

Royal



Yorkers

*With the latest Advices, Foreign and Domeftick*

## CRYSLER'S TORY FARM, Morrisburg ~ July 11-13, 2003

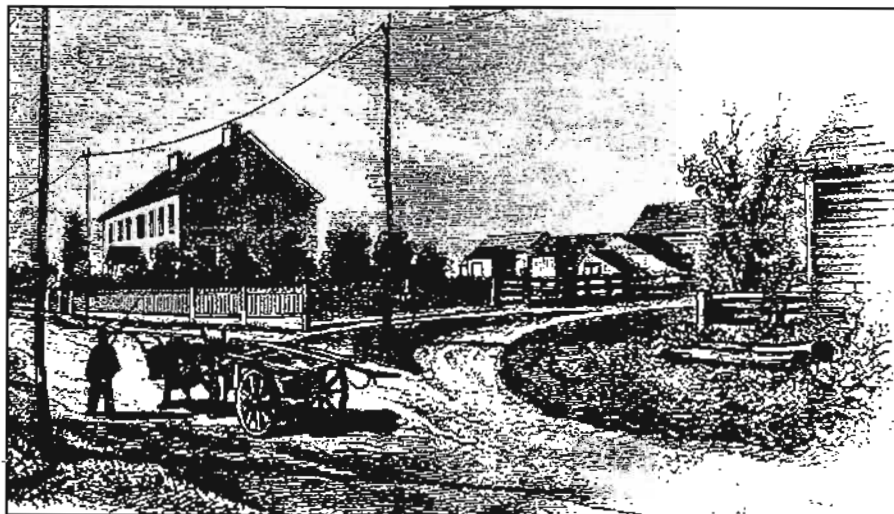
One of our All-Up events for 2003 is at Crysler's Farm near Morrisburg, Ontario. This event is sponsored by the Friends of Crysler's Farm Battlefield and the St. Lawrence Parks Commissions (Upper Canada Village). The Museum of Applied Military History and the Northern Brigade are the host units.

We will be camped near the famous Crysler's Farm battlefield. John Crysler was a Butler's Rangers Drummer. His house served as the British HQ during the battle in 1813. The battle was fought on farms occupied by disbanded Royal Yorkers of Major James Gray's Company. The area was first settled in 1784 and is part of the heartland of loyalist Ontario.

Hard by the camp is Upper Canada Village. Loyalist settlers built many of its earliest buildings. One of the most famous was the home of Jeremiah French, a native of the New Hampshire Grants, who served as a Captain in Peter's Queen's Loyal Rangers, and later as a flank company Lieutenant in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, Royal Yorkers. As well, other nearby points of interest include the Battle of Crysler's Farm Visitors' Centre, the Loyalist Monument dedicated to Sir John Johnson, and a Pioneer cemetery.

While most of our activities will be conducted near the battleground, we will also travel off-site about 15 minutes to the family lands of Sjt. Eric Fernberg, where we will conduct some tactical wargames on superb, challenging ground. The four original loyalist lots now owned by the Fernberg family were settled first by men and women of Duncan's Company.

For those who are starved for genuine Rev War sites, Crysler's Farm, Upper Canada Village and the Fernberg Patent are as good as it gets!



*The Crysler house and outbuildings as they appeared in 1855.*

### On-line Registration

All individuals who are planning to attend this exciting event must register using the Crysler's Farm website:

*Yes, the organizers really do expect all participants to personally register online.*

[http://www.cryslersfarm.com/register\\_form.htm](http://www.cryslersfarm.com/register_form.htm)

### YORKER SETTLEMENT AT CRYSLER'S FARM

So, you're thinking, our big Rev War event in 2003 will take place on a War of 1812 battlefield. What's wrong with this picture? Well, Shaun Wallace and Gavin Watt have combined their research to explain why there couldn't be a more appropriate site.

Upper Canada Village is located in Williamsburg Township, Concession 1, Lots 7, 8 & 9. In 1786 these lots were all owned by men from the disbanded King's Royal Yorkers.

