

HARRASSMENT AT THE BORDER

I may have just been unlucky recently; but, I've now experienced three unpleasant instances of being harrassed at the border - going both ways - over the question of my musket. It would seem that the U.S. Customs is now expecting you to have a Canada Customs Green Card for your firelock. They are viewing this as some sort of registration of the firearm. The way you get a green card is to stop at Canada Customs on the way through the border. You go inside without the firelock and say that you have a flintlock musket in your vehicle that you wish to declare so that there will be no question of personal ownership when you return to Canada. They will then either come outside to see it, or tell you to bring it inside, they then examine it and record its serial number onto this little green card which confirms that you had the damn thing in your possession when you crossed the border. (you might choose to put any other valuable item, like a camera, on that same card) That's all that this card is going to accomplish; but, as U.S. Customs is becoming reactionary - I recommend that all of you take this precaution so that you don't have an unpleasant time going into the States.

Coming back from Ticonderoga on June 26, Al Joyner was questioned by Canada Customs whether his musket was registered. You know, and I know, that flintlock muskets do not have to be registered (ie. put onto a Police-style permit); but, maybe the Agent didn't. Or, was he really asking if Al had it 'registered' on a green card?? God knows, but take it from me, there's a lot more action regarding firearms at the border than we have ever experienced. Play it safe and get the green card and remain polite when you're being questioned. Remember, all firearms owners are automatically suspect, you have absolutely no special privileges.

NEXT EVENT: 1&2BNS: 210TH ANNIVERSARY, SETTLEMENT OF LOYALISTS AT ADOLPHUSTOWN, CATARAQUI TOWNSHIP NO.4 JULY 16,17/94

Here's a nice quiet event similar to Napanee and Ancaster of previous years. Jon Wannamaker has been our chief coordinator, so we know we'll be well looked after. We will be supported with a BBQ meal of roasted hog on Saturday night and fresh fruit/coffee/muffins for breakies. We are on our own for lunches; but, a concessionaire will be on site. I suggest you bring some fixings just in case.

Cat Twnshp No.3, right next door, was the settlement area of most of the 2Bn Royal Yorkers and Roger's King's Rangers, so this is our country. We have an open camp site area near to parking, washrooms and swimming. As it's a Provincial Park, there will be tourists around us so skinny dipping is your risk. Lots of shade trees to sit under in the heat. Straw, firewood, potable water all at hand. The area is infamous for bugs, so bring lots of your favorite juice.

We will be running our own schedule and there's no opposition except ourselves and hopefully Butler's & King's Rangers and Brant's. A UEL Cemetery is next to the encampment. so we will pay our respects in a fitting manner. Also, a UEL Museum commemorating the settlement with photos of Himfelf when he was young and naive. We will provide entertainment for our audience made up of tactical competitions; Parades of the Soldier and Rags & Refugees presentations. Are you up for this Carolyn?

The local Anglican Church is a regimental shrine and I am hoping that Jon can contact the rector and get us permission for a visit. It is really something to see! For our off times, besides the excellent swimming in the Bay of Quinte, there is a Craft Barn a few miles down the road to Kingston that needs to be seen to be believed. All husbands should lock up their Credit Cards!!

We have a nice piece of ground within the park which we can use for a couple of wargames. It isn't large enough for more than two exposures; but, should be good fun for that at least.

I am looking forward to us having some 20-25 Yorker muskets at this one to support Jon's efforts. For a lovely, relaxed event, this one can't be beaten in this year's schedule. Hope to see you there.

