

Royal



Yorkers

With the latest Advices, Foreign and Domestick

THE COLONEL WISHES TO ADVISE...

ISLE OF JERSEY TRIP

We've received official word that next year's trip to Jersey will not occur, as funding could not be raised to cover the costs. However, our contact is convinced that the event will happen within the next 2-3 years. Time will tell. Our returns for this event were very encouraging, with two solid sections of Duncan's and a combined flank section. We could have made a splash, and might yet.

COLOURS UPDATE

Unfortunately, Dianne Sharp has discovered that she does not have sufficient white silk to replace the four large panels in the King's Colour, so we are back to square one having to buy silk. Ugh! What a pain in the neck. The only source we could find the last time was in California. Go figure?! As we want to have colours at the Crysler's Farm/Upper Canada Village event this year, we will carry the new Regimental Colour and bring the regiment's very first Grand Union out of retirement to act as the King's Colour. This old Grand Union, which has no central decorative device, was carried at our very first event in Quebec City in 1975, so it will be most appropriate to fly it again in the unit's 30th anniversary year.

Religious Service Circa 1800 ~ Collective acts of worship were valued as a contribution to morale and good order, especially church parades, for which men were expected to spend extra time making themselves presentable. The Army Chaplain's Department, consisting of Anglican priests only, was formed in 1796, but regimental Chaplains existed well before this date.

THE YORKER OF THE YEAR IS...

This year's recipient of the trophy is Reverend Neil Thomsen, who was warmly applauded by all at the Annual Party at Dundurn Castle. Neil entered the Light Infantry Company on October 15, 1989 and, after a brief absence, returned to the regiment to join the old Colonel's Coy, where he served in the ranks. A few years ago, Neil spoke to me about becoming regimental chaplain. I was quite concerned that, after he set his heart on the role and invested his funds in the appropriate 18C clothing, he would be terribly disappointed by our irreverent soldiery. However, my fears have proven

groundless and Neil's common sense and good judgement has saved all of us from ourselves. His portrayal has added another wonderful element to the recreated regiment. As I said at the dinner, unlike so many other reenactment chaplains, Neil is a minister of God, and his services and ceremonies are most carefully researched to reflect, not only our period of history, but more important, his professional calling. His inspired service at the dedication of the new Colours will long be remembered.

The Colonel



Coming Events

June 18 ~ Laying Up of Colour, Williamstown (1st & 2nd Battalion)

June 19 ~ Jeremiah French Marker Dedication, Cornwall
(1st & 2nd Battalion)

June 18 -19 ~ Black Creek Pioneer Village, Toronto

July 9-10 ~ Chrysler's Farm (Canadian All-Up Event)

Aug 13-14 ~ Kanata Village, Brantford

Aug 20-21 ~ Adolphustown

Sept 17 ~ Thornhill Parade

Sept 24-25 ~ Stone Arabia, NY (US All-Up Event)

Oct 8-9 ~ Stone Fort, Schohari (2nd Battalion)

Nov 5-6 ~ Boone's Farm, PA

"Look Mom, a pirate!!"

It may be a new campaign season,... but some things never change.



Capt Richard Duncan's Powder Horn

A U.K. auction house is offering a powder horn attributed to Richard Duncan. Gavin is having it investigated by an expert recommended by John Houlding, to see if it is genuine and to take some photographs. You will notice that the estimated auction value is £1000-1500, but Gavin has heard that it is more likely to go for 10,000£. (Editor ~ Okay Duncan's Coy, we can't let this item slip through our fingers. We need to raise a quick \$25,000).

The auction description of the item is as follows:

A RARE REVOLUTIONARY WAR POWDER-HORN, dated 1778, approx. 13 in. long, the body engraved with the Royal Arms, 'GR' cypher supported by a unicorn and a lion with the inscription 'Capt. Rich. Duncan / in John Johnsons / Regt. 1778.', the frontal aspect of a mansion house, and flowering foliage, turned nozzle,

wooden base mounted with a brass brooch in the form of a flower-head, and suspension.

