

Royal



Yorkers

With the latest Advices, Foreign and Domestick

STATUS OF THE 1ST BATTALION UNIFORM DEBATE

I'm sure everyone is wondering just what happened about the uniform situation after all the discussion and debate through the last campaign. As many of you have seen, there was no firm consensus about what to do. Amongst the old guard, who have been through similar episodes before, there is extreme caution.

One thing that is very clear - there remains a strong desire to have Jim Kochan's various sources examined by

someone with a Royal Yorker bias. The point has been made, that even a single word can have different interpretations and change the whole meaning of a sentence, or even of several paragraphs. The last thing we want to have happen is to discover a few years after we've made wholesale changes that another piece of evidence has been uncovered which significantly impacts Jim's conclusions.

For proprietary reasons, Jim has been

less than liberal with his source citations, but some of his primary findings should be traceable, and I intend to visit the National Archives in the winter to do some searching.

I think most of us recognize that it will be impossible to get total closure on this situation. There will always be gaps and we will just have to deal with these after we see how much data can be assembled.

Although we have our own primary proof (Sir John's Orderly Book 1777) that all the coats in the battalion should be of jacket length, we still haven't made a decision about hats for the line infantry. Rather than making piecemeal alterations to our existing clothing, the decision has been made to wait until we have a clearer picture about all the issues and then make changes.

If and when we decide on a new specification, the suggestion made by Eric Fernberg about how to deal with the change most appeals to me. Eric proposed that, once a new specification is set, anyone who wishes to make the change may do so. Further, from that point forward, all new recruits will be outfitted only with the new specification. HOWEVER, anyone who, for whatever reason, decides not to change to the new specification will be free to do so without censure. Yes, that means that our 1st battalion will be a thorough dog's breakfast. But, as Eric says, that hodge-podge will last for five or so years, and by then, some of the guys who chose not to make the change will have retired, and the changeover will be more or less complete.

So, for now, we're marking time.

The Colonel



Don't make that new coat yet!

Insurance Procedures Must Be Followed

So, you want to bring along a friend to a coming event. No problem, right?. Loan him some clothing, let him carry a spare musket, and show him some drill. It used to be that easy, **BUT NO MORE.** Brigadier Watt recently sent out a notice to all Museum of Applied Military History units advising that the insurance requirements for third party liability have now changed. The following are excerpts from his letter:

The insurance company chosen by the National Firearms Association (NFA) demands a detailed, accurate list of the names of all your members, with their addresses and phone numbers. In the past, we were not required to supply names and addresses and I have simply sent in a payment to renew NFA membership and coverage for 650 or so 'anonymous' people. This year, it was 716 people.

With my old system of administration, if one of our members injured someone in the audience, I was prepared to vouch for his membership by consulting the master list, which I have always maintained, and, if the name wasn't on my list, I would have contacted the unit commander / contact person and gotten up-to-date information and passed it through to head office in Edmonton, or to the insurance agent in Victoria.

Of course, we haven't had any Third Party accidents, so I was never consulted. I didn't worry if unit memberships fluctuated during the season. I reasoned that some people always leave and others join, and that would balance out. That laissez-faire system is not acceptable any more.

Starting immediately, this is what you must do.

1. You must keep an up-to-date, accurate membership list. Many of you have been sending me rudimentary lists, handwritten on scraps of paper. That will not do, unless it's very carefully prepared. Ideally, every unit should find a member who enjoys record keeping, has word processing skills and can keep you cur-



...So you see Your Majesty, you really need liability insurance in case your troops in American hurt someone!!

rent with all the necessary data and insurance payments.

2. When you add new members, you must send their names, addresses and phone numbers to NFA HQ in Edmonton with the full fee. Even if the member joins in September, he/she has to pay the whole season's fee AND, he/she pays again on November 1 for the next season's coverage. Don't forget to add that new member to your master list. NOTE WELL, the new member will not be covered for Insurance until his/her name and payment hits the Edmonton office. Keep a copy of what you send and attach it to your master list. In short, keep very good records. I suppose in an emergency you could email or FAX a new member's information and mail payment later. Or, you could transfer funds electronically. It's up to you to find out what the options are.