**Lot 7** – The east half of the lot was owned by Sjt. John McIntyre, Major's Coy. The west half was owned by Sjt. Daniel Campbell, Quartermaster Serjeant of the battalion, who served in Major's Coy.

**Lot 8 and the east half of Lot 9** was owned by Lt. Jacob Farrand, Munro's Coy. He was the nephew of Major James Gray.

**Lot 9 (west half)** was owned by Cpl. Farquar McDonell, Major's Coy. By 1800 it had transferred to John Merckley, Major's Coy.

The Battle of Crysler's Farm took place on Lots 10, 11, 12 and 13.

**Lot 10** – The east half of the lot was owned by Edward Gay, Major's Coy. By 1797 it was transferred to Peter Fetterly, Major's Coy. The west half was owned by Peter Davis, Major's Coy.

**Lot 11** – The east half was owned by Frederick Bouck, Munro's Coy and the west half by Adam Bouck, Alex McDonell's Coy. Adam had the whole lot by 1797.

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(Continued from page 1)

**Lot 12** - John Killman, Major's Coy had one half of the lot and Ludowick Acker, Major's Coy had the other half. By 1797 Acker had the whole lot.

**Lot 13** - Cpl. Abijah Wade, Major's Coy had one half of the lot and John Crysler, Major's Coy had the other half. By 1805 John Crysler, a drummer in Butler's Rangers and the nephew of Royal Yorker John Crysler, acquired the east half of Lot 13. John Crysler was a prominent citizen at the time of the battle, so his name was attached to the action.

So, on June 11, 12 & 13 we will be camped on ground first settled by men from our own regiment.



# "Rebellion in the Mohawk Valley" Gets Rave Reviews

*It's been years in the writing and is now in print. Gavin's book, "Rebellion in the Mohawk Valley" is getting rave reviews from all who have read it. Captain Allan Joyner wrote the following review for Amazon:*

One of the best things about a well written history is its ability to bring the participants to life. *Rebellion in the Mohawk Valley* does just that for a little known battle of the American Revolution. From the patriots (or rebels depending on which side you feel yourself on) to the Loyal Americans fighting for their very homes and farms, I now understand what motivated the people on both sides who lived through one of the most important events in world history. I also now know how they lived, fought and felt. This was war between neighbors, friends and even families, and this book's description of that fact brings a whole new dimension to the story.

The author, a Canadian, and the American researchers and historians who contributed to his work, have produced a balanced and colourful work. *Rebellion in the Mohawk Valley* clears up many long held misconceptions about this important battle

and the events that surrounded it.

The illustrations and maps are very helpful. When combined with the descriptions of the places, people and events, I came away with a clear image of the events it described and explained. The author clearly knows the time period and the locations in the book very well indeed.

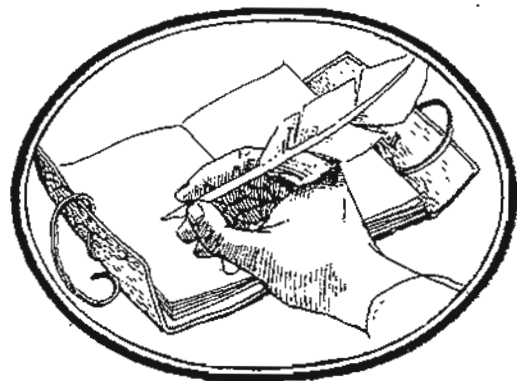
One of the best features of the book is the extensive footnotes and the bibliography. From here one can go on to explore the entire American Revolution. It opened my eyes to the other side's view of the war and made me see this part in a much more open way.

I'd highly recommend this book to anyone, from early teens on in age, because regardless of your degree of knowledge or interest in this particular battle of the revolution, the quality of the storytelling alone makes it worth the read. I just wish I could meet some of the people I came to know.

