingston on Thursday, October 19 and stop in Toronto to pick up western passengers. It will then head south to Yorktown, arriving sometime Friday morning.

Coming home the bus will leave the event on Sunday afternoon or early evening, traveling to Toronto first and then to Kingston. It is expected that the full trip will take about 15 hours. And of course, everyone will be fresh and ready to go to work on Monday morning.

The cost of chartering a 50 passenger coach for this trip is approximately \$8,000. If all 50 seats are filled the cost per person should be under \$200. Pretty good, when you consider the cost of driving yourself, with all the associated expenses.

There has been a lot of interest in this option, but at this point there are not enough confirmed passengers to make it a go. The plan is to open it up to other Northern Brigade members in an effort to fill the bus. Once the bus is full, late comers are out of luck. You snooze, you lose. If you are planning to take advantage of this opportunity, **contact Mike Manning as soon as possible**, but not later than August 7. You can reach him by e-mail ([michael.manning@rogers.com](mailto:michael.manning@rogers.com)) or by phone (905-826-1200).



## NEW SEAMSTRESS

Cadina Meadus has found a new seamstress, located in Newmarket, who is willing to take on 18C projects. She is an accomplished lady who can develop patterns from looking at properly tailored garments and illustrations, just like Dianne was able to do after several years of working at our stuff.

If you have something you would like to have made, give Cadina a phone call at 905-223-6060 for information. Of course, you will have to get material and buttons before you visit, and be armed with examples of a correctly-made example of what you want, which she can size to fit you.

I have woollen materials and pewter buttons in stock.

Himself

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Caroline Kay Dittrick arrived on the 27th of June as scheduled. She weighed in at a grand 744 zolotniks and she was 10.9 vershoks long, or if you prefer 7 lbs and 19" long. Proud Mom and sisters are all doing well.

Best Regards  
Brock Dittrick

# Hand-Knitted Stockings for the King's Men

At Westfield Village this past May, conversation around the fire turned to the great challenge on the part of government agents and quartermasters to outfit the Crown army, not only with the requisite firelocks and regimental coats, but also with smaller items, such as the stockings recommended by Cuthbertson (A System for the Complete Interior Management and Oeconomy of a Battalion of Infantry, 1768) in both quality and colour:

*Article XXXIV, page 145, of Bennett Cuthbertson:*

*"The yarn stockings usually given to the Private-men, as part of their small mounting, on the same establishment, are generally so ill shaped and coarse, as not to be even fit for wearing under gaiters, it must therefore be an advantage, to get a better kind....*

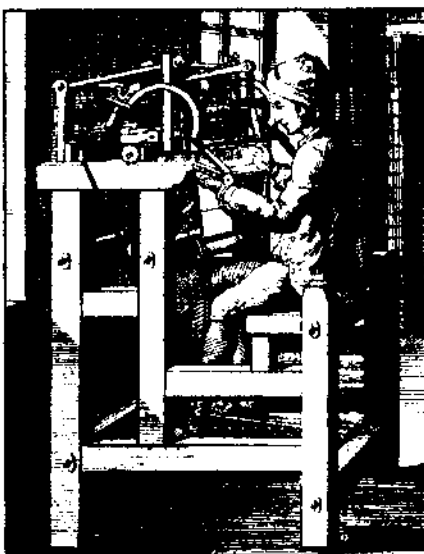
*Article XXXVIII, page 146-7:*

*"The greatest uniformity should be observed, in the colour of the stockings, through a Regiment, as nothing more offends the eye, than a variety in this particular: white, besides being most showy, is the readiest colour to be obtained in all places; nor will they be found so difficult to keep clean, as those of a grayish kind (which next to white, are the only coloured stockings, that can decently be admitted for a soldier's wear) because the smallest application of the pipe-clay, used for the accoutrements, effectually cleans them, unless they are too far gone in dirt: four pair of stockings should at least be each soldier's stock, three of which to be of fine yarn, eighteen-pence a pair, and the fourth of thread, worth about two shillings and four-pence, to wear on Sundays and other particular occasions: ..."*

The sheer magnitude of the quantities necessary to provide for the Crown forces in the 18<sup>th</sup> century was undoubtedly formidable, and we marveled not only at the labour of the thousands upon thousands of nameless men, women and children who produced the needed stockings by hand, but also wondered as to the design and material, as well as the location of the production centres.

