

Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>**NEXT EVENT: NORTHERN BRIGADE - WINTER SCHEMES**

A beautiful piece of tactical ground with a bush-lined, frozen creek running through the property. Fields divided by split-rail fences. A drumlin centrally located as a target. Outbuildings to get warm and hydro for heating food. Rumours are that No.1 Section Major's is taking on all comers!

You wear 18C clothing worn by any of our units with woollies, sweaters, scarves, mitts, gloves. Footwear can be modern - there are no prizes for frozen feet. Bring lots of cartridges and some bucks for a toot in Peterborough before you set off for home.

**TIMING:** Try to be on site at 1030 latest so things can get started. Mind you, no one will wait for you to get there, so events may be underway if you're tardy. Any questions - phone Sjt Eric Lorenzen at 613-472-5855.

**DIRECTIONS: FROM TORONTO** - Take 401 to Bowmanville. Exit Hwy 115 north to Peterborough. When you get to Peterborough, follow signs for Hwy 7 to Ottawa; this is the Pete bypass and you take it onto Hwy 7 east of the city. Go past the city approx 15 miles, watch for Killick Restaurant on left. Take first road south past the Killick (3rd line Asphodel Twnshp). Look for Hodge house, 5th on right side and GR sign on mailbox. Park near the barn.

**FROM OTTAWA** - Take Hwy 7 west to Norwood. Approx 7 miles past the village, turn left (south) on 3rd Line Asphodel and pick up Hodge house as above.

**FROM KINGSTON** - Take 401 to Brighton, go north on Hwy 30 to Campbellford. Go thru Campbellford on Hwy 30 to Havelock. Turn left (west) at Hwy 7. Follow Hwy 7 to Norwood. See instructions above.

**THE ANNUAL WINTER PARTY**

The date for the party has been set as Saturday March 30 and the venue is again Appleby College. More on this later. Mark this date in your calendar.

**1996 TORONTO DRILL SCHEDULE**

In view of the fact that we don't yet have new recruits to train, I set a moderate drill schedule. If we tire of drilling, we can tell war stories. Same place - Fort York Armouries. Musket, Hat, Waistbelt w/bayonet - no blue jeans. Again, these are all on Wednesday nights and start at 2000 hrs.

Feb. 14; Mar. 13; Apr. 17; May 15

**PROMOTIONS IN BUTLER'S RANGERS**

LtCol John Butler, whose Corps met with devastating casualties during the 1995 Campaign while in garrison at Fort Niagara where his troops suffered from several strange ailments most often transferred through intimate human contact, has announced the promotion of the only two men left breathing regularly in McDonnell's Coy. (are these men the carriers??)

Scott Paterson to 1st Lieutenant, vice Hare hanged at Canajoharie.

Zig Misiak to Serjeant, vice Newberry similarly hanged by ye rebels.

A letter was received at HQ in Quebec City from Butler apologizing to Governor General Haldimand and stating that an Officer & NCO school has been established at Navy House on the Niagara River in the hopes that such tragic measures can be avoided in the future. Paterson and Misiak are attending Kindergarten at the French Castle, between their duties of cleaning the mens' muskets and delousing their coats, in the hopes that some of the social graces necessary for such exalted ranks can be absorbed into their rock hard heads. If the rebels weren't so damned afraid, they'd be laughing.

**THE SCHOHARIE MOHAWK VALLEYS RAID REVIEWED**

Definitely an overall success. First the highpoints -

1. When the Old Mohawk Trail venue fell apart on Sat evening and gave me a heart attack, the 15th Albany responded with a great alternative. We had an excellent pair of wargames on new ground, never worked over before, within easy marching distance from our camp. It has lots of potential for repeats in the future.
2. Our regiment had a good turnout considering the agonies of the current economy. The unit that came through in spades was Andy Weston's No.1 Section, Major's with 10, fully-functional men in the field. The KRR was by far the largest unit and for spirit and performance was right up to past efforts.
3. We had a great time with some of our sister units. Paterson's Coy of Butler's Rangers and Sorenson's two Coys of King's Rangers were the notable Loyalist units and Cameron's late-war rendition of the 34th Regt's Light Infantry Coy was excellent. There were a few others, but these were the outstanding companions. As I said to many of you, this combination of units represented THE striking arm of the recreated British Army in that - all of them can move, will go anywhere and will deliver the maximum punch. It was, for me, a delight to see it operate.
4. We had an excellent experiment at this event - a Royal Yorker, proper-18th Century Field Tavern shamelessly patterned on Phil Dunning's great success with the BAR. One of the important concepts behind the setting up of the tavern was to pay back many of our friends from other units, such as the 64th, who have treated us so well in the past with parties and songfests. So, our own tavern & soiree in recognition of our 20th anniversary was most fitting. Of course, the other driving goal was to give all Royal Yorkers the opportunity to share in some 18C bufoonery and nonsense. The partial denuding of Drummer Alexander by Mistress McAnulty suggests this goal was achieved.
5. Remarkably, No.1 Section Major's proved that it is possible for a bunch of men to organize the cooking of some delicious meals at events. I was dumbfounded! (Will McGeachie transfer?)
6. The membership will be very pleased to hear that the Major James Gray Memorial Cup was awarded at Schoharie to that very popular and deserving soldier - Drummer Mike Putnam, a.k.a. Pte Asa Putnam. Remarkably, the Cup was returned without any mould or fungus growing on it by Chief Defaulter and lunkhead, James Robertson, who fortunately was in attendance at Schoharie and continued his charming career.
7. The event featured a most alarming and vicious Lacrosse Match between a maddened group of blue painted, plaid-clad, savage men - amongst them the traitor Sandford, who takes every opportunity to wear a skirt. The Referee, who must remain un-named to protect him from further reprisals (he was mobbed after the match), was most intemperate in his judgments against the gentlemen of our regiment and the game was lost - not for want of skill or application you understand. One of our opponents was discovered to be a native, professional player from the Six Nations Lacrosse Emporium named Chief Joseph Blanket. No wonder we lost when the opposition waives all the principles of amateur competition and bribes the referee with the favours of their young men! It might be also pointed out that our 'friends' from McDonell's Coy were very obvious in their absence. Shame!!!!
8. A naughty little one-lined ditty was heard in the Line. It went something like this - "Our contempt for the..." I disremember the rest.

