

NEWLY WEDS - OR A STRANGE, SAD STORY OF SUBTERFUGE AND DECEIT

A sweet innocent makes a visit to Canada and finds a shark lying in wait plotting to get a Green Card so he can go work in the States, buy cheap beer, drive a cheap car, live the high life and have a dollar that's worth 100 cents. This lurker, who likes making big noises and wearing funny jackets and nets over his head, is so fascinating to this innocent girl from beautiful America (a.k.a. Rome, NY), he even persuades her to wear kinky, dark blue suits. She succumbs to his nefarious advances and gives her fair hand to the slug. Yep, married on Jan 6, 1995 - Mike and Marianne Dunn.

OH NO! ERRORS IN THE CALENDAR or... I CAN'T BLOODY BELIEVE IT!

Haste makes waste and later many agonies. Several errors which have been pointed out to me. Pls advise if you know of others.

Omissions: Colonel's Company, No.2 Section A5 Andrew Prescott 905-420-3104

No.2 Section A9 Ben Ripley 416-746-4839

Refugees&Followers Tara Moore 905-304-1476

Errors: SjtMjr Moore's phone number is 905-304-1476

Sjt Andy Weston's is 613-224-6477

Amy Post's area code is 905

Neither B3 Jeff Paine or B7 Ron Maybee are Cpls in the 1st Bn anymore.

Changes: Sjt George Howse's phone number has been changed to 504-6849

Ashley Dean transferred to the Light Company as L27'

Mun Peddle's phone number is now 416-250-8356

Sarah Watt's phone number has been changed to 603-1743

Additions: Col's Coy, No.1 Section A13 Keith Wright 416-465-6264

Maj's Coy, No.2 Section B16' Jeff Hawn 613-738-7771

Maj's Coy, No.2 Section B17' Mark Watson 705-327-5796

**I AM SO PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE MULTIPLE 'DEATHS' OF YE VILLAINOUS SCOTT PATERSON
- REPORT OF BACKUS HERITAGE CONSERVATION AREA SCHEMES**

Joy fills my bosom and wafts through my happy home. I have received a written report from our Lieutenant of Scouts, Fil Walker which details the repeated fatal end of the miscreant Paterson. I feel like those relieved rebels who celebrated the death of Walter Butler with greater warmth than the announcement of Cornwallis' defeat at Yorktown.

What actions of our great and honoured regiment, His Majesty's Royal Regiment of New York, were marred by the sobriquet of 'massacre'? None, I might tell you - NONE. But, mention Wyoming or Cherry Valley and what odious word comes immediately to mind? (other than Craft Show) - why, 'massacre'. And what horde of banditti are associated with both? - Butler's Rangers. And, what name comes to mind when one thinks of that mouldy-green mob but one, Scott Paterson. Thus, a reward was offered for proof of his humbling - and what proof I do have!!

A lock of his scraggly, long greasy hair was presented to me this very day with a wax-sealed account of one well-directed ball after another whacking into the pudgy bulk of his overgrown frame. Well done lads, say I. And a credit to the account of A/Lieutenant Walker of the \$20 bounty proffered for such good news. Let Howse and Sandford draw full upon this largess. (alas, Mr. Cameron must needs apply to BGen St. Leger to receive his right due for the initial perforation of that wicked lout)

HOW DID IT GO AT THE PAINE FARM WINTER TACTICAL?

The weather cooperated and it was brisk, but sunny. A super turnout of 1758 NY Prov, 34th, Yorkers, King's Rangers, Congress's Own and 3 NY ContLine. Many felt it was the largest Kingston tactical in memory. Perhaps Paterson was full of so many holes... Several good scenarios, good chili, good baked beans and fun by all.

A TREKKING ANNOUNCEMENT FROM OUR LIEUTENANT OF SCOUTS - FIL WALKER

"As most of you know, I've been leading 18thc. treks for the past 2 seasons. Members from various Northern Department units have gotten together for the rush of Living 'the Fantasy of A Rev War Scouting Party. This year looks like the best yet... April 29,30 is a Training Weekend, August 19,20 is a Weekend Trek, and the week of October 9 is the main event; the Lake George Invitational Tactical... 100 reenactors playing one continuous wargame. Contact me if you are interested in participating." 705-435-0632

For all of you new guys and those who might not have paid any attention, the Trek is a giant step beyond our usual reenactment. There are no coolers, cars, air mattresses or sleeping bags. You can't drive to McDonalds when the whim takes you. The broad concept of the Trek is to get as close to 18C reality as possible while deep in the bush on a scouting party. There are specific rules about what you take with you as clothing; bedding and food. Fil, George Howse and Steve Sandford are major disciples of this concept. This could be for you. Give Fil a call and try a remarkable, new adventure. By the way, no one should think of attending the week-long trek without experiencing a weekend.