*John Pulinski, from Youngstown, N.Y. also wrote:*

I recently finished "Rebellion in the Mohawk Valley". This book does an outstanding job of describing the events that took place in central New York 225 years ago (1777). The

## MOST SOUGHT AFTER BOOK SINCE "THE BURNING OF THE VALLEYS"



YOU CAN ORDER A COPY OF "REBELLION IN THE MOHAWK VALLEY" DIRECTLY FROM GAVIN. THE COST IS \$26 PLUS \$6 SHIPPING (IT'S A HEAVY BOOK). IF YOU HAVEN'T OBTAINED A COPY OF THE COLONEL'S OTHER RECENT PUBLICATION, "THE FLOCKEY", YOU MAY ORDER THIS FOR \$10.00 PLUS \$2.50 SHIPPING. OR IF SANTA THINKS YOU'VE REALLY BEEN A GOOD MUSKETMAN / REFUGEE, YOU CAN PURCHASE BOTH VOLUMES FOR \$35.00 PLUS \$8.00 SHIPPING. WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT TO FIND THESE BOOKS IN YOUR STOCKING THIS CHRISTMAS, EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO PUT THEM THERE YOURSELF?

reader is shown how these events tied into the main British advance from Canada and eventual defeat at Saratoga.

Gavin Watt not only talks about the key players, like Barry St. Leger, John Johnson and Peter Gansevoort, but also shows how the little person fit into the picture. You get to feel what the common soldiers and their families were thinking and experiencing. The training, equipping and discipline problems on both sides are discussed; the loss of property, dignity and dangers faced by the local loyalist; and the in-

fluence and power that the local Committees of Safety wielded. All these were contributing factors to some of the bloodiest fighting of the entire war and it was fought between former friends and neighbors.

The Indians of the six-nation confederacy were also discussed in detail. Much like their white contemporaries, theirs was a fight of brother against brother, which ended with the breakdown of the Iroquois nation. The war captain, Joseph Brant is portrayed as the great leader that he was and it is shown how much impact he actually

had on the overall campaign. You will also get an understanding of how the Indians suffered, which is often overlooked or just touched-on in passing in other books.

I recommend this book to anyone that has an interest in the American Revolution and wants to read about something other than what happened on the main stage. It is written in a very readable and understandable manner, so you don't have to struggle with it. It just flows.

## Captain Joseph Anderson, 1st Bn, KRR NY

In accounts written about the Royal Yorkers, it is extremely rare to read anything about specific company commanders. This is quite unlike the tales about Butler's Rangers whose captains are frequently singled out for attention. One could assume that the Yorker captains never did anything notable; however, the KRR NY operated in multi-company operations, while Butler's captains more often led individual expeditions, which gave them their personal exposure and deservedly high reputations.

You may recall in "Burning of the Valleys" the independent expedition led by Captain John Munro in which he had a free hand to conduct his own affairs. In my little book "The Flockey", a clear picture of Captain John McDonnell Scotus develops. He later led the Grenadier Company. In "Rebellion in the Mohawk Valley," there are many details of Light Company captain, Stephen Watts, in the Oriskany ambush, as well a description of the leadership exhibited by Capt-Lieut Donald John McDonnell Scotus of the Colonel's Company.

The following is the story of another Royal Yorker company commander, Joseph Anderson, brother of Samuel. This is some of the material that had to be cut out of my manuscript for "Rebellion in the Mohawk Valley" because of size limitations.

The events took place early in 1776 before the Royal Yorkers were formed and when the rebels were still in possession of much of lower Quebec. The rebels' New Year's Eve assault on Quebec had been repelled and, after a long winter, they were again gathering their strength to attack the capital.

You will see that Joseph, and several other principal loyalists, took steps to actively defeat the rebellion. What follows is a baroque confession delivered by Joseph to the Albany Committee of Safety on July 27, 1776.