3. Another piece of agony that needs careful administration is those members who already have coverage in another unit or by personal membership in the NFA. You have some choices. You can make it mandatory for all members to purchase insurance through your unit. That makes the task far easier, because you

don't have to keep records about whether or not they're insured elsewhere. Or, you could accept that some members obtain their coverage elsewhere, but I must emphasize, for your unit's protection, you need to see proof of this. If one of your members is the cause of an accident and doesn't have coverage, don't expect the claim to simply evaporate. If the claimant can't sue him/her, then he could come after your unit and, because that member wasn't insured, your unit will not be protected by the NFA. You are on your own and you better have very deep pockets indeed.

4. If you decide to invite guests to participate at an event, they also must be covered. Guests pay a special reduced fee of \$1.00, but NOTE WELL, their names and addresses must be sent to Edmonton before the event if they are to be covered by your policy.

5. Some benefits of this new situation are that each unit can set its own policy about insuring children. The MAMH wants all children over 6 years insured. Our Executive believes that kids are every bit as much of a risk as adults. Just think of a

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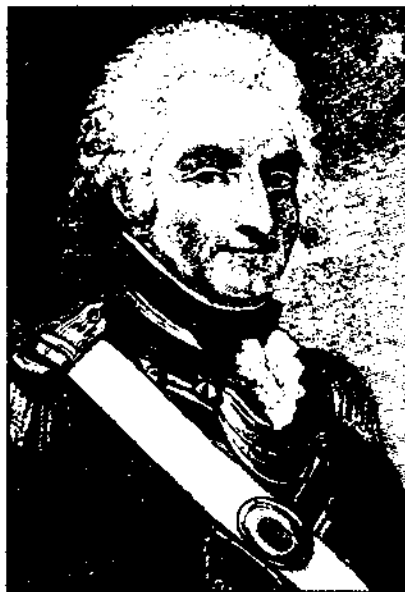
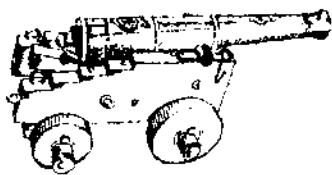
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kid running around the camp and knocking over a stack of muskets. The muskets tumble down and one strikes a bystander's foot. The bystander is wearing sandals and the musket's bayonet lug causes a deep cut on her foot and damages a nerve. Now, who is responsible? The parents? Sure. But, what if this child is a friend of a member's daughter and regularly comes to your events as the daughter's companion without his/her parents? Is all of this too much fantasy? I don't think so. In any event, your unit can make its own decision. Another benefit is that each unit will receive three useful items: a certificate of insurance coverage, which is sometimes required by event venues; a copy of the insurance policy with coverage details and an NFA membership card. However, when an event sponsor demands to be included as an additional insured on your policy, your unit will be responsible to obtain that secondary coverage and the certificate of proof of insurance.

NOTE:

Although the above letter was addressed specifically to unit commanders in the MAMH, you can see the implications for each Company and individual in the Yorkers. Everyone must recognize that they cannot suddenly bring out new people and expect them to be covered. A lot of our previous freedom to include "guests" at events is at an end. This also applies to "old members" who are generally inactive, but may come out from time to time. They will not have insurance coverage either. It is particularly important that the NCO's and Officers who make the contacts with their guys are aware of the new requirements. **These changes must be enforced.**

The Colonel



Sir John and Lady Johnson

Update on Sir John's Burial Vault

Gavin recently received correspondence from Ray Ostiguy, who is both an associate member of the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch of the UELAC and a member of the Société d'histoire du Haut Richelieu. These two organizations have cooperated for the last several years with respect to the Johnson Burial Vault at Mount St. Grégoire, formerly Mount Johnson. Ray Ostiguy wrote:

...I currently serve on a small ad hoc Committee made up of Nicole Poulin (President of the Société), Adelaide Lanktree (Current President of the Branch), Dick Eldridge (Past President of the Branch) and Charles Harbec (member of the Branch). Why my interest? My original ancestor, Dominique Ostiguy dit Dominique, settled in Pointe Olivier (now St. Mathias) in 1754. For three successive generations his children, grand children and great grand children lived in the Seigneurie de Monnoir, purchased by Sir John in 1794, and owned by him until he sold it to Jean Roch Rolland in 1826.