Footnote:

Captain Richard Duncan commanded a company in the 1st Battalion of the King's Royal Regiment of New York between 1777 and 1783. The 'Royal Yorkers' were commanded by Sir John Johnson and operated on the Canadian frontier where they conducted many successful campaigns and raids into rebel territory. Duncan, like many other loyalists, had been under open arrest during the early stages of the war and it was not until late in the campaign season of 1777 that he was able to join Royalist forces. One most notable raid took place in 1778 when a force drawn from the regiment supported by Kanehsatake Indians recovered Sir John's papers from the grounds of Johnson Hall in Johnstown where they had been buried when he had been forced to flee two years ear-

lier. The inclusion of a mansion house in the decoration on the present powder-horn may be commemorating Duncan's participation in this raid. The regiment was disbanded in December 1783 and the troops, being loyal to the crown, were allowed to winter in barracks in Montreal whilst preparations were made to settle them and their families in Quebec Province away from rebel persecution. A series of military townships were created in order that troops could be quickly raised in the event of American attacks, Duncan's company occupying Royal Township No.4 at Williamsburgh.
£1000-1500

Military Tankard & Mess Bowl

The Colonel has received a quote for handmade tin tankards and mess dishes. They are made of hot dipped tinsplate with lead free solder.

The mess dish has a double seamed bottom, three piece folded seam sides and wired rim. All joints are soldered inside the pan to ensure water tightness. (Mess Dish - \$29.50)

The tankard body is joined with a folded seam body soldered on the inside and a burred joint base soldered on the outside. The rim is wired and a decorative bead is located about 7/8 inch below the top of the rim. The handle has wired edges.

(Tankard - \$19.50)



Laying Up of Yorker Colour

Williamstown, June 18

&

Jeremiah French Marker Dedication

Cornwall, June 19

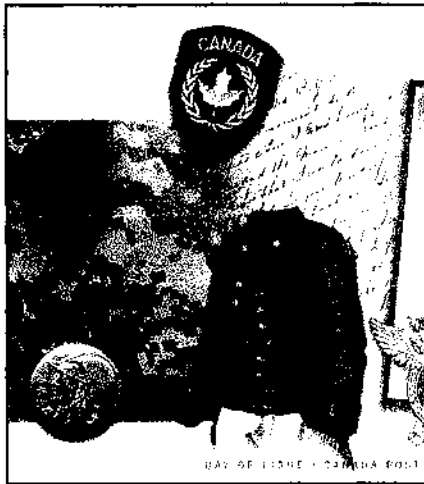
Just like the old Certs ad, the weekend of June 18 & 19 will involve Two, TWO, TWO EVENTS IN ONE. Saturday will be devoted to the laying up of the old Yorker Regimental Colour at the *Nor'Wester and Loyalist Museum* in Williamstown, and on Sunday we will participate in the dedication of the new Jeremiah French grave marker at Maple Grove Cemetery near Cornwall.

What's the big deal you say? Well first off, Williamstown is a very significant little town for the King's Royal Yorkers. Following the Revolution, Sir John Johnson was granted town lots in New Johnstown (Cornwall), as well as a tract to the east of the town at Point Maligne on Lake St. Francis, stretching four miles back along the Raison River. At the time one traveler wrote, "At five we passed Johnson's point of land from which you have a most noble view of the mountains of Vermont and Chasy in the State of New York. The country being so flat everywhere else gives this a peculiar grandeur... which will command a charming view." It was on this site that Sir John built his manor house (ca. 1785), along with several mills. The town he laid out was named Williamstown after his father, Sir William Johnson. The manor house, now a National Historic Site, is operated by the Sir Johnson Manor House Committee. From the time of its construction right up to the present this house has been a vibrant part of the community. Today, the gothic 1860 addition houses the community's public library.

Shaun Wallace has been busy getting the community on board, and has done an excellent job of obtaining all of the "amenities" and "special consideration" he can. Starting on Friday night, June 17, arrangements have been made for a Regimental Dinner & Pub Night at the Quinn's Inn in St. Andrew West. This stone inn was built in the 1860's

by John Sandfield MacDonald, Premier of the United Province of Canada (1862-64) and the first Premier of Ontario (1867-71). The dinner will start around 7:00 p.m. and will go until 11-ish. If you would like to participate in this gathering, contact Shaun (uppercanada@hotmail.com), ASAP so he can make reservations.

Permission has been granted by Parks Canada for the Yorkers to encamp on the grounds of Sir John Johnson's



manor house. From there on Saturday morning we will march to the *Nor'Wester & Loyalist Museum* to lay-up the old Regimental Colour. This Georgian style structure, tucked away amongst the trees on John St., proudly depicts the story of Sir John Johnson and the Loyalists who settled in the area. Time will be available in the afternoon to explore the museum and the historic homes of Williamstown. Special arrangements have been made for the members of the regiment to tour what is now called the oldest inhabited house in Ontario, the Bethune-Thompson House. This home was originally built by Peter Ferguson (Major's Coy, KRRNY) in 1784. It was later acquired by Rev. John Bethune and then David Thompson, the famous Canadian explorer and mapmaker.