*It was agreed on, by James Gray Esqr. [later the Major 1<sup>st</sup> Bn, KRR NY] Late Captain in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, Mr. Thomas Gumersall [later a subaltern in the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn and eventually senior Captain 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, KRR NY] and myself that I*



*should undertake to go to Ticonderoga without Loss of time and burn the Shipping there belonging to the Congress if I could by any means, do it with safety to myself, but if not I was to pass that port and proceed to Quebec and Explore the Rebel Army there Besieging that City and if possible find out what Genl. Arnolds intentions were, and to send Intelligence thereof to Genl. Sir Guy Carleton in Quebec. I not being able to effect the former undertook the latter, and arriving at St. Foy's where Genl. Arnolds Army were then Quartered on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of March 1776 and there fell in with one Colonel Maxwell of the Rebel Army an old acquaintance of mine, and his Adjutant a Lieut. Anderson formerly an officer in the 44<sup>th</sup> Regt. who was likewise an acquaintance of mine, they invited me to remain with them in their Quarters during my Stay at St. Foy's which I gladly accepted of, it answering my purpose in every respect as I could wish: for Colonel Maxwell I knew was one of the Genls. Counsellors, and knew every thing that was going on at head Quarters all the Genls. Most secret De-*

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signs were known to him. The Adjutant frequently shew me his orderly Book and particularly after Receiving any material orders he acquainted me with the Strength and State of their Army. After Supper in the night of the 4<sup>th</sup> of April they reposing great confidence in me acquainted me with everything that was intended by the Genl. To be carried into Execution, they even told me the day on which their designs were to be put in force which was to be on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of April should the River prove Clear enough of Ice, but if not on that day as soon as it should. A fire Ship was to be sent down from Wolfes Cover to set the Kings Shipping &c on Fire that

Quebec with some Intelligence to Genl. Carleton, who replied that it was so exceedingly dangerous he did not like to attempt it but upon further discourse I perswaded him to go in by promising to give 40 pounds to him in Montreal in the year 1778.

Chaucers orders from me were to go into Quebec on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of April 1776 and acquaint Genl. Carleton that Genl. W[ost]er had the day before joined Genl. Arnold with a Reinforcement of Troops &c. and that I had learnt from Head Quarters at Holland house that on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of April (or at least as soon as the River was clear enough of Ice) he might expect a Fire Ship would come down from Wolfs Cove with a design to burn



lay in the Docks of Quebec which if effected they were immediately there-upon to storm the Town.

I began at this time to be much and very anxious to get a person to go, in to Quebec with this Intelligence to Genl. Carleton which I was determined to do at any Risque and price, at length happening to meet with one Alexander Chaucer, whom I had formerly been acquainted with, we had been Officers together in the same Provincial Regiment [New York Provincial Regiment] in the late war and upon Service together at the Havannah [Cuba] in the year 1762 but was at a Loss to know at this Juncture what his Sentiments were whether Loyal to the King or not[.] However entered into discourse with him & after little while I asked him how much money I should give him to go into

the Kings Shipping &c. lying in the Docks of Quebec which if effected an Assault upon the Town would immediately ensue. Chaucer accordingly went into Quebec and I sett off from St. Foy's on my return to Albany on the said 6<sup>th</sup> day of April. I was the next day hotly pursued by order of Genl. W[ost]er on suspicion of having sent the said Chaucer into Quebec but luckily not overtaken until I arrived at Albany where the aforementioned Capt. Gray and myself were taken prisrs. on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 1776 and forthwith Conducted to the Committee all my Papers were examined by the said Committee who told me that it was done in Consequence of a Suspicious Character that had followed me from Genl. W[ost]er but nothing very Criminal was found among them.

It is very difficult to understand what

prompted Joseph to write this account and deliver it into the hands of his enemies. Was it bravado, or simply the expected behaviour of an officer of the period? In any event, he and his brother Joseph with Daniel McAlpin (who later commanded a small loyalist unit on Burgoyne's Expedition) and John Munro were ordered to be sent by sloop down the Hudson to Redhook and from there, overland to confinement in Connecticut.

In some manner, Joseph made his escape and was able to join Sir John in the trek over the Adirondacks to Quebec. He was first enlisted as the lieutenant in the Major's Company under his friend James Gray. After Donald John McDonell Scotus was killed at Oriskany, Joseph took over command of the Colonel's Company as captain-lieutenant. On March 9, 1778, he was promoted to captain and given his own company. There was a considerable delay before the new company went on its first campaign, which was Munro's raid against Ballstown, NY in the fall of 1780.

