

## Royal



## Yorkers

*With the lateft Advices, Foreign and Domeftick*

## Thunder On The Reach ~ A Spectacular Event

The many participants who enjoyed this event should pull off their hats to three individuals who put their hearts into organizing this affair.

Brandt Zatterberg of Duncan's Coy, who is the site manager of the Park, got us a prime area for camping; permission to cut down lots of brush for fortifications; permission to play our wargames on a local farmer's land; coordinated that superb boat brigade; was steersman on a bateaux and helped to serve our meal with an excellent, local brown ale to boot.

Dave Smith of Duncan's bought and had roasted that little piggie we so voraciously devoured. Then, he stood with Brandt and served it. I know we all let him feel important by allowing him to win at Duck on a Rock, but even so, he needs a few hugs and kisses -- if you dare.

Last, but not least, Jon Wannamaker, who used his extensive event organizing experiences to coach Brandt and Dave in exactly what needed to be done to construct something extra special. Jon and Dave slashed their way through yards and yards of marsh grass to prepare for that realistic morning wargame scenario that was the fruit of the addled Wannamaker mind. And, they built that log dock for boarding the boats. And, Jon searched out a Duck and a base, and then painted the Duck to make it easy for Capt Cameron to see it. Thanks guys!

This was easily the most imaginative living history event that the Northern Brigade has ever attended. There were so many scenarios going on at any one time, it was just like a real period camp.

1) The Marksmen, Monin's and some Yorkers arrived on the ground on Thursday evening and built a superb,

fortified camp ready to incorporate our tents. That took one hell of a lot of work and their efforts really paid off. In its final form, the crowded camp of irregular tent streets was built around several shade trees and flanked by two long brush sleeping shelters and high marsh grass. A leafy bower in front of the captain's tent was a feature in one of the streets. The camp's open front was protected by several log and brush works. About 200 feet from the fortified camp, tents were erected by the Queen's Rangers, Yorker Grens and the boatmen.

2) By Saturday morning, four boats were in place. The camp saw great activity related to their maintenance and employment and a large party of Duncan's was detailed to take rowing lessons.

3) A file from Duncan's was sent on a mission to rescue a group of armed refugee women and children, while a detail of British and Queen's Rangers

hunted them down. A brisk, very realistic action ensued. Other than instances during the Adirondacks' treks, this action is surely one of the first times in which armed Refugees performed a tactical roll in a wargame.

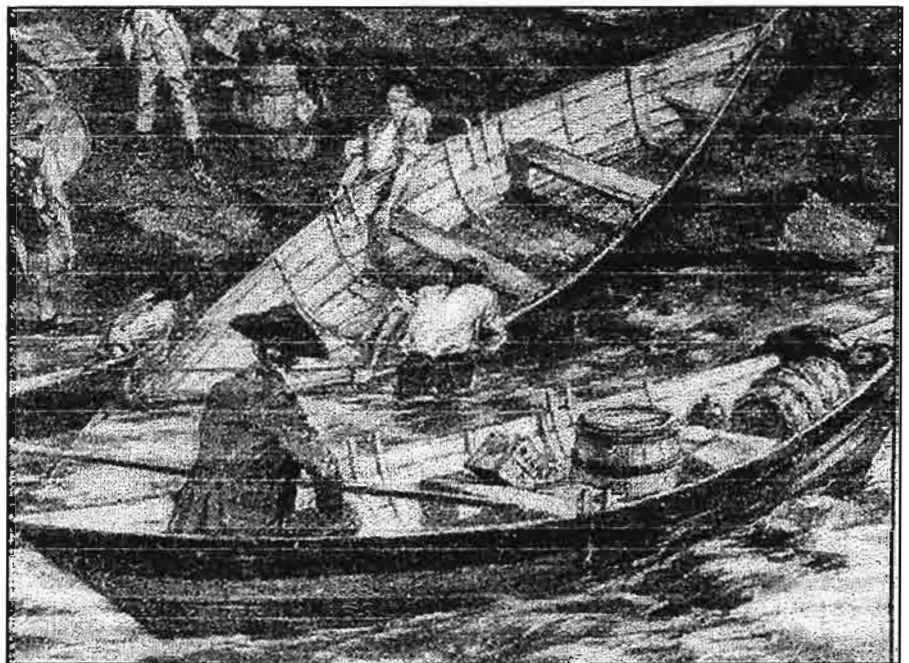
4) Meanwhile, Mistress McAnulty set up a grand laundry and began washing the clothes that had been made appropriately filthy by Marksmen and Yorker trekkers the week before.