At 5:00 p.m. the town will host a roast beef dinner at the Fair Grounds. Williamstown has the oldest Annual Agricultural Fair in Canada. The property was originally donated to the community by Sir John on the condition that the land would revert back to his descendents should it ever stop having the annual fair. A local farmer has donated a Black Angus cow for the occasion. Although we will eat for free as the special guests of the town, all others will pay to attend. Follow-

The cover of the Canadian War Museum Special Edition Stamp Set & the Day of Issue Envelope feature Jeremiah French's KRRNY regimental coat (2nd clothing period).

ing the dinner there will be an evening of dancing. The first part of the evening will feature period music and dancing. The music will be provided by the *Regency Ensemble* of Cornwall. Later in the evening there will be a switch to contemporary music and dancing. This function is open to everyone, and promises to be a lot of fun.

Day 2 of the weekend should be just as enjoyable and spiritual as the activities on Saturday. You will recall from previous newsletter articles that Shaun Wallace was able to locate the original grave marker of Lt. Jeremiah French, KRRNY. Recognizing that the badly damaged stone would eventually crumble away to nothing, Shaun got the ball rolling to have the grave marker replaced. On Sunday morning, June 19, (Loyalist Day) at 10:00 a.m. there will be a special dedication ceremony at Trinity Church in Cornwall.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Jeremiah French was a founding member of this church. After the church service there will be a luncheon provided for members of the French family and members of the KRRNY (*Shawn also needs to know ASAP who will be attending this luncheon*). The unveiling of the new marker will take place at 2:00 p.m. during a special grave side ceremony at Maple Grove Cemetery, near Cornwall. The Yorkers will be present to honour one of our own.

As an aside, you will be interested to hear that in May Canada Post issued a stamp to coincide with the opening of the new War Museum. The cover of

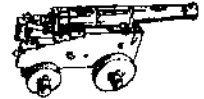
the stamp package features the Jeremiah French coat, the only surviving KRRNY regimental coat in existence today.

Alas, there's a bit of a catch. June 18 & 19 is also the weekend of our annual event at Black Creek. We certainly don't want to abandon this event, or burn any bridges for future years, so it is important that we continue to support Black Creek. The Williamstown / Jeremiah French event will be limited to all members of the 2nd Battalion, KRRNY and to members of the 1st Battalion who reside in the east. All other 1st Battalion members are asked to attend Black Creek as you usually would on that weekend.

Directions to St. Andrew West: From Hwy 401 take Exit 789. Turn north onto Hwy 138 and travel to St. Andrew West.

Directions to Williamstown: From Hwy 401 take Exit 804. Turn north onto Hwy 27. Turn right onto Hwy 19 and continue to Williamstown.

Directions to Maple Grove Cemetery: From Hwy 401 take Exit 789. Turn south onto Hwy 138 (Brookdale Ave). Turn right onto Toll Gate Rd W. Turn right onto Vincent Massey. Maple Grove Cemetery is on the left before you reach Power Dan Road.



~ Black Creek Pioneer Village ~ June 18 & 19



Our annual event at Black Creek Pioneer Village will be held on June 18 & 19. And of course, this site continues to be one of the Yorker's favourites.

This year some extra activities have been planned to enhance our interaction with the public.

Sjt Mjr Dave Moore is making arrangements for four tents to be setup, illustrating the living conditions of various camp residents, based on their rank and status. There will be a soldier's tent, camp follower's tent, officer's marquis and surgeon's fly. A "volunteer" will be stationed at each

location to do a little *show and tell* for visitor groups. At the end of each presentation the group will be sent on to the next station, concluding with the doctor.

Other ideas are also being considered:

- Demonstration of the various accoutrements and equipment that a soldier carries.
- Explanation and demonstration of a soldier's musket.
- Camp life scenarios, showing the skills that an 18th century soldier would possess - flint making, mus-

ket maintenance, etc.

