

THE NEXT EVENT: BLACK CREEK PIONEER VILLAGE, JUNE 19,20

Here comes the annual favorite. Contact with our friends from the Schoharie & Mohawk country reveals that they will be with us in good numbers. There's been lots of discussion about the lack of a meal being served on Saturday night. One of the more serious aspects of this debate is the thought of our American friends having to face leaving the Village to try to find a decent, inexpensive place to eat. As many of us know, that's almost impossible in that area. Our Grenadier Company has resolved this issue and will prepare the Saturday evening meal, underwriting 1/2 the cost and the regiment the rest. Everyone should bring eating utensils.

CaptLt Denis Bourget is the Officer Commanding the Crown this year. While he hasn't shared his thoughts with me yet, I suspect he will exploit the success of last year when Capt Joyner arranged with the Albany & Tryon Cty Militias to act in the role of an occupied town's population. Those who were there will remember that our friends played that to the hilt.

The Village is open to your arrival at about 5:00 PM on Friday. I have spoken to the Village about improving overnight parking lot security.

PROMOTION IN THE FIRST BATTALION

Major Gray is pleased to promote John A. MacLeod to Captain of Light Infantry vice William G. Severin retired. Captain MacLeod will rank as the fourth senior officer in the Battalion.

John MacLeod entered the ranks of the Col's Coy on March 2, 1984 when he appeared at the fabulous Brass Cannon Tavern opening in Scarborough - a most prestigious start to a regimental career. By Sep 1984, John had transferred to the Light Infantry; he was advanced to Cpl after the retirement of Sjt Dave Owen. Almost at the same time as Bill Severin stepped down, Bob Andrews moved to Lower Fort Garry and a round of promotions resulted which saw John advanced to 1st Lieutenant commanding the Company - a mighty leap indeed. He has done so since October 1989.

HOMEcoming FESTIVAL, SOUTHAMPTON, ONTARIO JULY 3 & 4

I'm sure a few of you will recall a very tall older gentlemen who has followed the fortunes of the Royal Yorkers over the past 6-7 years. His name is Stewart Stark and he's seen us at Prescott, Black Creek, Niagara & Queenston - to name a few. Stewart's maternal ancestors were Dillenbachs, now Dillabough like in Rex, and 1Bn Grenadier Balshezar Tellebock (Dillenbach) was amongst them. Stewart's been after us to make an appearance on his behalf at his hometown and this year with their big celebration, we've agreed to pitch in along with McDonell's Coy of Butler's; the Brunswick Light Inf and the Royal George Landing Party. Southampton is a pretty, small town at the base of the Bruce Peninsula on Lake Huron. While it's surrounded by the richest dairy cattle area in Ontario, it has spectacular sand beaches and it's main trade in the summer is tourists. This is an excellent family venue!

Like lots of small towns, it's known for its hospitality. We have a good campground on abandoned CNR property with a nice little piece of bush to stage a free flowing tactical demo for the public. The camp is a short distance from downtown where the meals will be served and where the parade takes place. The beer store is a 3 minute drive and for modern gun collectors, one of the SRSA guys runs a shop about 10 minutes down the road just outside Port Elgin called Global Firearms.

Check your Ontario map. It's about a three hour drive from west Toronto and there's lots of ways of getting there. You'll see plenty of old Ontario vernacular housing and beautiful country. This venue will only happen once and if you haven't seen much of this part of Ontario before, you'll really enjoy it. When I visited to choose the site and plan the event, Gill & I drove north on 400 to Hwy 9. Took 9 west to Hwy 10, 10 north to Hwy 89, jogged west on 89 through Shelburne; then north-west on Hwy 20 to Owen Sound. We easily picked up Hwy 8/21 towards Southampton. When 8 took off north, we kept on 21 straight past the Saugeen Reserve and into town.

When you hit town, keep going past the main intersection of High Street (it's kinda obvious.) Just

after three blocks further along, there will be a sign on the right side directing you into a field for the encampment. This is opposite a large factory building which has been converted into shops & boutiques. If you come through Port Elgin on Hwy 21, you pass the Southampton Beer Store then a boarded up factory on your right. Keep an eye for the next factory and the camp is opposite on your left.

All meals are supplied, straw, portajohns (although you're close enough to town that you can save it up for better facilities), firewood, PA system & good parking.

The event will include a Parade through town at 10:30 AM Sat; a leisurely lunch; a 2:30 PM tactical demo at the campsite followed by show & tell demos; a fresh fish fry dinner; a dusk street firing exercise down the main drag, an optional swim at the beaches or some convivial round-the-fire camp stuff.

Sunday has a volunteer Church Parade with all of our Masons who want to marching with the local Lodge. Some may choose to hit the beaches in the morning. An early tactical demo after lunch and the show & tell demos will allow the striking of the camp at 3:00 PM.