Now, let's just dwell on some of the downsides -

1. The haybale affair - what monumental misunderstandings and screw-ups. Enough said.
2. Two mornings with reveille at 0600! Surely that wasn't really necessary.
3. We had a few battles on original ground that weren't worth the effort. The Saturday action in Middleburgh was OK, but still not within the framework of 1780. There simply wasn't enough room to drive in their scouts and really envelope the works like the expedition did. On the Monday we did our best to recreate what happened at Stone Arabia. We had a nice new approach route; but, even after much negotiation, the battle miscued and never recovered from a bad start. At Klock's Field, there was simply no way to make a decent effort out of really poor, badly confined, tactical ground. Sure, we could have stood our ground and pounded away at the militia for another 15-20 minutes, but I think we've outgrown that kind of dismal battle. I had spent hours and hours researching exactly what happened in both of those battles and then spent

at least 45 minutes in three conferences with our worthy enemy. Together we developed start lines and cues and still the results weren't worth a damn. And, what do you do with Dragoons when there weren't any in the original scenario? And, how can you feel that an action is convincing when your enemy is hiding behind snowplow blades?

My conclusion - in the future, don't even attempt to simulate what happened originally, it just doesn't work with the ground being entirely different. Also, it's impossible to get everyone to agree to play certain roles so that scenarios can be accurately recreated. No matter how much prep work goes into the briefings, units just won't deliver exactly what occurred. They have to 'get their licks in' to make sure they look and feel good and all the historical work goes down the crapper. I also believe that the public don't give a damn - all they want to see is to be entertained. What unit moved where, which one broke, which one advanced, which one won the day doesn't matter a damn to them as long as they have a good time watching. Frankly, I find that thought very discouraging, but I think it's true.

Three pieces of Regimental ?comedy?

1. A few of us will remember back to the days when Cpl Al Joyner was known widely as the Flying Wolenda as he spent so much time tripping over obstructions which launched him through the air. Some of you had perhaps thought that now he's been raised through the ranks to the heady height of Captain that he's above such theatrics, HOWEVER the Stone Arabia affair proved otherwise and Mr. Joyner made a zealous comeback to aerial historonics, flying through the blue to land with a great crunch in the dirt while in the service of his rightful Sovereign. Well done!
2. Just in case you old guard guys think you have seized the corner on clever little moves, after the events were all over, you hadda overhear the innocent, indeed shocked, words (which were obviously meant to impress the Colonel who just happened to be standing nearby) which came from the mouth of Jeff Hawn as he reached into his haversack and 'discovered' his neckstock. 'So, that's where you were!' says he in wide-eyed innocence. Oh yeah, oh yeah.
3. On Sunday night the Col's Coy went to the Pizza operation in Schoharie to get a meal and ordered some draft Budweiser to wash down the grub. The waitress came back to advise that all of it was gone! That didn't worry us too much and we asked what she had in bottles. Imagine our chagrin when she said they didn't carry bottles, it was draft or nothing. I asked how could they have run out of beer. She replied, "Captain James drank it all last night." Carrumba - he's like the Scarlet Pimpernel - he's everywhere and not a bowl, flagon, keg or bottle is safe!

## THORNHILL REVIEWED

We had a very good turnout for this event and certainly earned our money. This is the second year that we have expanded the event to include the Brunswick Light Infantry and the Queen's Rangers. While one might expect that our revenue would be less, the stipend is now large enough that per capita payments can be made to both units and still there's more money for our account than in previous years. Thus, everyone is happy.

Several people who made long trips to attend deserved mention: Keith Croucher who drove in from London, picking up Mike Putnam at Ancaster on the way. Norm Vandenberg who came all the way in from Peterborough. Ron & Barry Maybee from St. Catherines, Ed Cass from Acton and the Twist brothers from Orangeville.

We had a strong Fife & Drum operation which always makes this event so much better. Many thanks to all who attended from all those who didn't. Why do I say that? Cuz their dedication makes it possible to avoid having to collect dues!