- Show & tell of period items that modern visitors would not be familiar with.
- Court martial of defaulters for typical acts of military misconduct. (You may recall the trial of Keith Croucher at Westfield Village years ago. Bruce Finch served as Keith's defense counsel. It was shortly after that case that Mr. Finch gave up the profession of Law, and took up the practice of Medicine).

Considerable planning and thought has gone into this, with the Grenadiers taking a lead role in setting up the scenarios. It should be a lot of fun for us, and very interesting and informative for the public.

An, of course Black Creek offers us many things that are often not available at other events: a pretty historic setting, shaded campsites and streets, sutlers, good ground for training and tacticals, adoring crowds, access to a modern Visitors Centre, washrooms with flush toilets, straw, wood, fresh water and for most, a very short drive.

Directions: Located at the intersection of Jane St. and Steeles Ave. in north Toronto.



~ Crysler's Farm ~ Canadian All-Up Event ~ Upper Canada Village, July 9-10

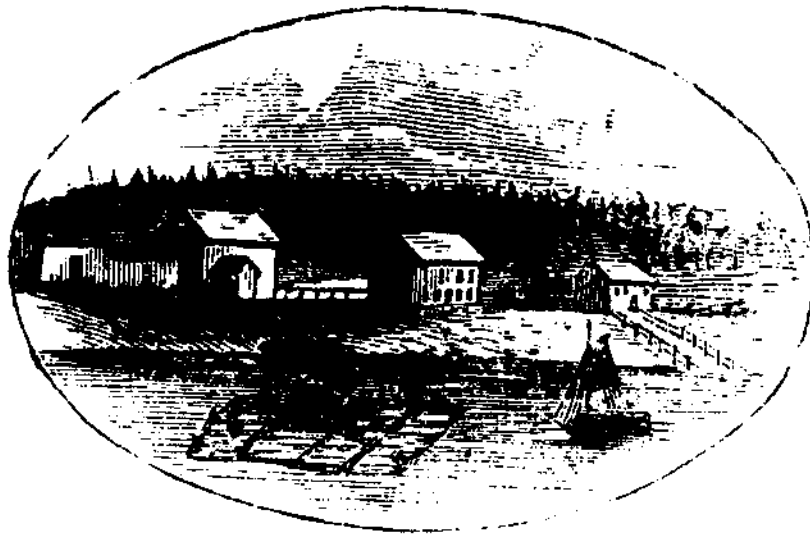
The Canadian All-Up Event this year will take us back to the Crysler's Farm Battlefield. You will recall that this was an extremely successful event in 2003, and promises to be so again this year.

You will be interested to know that Bob Balcus, Commander of the Northern Department of the Continental Line, has issued a tactical challenge to the Northern Brigade. (..something

act the War of 1812, given that this is site of the famous Battle of Crysler's Farm. But why would they choose to commemorate the military heritage of the American Revolution? To their credit, they recognize that the first white settlers in the area, including John Crysler, were members of disbanded Loyalist regiments who fought for the Crown during the Revolution, and who received land grants at the

years ago this evening scenario attracted a good crowd for what turned out to be a hot little action. The Sunday (1:30 pm) battle has not been named, but "Canada Is Saved" has a nice ring to it. You'll want to be there to see "rebel butts" wading into the St. Lawrence River.

Throughout the weekend there will also be opportunities for music demos, children's militia musters, and camp life demonstrations.



This 1857 sketch is the earliest known drawing of John Crysler's farmstead on Lot 13, west of Williamburgh Township, Dundas County.

The smaller structure on the right was probably the first residence of the Crysler family. The larger two-story residence in the centre is the famous "Yellow House" of the time of the battle.

about "kicking Yorker butt"). Bob was at the last Crysler's Farm event in command of a small body of Massachusetts Light Infantry, and was very taken with the site and the competitive spirit of the NorBde. Then his troops took us on last year at Quebec, and that just whetted his appetite all the more. The Colonel cannot recall ever being openly challenged in this fashion before, but is confident that his Regiment and Brigade will put these cocky rebels in their place.

The event on July 9 & 10 will be the third annual Military Heritage Reenactment sponsored by the Friends of Crysler's Farm. It is their intention to rotate the time period of the event each year between the War of 1812 and the American Revolution. It's not too hard to figure out why they reen-

act the War of 1812, given that this is site of the famous Battle of Crysler's Farm. Many of the residents of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry can trace their ancestry to these soldier-founders of Ontario.