MONMOUTH, NJ - AN ORIGINAL, MAJOR BATTLE SITE UNDER THREAT - Jun 26, 27

SjtMjr Dave Moore will lead a party of dedicated Yorkers to this endangered site for its annual event. All of the Reenactment societies (Brit Bde; BAR; Cont Line, etc..) are supporting the site which is threatened with a shut-down, so the numbers participating should be spectacular. It will only be through the efforts of volunteers such as ourselves that the site will be recognized as an essential element for public participation in North American history and kept open. Dave will have the NCO's do a whip-around phone campaign to generate participation. This is a long, long drive to an excellent site deserving our assistance to help in its preservation.

TERRIFIC ADDITIONS TO THE MUSEUM OF APPLIED MILITARY HISTORY

I think that most of you are aware that McDonell's Company of Butler's Rangers - yep that's Paterson, Misiak, Da Di Kah, Gray and the rest of that ugly mob - have joined the Museum of Applied Military History and now enjoy our liability insurance policy and our unique friendship and body odour.

Were you also aware that the Royal George Landing Party with whaler, muskets, 3 Pdr Fieldpiece (and a large barrel without a bung) have joined the MAMH to also enjoy our insurance. I'm sure you've all admired the quality of their nautical representation and now they're one of ours. We'll be seeing lots more of these guys. Wouldn't the Ol' Sailor have been beyond himself!

A NEW UNIT IN THE NORTHERN (CANADIAN) BRIGADE

Mike Hurley, former Sjt of Grenadiers, has founded a new unit which has the potential to add substantial historical content to our Brigade and the MAMH. This is Brant's Volunteers, a small irregular unit which saw service on the New York frontier in early 1777 and fought in the ravine at Oriskany. As Brant was engaged right to the end of the war, at Stone Arabia, at Klock's Field, indeed he led the last raid into the Valley accompanied by our 2Bn, Light Inf Coy and one expects that his Volunteers were with him throughout.

Many of you who appeared in Divided Loyalties will remember that movie's representation of this important little unit. One of the few sources for information is Isabel Kelsay's book on Joseph Brant's life published in 1984 by Syracuse University. The film's historians relied on Kelsay's studies for much of their material. The number of whites which served in the volunteers during the war varied greatly. Robert Land was one of the first and he stayed with Brant right to the bitter end. Others, seeking the security of regimental organizations joined units such as the Royal Yorkers and Butler's Rangers.

Some of you will also recall that the Yorkers had a Robert Land in the Col's Coy for a couple of years. Indeed Robert appeared in the film with us; he is a direct descendant of Brant's friend. Mike has managed to recruit Robert back into 18C reenacting as well as a number of previous Yorkers such as Dick Reeves and Dan Copeland.

Don't expect to see a unit wearing uniform clothing and carrying regular firelocks. These guys were just like militia - wearing the clothing of their employment, whether farmers, mechanics or hunters.

They may have government arms, rifles or trade guns. Their accoutrements were be just as varied. Mike is very aware that this degree of licence can lead to some very rambunctious interpretations. They will be on their guard to avoid the unlikely and stick to researched clothing, arms and equipment of the frontier. As they were often indistinguishable from the natives in Brant's organization, they may also choose to appear native. So that our regimented troops can recognize them as allies, Brant's will wear a yellow ribbon cockade in their bonnets and hats, just like the originals did.

Brant's men did not parade with the regimented troops, nor did they camp in the regulated cantonments. This little luxury will not always be followed as many sites don't offer any choices; but, where possible they will pitch tents and lean-tos 'far from the madding crowd'. As they're likely to stink like the bush runners they are, this won't hurt any of our feelings.

Our Brant's Volunteers' greatest challenge will be to prepare and deliver an historically correct interpretation. The temptation to slide into the yahoo category and believe themselves to be invulnerable, like so many American riflemen give way to, will be great. The original men lived and operated in the bush beside Joseph Brant's native warriors. They were not greatly loved by Butler's Rangers as they recruited from amongst the same manpower base - often men with specialized knowledge of native warfare and a willingness to live and die with them. The Crown valued their services; however, they were unpaid and were not equipped during the conflict nor were they recognized with land grants on disbandment. While the rebels in the Mohawk and Schoharie hated the Yorkers & Butlers, they are said to have absolutely detested Brant's white volunteers. A quick death was their reward for capture.

SECOND BATTALION EVENT: BATTLE OF WYOMING, WILKES BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA JULY 10,11
Sjt Girdwood will be putting out a specific notice on this one with directions, etc... This should be a good event and McDonell's Coy will be in attendance as this is really Butler's Rangers country.

A PERMANENT HOME FOR THE MUSEUM OF APPLIED MILITARY HISTORY

Well, we've often talked about it and now its seem that it's going to really happen. Adam Everingham and Malcolm Phillips have been working on this project for months and months.