I am part of the eighth generation since the original. The Ostiguys and the Johnsons were close neighbours in St. Mathias, ergo, my interest in the Johnson Family.

I have traced the history of the lands upon which the Johnson Burial Vault is located from the original concession owned by Claude Ramzay up until the 1950s. Sir John built a manor house at Mount Johnson. His successor, Jean Roch Rolland, had a cottage there. The next Seigneur, Béchard, was born at Mount Johnson and later returned to live there. Archibald Kennedy Johnson, one of Sir John's children, lived there as well, along with nephew Charles MacDonnell (the son of Ann Johnson MacDonnell, one of Sir John's daughters).

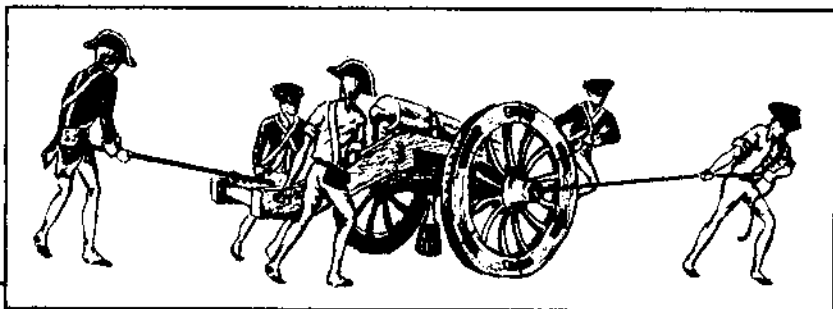
A year prior to the sale of the Seigneurie to Jean Roch Rolland, Sir John conveyed the parcel of land at Mount Johnson on which the vault was built to his three daughters. That parcel found its way from his daughters to son Archibald Kennedy, who ultimately sold it to Rolland. The sale excluded the burial vault, which had "an arpent around it". A right of way to the vault was also created at the time. Unfortunately the Johnson Family largely ignored and abandoned the Vault after the middle of the 19th century.

We met with the owner and attempted to negotiate some form of title, with access to the vault site. It was surveyed according to an approach that had been discussed, but when the plan was put to them for approval, the owners did not agree. Since then the owners separated and others have come into the picture. The negotiations continue...

Ray Ostiguy

Report from the Yorker Gun Detachment

The Gun Detachment managed to put together a decent season of events that kept the gunners happy, with the exception of the 1812 Grand Encampment at Fort George. The variety is not lacking. The latest addition was to do a demonstration for the Boy Scouts at Butlers Barracks. They come out every year in



enormous numbers (1,800 this year), dress up as 1812 soldiers and do the weekend in a sort of reenactment. I can't think of a better way to get young boys interested in our hobby.

We have cast our first mortar and it has turned out very well. Richard Borger has joined our unit, and during the winter he laser copied and corrected the deficiencies of our mortar and gun through prepping the original and data manipulation. He and a fellow metallurgy student arranged for a computer lathe to turn out the coehorn mould (cipher and vent platform will be added later) and they cast it at Mohawk College. We can cast Priapus as well, if we make a mould using our database. Major Barry Lewis got the chance to look at the mortar and was impressed. Since our original tubes were cast back in the Bi-Centennial, technology has advanced enormously. In many ways we can cast much better tubes than what we already have. We can also cast tubes at a fraction of what it costs in the States.