We expect that the British camp will be situated in the same spot as last time, on the manicured lawns of the Battlefield Park, in the shadow of the Battlefield Memorial. Before or after you setup on Friday night, all Northern Brigade members are invited to a BBQ at the historic home of Shaun Wallace. From 6 - 10 pm Shaun and family will be flipping burgers and pouring beverages for those weary travelers who wish to partake.

On Saturday there will be two battles. At 1:30 pm "Canada Is Invaded". At dusk on Saturday evening we will lock horns with the rebels on the green inside Upper Canada Village. Two

As always, "All-Up" means we are counting on *everyone* to make a special effort to be there. This is an excellent site, and the weekend should be one of the highlights of the season. But most of all, we need to support such Canadian events, to ensure their viability for the future.

Directions: Crysler's Farm is located 11 km east of Morrisburg. From Hwy 401 take exit 758 (Upper Canada Road). Travel south, then turn left on County Road 2 (formerly Hwy 2) and travel east 2 km.

For the BBQ, Shaun Wallace lives at 24 Sir James Morris Drive, Morrisburg. At the intersection of County Roads #31 and #2 (the only traffic light in town) turn south toward the river. Turn east onto Canada Way and then turn left onto Sir James Morris

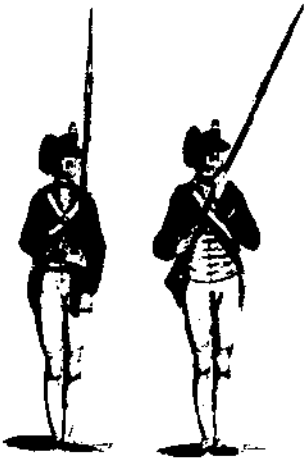
With Zeal & The Bayonet

For those of you who missed the "Howse Infantry School" on the Victoria Day Weekend, you missed not only a very good time, but also critical training.

New Method of Charging:

Rather than firing and going through the 5 part increases in speed, a new method was implemented at the school.

1. Load, before charging.
2. Men positioned at the "Carry" i.e. musket with bayonet across the body at 45 degrees. (Arrived at in two motions, first turn musket like going to present arms, second snap quickly across the body.)



3. Step off at the "March, march" - Dressing is important.
4. Increase to the "Forward"
5. Halt about 20 yards from the enemy - Dressing critical.
6. "Make ready" (while still at the Carry).
7. "Present... Fire"
8. "Charge" at a trot, cheering, muskets at "Carry".
9. "Halt". We found this difficult (as always), and found a clear gesture, such as musket at 90 degrees to the route of march, by the commander, helped control this.

It is imperative for all Officers, NCOs and Musketmen to familiarize themselves with these methods in preparation for Upper Canada Village in July.

Sjt Mjr Moore

FIRST IN, LAST OUT



First In, Last Out has nothing to do with inventory cycles. It has a lot to do with the operating style of the Yorker Lights when they roll into action. It's also one of the catchy phrases that appears in the upgraded Light Company pages on the Yorker Website. If you haven't been there lately, you need to check it out. Lt Steven Sandford and Nancy Watt have done some amazing things to take it up a few notches.

The new "Light Pages" offer some useful information to web-browsers who are just looking for *stuff* on Light Companies in the 18th century British army. These casual surfers won't be disappointed. In fact they might find it so interesting that they ask some questions about how one joins this organization. The next thing they'll know, Lt Sandford will be helping them into a Light Infantry coat and telling them how good they look.

The "Light Pages" are not just for recruiting. In fact, they're not just for Lights. Every Yorker should explore the wealth of information available under "Resources". When you click on "The Domestick Soldier", you'll find information on mess duties, period provisions, preparing rations, the housewife (sewing kit), and what to carry in your haversack. If you're confused on whether one whistle blast means stop or go, refer to "Whistle Commands 101". Does your Serjeant keep telling you your musket looks like a piece of "----". You need to read the section on "Period Firelock Maintenance". Are you wondering about the role of the Distaff in the Light Company. Read "Lights and the Distaff".

Hopefully your curiosity has been sparked. Now go to your computer and type in: <http://royalyorkers.ca/>

Musketman Shaw Returns from Scouting Mission

Musketman Eric Shaw of Duncan's company reported in last night after an extensive reconnaissance mission. Having been told to "go deep" Eric left for Japan ten years ago. He has now returned and reports that he has found no rebel units west of California. He also begs to report that he has returned with a wife and son and that they are all billeted now in Chatham. Eric plans to enter teaching in September having taught English to the Japanese for 10 years. I assume they can all now sing "God Save the King".