ROYAL YORKERS AND MCDONELL'S COY OF BUTLER'S JOIN YE BRITISH BRIGADE

Well, we've taken the plunge together and applied to join the BritBrigade. Oddly enough, very little has happened. We were announced in their listing as applicants. We have been asked to give them our Beating Order date so they can place us for seniority in the Line; but, no one has sent us a 'welcome' package, or asked us for any money, or nutin'. How unlike the BAR on all counts. Maybe we don't get anything until we're voted upon and formally accepted. While I'm certainly not looking to spend any more of our cash, one would have expected to get some sort of membership infopack. And what happens to our Northern Brigade?? Time will tell.

Here's some other British Brigade news of note.

1. They have formalized an Indian Department and, to be historically correct, they have named a Regular Force officer as Commandant - none other than Captain Christian Cameron (Capt 64th Grenadiers & Ensign 34th)

Chris takes a similar roll to Col Campbell of the Quebec Indian Department whose 2-I-C was Capt Alexander Fraser, 34th. Capt Fraser, leading his ranger Coy & parties of Canada Inds & Fort Hunter Mohawks, with the assistance of Lt Patrick Langan of the KRR, played a key roll during Capt John Munro's two-Yorker-company raid against Ballston, NY in Oct 1780. At the same time, Sir John led 3 Coys of the 1Bn, and Leake's Independent Coy under Maj Gray and 4 Coys of Butler's under Col Butler with Brit & German Regs in the Schoharie & Mohawk Valleys. (the all-up celebration of this October)

Lt Fil Walker, Northern Dept Scouts, is to serve with Christian as 2-I-C, or some other exciting role. The newly structured Indian Department will be in operation at the Boone's Farm event in mid-May and at Cherry Valley in Sep.
2. The Brit Bde has formed a Naval Department under Vic Suthren (Director - Cdn War Museum) as Commander, Fleet Vessels. This is the Vic Suthren who delivered 7 vessels to Simcoe Landing Mk I and will deliver 21 masted vessels and 30 longboats to the 250th anniversary of the Capture of Louisbourg.

The Naval Department is in two Divisions. The Fleet Division has two classes. Class A are vessels which fully satisfy 18C design and operation requirements and Class B will be of traditional design, but not totally up to the mark. There will be a Boat Squadron as a second division. It will be made up of a Picket Boat flotilla and an Assault Boat flotilla. Picket Boats will be armed with

cannon and swivels and the Assault Boats will be manned to deliver Marines, bluejackets and troops ashore. When both Divisions are present at an event, the overall commander will be Suthren as Commodore.

A big event at Plattsburgh NY for BritBde and ContLine units is in the offing for 1996 which will utilize both Divisions of this new Naval Department.

ORIGIN OF THE TERM 'LOBSTERS'

Remember in the last newsletter I enclosed an article about where the British red coats came from. Paul Rodgers of the LtCoy tells me the info in that quoted article was wrong and the redcoats were Royalists, not Cromwell's rebels, and the notes below confirm that he's correct. You may recall that I called the Lobster's 'redcoats' in the firm belief that the use of 'lobster' related to the colour to which the crustacean of that name turns when boiled. Ain't that what you thought too? Oooops! Not quite so, according to an article in the newsletter of Capt Stannus' Coy of the 64th. Indeed, the origin seems to be a strange blend of usage.

This material was taken from the Journal of Army Historical Research, Vol.6 (1926-27). Here's some quotes -

From June 1643

"... wither there came to his assistance Sir Arthur Haselridge with a verie strong Regiment of extraordinary arm[oure]d horse (by the Royalists surnamed the Lobsters because of the bright iron-shell with which they were all covered)"

From 1660

"... Qualification XX [for a person wishing to sit in Parliament] THE OATH -- I, AB, do swear, in the presence of Almighty God, and by the contents of this book, to be true and faithful to this government, as it is now unestablished, and to the keepers of the liberties, unsight unseen, whether they are of an invisible and internal nature, as fiends, pugs, elves, furies, imps, or goblins: or whether they are incarnate, as redcoats, lobsters, corporals, troopers, or dragoons..."

From 3 June 1678

"... At 3 we are under sail, and for the coasts of Scotland... all freight with lobsters, viz. 'red-coats.'" Two days later, "... At 2 o'clock, one of our lobsters standing in the hatch-way gazing about him with his can in his hand, fell backwards into the hold."

From 20 Oct 1692

Observing the Tower Guards being exercised by Lord Lucas, "... The seamen grumbled and asked, 'what a devil those lobsters did there.'" [Trust bloody sailors not to be able to figure it out. ed.]

From 12 Apr 1740

A magazine article entitled, "A Conversation between Mr. John Tar, Mariner and Mr. Thomas Lobster, a Foot Soldier in one of His Majesty's Royal Regiments of Guards."