In 1782, Captain Joseph Anderson was in command of the Prison Island garrison at Coteau-du-Lac on the St. Lawrence River when 17-year-old, Ensign James McAlpin (son of the Daniel McAlpin mentioned above) sought revenge for his father's recent death by abusing several prisoners. McAlpin was arrested on July 1<sup>st</sup> and was Court-Martialled twenty-eight days later. He was found guilty of the "most barbarous and inhuman treatment" of the prisoners and was dismissed from the service.

Joseph was extremely distraught that this misdemeanour had occurred under his command and was most conscious of the disgrace which attended the lad's family, in particular his friend Mary McAlpin, the young man's mother who was already suffering over her husband's untimely death. On December 24<sup>th</sup>, Joseph resigned his commission. It was an unpleasant end to a notable military career. In 1784, he settled at Cataraqui Township No. 1 in the town later known as Kingston.

Lt Col Gavin Watt

# Yorker Reputation For Insanity

The Colonel passed along this paragraph from a letter by our friend Rich Paterson of the 3NY. In the course of explaining what makes a reenactment regiment successful, he made the following reference to the Royal Yorkers.

*...Keep a sense of humor. Remember, a lot of what we portray was not stuff that was done for glorious, worthy purposes by our ancestors. Sometimes there was avarice, greed, revenge, or just stupidity involved. As I sometimes make others frighteningly aware, some things in history were just plain stupid! If you can keep a sense of humor, better yet, if the unit can collectively develop a sense of humor, a healthy sense of proportion is not far behind. As you hang around with some of the veterans of the 2nd and 3rd NY, we'll eventually regale you with some stories of the occasional "stunts" put on by the Royal Yorkers. That's a good 60 people working up some very elaborate, very looney stunts, all with their own roles to perform like ants in a colony (the winters are long and cold in Canada - there's a reason most successful American comedians are Canadian). The stunts have become legendary,*



*but on the whole, that sense of humor and irony pervades much of the organization, even when they are dead serious, and either draws new members or at least makes us other Yorkers look forward to seeing them at an event (we like to call it a "target-rich environment")...*

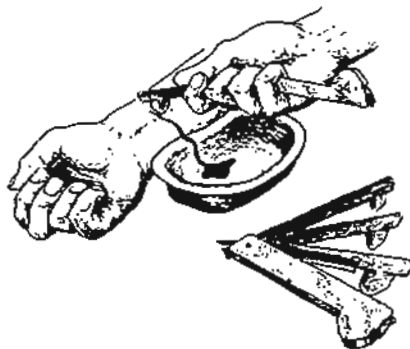
The Yorker's reputation for pranks and practical jokes is in fact legendary.

Who can forget the hilarity at the Yorker Snipe Hunt and the Colonel's Soiree, or the Naval Battle at Fort Wellington, or the Polo Match at Fort Niagara. In the reenactment hobby the regiments reputation on the field is matched only by it's reputation off the field. The Colonel's thoughts on the subject: "It is past time to launch another Yorker insanity". The reenacting world awaits.

## Brigade Surgeon Returns to Active Duty

Headquarters at Montreal is pleased to advise the return to light duties of Brigade Surgeon Bruce Finch, KRR NY. Surgeon Finch has stuffed himself full of mercury phails and doses of laudanum so that he may be fit to examine, scour and treat the various despicable, self-inflicted wounds to the nether regions found so frequently amongst the men of this brigade.

His lady, nurse Dianne, will return to full duties and be willing to hear your various moans and whines about the hard life of a soldier. Of course, she will continue to add to the family's subsistence by selling to your NCO's and officers any lovely little stories you might reveal.



Finch will only be able to carry a lightweight surgeon's bag of crosscut saw, medium and large tongs and light, medium and heavy ballpeen hammers. In consequence, you must not expect delicate treatment for your supposed

ailments when you are malingering to avoid your service to the King.