Fortunately enough, I was thumbing later through a rare little text I ordered from England late last year entitled The Old Hand-knitters of the Dales, written by Yorkshire historians Marie Hartley and Joan Ingilby. Although the book came out originally in 1951, it was re-issued in 2001, and is still considered a definitive work on the regional wool industry, including investigations of milling centres, cloth manufacture and the crofters' hand-knitting industry, the latter of particular interest to those who consider the subject of 18<sup>th</sup> century knitwear, for both civilian and military use, to be utterly fascinating.

In the chapter highlighting Cumbria on p. 62f, the authors target several towns as centres of the handknitting industry, in particular one called Kendal....



The operator uses a stocking frame machine to knit stockings. However, hand-knitting was far more common in the 18th century.

*"From very early days the town was noted for the enterprise of its inhabitants in the manufacture of cloth.... This trade was in conjunction with the knitting industry in little mills in Cumbria and the neighbouring county of Yorkshire.*

*The manufacture of knit stockings was introduced into Kendal not later than the seventeenth century. In a*

*paragraph already quoted under Richmond, Defoe in 1724 found a flourishing trade 'at Kendal and Kirkby Stephen and such places in the county as border of Yorkshire', and goes on to say, 'it is a very considerable manufacture in itself, and of late mightily increased too.'*

*Knitting was a useful double employment for people who could at the same time continue with other work. We read in A Fortnight's Ramble to the Lakes (1792) 'That both men and women were knitting stockings as they drove their peat cards into the town [Kendal]'....*

*...Towards the latter part of the eighteenth century the stockings were knitted in a fine yarn spun from imported wool, and if they followed the fashion of that day they would have been ribbed stockings. Arthur Young, an accurate and careful observer, in his Tour to the North (1770) sets down a comprehensive account, which reveals the importance and extent of the manufacture:*

*"[Kendal] is famous for several manufactories; the chief of which is that of knit stockings, employing near five thousand hands by computation. They reckon one hundred and twenty wool-combers, each employing five spinners, and each spinner four or five knitters; if four, the amount is two thousand four hundred; this is the full work, supposing them all to be industrious; but the number is probably much greater. They make five hundred and fifty dozen a week the year round, or twenty-eight thousand six hundred dozen annually: The price per pair is from 22d. to 6s. but in general from 22d. to 4s. some boys at 10d. If we suppose the average 3s. or 36s. a dozen, the amount is 51,480 [pounds].*

*The wool they use is chiefly Leicestershire, Warwickshire, and Durham: They generally mix Leicestershire and Durham together. The price 8d. 9d. and 10d. per lb. They send all the manufactures to London by land carriage, which is said to be the long-*

*(Continued on page 7)*

(Continued from page 6)

*est, for brood wheel waggons, of any stage in England...*

*...All the work-people may have constant employment if they please. During the late war business was exceedingly brisk, very dull after the peace, but now as good as ever known."*

*The war was the Seven Years War, during which government agents were placed at Kirkby Lonsdale, Kendal and Kirkby Stephen 'for the express purpose for securing for the use of the English Army (then in the service on the Continent) the worsted stockings knit by the hands of the Dalesmen.'* [footnote 35, Professor Adam Sedgwick (\*born 1785, Dent, Yorkshire), in his *Memorial of Cowgill Chapel*.]

It is astounding that 28,600 dozen pairs could be produced by this small, rural area. Factor in, then, the production in other towns in Yorkshire and neighbouring Cumbria, as well as similar, documented centres in Leicestershire and Derby. The sheer numbers truly boggle the mind.

Compared to the prices mentioned above by Arthur Young (1770), it would appear that Cuthbertson (1768) had in mind the cheapest stockings for Crown soldiers, even though he recommended that the unsuitable, coarse yarn stockings worn by the men be replaced by "a better kind" costed at 18d.