5) And the Yorker 3-pr Grasshopper was set up outside the fortification where three new crewmen were taught the trade by senior Gunners Post and Walker.

6) Drummer Putnam and his lady practiced the fife, flute and whistle in the camp.

7) Marksman Doug Cubbison conducted a work party of his men and Yorker Lights in building fascines using a cradle. The results of their work were added to the fortifications of the

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camp.

The afternoon wargame was superb. After a march of about 1,000 yds, the 3-pr, Marksmen, Yorker Lights, Monin's and armed refugees occupied a point of land jutting out into the Bay of Quinte. Brush was cut down to open up multiple gun positions for the Grasshopper. Meanwhile, the four boats loaded with Duncan's and Queen's Rangers infantry set out from the Reach and then turned line abreast to cross the bay to make an opposed landing. Capt Cameron served as referee for the game in a small, fast row-boat. The visual effect of those four boats coming across the water was stunning. So was the bark of Priapus as a few rounds of canister ripped into the troops on the boats. The vessels with swivel guns rowed along the shore and inspired the defenders with several discharges. Meanwhile, Marksmen and Monin's riflemen tickled the waterborne gun crews. When landed ashore, Duncan's were repeatedly surprised, first by a Marksman sniper, Chris Lahee, high up in a tree hidden behind a cleverly woven rush screen, and then by an ambush in which Capt Joyner was sniped by Refugee Jenny Doedens. Then, the intrepid and well-bloodied hatmen ran into a whiff of canister from Priapus. Neat stuff. The Yorker's senior gunners judged this exercise to be the best tactical event they'd ever participated in.

Saturday evening, after the fabulous pig roast, courtesy of Mr. Smith, there was a very neat period tavern held under a bateau sail. Of note, there were no damned hay bales to screw up the scene.

Sunday morning saw the return of *Duck on a Rock* – that nonsense game that the despised Provincials played constantly to the disgust of the Regulars. Only Wannamaker had the knack of setting the Duck into position and he risked his life repeatedly to perform the task. Capt Cameron looked fair to take the honours for the greatest number of 'kills', both of the Duck and the bottle, when Caboose Smith pulled far ahead and saved the regiment from shame.

The late morning wargame was really

exceptional with Priapus, the Queen's Rangers, Yorker Lights & Grens on defense, supported by the Royal George's whaleboat and the Wolfe, mounting a swivel. The action opened with Duncan's making a bold frontal attack into the face of canister and musketry, while Capt Joyner launched a two-boat attack against the rear. Duncan's served as bait and took a beating, while the Marksmen were creeping through the southern brush-covered shoreline to deliver a sneak flank attack. Meanwhile, the Grens defied the boat landing in the rear. Joyner had devised a sly plot and convincingly clothed armed Refugees in Marksmen coatees and caps. This ruse kept the Grens busy. That threat was defeated when the Wolfe slipped quietly out the reeds and caught the two attacking boats with canister. On

the camp's left flank, the Yorker Lights waded through marsh grass and caught Monin's rangers attempting an infiltration. Yet, for all this valiant defence, Duncan's and the Marksmen swept into the camp and won the day. Although a simpler scenario than the day before, all participants agreed the wargame was excellent.

So, for all of you out there who didn't make the event and are smugly sure that I'm exaggerating as per usual to make you feel bad – just sit around the fire with some of the participants and hear the stories. This was one outstanding event!! Congratulations to Capt Cameron for his overall coordination.

LtCol Gavin Watt



## From the KRR Orderly Book ~ 1776-1777

*1777 4th January. Parole London. Countersign. C. Edinburgh. For Guard tomorrow 1 Sergeant & 6 privates. Ens. Crawford, officer of the day. ORDERLY Provost M.*

*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. Reports are to be made ... from each Corps of the Number of Boats they have in Charge, specifying their condition and how furnished with Oars, Setting-Poles, &c.*

An interesting entry given the recent event at Adolphustown. The first paragraph is directly related to the Yorkers and gives the password and countersign for the day. It then lays out the assignments for guard duty and the officer of the day.

The second paragraph is a general order issued across the various Corps in the region. Notice that the Yorkers are to report the number of boats they "have in charge", meaning held by the regiment, and the state of their readiness, even in the dead of winter. During the Adolphustown event, members of the Northern Brigade got an unrivaled opportunity to experience the value of small craft in moving the soldiers of the regiment in an age before road moves became the primary means of transportation.