## NEWS OF A MOVE

Lois Jackman, Emilie and Elizabeth Hurley have moved and their address is:  
15550-29 Mile Rd., RAY MICHIGAN 48096 810-752-3781

**ANOTHER BABY!**

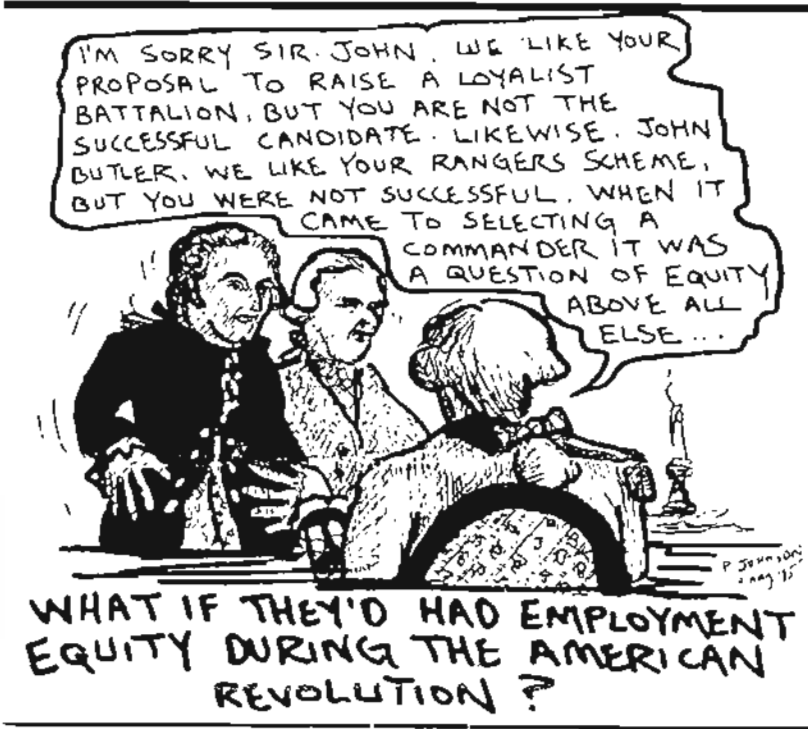
Steve and Agnes Sandford report the birth of a daughter named Rowan - apparantly named after the Celtic god, Mr. Bean, one of Steve's heroes. The baby weighed in at 17 lb 4 oz and, as I write, is in training for the Trek. Father euphoric - mother barely recovering and thankful it wasn't twins.

**A CRYPTIC MESSAGE RECEIVED AT FESTUNG KING**

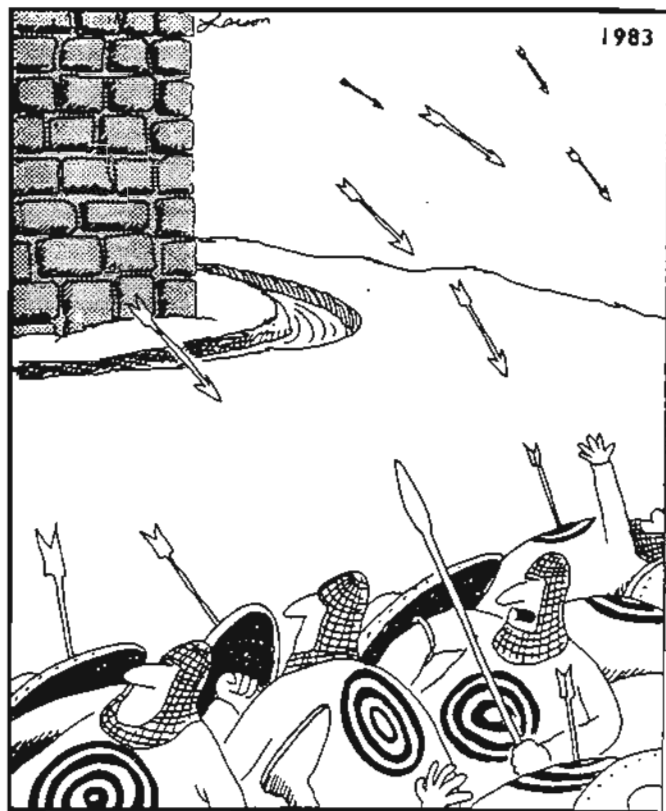
Through the post, arrived on January 3 - a 'rubbing' message printed in a strange, blue-wax compound in utterly-classless, six, bold, block letters in two groups of threes, viz - "NJV KRR"

This has been interpreted by the cyptologists of the Secret Service in Quebec as - Nerd-like John Vanamaker Kneeds Raging Retribution. Any other ideas? All contributions accepted, and providing they meet the code of good taste, will be printed.

**PETE JOHNSON PUTS A MODERN SPIN ON THE REBELLION & SCHUYLER ISSUES NEW UNIFORMS TO THE ALBANY & TRYON COUNTY MILITIA**



*Handwritten signature*



"What did I say, Boris? ... These new uniforms are a crock!"