Several years ago a grouping of Armed Services clubs and associations from Brant County banded together to pursue a common cause. These veterans were distressed that the Second War Memorial in Brantford had been abandoned by the politicians and left unfinished. Some nine separate organizations - Legion branches, etc.. - formed a memorial committee and raised a spectacular amount of money which allowed them to finish the memorial, commissioning some 8 or 9 original bronze statues of service men and women and illuminating the whole. The effect of their efforts is spectacular and, quite naturally they're very proud of their accomplishment. They now want to extend their efforts and create a Brant County military museum into which items from their various organizations' collections can be displayed. They are also recognizing that something quite permanent has to be organized and that's where our folks enter the equation. With our assistance, their new project is quite possible.

A committee combining both organizations was formed with Adam, Malcolm and myself representing the MAMH and three of the senior organizers of the Brant group - Derek Pite, Bob Counsel and Chris Morgan. Adam & Malcolm have continued to work extensively and a building has been located and vetted and currently is going through city approvals for the purpose of housing a museum. Progress has been remarkable under the able direction of Counsel, Pite & Morgan. Much more on this later.

FORT GEORGE MUSIC SYMPOSIUM - AUG 20-22, 1993

Fort George is launching the first historical military music symposium held in Canada. The syllabus is extensive and will be of interest to musicians and military historians alike. Topics such as 1) A History of Military Field Music; 2) Period Methods for arranging Fife & Drum scores; 3) Concepts & Methods for teaching music; 4) Music of the Social Elite - Chamber Music... and much more.

Participants are invited to lodge in Blockhouse II or set up a period encampment. Of course, musicians are encouraged to bring their instruments as there will be many opportunities to play military music, folk tunes and lots of time to jam. The wearing of your period uniform is also encouraged. Of course, senior musicians from the Fort will be leaders in these sessions - Gavin A. and Peter Alexander. Visiting lecturers and demonstrators from Colonial Williamsburg will be John C. Moon and Tim Sutphin and

from the 1st Michigan will be Mark Logsdon. A renowned musicologist from Brock University, Professor Patricia Debly, will be in attendance. As a very special guest, Ian Bell of the ensemble, 'Muddy York', specialists in traditional music of Upper Canada will bring much enjoyment.

The symposium is divided into three distinct sessions and attendance can be by the session. The full workshop from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon is \$107.00. Friday which includes Ian Bell's presentation is \$26.75; Saturday which concentrates on the military aspects is \$80.25 and Sunday featuring Prof Debley and John Moon is \$53.50. These prices include appropriate meals. Mail your registration to The Friends of Fort George, PO Box 1283, Niag-on-the-Lake L0S 1J0.

THE LONDON EVENT IN REVIEW

All of our members who attended and didn't get touched in any way by the politics of this event were well pleased with the results. Keith Croucher lost a couple of years off his life worrying over the wobbling sponsorship and Mike Henry spent time and megabucks of his own phoning units and organizing support. Steve Sandford travelled repeatedly to his hometown to assist in every way possible. If those three guys hadn't pitched in - the event could have been a disaster. It wasn't. In fact, far from it. Congrats guys!

NEW CAMP COLOURS

I hope a few of you noticed our beautiful new Camp Colour at London. Donna Grundy has prepared this one as a gift to the regiment and rejuvenated one of the old originals at the same time so that it looked almost as good as the new one. When Donna has finished the total project, we will have 2 Camp Colours per Company. Each Company will be responsible to outfit each colour with the appropriate pole and finial, stained and painted respectively to current regulation. Then, each Section will have their own Camp Colour and will bring it to every event where a proper camp is erected.

EVENT CANCELLATION

Note this on your calendar. The Halton Regional Museum appearance in Milton, Ont on Oct 2,3 has been cancelled. Budgetary restrictions have caused a complete shutdown of the site over the next 18 months. The site hopes to revive the plan for our Museum's static display and proceed with our event for next August.

MORE WANNAMAKER RESEARCH

Even Mannawanker finds something useful in his meanderings through the history books. Here's an entry which proves that the good Lord was on the side of the King, at least for one day in July 1779. It seems that this regiment of rebels were encamped at West Point when -

"In afternoon we had a very hard shower of Rain and Extream hard thunder one Clap of which Struck our Regt. and not one Compy. in our Regt but that had some men hurt. Capt. Whipple had scarce one man escape the shock. One man belonging to Capt. Whipple was struck Dead on the spot and seven more Rendered unfit for duty. Their was five and thirty that was struck belonging to the Regt. Great Part of which was Rendered unfit for Duty. After the Lightning left our Regt. it ran down the road and crost the River on the Chain [stretched across the river to prevent British men o'war from passing] and up to fort Clinton. Struck two men their."

THE REGIMENTAL DEBT

Have you noticed how quiet I've been about this topic over the last three months? Well, we have been in very good shape; but, now that we've put a large volume of goods into regimental stores and we've paid for our 1993 ~~Liability Insurance~~. Our cash position is getting very low. Here's what you owe personally. Please ~~send some cheques along~~ ASAP.

\$ 182.13
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