The reference to practicing on snowshoes is also worthy of note. The original troops of the Northern Department were uniquely qualified and trained for duty in our area. Winter events have always been a very minor part of our hobby, but perhaps we should give a try to a "snowshoe event". Captain Cameron of the CSM has a lot of experience with snowshoes, and he and several members of his unit and the Natives have attended winter events where snowshoes proved to be of great use. They highly recommend the practice.

Also of note is the reference to maintaining camp equipage. With winter approaching, we all should be giving thought to proper cleaning and storage of our tents and other camp gear.

Capt. Allan Joyner

# Raid on German Flatts ~ Little Falls, NY ~ Oct 4 & 5

The Raid on German Flatts on October 4 & 5 is the last event of the year. And as in the past, our last outing of the season is a trip into the Mohawk Valley where we can burn some crops, intimidate the rebels and generate enough memories to hold us for the winter. The one difference this year is that the event is not on Thanksgiving Weekend. So, those of you who have not been able to attend in the past because of holiday commitments should be able to partake this year.

This event commemorates an important Loyalist raid into the German Flatts region in September, 1778. German Flatts is a 10-mile stretch of land along the Mohawk River from the town of Herkimer on the west (Fort Dayton) to Fort Herkimer Church on the east. The event itself will be held at the Nicholas Herkimer Homestead, which is further east, outside the town of Little Falls, NY.

Registration begins at 1 p.m. on Friday and continues between 7 and 9 am. on Saturday. On Saturday and Sunday there will be camp life demonstrations and drills for the public. The camps will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At 2:30 p.m. on



Saturday and 1:00 p.m. on Sunday the raid on German Flatts will be reenacted. Also, on Saturday morning there will be a non-public tactical.

At 4 p.m. on Saturday there will be an afternoon tea. (Of course the rebel women don't drink tea. Something to do with taxes.) There will also be a fashion show on Sunday at 2 p.m.

On Saturday evening dinner will be provided by the Friends of Herkimer

Home for participants, followed by music and contra dancing. A church service will be held at 10 a.m. on Sunday.

Wood, straw, porta-johns and water are provided on-site.

**Directions:** Take the New York State Thruway (I-90) to exit 29A. The entrance to the Herkimer Home is located ¼ mile from the Thruway toll-booth on the right.

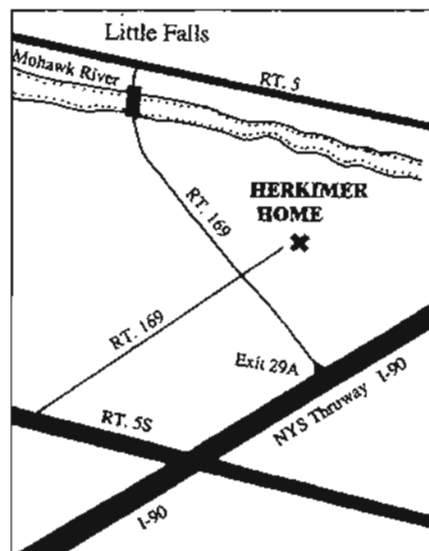
## HERKIMER HOUSE

Johan Jost Herchheimer was one of a number of refugees from the German Palatinate who in 1725 settled at German Flatts, south of the present village of Herkimer. He was an industrious farmer, who also engaged in trade and transport on the Mohawk River, and held important contracts to provision the military garrison at Oswego. As a major Mohawk Valley landowner, he acquired over 5,000 acres of land south of the Mohawk, which included the strategic "carrying place" or portage around Little Falls. About 1752 his eldest son, Nicholas, built the homestead that we will be visiting in October.

Nicholas Herkimer is best known to us as the General who attempted to break the siege of Fort Stanwix in

1777. Nicholas was one of the wealthiest and most prominent members of the Mohawk Valley's German community. He gained military experience as a captain of the militia during the French and Indian Wars, and at the outbreak of the Revolution was elected chairman of the Tryon County Committee of Safety and commissioned Brigadier General, commander of the county's militia.

In July and August of 1777 Herkimer raised a reluctant force of some 800 men to relieve Fort Stanwix. En route he was ambushed in a marshy ravine west of the Indian village of Oriskany. The action that ensued was the inaugural battle for the King's Royal Regiment of New York. It should be noted that Herkimer's brother, Johan Jost,



served with the Loyalist force during that battle. Although Nicholas Herkimer received a serious leg wound in the early stages of the battle, he

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continued to command, propped up against a tree, seated in his saddle. After the six-hour battle Herkimer was carried back to his home, where ten days later his leg was amputated by a rather unskilled surgeon (No, not Dr. Finch!). Reading from his Bible he died calmly a few hours later.