As has been the case for the past few years, serious injuries such as bayonet punctures, ball wounds and hangnails will be treated by the SjtMjr with salt and mustard plasters, thus leaving the more effete ailments to the good doctor. Huzzah!

Bruce says that he will be able to attend local events and participate where bodies are needed and hard to come by - like for instance, Loyalist Day at the Ontario Legislature. He is very happy to narrate any presentation or tactical demo. We know he's very good at this.

LtCol Gavin Watt

# Sir John Johnson's Escape to Canada

*I recently came across an account of Sir Johnson's escape to Canada in the book, "Forgotten Leaves of Local History, Kingston" by H. C. Burleigh. The following excerpt is taken from the book:*

One of the most dramatic episodes of the American Revolution, either Tory or rebel, was the flight of Sir John Johnson and about one hundred and seventy of his tenants and neighbours from Johnstown, New York, to Montreal. The men of this group formed the nucleus of the King's Royal Regiment of New York, often known as Johnson's Royal Greens. [I can just hear the groans as everyone reads this reference]

For nineteen days, Sir John and his party, so we are told, led by three Indian guides, survived the miseries of a journey of more than two hundred miles through the wilds of the Adirondack region, lacking proper food and exposed to the vagaries of the northern spring weather...



[In May, 1776 the rebels believed] that Sir John was influencing the Indians and the whites who resided to the westward. It was then that a decision was taken to seize the person of Sir John and his chief adherents. Colonel Dayton, with a portion of Schuyler's regiment, set out for Johnstown, where they arrived on May 18<sup>th</sup>. But friends of Sir John, notably Thomas Gumersall, hastened to bring him the news that arrest was pending.

On the receipt of this alarming information, Sir John decided to set out for Canada without delay. The word was passed quickly among his tenants and friends. All who wished to accompany him were to gather at the Hall as soon as possible, prepared to set out before sundown. With the arrival of that fate-

ful May evening, Colonel Dayton's troops entered the eastern part of Johnstown. At the same time, Sir John, with almost two hundred followers, both male and female, some accompanied by their children, started northward down the Fish House road on their way to freedom as they knew it and which they wished to protect.

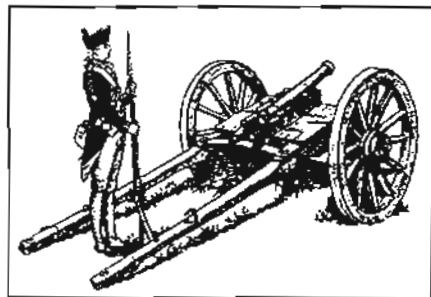
Much has been written over the years about Sir John's dramatic escape to Canada. Various theories and opinions have been expressed, but, as far as is known, no definite date has been mentioned for the start of the journey through the forest. We know that Colonel Dayton received orders to proceed to Johnstown on May 17<sup>th</sup>. After making the futile journey, he returned to Albany on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. It, therefore, seems safe to assume that Sir John departed from Johnstown about May 18<sup>th</sup>...

All accounts of the journey indicate that Sir John and his supporters took the road leading to the "Fish House" and the valley of the Sacandaga River. Having followed the Sacandaga to its junction with the Upper Hudson River, they turned northward, following the latter river towards its source. From this point the trail becomes uncertain. All that is definitely known is that the party, after nineteen days in the wilderness, reached the St. Lawrence River near the St. Regis Reservation. It is recorded that they arrived in Montreal on the day after Sir Guy Carleton had repossessed it. It is also stated that the defeated American, General Sullivan, abandoned the city on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 1776.

Very little is known of the flight, except for the route to the headwaters of the Hudson River. The details of the rest of the journey can only be presumed. Reports have it that the party reached the area a few miles south of Big Tupper Lake. By this time, eight days had elapsed and the food had been consumed. For the rest of the journey the party relied on beech leaves, roots and other edible substances for food. Game was extremely scarce, because of the size and noisiness of the party. The dogs, which

had faithfully followed their masters, were killed and eaten. It was a weakened, starving group that finally reached the St. Lawrence River nineteen days after their sudden departure from Johnstown.