Sgt Glen Smith
Artillery

How Did Reenacting Get Started In Canada

How did reenacting get started in Canada? This question was recently posed by a chat group participant. Victor Suthren provided an interesting response.

Q ~ I recently read in a study by Jim Cullen that the first military reenactments in the United States were performed by Civil War veterans who would hold annual "encampments" wearing old uniforms and "recreate the trappings of their soldier days". They would actually engage in mock battles with National Guardsmen and later with Confederate veterans. I found this very fascinating as I had no idea that our hobby went back over 150 years. But it did leave me wondering about the origins of reenactments in

Canada and for the War of 1812. Does anyone know approximately when they emerged and became popularized?

Victor's Reply ~ I'm no authority, but the 'sham battle' was a regular feature of Canadian militia drills and gatherings, although almost entirely with the current equipment and uniforms. Lacking a Civil War, Canadians were not inclined, either by experience or nature, towards military re-enactment as such. It was, typically, government that introduced the first major Canadian effort at costumed military pageantry, and that was in 1908, when a huge re-enactment of the Plains of Abraham was planned for Quebec

City. Hundreds of uniforms were made up, which still circulate and are occasionally offered for sale as 18th Century pieces to the uninformed buyer. Typically (again), the confrontation of two battle lines was at the last moment set aside, and instead the French and British formed a single line that advanced across the Plains toward the dais and audience.

Serious re-enactment in Canada did not, as far as I know, begin until the US Revolutionary War Bicentennial in the 1970s, and it was led by individuals such as Gavin Watt in Ontario. There had been a few Canadians involved in Civil War re-enacting in the 1960s, but these were few in number.

UNIFORM CHANGES IN AMERICA

http://military-historians.org/company_journal/guards/guards.htm

Over the last year we have struggled with the issue of what the Royal Yorkers' uniform looked like early in the Revolution. There is no doubt that many regiments cut down their hats, altered their coats, and modified their equipment in preparation for North American conditions. The problem is always the availability of documentation to confirm the "suspicion" that changes could have been made. Of course, if you happen to be His Majesty's Foot Guards (Grenadier, Coldstream and Scots) the chances are pretty good that it is all very well documented. For a detailed description of the alterations that the Guards made as they prepared for war in America you should read the article, "Preparing a British Unit for Service in America, The Brigade of Foot

Guards, 1776".

This article is well worth reading in its entirety, but the following excerpt provides some interesting detail about changes that were ordered as the troops were about to disembark from the ships.

Upon arrival, Mathew, now a Brigadier General, ordered a series of truly radical alterations in the uniform of the Brigade. All of these were accomplished before the men disembarked for the invasion of Long Island on 22 August. While no explanation of Mathew's reasoning remains, most of the changes he instituted are consistent with Loudoun's North American service during the Seven Years' War. The foliage in the colonies was easily seen as a factor which could restrict the

mobility of a soldier wearing a uniform with elements that could be snagged by brush or tree branches.