HOW TO GET THERE: From the west: For an efficient & scenic drive - Take 401 Hwy to the Wooler Rd., just west of Trenton and after the Brighton exit. Go south on Wooler Rd. until it deadends. Go right

on Hwy 33 towards Picton. Cross the Murray Canal over a swing bridge and you're soon at Carrying Place. Keep on Hwy 33 and where the turnoff for Consecon shows, pay attention. At the top of a long rising hill, there's an abrupt turnoff onto County Road #1. Go left. You keep on this for several miles, through a number of stopsigns/lights until it meets Hwy 33 again (33 has taken a long loop which you've just avoided). Go left on 33 into Picton. You go through the main drag of Picton, past Jon Wannamker's Loyalist mural (have an eye), and watch for a subtle 'Y' in the road. Take the right fork, following Hwy 33. You are now going down a hill and at the bottom you take the left fork of another 'Y' which takes you on 33 towards the Glenora Ferry. Keep on 33 for about 15km, paralleling the Long Reach of the Bay of Quinte until it deadends at the Ferry terminal. You take the Ferry across (no charge) to the other side and you are now about 4Km from the Adolphustown Provincial Park. It will be a right hand turn into the Park and for our camp you take the first right inside the park. From the east: You might as well exit at Napanee and drive south to where the road deadends at Hwy 33. Go right until you're in Adolphustown and watch for the Park. You will pass a couple of Historic Plaques on 33 - one to Lieut Hazelton Spencer, 1&2Bn, KRR and one to Maj Jas Rogers, OC King's Rangers. Turn left into the park.

IBN: AQUAFEST, HAMILTON Jul 23 or 24

This is a very low key event requiring a small turnout of local guys to help one of our sister units that supported us at Simcoe Landings in London & Toronto. Dave Putnam is organizing our participation. It will be nice if we put a few guys at this thingee; but, I do not want to hear from anyone that they cannot go to something important cuz they went to Aquafest!! Point made!?

IBN: THE BAR GRAND ENCAMPMENT, TIOGA PENNA JUL 30,31/94

We had named this event as our American All-Up effort for the year; however, with the kind of turnouts we've been having, I'm not holding my breath. While the BAR isn't doing well for attendance either, as this is one of their annual biggies, with a gigantic sutler row, I would expect lots of troops and followers.

They are filming some scenes for a Public Broadcasting series that is supposed to do for the Am Rev what the Civil War series did for that conflict. Hmmmmmm. However, for those of you who are trim, clean shaven and in well worn-in clothing, there will be opportunities to be recorded on film for eternity. Who knows, you may even be 'discovered'. As our tentlines are likely to be in the film, there will be great pressure to clean up promptly and efficiently all 20C crap that peeks under the edges of the canvas and lies in the streets, including ciggie butts! Make life easy - keep the streets clean!

Another nifty new scenario on Sat morning will be live-ball volley firing at a company sized paper target. If you have eye & ear protection, bring 'em. They will supply all live ammunition - DO NOT BRING ANY! *Also, we will have a Lacrosse match VS them natives or at least a practice.*

TO GET THERE: Crossing at Queenston/Lewiston - Get onto the I-90 (New York Thruway) for a short trip and take exit #48 at Batavia. Take Route 63 south-east to I-390 southbound and exit at Painted Post and take Route 15 south across the border. Near or in Mansfield change to Route 6 East and turn left onto Main St. Watch for the BAR Spontoon-Head direction signs. Two right turns after McDonalds is Decker St. Take it until it becomes Pickle Mill Road. About 6 miles down that road there's a 'T' intersection, turn left. After another 2 miles there's the large BAR sign and Registration is just inside.

From the east, cross at Ivy Lea Bridge and go south past Syracuse on I-81 and exit at Cortland and then go south-west on Route 13 past Elmira and thru Corning and pick up Route 15 south just after. The rest is the same.

JUST WHAT WAS OLD SIR JOHN LIKE ANYWAY??

Don't you sometimes wonder just how that man looked - what were his habits - his reactions? There are a couple of quotes in Earle Thomas' biography of Sir John that are worth repeating. (p.168)

From Thomas Jones, the New York historian whose son displayed Tory sympathies in his book published in 1879. Jones, the elder, had seen Sir John in New York city before the war.