The most interesting discovery, made more than a century after the flight, casts some light on the course taken across the Adirondacks. The remains of two small cannon were found. One was discovered near Anthony's Pond, at the outlet of Long Lake. The other was found about two miles south of Big Tupper Lake, near the boundary between St. Lawrence and Hamilton Counties. In both cases the cannon had fallen to pieces with age; the wood had turned to mould; the iron had rusted completely; only the barrels of brass had resisted the ravages of time. In one case, a beech tree had grown up within the circle of the iron tire of one of the wheels. When discovered, this tree measured more than two feet in



diameter, indicating, according to the opinion of forest experts, that the tree was more than a hundred years of age at that time. In other words, the cannon must have been abandoned at about the time of Sir John's flight through the woods. If this assumption is true, these two cannons must have been taken by Sir John and his party in 1776 and abandoned in the wilderness. In other words, Sir John must have passed this way...

*One description of the flight through the Adirondacks gives this account of an incident that occurred during the journey:*

"Many of the women remained in Tryon, coming to Canada later, but a

*(Continued on page 7)*

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considerable number came with their men folk. One woman, Mrs. Ross, had with her her twin boys, babies just beginning to toddle. One day in struggling through the brush carrying the two in her plaid on her back, one of the boys fell out. Through exhaustion and the roughness of the way the loss was unnoticed for some time. When the mother discovered her loss the hue and cry was raised and, returning they found the poor wee fellow trying to clamber over a burned, blackened log. The state of his hands and face may be imagined, and in the endearments lavished by the mother upon her little one she used the expression 'spoghan dubh', or 'black paw.' This she repeated again and again and for the rest of the journey the bairn was known as Spoghan Dubh. The name stuck and although Thomas Ross lived to a good old age, he was never known by any other name than Spoghan Dubh."

A letter written by Sir John Johnson himself adds further light on the activities of his party during that epic journey. This letter, written January 20<sup>th</sup>, 1777, is as follows:

"Upon my arrival at St. Regis with my party consisting of one hundred and twenty men who were almost starved and wore out for want of provisions being nine days without any thing to subsist upon but wild onions, roots and leaves of the beech trees. I was received in the most friendly manner by the Indians."

## YORKER WEBPAGE

By now most of you are aware that the Yorker Webpage has moved to a new address:

<http://ajp.ca/yorkers/main.html>

Capt Allan Joyner and Graham Lindsey have taken on the task of maintaining the site, and keeping it current. Their goal is to keep the information and pictures changing on a regular basis. If you haven't visited the site lately you will want to check out the pictures from Saratoga.

Keep up the good work guys.

# HEY, JOHNNIE COPE

On September 21, 1745 Lieutenant General Sir John Cope did battle with Bonnie Prince Charlie near the town of Prestonpans, Scotland. The fifteen minute engagement was more of a rout than a battle. The poorly trained and demoralized government troops fled in panic when the broadsword-wielding Highlanders smashed into their line. It is said that Sir John Cope arrived at the gates of Berwick before any of his troops, thereby gaining the reputation of being the first general in history to bring news of his own defeat. The song, "Johnie Cope", was written by a local soon after the battle, and published to great acclaim. Now, at the next Yorker Tavern you'll be able to sing along with gusto.



Sir John Cope trode the north right far  
Yet ne'er a rebel he came naur,  
Until he landed at Dunbar,  
Right early in the morning.