Herkimer had no children, so his home passed to his brother George. His son, John, sold it out of the family in 1814. It changed hands six times before, in considerable disrepair, it was acquired by the State of New York in 1913. Preservation was begun in 1914, and in the 1960's a major restoration was completed. The unspoiled landscape, including the Herkimer family burying ground, has changed little from the 18<sup>th</sup> century. A nineteenth century barn has been remod-

eled as a visitor centre, which houses interpretive exhibits and audio-visual programs.

The kitchen garden located on the north side of the house is a smaller version of the large formally organized garden originally established by Herkimer. The plants in it, the fence, and the layout and construction of the beds are typical of colonial gardens in general, and of Mohawk Valley gardens in particular. Research of local inventories, letters and accounts of seed and plant purchases have shed light, not only on local 18<sup>th</sup> century gardens, but also on kitchens and foodstuffs.

Many of us had the opportunity to dance, play cards, pose for pictures and thoroughly explore the home of Sir John Johnson during our Johnson Hall event last June. Now we will en-



*Herkimer House, Little Falls, NY*

joy another of the Mohawk Valley's great historic homes. Don't miss the last event of the season.

## Progress on Sir John Johnson's Funeral Vault

On January 7, 1830 the Montreal Gazette carried the obituary for one of Canada's most illustrious founders, Sir John Johnson. The brief summary of a great life was topped with a one word title, "Died". What followed was but a snapshot of a man and of an age rife with conflict and struggle.

The Johnson's in exile were busy rebuilding their lives. Sir John, who was never fully compensated for his losses in the Province of New York, busied himself with trying to re-establish his position in society. To this end he built elaborate homes in Montreal and purchased extensive landholdings. In 1794 he purchased the 84,000 acre Seigneurie de Monnoir from Claude de Ramezay. This extensive and impressive estate included an ancient volcanic mountain called Mont St. Therese. Sir John renamed it Mount Johnson. As time passed this Seigneurie became his favourite, especially the mountain which offered him a view of the distant Mohawk Valley. Here he built a summer house on the southwest slope to take full advantage of the spectacular view of those distant mountains. By 1809 or 1810 Sir John must have been thinking about his own mortality, for during this time he ordered the construction of the family burial vault. The vault was erected on the southwest slope of the mountain with the door facing south, towards his beloved Mohawk Valley.

Sir John's wife, Lady Polly, died on Aug 7, 1815 and was laid to rest in the vault. Sir John joined her on the 8th of January, 1830 following a funeral service and procession which was attended by crowds of people. Never before had such a cross-section of so-

ciety gathered to say farewell to a much loved friend.

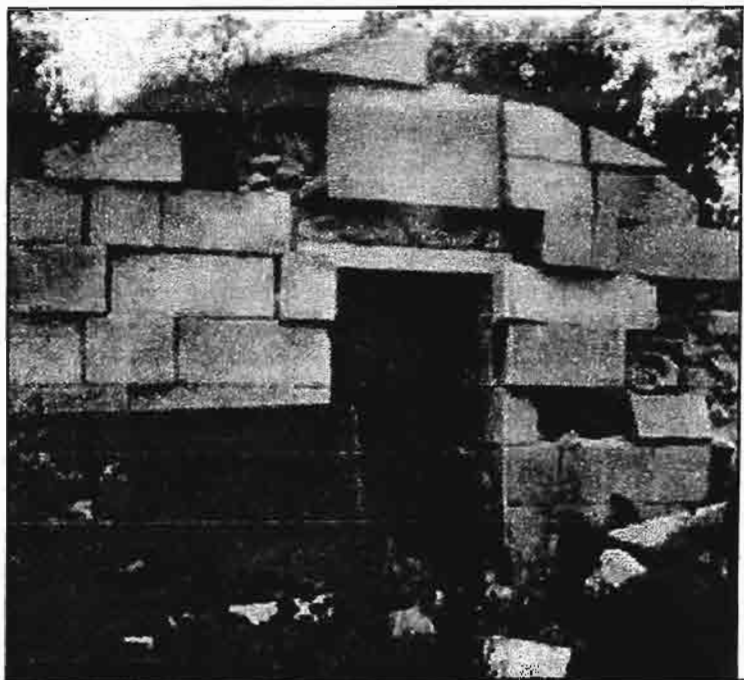
Over the years other members of the Johnson Family were laid to rest in the vault. The last member, Sir Adam Gordon Johnson, was placed in the vault in 1843.

The property was eventually sold and the vault became neglected, which in turn led to the vault falling into ruin. By the early 1900's the vault had been looted a number of times by skull hunters.