"A handsome well-made man, a little short with blue eyes, light hair, a fresh complexion and a

firm but pleasant expression. He was quick and decided in disposition and manners and possessed a great endurance."

Lord Dalhousie, who became Governor-in-Chief of Canada in 1820, wrote of Sir John in 1819 after his first meeting with the 77 year old.

"He is a tall gaunt old man, very lively in countenance & speaks rapidly. Very gentlemanlike in manner, & with all that[,] a kind of wildness, as if he wished to appear a character tinctured with the habits and the intercourse he has had with the Indian tribes." Sir John was to later have rancorous arguments with Dalhousie over Indian Department appointments.

From his portrait in 1772 which is in the front of the Regimental history, we see a long, narrow face with a nose to match. Strong eyes and a straight, set mouth. His white roller makes his neck look very long as well. As his hair was said to be light, judging from this portrait, it would have been a light brown, not blond.

How do we reconcile one observer suggesting he was short and the other that he was tall. Well, beauty and height are in the eyes of the beholder. Perhaps Jones was tall and Dalhousie short. Likely Sir John was of average height for the time, say 5'8", and being very thin in later years, his height was accentuated.

As the Americans had found out to their discomfort, Sir John could be a tenacious and vicious foe when he thought his rights and those of his King's were being trod upon. His later years, after his great disappointment in not being appointed LtGov of Upper Canada, were marked by his energetic and bold arguments for himself and others over land rights and recognition by the Government.

In his eighties, he commanded the Lower Canada militia against the Yankee invaders. One can just see him burning with indignation that the bastards had come for him again!

One suspects that his father would have been proud of him. Just think what a North American hero he would have been if he had rebelled!! Instead, with the confusion of his English title of Baronet, and the general distaste amongst Canadians for 'loyalty' and our early heritage, he is doomed to obscurity.

A TANTALIZING ENTRY

Grenadier Alex Lawrence has submitted a fascinating piece of information which he found in Earle Thomas' book, "Greener Pastures - The Loyalist Experience of Benjamin Ingraham" (Belleville: Mika Publishing, 1983). Earle is the biographer of Sir John Johnson mentioned above.

On p.53 - "... There were domestic chores to be performed about the camp, the construction, maintenance, and sometimes even destruction of fortifications, the dull routine of picket duty, and of course the inevitable and interminable drill parades. Fairly frequently there was an inspection parade, at which time the commanding officer demanded of the troops that they be punctual and, as one officer wrote in his journal,

"... that their cloaths may be clean, shirts wash'd and button'd, collar and wristband, their hats brush'd and trim'd up, fastened up on one side, [obviously slouch hats], *their hair cut short* and all remnants or badges of the Rebel Service on the cloaths of any of them carefully taken off and conceal'd. [why not destroyed?]"

Thomas continues, "The drill and duty routine continued throughout the winter with few interruptions; the officers were determined to get their companies into shape. The Colonel pointed out to his officers what he expected of them."

"That they compel the men to be silent and steady, to hold up their heads, and carry their arms properly, that they strictly Charge and require the Searj'ts and Corporals to see that the Privates are properly dressed, neat and clean, their Arms & Accoutrements well put on, and that they be kept in good order."

Alex notes that the quotations are from Captain McAlpine's Journal (Public Archives of New Brunswick), the first dated 13Feb77 and the second 8May77. Earle seems to have quoted from this journal as an example of the activities of the time and not as a specific detail from Ingraham's specific unit, the King's American Regiment. So, the question remains, who was this particular Captain McAlpine? Was he the Daniel McAlpine who raised the American Volunteers who served with Burgoyne in 1777? Or, Captain Wm McAlpine of the loyalist Guides & Pioneers? Perhaps Jon Wannamaker will see if he can find a copy of this journal at RMC and then we'll know who this McAlpine was.