After having searched in vain for years for specific references to Crown issued knitwear, I stumbled again this

week over pertinent information in a highly informative work by the former Anglican Bishop of Leicester: Richard Rutt, *A History of Hand Knitting* (1987), whose selection of primary documentation is quite noteworthy. Of particular interest, on p. 89f., he examines the work of the Yorkshire Dales knitters for the Crown forces as documented in the account books from 1756 - 1777 of one Abraham Dent of Kirkby Stephen in Cumbria (published originally by T. S. Willan in *An Eighteenth Century Shopkeeper: Abraham Dent of Kirkby Stephen* in 1970):

*"Dent was able to give orders for stockings and gave worsted to the knitters for the best merchandise. His wool came from County Durham or Newcastle, though Arthur Young said that Kendal knitting wool came also from Leicestershire and Warwickshire. Most of it was woollen 'yarn', not worsted. Much of the output was designed for army use, especially during the Seven Years War, 1756 - 63. Among the kinds of hose mentioned in Dent's documents are: 'marching regiments, guards, sergeants, mariners, invalid'; grey, fine ribbed worsted, fine ribbed yarn, blue women's, sergeant's stoved [i.e. shrunk], men's white stoved, white worsted, ribbed loop, loop worsted, loop yarn."*

As always, for every edifying tidbit which surfaces, more questions arise. The reference to "loop" in conjunction with ribbed, worsted and yarn is a puzzling term left unex-

plained. And how do stockings issued to "marching regiments", "guards", "invalids", etc. differ?

As well, what do later accounts of, say, 1776 and 1777 reveal about the activities of Crown agents? Did the Crown continue to outfit its men from handknitting centres like Yorkshire, rather than rely on the up-and-coming frameknit technology, which produced finer hosiery more quickly, albeit at greater cost?

While the evidence remains, as yet, elusive, it would appear that the British handknitting industry thrived through the American Revolution and beyond. On the other hand, in 1778 the frameknitting industry was sorely depressed, since the frameknitters petitioned Parliament to stabilize their trade's tumbling minimum wage, which at the time was so low the men could not feed their families. Their petition failed, and the frameknitting industry did not surpass that of the handknitters until the 1790s, when the Napoleonic Wars commenced and Crown contracts for frameknit stockings flourished (see Marilyn Palmer, *Framework Knitting*, 1984, p. 15f).

As to design, a thorough study of extant civilian stockings in the 18<sup>th</sup> century should reveal what Crown soldiers were issued. At present, of all the hundreds of thousands of handknit stockings bought up by the Crown agents, a period stocking with Crown military provenance has yet to materialize. And the search goes on...

Kathleen Manneke

## New Video Game

Ageod, a video game company, has recently produced a PC strategy game called *Birth of America*. It is based on the most important American conflicts of the 18<sup>th</sup> century: the French Indian War and the American Revolutionary War.

*Birth of America* was released in February, 2006. It is a grand strategy game, spanning the years 1755 to 1783. The goal of the game is to achieve military and political victory in either the French & Indian War or the War of Independence. Players can choose from over 15 different scenarios based on the most famous campaigns of those two wars. Most of the scenarios involve drafting forces, building forts and depots, laying sieges and blockades, raiding enemy settlements, and of course conducting battles, both on land and at sea.

Ageod has extended an invitation to all reenactors to visit their website, where you can observe a demo; find a more comprehensive description of the game; or order a boxed version of the game or purchase a digital version via download. If interested you can check it out at the following website.

<http://www.birth-of-america.com/english/index.html>





# Duncan's Coy – Cutting Coats to Jackets

After all the debate back and forth at events and in the newsletters, there's an all-fire hurry to get the coats cut in Duncan's Coy, so here's how to proceed.

## First – the simpler way

1. You cut down your coat to a length just at the buttocks' horizontal crease where the cheeks join your legs. This is best done by kneeling upright on the floor while wearing the coat and have someone mark the buttock crease at the back of the coat, and then, using a yardstick mark a line (or pin a line) all around the coat by measuring up from the floor the same distance. Then, you cut off the excess length along the marked line. To keep the seams from unraveling, tack down the white lining and green coat shell with two or three stitches at the ends of all vertical seams where they've been cut. **HOWEVER**, the lining and the coat shell are not to be sewn together along their bottom, horizontal seams.