In the 1950's the property belonged to Romuald Meunier. Mr.

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*1914 photograph of Sir John Johnson's Burial Vault*



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Menuier became dissatisfied with the structure on his land, so he contracted Jean Paul Lasnier in 1957 or 1958 to bulldoze it. To demolish what he was led to believe was an abandoned root cellar, Mr. Lasnier dug a pit 9 feet deep beside the structure. He then turned his attention to the building. As he tried to push the structure into the pit, he began to realize that this was no common root cellar. The structure was well constructed and it posed a real challenge for his bulldozer. It was the presence of human bones that finally convinced Mr. Lasnier that this was certainly not a root cellar.

In 1977 Mr. A. M. Feast of Chambly and members of the Richelieu Valley Historical Society, some of the remaining people who still knew the location of the Johnson family vault, convinced the property owner to allow them to hammer a steel pipe / rod into the ground to mark the location. Ironically, this would become the first modern day marker for Sir John Johnson.

In 1980 Charles Humel, an urban planner, gave a presentation to the town council of Sainte-Brigide about the importance of historical sites for tourism and economic development. As one of his examples he mentioned that their own Mount St. Gregoire was once called Mount Johnson and that Sir John Johnson was buried there. The words, "Sir John Johnson was buried there" awakened a forgotten memory in the mayor, Mr. Jean Paul Lasnier. Mr. Lasnier was now fully aware of what he had done on that fateful day 23 years earlier. He had destroyed the last resting place of Sir John Johnson and his family.

Mr. Lasnier, now fully convinced that he must right this terrible wrong, eventually came into contact with the Société d'histoire due Haut-Richelieu. The Société d'histoire due Haut-Richelieu then contacted the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch UEL. The two groups were so impressed with Mr. Lasnier's sincerity, especially his recounting of the uncovering of human bones, that they decided to create a new organization "La Société de Restauration du Patrimoine Sir John

Johnson". This new group was established in 1998 with members from the Société d'histoire due Haut-Richelieu and the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch UEL along with Mr. Lasnier. The Société de Restauration du Patrimoine Sir John Johnson then contacted the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications due Québec (MCCQ). It was agreed that a permit for an archaeological dig would be issued.

The first dig was commenced in the



Fall of 1999. The permit was issued with two mandates:

1. To confirm the presence and the state of preservation of the of the vault remains.
2. To confirm if human remains were still in place.

The vault remains were discovered on the side of the mountain not far from the steel pipe / rod that was hammered into the ground in 1977 and not far from where Mr. Lasnier said the vault was pushed over. The structure is 7.10 meters long and 5.3 meters wide, and is divided into two chambers. Human remains were discovered on November 18, 1999. In total 129 human bones were collected in that first dig. Bone analysis revealed that 6 individuals were still present in the vault. The surprise was that three were children which were not on the list of individuals placed in the vault.

The remains of one individual were those of a very old man who had a severe case of spinal arthritis. Three recommendations were stated in the first report. The main one was that another archaeological dig should be undertaken to remove every human bone from the site to help identify all those still present in the vault.

In the Fall of 2002, a second archaeological permit was issued by the MCCQ to begin the second phase of the restoration project. As this second dig was purely bioanthropological, a grid system would be used to locate and recover all human remains from within the vault.

In total, 821 human bones were found in both chambers of the vault, with a higher concentration of bones located along the southeast wall. No human skulls were found. Analysis of the bones indicated that the remains of 10-12 people were still present in the vault. There are 7 adults present: 6 are male, one is female and 3-5 are children. The only adult female recorded as being buried in the vault is Lady Polly. These remains are in all likelihood hers. Further evidence was found to confirm that one adult male was very old and did suffer from severe spinal arthritis. Four segments of three or four fused vertebrae were found. One fused segment was from the neck area. The others were from the chest area. These are believed to be the remains of Sir John Johnson. Buttons were also recovered, which indicated that the individuals were wearing clothing at the time of burial.

The Société de Restauration du Patrimoine Sir John Johnson is now moving ahead with the planning of phase three of the project which is the cost estimate for the restoration of the vault. The site has now been declared an official historic archeological site by the Province of Quebec. The first non-native burial ground to ever receive this designation within the Quebec.