Sjt Mjr Moore

MORE ON THE SHADE OF COAT GREEN

Sean Phillips provided Gavin with these insights on the subject of coat colours during the Revolutionary War period. He wrote:

My initial thoughts are that there was probably little or no difference in shade between the Officers, NCOs and Other Rank's coats.

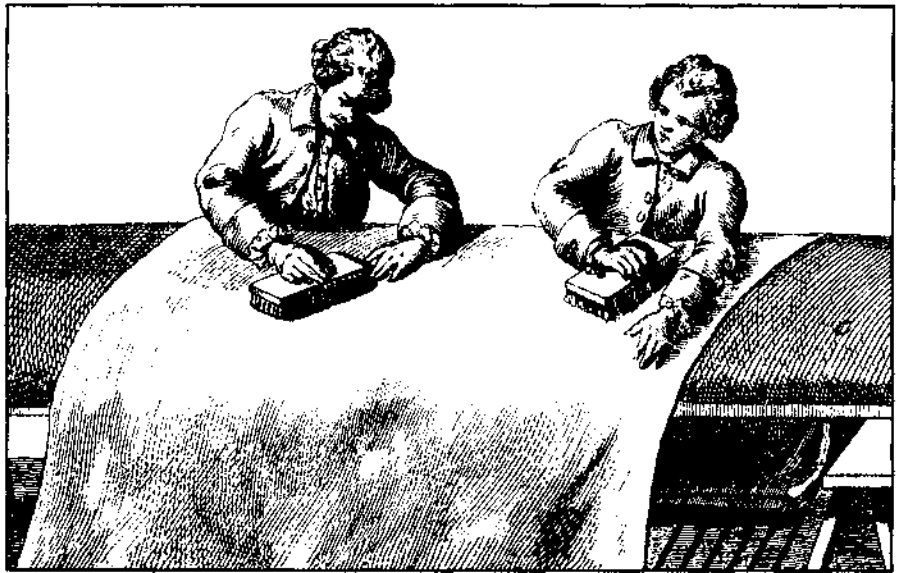
The difference between the brick red, mock scarlet and scarlet was partly due to the difference in expense between the dye materials used, but also the difficulty of dyeing the different colours. The English dyeing industry at the time regarded it's Cochineal Scarlet as the ultimate expression of the dyer's art, and therefore increased status and expense attached to this colour. I don't believe that the same status applied to greens.

I have looked at many different contemporary dyer's pattern books and it is clear that there were many different shades of green available. Although there are variations between them it is also clear to me that there were certain "stock" colours produced independently throughout the country. Consequently I have come across grass, medium, deep and bottle green shades dyed by different dyers, at different times, and given different names, but which are actually very similar. Although my explanation may not be very clear, my point is this; rather than an infinite range of shades, I would expect to see four or five "common" shades, despite the fact that there was no central standardization.

It is also clear that skilled dyers were adept at matching colours using different dye stuffs with different prices. The main difference between them would be their stability. Consequently one might see two pieces of cloth of different qualities dyed the same shade using different valued dye goods. After a year's wear, however, the two colours might appear very different indeed.

The key point regarding greens is that it was impossible to obtain a green

dye directly. All Greens at the time are therefore dyed blue and then over-dyed yellow. Indigo produces one of the most stable dyes, but is fairly expensive to produce. There are cheaper methods which tend to change colour rather than fade.



It is particularly difficult to produce a stable yellow dye. One of the more common cheap yellow dyes used at the time is prone to darkening to a brownish shade. I believe this is responsible for the dull "moss" green shade shown in some pattern books for certain facing colours. It would also account for the fact that I have seen two pieces of green pasted into a Tailor's book, intended (from the context) to show that they were similar shades. Their appearance now is very different, presumably because the colour has changed over the last two centuries. In addition I have seen a British Volunteer's coat with yellow collar and brownish cuffs. I can't believe this was a deliberate policy, rather the two pieces were cut from different pieces which matched at the time, but were dyed using different goods which have changed over the years.

Incidentally, my views on the Soper coat is that it may be made from locally produced cloth. This is based on

the fact that the finishing of the cloth is inferior to the usual standard at the time (something particularly mentioned by contemporary English expatriot clothiers), and the quality of the dye doesn't seem to be up to the standard of the cloth. In addition, there is some debate that it may have been made in the U.S., since the closest centre of population at the time was South of the border and the tails are cut like U.S. Officer's coats of the

time.