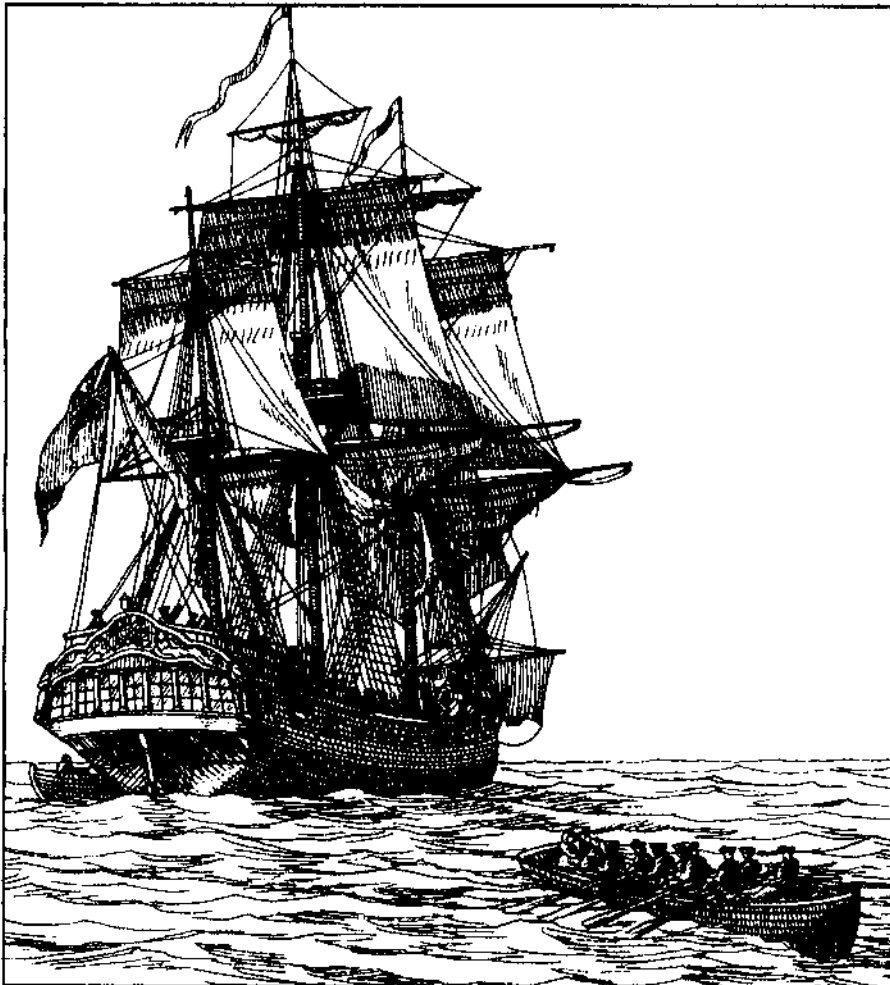
The first adaptation forced the battalion companies to join the flank companies in a loss of traditional head wear. On 14 August they were ordered to "cut their Hats round immediately & sew the Lace on again, one flap to stand up & the other two to be down."



The soldiers were evidently unable to remove the lace in adequate condition for re-use, since the order was amended two days later: "The Hats to be Cut round but not Laced again, if Black Ferrett can be procured the Hats to be bound with it." A portrait of Captain Thomas Dowdeswell, First Guards, shows the charming, though unusual, result of this order.

Mathew also initiated alterations of the uniform coats. On 17 August he ordered them to be stripped of their elaborate taping: "The Lace may be taken off the Officers & Private Mens Coats when it can be conveniently done." While this adaptation reflects Loudoun's previous experience, it also reduced the differentiation among the three regiments of Guards within the Brigade. The next day, the First Battalion was ordered to "keep the Lace on their Shoulder Straps," evidently as a battalion distinction. On 18 August, Mathew indicated that "The Coats to be Cut after a pattern to be seen on Board the *Royal George* till 4 o'Clock this Evening." While the change could not have been too complicated if the

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pattern was only available for a day, no information remains as to what it was. The most logical assumption is that, consistent with Loudoun's experience, the coats were shortened to light infantry length. The pattern was probably needed to demonstrate how the front corner was to be turned back. The final step in altering the coats was to make "The Epaulets & Shoulder Straps plain blue According to a pattern to be seen," further reducing the differentiation between privates and the commissioned and non-commissioned officers.

One of Mathew's changes was a particularly surprising innovation. On 17 August he ordered that the bayonets "be carried fixed to the Pouches according to a pattern to be seen on board the *Aeolus*. The Waistbelts to be Stowed in some dry manner till further Orders." The wording in all versions of the order specifies that the bayonets were to be affixed to the pouches, not the carriages in the fashion sometimes used by the French. Glyn's version reads "fixed to the Mens Pouches," implying that the officers retained theirs in the original location. On 20 August, a concern for conserving any left-over leather is reflected in this instruction: "Whatever the Compys. have Cut off their Waistbelts is to be Carefully Preserv'd."