Shaun Wallace, Duncan's COY

*If you would like to receive a more detailed report (maps, photos, etc....) of the vault project (pdf format) e-mail Shaun Wallace at uppercanada@hotmail.com.*

# Musket Availability Update

Most of you have heard the sad tale of our Long Land Pattern order for four muskets. The supplier, The Discriminating General, sold us four muskets at a discount on the understanding that we would be responsible for shortening their stocks and adjusting their lock work. When the order arrived, it was discovered that three of the four were very poor representations of the original pattern and entirely different than the prototype that had been viewed by Eric Fernberg and John Cameron. The fourth, and last to come, was the prototype itself.

Of the three nasty versions, I was able to shorten their stocks and re-stain the wood easily, but the mechanical work on the lock was beyond my moderate gunsmithing skills and their incorrect positioning of the ramrod channel was impossible to correct. Ian Ashman took one of these and discovered that the lock wouldn't hold at full cock. The other two 'nasties' exhibited the same fault.

As to the prototype, the full cock position was fine, but the feather spring was so heavy and strong that the strike of the flint wouldn't throw the hammer to fly open and the flint disintegrated.

So, all four Long Lands hung on my wall in unusable inventory throughout the early campaign. Very fortunately, The Discriminating General agreed to replace the three 'nasties' and encouraged me to exchange the feather spring on the prototype. Replacements were delivered at Upper Canada Village and show every indication of being fine firelocks. I installed a lighter spring on the prototype and it is now working well.

One of the replacement muskets is The Discriminating General's version of a Short Land Musket, which they've introduced to compete with Pedersoli. In my opinion, its stock is a better reproduction than the old Japanese version. It appears to be mechanical sound and is priced almost \$200.00 cheaper than the Pedersoli.

One drawback to both their Long and Short Land patterns – they're as heavy as the original muskets and that won't please many of you effete young men or old bastards like McGeachie.

The TDG Long Land muskets in regimental inventory sell for \$745.00. In contrast, I have a new Pedersoli Short Land arriving soon and it will sell for \$950.00. Quite a contrast! Any member who would like to trade in his old Short Land for a Long Land OR the new Pedersoli, please contact me and we can make arrangements.

OK – I'm not quite finished on this topic. I also purchased a Long Land Pattern musket from Loyalist Arms in Halifax, a competitor of TDG. Their version costs \$972.00. Is it better than TDG's? Well, yes – overall it looks more like an original 1728 Long Land. It has much finer stock carving around the lockplate and the barrel tang; it has a heavier butt stock that balances the long barrel better; it has a wooden rammer rather than steel; the steel engraving (stamping) on the lockplate is better; the plate is a more pronounced banana shape; it lacks a bridle on the pan and the profile of the cock is more correct. Is it over \$200.00 better? Well, we'll have to wait to get reports on their relative mechanical performance to know for sure.

And finally – I'm investigating Loyalist Arms 1776 Tower Rifle and their 1777 Light Infantry Fusil and will have details for the next newsletter.

Gavin

# Water Bottles / Canteens

Sick of drinking rusty water or carrying a perforated, useless canteen. Well, after much deliberation and soul searching, KRR headquarters is now willing to accept two versions of inaccurate canteens. Modern tinplate is nowhere near as thick and pin-hole free as the 18C version. That's why we often experience rusting within the first season of use. Some guys have tried lining their canteens with beeswax or pitch and sometimes that works, but more often, it doesn't. Consequently, many of our guys have taken to carrying plastic bottles of water in their haversacks. Of course, when they yank them out in the midst of the public, any mood of accuracy is shattered. So, the conclusion is to accept substitutes, contrary to all the BAR rules. In many ways, this is a health issue. It's far better that guys have a good supply of potable water available in representative canteens than have them collapse on the field from dehydration.

1. Approved version number one is the Great or Second War British/Canadian enameled, kidney-shaped canteen covered in wool, ideally gray, with the mouth wound in linen cord to hide the blue or khaki enamel. NOTE: The Great or Second War cork plug with steel cap and fastening pin is not acceptable! Instead, a simple wooden or cork plug with a wire loop and cord must be substituted. Before the wool cover is sewn into place, tinned or galvanized steel 'loops' must be brazed onto the body to mount the carrying cord. I'm fully aware that brass loops are easier to mount, but they don't look correct.

NOTE WELL: this canteen is not acceptable if the original Army khaki or RAF blue felt covers have not been replaced. Nor, if the spout is not covered with twine. Nor, if original plug hasn't been replaced. The Royal Yorkers have already been the subject of derisive email chat for having poorly disguised versions of these canteens,

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## Drill Night ~ November 12 ~ Ft York Armories

This year we will try something new. In the past we have lost some continuity between the last event in October and the resumption of activities in last January when the winter drills began. This year there will be a November drill to bridge the gap. It will take place on Wednesday, November 12, starting at 8:00 p.m. at the Fort York Armories. As usual, there will be time for a beer and a little socializing before you head home. Make sure you mark this one on your calendar.