Chorus:

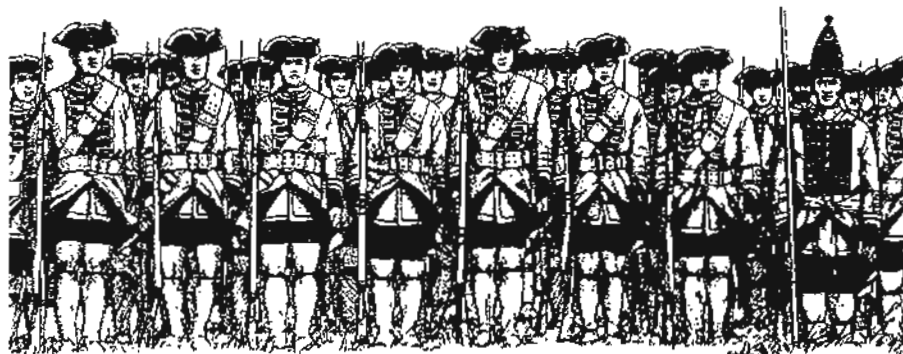
Hey, Johnie Cope, are ye wauking yet?  
Or are ye sleeping, I would wit?  
Oh, haste ye, get up for the drums do beat!  
Oh fie, Cope, rise in the morning!

It was upon an afternoon  
Sir Johnie marches to Preston town,  
He says, 'My lads, come lean you down,  
And we'll fight the boys in the morning.'

But when he saw the Highland lads  
Wi' tartan trews and white cockades,  
Wi' swords and guns and rangs and gauds,  
Oh Johnie he took wing in the morning.

Sir Johnie into Berwick rade  
Just as the dell had been his guide  
Gi'en him the world, he wadna staid  
T'have foughten the boys in the morning.

Said the Berwickers unto Sir John,  
'Oh, what's become of all your men?'  
'In faith,' says he, 'I dinna ken;  
I left them a' this morning.'





## JOHNSON'S ORDERLY BOOK

It is always fascinating to delve into Sir John Johnson's Orderly Book. More can be learned from this document about the soldier's life in the KRRNY than from almost any other source. Here are some interesting examples:



*In 1776 it appears that the men were billeted in the homes of the citizenry, and that they were expected to do their share of the chores...*

November 12, 1776 – The Commanding officer desires that the men assist the Inhabitants in whose houses they are Quartered, in cutting fire-wood for their own use this winter.

*Practice marching on snow shoes? ...Only in Canada!*

January 4, 1777 – The Camp Equipage to be examined & kept in good condition – The troops, likewise will hold themselves in readiness to march on the Shortest Notice; they are frequently to be assembled on their Regimental Alarm-Posts, & March to the Alarm-Post of the Brigade when the weather will permit – They will practice Marching on Snow-Shoes, as soon as they receive them.

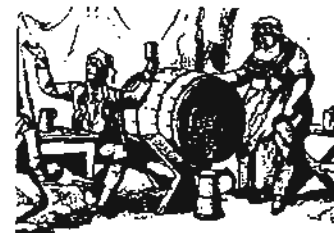


*It appears that the government issue musket was not to be used for pleasure...*

May 15, 1777 – It being Reported to the Commanding Officer [St. Leger] that Several of the Soldiers make a practice of Gunning with their Regimental Fire Locks, he Desires for the future to say any Soldier who shall be guilty of Using their Arms to that purpose, if they shall, they may Depend they will be punished as the Martial Law Directs.

*I suspect the difficulty of "pronouncing or remembering" the password was primarily a problem when they were on their way home from the tavern...*

July 14, 1777 – No person whatsoever to trade rum or any spirituous liquors for any thing which the Indians may have to dispose of; those people will be Informed by their officers that it is necessary to have the C. S. to pass the centries and guards of the Comp – and they will strongly recommend to them not to leave their incampment after dark lest they should be subjected to Inconveniences from the difficulty of pronouncing or Remembering the pass-word.



*The officers lost the boats and the men lost their muskets. Accidents do happen...*

July 18, 1777 – ...the officers of the Colonels Company to pay Three Dollars extraordinarily for the bateau that was lost at Point Abaw in place of Five paid to the Indians for finding the 5<sup>th</sup> Batteau, and for the future whatever Companys shall lose Batteaux or provisions by negligence shall pay the whole value & be liable to censure besides; as men seem to be careless about their arms & Accoutrements it is the Commanding officers orders that at Roll Call evening & morning the men appear with their arms, and whoever loses any of them shall be obliged to pay for the

*To You and Yours  
Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year*