Conclusion

The picture presented by the Brigade of Guards on Long Island in 1776 was a startling contrast from its London parade ground appearance. Trousers and spatterdashes had replaced breeches and long gaiters. The traditional cocked hats and bearskin caps had been superceded by small round hats and hat caps. Finally, the coats of both men and officers were plain and efficient, having lost their regular length and splendid regimental lacing. The Brigade was fully prepared for field service rather than for the public duties in England.

MAJOR JAMES GRAY

I recently have been in correspondence with Michael R. Stewart, a descendant of James Gray. The following data about Gray's commercial interests comes from his research.

GKW

Gray was born in Scotland in 1732 and died in Upper Canada in 1795 at 73. He was survived by his wife Elizabeth for five years after his passing.

Much of James' life was spent in arms. He entered the army in 1745 in Loudoun's Regiment as an ensign and went on half pay in 1749. In 1756, he entered the 42nd Regt, the Black Watch, as a lieutenant and was a captain by 1763 when he again went on half pay. While in the Watch, he was at the capture of Martinique and Havana. He avoided the importuning of the rebels, first the temptation to accept command of a Continental regiment and later to act in the post of chief engineer for the army invading Canada. We don't know exactly when James was recruited by Sir John Johnson, however, in May 1776, he assisted the baronet to collect the core of the first battalion on escape over the Adirondacks to Canada where Governor Carleton created the King's Royal Regiment of New York and James officially became the major. He saw service from those very first days through to disbandment in 1783. In all, James had spent 14 years serving the British Crown, not including his role as a militia officer in Upper Canada.

James had emigrated to America when he left the Black Watch and bought a 300 acre farm on the Passaic River in New Jersey. What now follows explains why the rebels considered Gray as an engineer for their army. On an island in the Passaic, he built an iron foundry with a forge with three fires, a hammer and a casting

mill, using iron ore from the Ringwood and Charlottesburg mines. James also ran a gristmill. The two mills employed the river's water power. (Sadly, a search on the remarkable wealth of information on the internet regarding ironworks in New Jersey fails to give any information on James Gray. Clearly his name has been purged from the records because of his loyalty to the Crown)

Gray was clearly an adventurous business man, but when the revolution broke out, he was forced to move from New Jersey to Stone Hook in Albany County. It would seem that he lost his fortune when he abandoned his iron works, as he was in financial distress in the late war to the degree that he sought to sell his majority to Captain Richard Duncan.

In 1763, James had married Elizabeth Low, a New Jersey woman, and she joined him with their four sons and daughter at Ticonderoga in 1777 when the KRR was in garrison there waiting to join Burgoyne. Gray was very ill for most of 1779 and suffered from gout for six weeks in 1782.

To assist his financial problem, James repeatedly pled with Governor Haldimand to allow his young sons rank in the regiment, as had been done for Captains John Munro and Samuel Anderson; however, the governor would not allow the favour. This refusal is mysterious, as Haldimand held Gray in substantial regard. Perhaps he felt it would be demeaning for a battalion commander to receive this largess.

Whether James Gray was able to restore his wealth after the peace is an unknown. He had been an energetic and knowledgeable battalion commander and, without doubt, greatly contributed to the success of the first battalion.

Himself

HOLY COW! ANOTHER ONE - I thought I'd seen every variant of the regiment's name, but here's a new one and, believe it or not, it's from Major James Gray. GKW

"Will of James Gray, late Major in His Majesty's Royal Regiment of New Yorkers of Montreal Province of Quebec, North America".

Lady Johnson's Great Escape

In the October issue of the newsletter Kathleen Manneke provided a quote from the Quebec Gazette, dated May 2, 1777, which briefly described the escape of Lady Johnson from captivity and her safe arrival in New York City. The news article read as follows:

New York, February 6. Lady Johnson, who has long been detained among the rebels in the northern part of this Province, and treated by them in the most unmanly manner, escaped from them within the course of the last week thro' the Jerseys to this city. This Lady's spirit and conduct in the most trying situation, do her the highest honour; uncawed by the barbarous threats the rebels repeatedly made to her person and family, she encountered every danger, and with a firmness of mind which despised all difficulties, effected her escape thro' the woods and wilds to Powle's Hook, where she was met by Sir John Johnson, and safely conducted to town.