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so don't accept a half-ass conversion. Dave Harris of the Queen's Rangers is a supplier.

By the way, quite a few American reenactors use these enameled canteens without making any of the modifications and by sewing the cord to the original khaki felt cover. They must think that no one will notice or know any better. WELL, TAKE NOTE – there are a lot of us Great and Second War reenactors out there and all of us recognize the mistake immediately. To use these canteens w/o modification is to be farby in the extreme and would discredit the unit.

2) The second version is a standard kidney or half moon pattern canteen made of stainless steel. This type doesn't require a wool covering, although anyone with tactical sense knows that all canteens must have been covered to avoid light reflection and noise production. These canteens are to be completed with a wooden or cork plug and a sisal or hemp cord. The regiment has three, superb half moon style stainless canteens in stock at \$42.00 ea w/o plug or cord. Order from McGeachie at gk.watt@sympatico.ca.

## Fighting Yorkers in Honour of Ancestors

*I'm sure many will remember Rick Sherman, Commander of the now defunct 15th Albany and former commander of the BVMA. He was one of the arch rebels in the Mohawk Region, and a guy that we all loved to get. Here are some of his personal recollections about the KRR NY.*

*The Colonel*

"As far as I was concerned the only time that I felt I was legitimately honoring my ancestor was when we were engaging the KRR. I felt that the 15th existed for that above and beyond everything else we did. We owed it to our ancestors, as well as to yours to be there representing them for you and through you.

The 15th in actuality existed for the purpose of completing the circle of the 15th, Tryon County, and the KRR. That is why I originally wanted to pursue the BVMA idea. To reestablish something akin to Van Rensselaer's, or TenBrock's Brigade.

I know your folks never felt it, and I would never have admitted it to you then, but as far as I was concerned the 15th was just another part of the KRR.



That is not what it started out to be, but it was something that became very obvious to me in a short period of time. I always felt that the 15th *owed* the KRR their absolute best, or we were letting all of our brave ancestors down. I figured if they could face the KRR for real, I should at least take every opportunity possible to face the KRR in honor of them. I always felt that the KRR brought out the best in the 15th Albany. You do not drive to Toronto *every year* [Rick's referring here to Black Creek] for 8 - 10 years without a sense of duty."

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Addition to Dittrick Family



Brock and I wanted to let everyone know we had another addition to our family!!! Emma Kay Dittrick arrived safely on August 12th at 8:14 am. (7 lbs 2 oz., 20 in. long). I had another c-section, but all is well and recovering!!! We are looking forward to coming out again next year. I am slowly bringing recruits into the distaff section. Sorry I don't know how to have any soldiers... just pretty, pretty girls to dress up. Brock, me, Catharine, and Emma are all doing great and we miss everyone!!!

Karen Dittrick

### Drum Major Gavin Watt Plays the Wedding March

It seems that our Drum Major has changed his tune. He has switched from the *Turkish March* to the *Wedding March*. Congratulations to Drum Major Gavin Watt and his lovely bride, Laura Graffi, who were married on August 23 in Niagara Falls. And by all accounts, it was one heck of a party.

### More Weddings in the Drums

The fifth member of the Yorker Drums to be married in recent memory is Andrew Olmsted. Best wishes to Andrew and his new wife, Erin Valentine. Erin was formerly a member of the Fort York Guard and is currently an interpreter at Black Creek Pioneer Village.

### Saratoga Video

For those who attended last year's 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battles of Saratoga, you will be interested to hear that there is now a video. The video consists of 35 minutes of narration, telling of the Battles of Saratoga, with historic maps and images. This is followed by a 30 minute collage of images from the 9 hours of filming, including the final (long) passing of the troops past the crowd. Below are the instructions on how to order a copy.

\* Click on this link: <http://www.videosforchange.com/media/saratoga.htm>

\* Click on the VFC STORE button.

\* Under new user enter your username  
\* Select home user for home use or schools for school use, etc.

\* Enter a password, then re-enter your password. Press LOGIN

\* Select ORDER NOW! button

\* Complete the shipping information.

# Yorker M.A.S.H. Unit Returns



The 2003 campaign season marked the return of KRRNY's own mobile hospital unit. With hushed anticipation, the members of the regiment watched as the good surgeon, Mr. B. Barclay-Fynche, Chief Surgeon of the Northern Brigade and his wife arrived to create a hospital in the wilderness of Black Creek.