So, it would appear that the Royalist Horse with plate armour similar to our subject crustacean were called 'lobsters' and the Foot with their boiled-red coats received the same nickname. And, note well, the Royalist Foot, not Cromwell's folk. Which came first, the Horse or the Foot? The Chicken or the Egg? Crime or Gun Control?

EYE GLASSES

The current use of eye glasses by such a large proportion of the population is certainly quite different than the 18th. It is suggested, although by no means documented, that only the very rich could afford glasses and the common man, which most of us portray, would never have worn them. Because those of us who have sight restrictions have become so reliant on glasses to improve our sight, giving them up even for a few hours is very disturbing. Yet, how did that large proportion of sight-restricted folks operate in the 18C? Of course, for one thing, they wouldn't really have recognized just how poor their vision was. Sure, in relative terms they would have had an inkling. They would know they couldn't see some things that other folks could. But, they couldn't have any precise idea. Here are some quotes from the newsletter of the 64th Regt who reprinted an article from the 22nd Regt newsletter. Cannibals, all of us!

"In London in 1773, the cheapest English nose-glasses sold for a shilling but imported German ones could be had for four pence."

A 1756 advertisement which appeared in the Boston Evening Post - "Just imported in the Scow 'Two Brothers', Capt. Marsden, from London and to be sold by Hannah Breitnall at the Sign of the Spectacles, in the Second-Street near Black-Horse Alley. Variety of the finest chrystal spectacles set in temple, steel leather, and other frames. Likewise true Venetian green spectacles for weak and watery eyes of various sorts. Also concave spectacles for short-sighted persons, magnifying and reading glasses, telescopes, perspectives, with multiplying glasses..."

So what? So, nothing. It's interesting youse guys.

OH THEM YANKEE TROOPS!

Jon Wannamaker sent in some pages from the Diary of Benjamin Gilbert, a typical effing Doodle - Gilbert I mean, not Wannamaker.

"the 23d Serjt. Chamberlin, Corpl. Hagor, Corpl. Davis, Corpl. Haws was Confin'd and Tryed for not Turning out to exercise and all weir Brook [broke]. The three Corpl. weir Restored but Serjt Chamn. was turned to the Ranks to do Duty.

the 25th I bought two Quarts of whiskey and Gave 9/ for it.

the 28th In the fore noon the Serjt went Down the hill and plaid Ball. [maybe lacrosse] At Nigt. [night] Marcy was at our tent and lay all Nigt with Serjt Phipps and went home at Gun firing in the Morning.

the 29th Serjt Phipps [...] and at Evening Dod. [dittoed] with [Marcy].

the 6th Fair. Serjt. Bragg Brought Marcy into Camp at Night.

the 7th Clear and warm. At Ngt. Marcy was here.

the 9th At Ngt. Serjt. Cook got home his whisky and we kept it up very High.

the 10th Serjt. Cook Got [put] under Guard for Selling Liquor.

the 11th Serjt. Cook was tried by Couart Martial and was Brook and his Liquor taken from him but he was Restored again.

the 12th I had a tooth pulled and it Brook off Clost to the goom [gum].

the 13th I had the Root of the broken Toth Drawed out. It Bled all Day.

the 14th My Goom Bled all Day.

the 15th My Goom Still kept Bleding.

the 16th All the men on West Regt. peraided and fired three Round a peace for Joy at the Good New[s] from France. [ie. the damn French were coming into the war]

the 17th Sunday. I had the Tooth Ach [all] Day. I Staid at home. The Regt. went to church." Two Months later

"the 15th At Guard Mounting A Spy from the Enemy was Hangd. on the Gallow upon Gallow Hill.

the 18th At 5 oClock in the morning the General Beat. At 6 the Troop, then we marched about a mile and stopt and had all the Pack[s] searcht. Then marched on but had to stop Every few minutes for the Baggage to git out of the way. Serjt. Peck of Capt Bensons Compy got Reduced to Ranks for Going into an oarchard after apples. Adj. Trotter and Lieut Cooper had their Swords Taken from them for Gettin into a Turnip yard after Turnips.

the 24th ... Young Fellow Bellong to the militia got Run over by a Horse and allmost Killed."

These guys sound so much like Royal Yorkers - I can't imagine how the bastards won!? The G.D. French, Spanish and Dutch, that's how!

THE CANADIAN MILITARY HERITAGE MUSEUM, BRANTFORD

Elements of the Great War, Athena, H.M.C.S. and Perth's were at the official opening of our Brantford museum on April 8&9. Of interest to the Royal Yorkers, Sjt Dave Putnam has done a superb job in improving our Loyalist display. Two new maps with accompying pictures have been added and a panel showing a Stand of Arms, ie. musket, bayonet and cartridge pouch. We need to add a Belt Axe and if there's anyone who isn't using his and wants to donate it for the display, pls advise. As I have said before, and doubtless will say again and again, this is the best display regarding the UE Loyalists in Canada. We've got to get the word out to them and then let's hope they start supporting it.