I recently came across this account of Lady Johnson's escape from captivity, as described by her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Christopher Johnson.

DWP

"Having obtained passes, the party, which consisted of Lady Johnson, her maid, three children, and Tony, an old family slave, fled in disguise. The children were, probably, William born in 1775, a little daughter born in 1776, and an infant born during her captivity and at the time of her escape not many weeks old. Horses and a sleigh had been secured and they proceeded on their way without obstruction, except that they were occasionally obliged to show their passes until they were in the vicinity of Grove house, which was only a short distance from the British lines. Here, under some cattle sheds, they left their equipage, without going to the house, and made their way towards the Hudson. Travelling all day, each one carrying a child, they were fortunate in finding a resting place towards evening, where they received food, and shelter, but the infant, who

had to obtain its nourishment from its mother's breast, suffered from the physical exhaustion of my lady and became a source of great anxiety.



"They arose in the morning, however, to find that they were only two miles from the river, but the problem of crossing could only be solved at its banks. Hurrying forward with all speed to escape a Continental soldier who they understood was hunting for the party, they reached the river only to find that the ice was breaking up and floating down the stream in great masses, occasionally leaving openings between. The centre of the river seemed to be comparatively clear, and if a boat could be secured, and they could take advantage of an opening between the cakes and get through to the open water before the masses of ice came together, they stood a fair chance in reaching the opposite bank of the river.

"A boat and boatman was fortunately found and by the use of gold, of which Lady Johnson had a good supply, the man agreed to make the attempt. Claspng her infant closely in her arms to give it warmth, it's little chilled face and closed eyes giving her great anxiety, she watched Tony's guidance of the boat with fear and trembling until they were at last in midstream, clear of the threatening masses of ice, and in half an hour reached the opposite shore.

"The British tents were in sight; gold

was thrown to the boatman, and though the snow was deep and soft the lady, staggering with weakness, struggled through the mile which yet separated them from the first line of sentries. Indians were the first who spied the party, and, though they received with their usual composure the announcement of the lady's name, a glance sent off two of their number towards the camp while the others, wrapping some furs around the lady and her infant, lifted them with the utmost care and tenderness in their powerful arms, till they were met by the messenger returning with blankets and mattresses hastily formed into litters. On these all were carefully deposited and carried on swiftly. Tony weeping in joy and thankfulness over his mistress and trying to comfort her by telling her that Sir John was coming.

"The poor mother cast one hopeful glance toward the distance, and another of anxiety upon her infant, who just opened its little eyes, and ere she could see that it was the last convulsion of the sinking frame she was clasped in the arms of her husband and was borne, insensible, to the quarters of the commander-in chief, where every care and comfort was bestowed upon her and her children that their exhausted state required.

"The first delight of being restored to her husband and seeing her children at rest and in safety was marred by the anguish of missing the little loved one whom she had borne through so much sorrow and suffering. "But a few hours sooner," she thought, "and my pretty one had been saved." But the joy and thankfulness of those around her soon stilled her repining. Both her surviving children appeared to be entirely restored to health, but with the little girl the appearance was fallacious. After the first week her strength and appetite declined, and her parents had the grief of laying her in an untimely grave, from the destructive effects of cold exposure on a frame previously debilitated by illness during her mother's captivity, when she could not procure either advice or proper medicines."

Christmas in 18th Century America

As you can imagine, Christmas in 18th century America was very different from our celebration of the holiday today.

First of all, Christmas shopping was not a feature of the season. Although simple gifts were given, it was more likely that this would be done at New Years rather than at Christmas. Shopkeepers did advertise appropriate holiday gifts for sale, but these were usually given by masters to dependents, including slaves, servants, apprentices, and children. It was not expected that there would be an exchange of gifts. Children for instance were not expected to give gifts to their parents.