"Let this temple of healing, under my learned direction, commence operation", stated Barclay-Fynche in a speech given at the opening of the hospital to a gathered audience numbering easily in the single digits.

"Oh, brother", whispered Mrs. Barclay-Fynche, "what a typical reactor!"

The hospital has been designed to remedy any sort of wound, injury or illness a soldier or his family might ex-

perience. Those more severe traumas will be looked after in the fully equipped surgery by Mr. B Barclay-Fynche, Chief Surgeon, with the able assistance of Dr. G. Semple (Queen's Rangers), who specializes in the delightful arts of trepanning and dental extraction. In either instance, Cpl. Mike Martin will act as the anesthetic, either local or general.

Other fine treatments are available and offered to the regiment, including bleeding and a stocked apothecary. Bleeding a vein is a popular treatment for those suffering from a general undefined malaise, or listlessness and is attempted with a bleeding bowl and phleam. This procedure is preferred over leeching as it is more scientific, while leeches are difficult to manage and are considered so out of fashion. The hospital apothecary is well stocked also, with a wide variety of drugs suitable for non-recreational home use. These drugs are defined

either as Chemicals, Botanicals or Poisons. They are delivered to the body via pills or in liquid form, and will in time, cure almost all ailments.

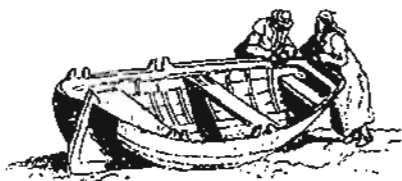
While at Black Creek, the medical staff handled a wide variety of injuries typical of a military hospital of the day. The doctors worked tirelessly to reduce fractures, trepan a skull injury and carry out an amputation (simulated). Later in the day the hospital staff were presented with a particularly gruesome chest wound. In all, the hospital's death rate hovered at an acceptable twenty-five percent.

With their day complete, the two doctors assuaged their heavy loads with a game of golf (par 72). Mr. B. Barclay-Fynche (91) and Dr. G. Semple, Queen's Rangers, (86) philosophized about the weekend's events and the loss of several soldiers. They shrugged and rightfully concluded that "We're all going to die eventually anyway."

Bruce Barclay-Fynche  
Chief Surgeon, Northern Brigade

## Renamed & New Rev War Units of the MAMH

The detachment of white rangers operating with the Coy of Select Marksmen (a.k.a. Fraser's British Rangers) has been re-designated Capt David Monin's Coy of Quebec Militia. There were three companies of Canadien militia raised in the 1777 campaign. The two companies commanded by Captains Monin and de Boucherville served with Burgoyne and saw extensive combat alongside the CSM. The modern Monin's Coy is commanded by Lieutenant Marc Auger, who doubles as an Indian Dept officer.



As a direct result of the success of the Adolphustown event, Capt Han Jost Herkimer's Bateaux Coy has joined the Northern Brigade. In 1780, this body of

some 50 men, many of them black soldiers, was stationed at Coteau-du-Lac and served as a forwarding unit for supplies and troops to the Upper Posts. Han Jost, who had served as an Indian Dept ranger officer in charge of bateaux under St. Leger in 1777, was the brother of General Nicholas, who was mortally wounded at Oriskany. Our modern coy fields four bateaux (Sonja B, Black Snake, Sarah Augusta and Gentleman Johnny), two of which have jacob posts for mounting a swivel gun. Sarah Augusta is built to a military transport pattern and is undergoing re-planking.

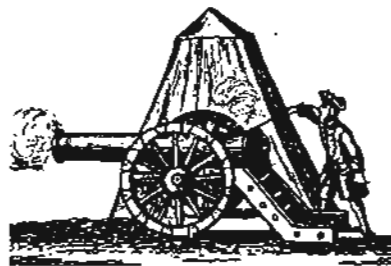
The Colonel

## Further to the August Newsletter

Shaun Wallace has given a good account of Lt. Jeremiah French, noting in particular his house at Upper Canada Village. French's earlier 1769 house still stands in Manchester Vt, and it is a private residence. I had a tour of it many years ago.

As for the Adolphustown event, the property (Lot 21), immediately east of the Park was the original land of Capt. Abraham Maybee of the Associated Loyalists. Maybee began the Rev War as a member of the Orange County Militia (rebel), but was soon captured. He participated in the ambush of rebel cavalry at Tappan, NY. An old house which could date from his later years, is on the Adolphustown property, but it is deteriorating quickly. He ended the War as a Captain in Van Alstine's Associated Loyalists.

Peter Johnson, Drums



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