Nonetheless, the references are dated 1777 and the note about SHORT HAIR is right in our portrayal time period. Now, what was considered short? Buzzed right off like in 1812? Or quite long and full, but without the queue?

You see guys, historical research doesn't stop. Things like hair length, which we've always assumed was LONG; things like cartridge pouch patterns, systems of tactical drills, the design of Colours, facing colours, etc... are always open to interpretation and consequently new findings can change things. Mysteries are always presenting themselves. It's simply the life of an historical animator. If that's discouraging - well sometimes so is life itself.

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP

I had a suggestion just recently that the Museum of Applied Military History should seek some Corporate Sponsorship so that we would have a more regular source of funds. On a personal basis, I've always shied away from this sort of help because it always leads to obligations. You know, "there's no such thing as a free lunch". However, if any of you have some brilliant ideas about companies, associations, or whatever, which may be interested in providing funds to one or more of our projects, for heaven's sake, speak out! There's no harm in thinking about the issue.

POOR ATTENDANCE - WHAT DO WE DO?

We've now had some evidence that it isn't only the Yorkers who are suffering from poor turnouts. At the BAR event at Erie Canal Village, the KRR only fielded 5 muskets - all Light Infantry under Cpl Eric Henry. BUT, Eric commanded the British line on the field, as the KRR represented one half of that force!! He was opposed by only 11 American muskets. Imagine, only 21 troops on the field - that's worse than some of our lulus like Bradley House. It seems the ongoing recession - with folks earning less or being unemployed, or being employed and told to work weekends and evenings - is killing the hobby for everyone. So, the KRR has to be reconciled that it isn't going to easily field over 50 guys - we're going to be lucky to get 35 into the field. What do we do about it? Well, we've got to streamline our subunits and reduce the number of NCOs & Officers to match the turnouts.

COLONEL'S COMPANY: Continuing their previous practice, CaptLt Bourget & Ens John Moore will appear as Volunteers, serving as Musketmen unless otherwise ordered. Where only one section is being fielded, Sjt Putnam will step down to senior Cpl and Cpls Martin & Atkins will remove their knots and serve in the ranks as musketmen. When the Coy is capable of fielding two sections, Putnam will appear as Sjt, Atkins as his Cpl and Martin as Cpl under RSM Moore.

MAJOR'S COMPANY: As before, Capt Joyner & Ens Moreau will appear as Volunteers unless otherwise ordered. Where only one section is being fielded, Sjt Weston will appear as a Cpl. Cpls Paine & Maybee have voluntarily returned to the ranks as Ptes. Cpl Craig is reduced to the ranks for lack of commitment and attendance. LCpl Lindsey will retain that rank and serve as such. On occasions when Capt Joyner decides that two Sections can be fielded, Weston will return to Sjt; Lindsey will serve as his Cpl and Joyner will designate an Acting Cpl in the other Section.

GRENADIERS: Similarly, Capt James & 2Lt Steele will appear as Volunteers unless otherwise ordered. No other actions required.

LIGHT INFANTRY: Capt MacLeod has announced his decision to step down and will make his last appearance as Coy CO at the Niag-on-the-Lake Wargame in August. As the Lights are very understrength, changes are obviously warranted. Announcements of their decisions to follow in the next newsletter.

As a general point, 1st Bn Company grade Officers will only appear as Captains if they are in command of the regiment, or if they are in command of the event, or if they are fielding over ten men in their company. The LtCol will only appear in grade when his presence is required as event coordinator, regimental commander or Northern Brigade commander.

FRANK PACKER

Frank is very unhappy with what he sees as a major decline in the safety procedures of the regiment. His displeasure has reached a very rancorous level. While I am concerned with the various points that Frank has made about unsafe orders being given to the ranks, I do not share his opinion that we have gone to hell in a hand basket. This issue has got to such a state that I think Frank will be happier out of the regiment. This will indeed be our loss and I hope that he continues his friendships with many of the members.