2. Pocket Flaps: Before you consider repositioning the pocket flaps, check whether your coat shell has faded badly. This is easy to accomplish – simply fold back a facing or a cuff and check the shade of green to the shade adjacent. If you can discern fading, **DO NOT** reposition your flaps.

i) If your coat colour allows for the changing of the flaps, first remove your existing horizontal flaps and buttons. Pull out the remaining threads and press the area with a damp cloth and iron. Always iron over a damp cloth to avoid scorching the wool.

ii) In the same manner that your pocket was attached horizontally, you can now attach it vertically, by sewing down, then pressing back towards the rear of the jacket, with a damp cloth/iron. The new "vertical" pocket flap lies almost parallel to the back edge of your new turnback.

iii) When pressed back, the front straight edge of the pocket flap should be 1" away from the turnback at the top and 3/4" away from the turnback point (where the heart decoration is).

So, go to point 3 below, read the comments about measurements, and then pin back the turnback before you reposition the pocket flap. Keep in mind, when aligning the pocket flap back from the turnback edge, that the top front corner of your flap should be 1/2" below the bottom edge of your front facings.

iv) Once you have sewn the front pocket edge and pressed over into the new position, pin the three loose remaining edges. You can now run a topstitch 1/8" back from the edges on all three remaining sides. The original pockets were sewn down and will keep from getting caught on your equipment and brush.

v) Your pocket should have had four button holes in it. With your newly repositioned, light infantry style pocket flap, you can place the buttons back in a row. The original buttons were placed in the button hole in a row closest to the scalloped edge of the flap. However, if your pocket already has holes punched into it, you are best to use the existing holes, or you would have to make new flaps. Just make sure that the buttons are in a straight line from top to bottom.

vi) Place the buttons back by pushing a hole through the flap and body of the coat with an awl or small Philips head screw-driver. Do not go through the lining. Align your button in place with the design (e.g. RP) parallel to your lower tail edge, run a piece of twill tape through the eyelet and sew the tape to the inside panel of your jacket. Another period application is to run a continuous piece of twill tape, and tacking down on either side of each button shank. The lining will hide the button holding method just like the originals.

OR, you can decide to leave your pocket flaps horizontal, as there'll be lots of guys who will have to do so.

3. Now, you turn back the front edges of the jacket. The turnbacks start just below the bottom edge of your facings and they look like pie-shaped wedges when they're properly folded back. Ideally, for the sake of

uniformity, the depth of the wedge from its turned edge to the apex where you're going to sew a heart should be about 3-3 1/2" (6-6.5cm). **BUT**, don't overlap the pocket flap. (I personally had very disappointing results with my own coat, as I couldn't reposition the pockets and the turnbacks look puny).

4. Tack down the turnbacks on both exposed edges & apply the heart-shaped reinforcements.

Over the years, many of our coats have exhibited too-large hearts and, if your coat had these, they'll look very strange on the jacket. So, trim down your hearts to approx 1 1/4" in both directions. You might play with a paper heart pattern before you make any cuts.

5. Leave the jacket's centre back seam and the side vents alone.

## Second, a more complex adjustment (not for the faint of heart)

Eric Fernberg has made a minute examination of the two extant, contemporary jackets (1 Lieut Jeremiah French's 2Bn jacket and one from the 16th Warwick Militia) in the Canadian War Museum's collection and developed a continuation of the conversion by adjusting the side vents and rear seam. These alterations are not easily explained verbally and I suggest that anyone who wants to take their conversion further, examine either Eric F's or Shaun Wallace's jackets at events. A word of warning, for the purpose of taking your conversion these next steps, keep the pieces you trim off your coat, as some of that material will be required.

## Making new jackets

You'll all recall that I've declared a moratorium on the making of new jackets until we resolve the facing colour issue, or until we conclude that we'll never find out the truth and decide to continue as we are. In either case, Eric Fernberg will prepare a detailed pattern for new jackets, incorporating the features of the French and Warwick examples and we'll have that ready.  
Lt/Col Gavin Watt