In summary then, my initial feeling on the subject is as follows:

1. The Officer's, NCOs and OR's cloths were probably of different grades, but dyed a very similar shade using different dyeing techniques.
2. The colours will appear brighter on a better quality cloth due to the standard of finishing, quality of the wool and so on.
3. After a period of use (not necessarily dependant on exposure to light) the colours are likely to change. The Officers cloths are more likely to lose the yellow, and hence tend to blue, whereas the Other Ranks quality is more likely to tend to brown due to modification of both the yellow and green shades.
4. If the colours of the Queen's Rangers coat is anything to go by, then a darker shade similar to a full green would seem to be in order. Of course, there is no indication that earlier coats would have been the same colour.



MORE BEER, LESS WATER

Oh to have lived in the 18th century when a person could take a long, cool drink of clear, pure water from a running stream without any fear of pollution or contamination... WROOONG!! Richard Atkinson passed along an article from The Beaver magazine entitled "The Water of Life", and its not referring to H2O. Here are some excerpts from the article:

...For centuries Europeans had spurned water as a healthy or convivial drink, and medical authorities seldom recommended it. In cities drinking water had frequently been polluted, scarce, and expensive... Some early settlers in what is now Canada continued to harbour real doubts about water as a beverage, and many believed that it could not be drunk without the addition of spirits. William Berczy, a German aristocrat who brought a group of settlers from New York State into Upper Canada in the 1790s, insisted that his men needed "some spirituous liquors... in a country where it is destructive to the health for those who must chiefly work in the open air to drink constantly raw water alone."

Other nonalcoholic drinks were certainly harder to get or too expensive. Until settlers had more cows, milk was scarce and prone to souring when available. Tea and coffee were costly

luxuries in the colonies before the nineteenth century. In any case, popular wisdom insisted that alcoholic drinks were nutritious food and good for the health. Loyalists passing through Quebec in 1795 observed that "a glass of rum and a crust of bread is the usual breakfast of the French Canadian; the rigour of their climate is alleged as the cause of their having frequent recourse to [rum] at other times of the day."

According to one Nova Scotian, spirits "were almost universally regarded as little less necessary to man's healthful existence than flesh and bread. Alcohol, it was thought, kept out heat in summer and cold in winter, supplied strength to labour, helped digestion, warded off disease, and did many other marvelous things." Many people believed, contrary to scientific reality, that alcohol gave warmth in the cold northern climate of these colonies. It was also supposed to have great medicinal value. "In many families, whiskey was served to each member of the household in the morning," one writer recalled. "It was considered to be a precaution against colds and to enable one to do hardy work." Taken straight or mixed with various herbs, alcohol was a regular household remedy for many health problems, often in the form of patent medicines. A popu-

lar remedy for cholera, for example, was Huxham's Tincture, which contained two ounces of Peruvian bark, a half ounce of Virginia snake root, and three and a half pints of whiskey. In keeping with this custom, whisky consumption allegedly rose during the cholera epidemic of the early 1830s. Doctors were more likely to prescribe brandy and wine as stimulants and tonics.

...British soldiers could look forward to a bright spot in their otherwise dreary days. For about seventy years after the conquest of Quebec, they got a gill (four ounces, or 142 milliliters) of rum every day. They also had access to a half-gallon or more of spruce or malted beer. Officers enjoyed wine and more expensive liquors. Enlisted men might get extra rum rations as encouragement for extra effort, often as part of the pay they earned for outside work as civilian labourers. General Wolfe claimed in 1758 that grog was the "cheapest pay for work that can be given." Perhaps, as at the battle of Quebec a year later, it was also the best way of bracing soldiers for combat.

...In many cases the parallel to the modern coffee breaks took place in the late morning and mid-afternoon, when workers downed their booze. A British military officer traveling in North America in the 1820s was struck not only by the number of times a day that men took a drink, but also by the small quantities consumed at any one time. "What I did see," he wrote, "at every corner into which I traveled, north or south, east or west, was the universal practice of sipping a little at a time, but frequently."

So there you have it. If we are truly serious about our efforts to accurately portray soldiers of the 18th century, we must not only wear the cloths and perform the drill, but work hard at CONSUMING MORE ALCOHOL!! The sacrifices we must make.

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