Decorations for the mid-winter holidays consisted of whatever natural materials looked attractive at the bleakest time of the year - evergreens, berries, forced blossoms and the necessary candles and fires. Although there are very few references of colonists decorating for Christmas, there are 18th English prints that show interior decorations, a large cluster of mistletoe always being a prominent feature. Otherwise, the pictures show plain sprigs of holly or bay in vases. Of course the Christmas tree did not become popular until the 1840's when the *Illustrated London News* showed a print of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert beside a decorated tree at Windsor Castle. However, there is evidence that General von Riedesel erected Canada's first Christmas tree at Sorel during the Revolution.

Although this gives us some idea of

what Christmas *was not*, it is probably more important for us as reenactors to understand what Christmas *was*.

Eighteenth century Anglicans prepared to celebrate the nativity during Advent, a season of the church calendar. December 25 began a festive season of considerable duration. The twelve days of Christmas lasted until January 6, also called Twelfth Day or Epiphany. Twelfth Night was considered a good occasion for balls, parties, and weddings. One 1775 account of a Twelfth Night party made it sound very lively.

"...A large rich cake is provided and cut into small pieces and handed round to the company, who at the same time draws a ticket out of a Hat with something merry wrote on it. He that draws the King has the Honour of treating the company with a Ball the next year, which generally cost him Six or Seven Pounds. The Lady that draws the Queen has the trouble of making the Cake. Here was about 37 ladies dressed and powdered to the life, some of them very handsome and as much vanity as is necessary. All of them fond of dancing, but I do not think they perform it with the greatest elegance. Betwixt the Country dances they have what I call everlasting jigs. A couple gets up and begins to dance a jig (to some Negro tune) others comes and cuts them out, and these dances always last as long as the Fiddler can play. This is sociable, but I think it looks more like a Bacchanalian dance than one in a polite assembly. Old Women, Young Wives with young children in the lap, widows, maids and girls come promiscuously to these assemblies which generally continue till morning. A cold supper, Punch, Wines, Coffee and Chocolate, but no Tea. This is a forbidden herb. The men chiefly Scotch and Irish. I went home about two o'clock, but part of the company stayed, got drunk and had a fight."

Certainly food and drink was an important part of Christmas celebrations. December was the right time for slaughtering, so fresh meat of all sorts

was served, as was some seafood. Beef, goose, ham and turkey counted as holiday favourites. Some households also insisted on fish, oysters, mincemeat pies and brandied peaches. Fruits and vegetables were problematic for a December holiday. Wine, brandy, rum punches, and other alcoholic beverages were plentiful on December 25 in the well-to-do households.

So as you plan your Christmas celebration this year, you may want to consider how you can incorporate some of the simpler customs and festivities enjoyed in the 18th century.

DWP

Yorkers March with Santa Claus

For those of you who packed away your musket and kit for the season back in October, you're out of luck. You won't be able to march with the jolly olde elf in Morrisburg's Santa Claus Parade. However, on Saturday, December 3 a hardy bunch of Yorkers who will don their capotes and woolen mitts for the occasion, and march to the music of the newly formed Loyalist Fifes & Drums. (I wonder what Jingle Bells sounds like on the fife). Following the parade the troops will trade "cold steel" for a "hot mug", as Shaun Wallace hosts a gathering at this home.

And all this will be done for a good cause. The \$400 honorarium for participating in the parade will be donated to the Loyalist Fife & Drum Corp that is being raised at Adolphustown. Mike and Andrea Putnam expect to field a uniformed, drilled, and musically competent group by the summer of 2006. Members will include Graham Lindsey, Ryan McGraw, Allison and Christine Smith, Dionne and Simone Paine, Maggie and Bronwin Zatterberg. The Corp is the latest addition to the Museum of Applied Military History, and a welcome heritage group in the Loyalist-rich Adolphustown community. For more information check their new webpage: www.loyalstdrums.ca.

DWP

