

## Royal



## Yorkers

*With the latest Advices, Foreign and Domestick*

## NEW LIEUTENANT COLONEL ~ REG JAMES

There are only a handful of members who have longer service in the regiment than Reg. He is truly one of the old guard. Reg entered the old left section of the Colonel's Company on May 1, 1979 – that's twenty-eight years ago for you arithmetic-challenged members. By September 20, 1980, he had been promoted to Corporal and, in this rank saw service through the final years of the bicentennial.

It quickly became obvious that Reg was a keen student of 18C military history, ceremony and tactics. He was always open to questioning conventional wisdom about how things should be done and keen to experiment with new tactics. Reg was, and is, a strong proponent of the keen competitive spirit that over the years marked the Royal Yorkers as a different kind of reenactment unit.

After Yorktown, Reg suggested the founding of a Grenadier Company and by June 6, 1982, he was Serjeant of Grenadiers. The new company enjoyed an initial spurt of growth when several members transferred from the Colonel's and many new guys joined. However, it seemed at times that the new fellows coming in were matched by the leakage of fellows leaving.

On August 1, 1987, just prior to the regiment's tour of southeast English historic sites, Reg and Al Joyner were promoted to Lieutenants – Reg of Grenadiers and Al of line infantry. These changes brought the regiment more in line with the scale of commissioned officers carried by the British Brigade who were managing the event. Both men acquitted themselves well.

During the next few years, the Grenadiers expanded to two sections and Reg was promoted to Captain on September 5, 1991. On March 18,

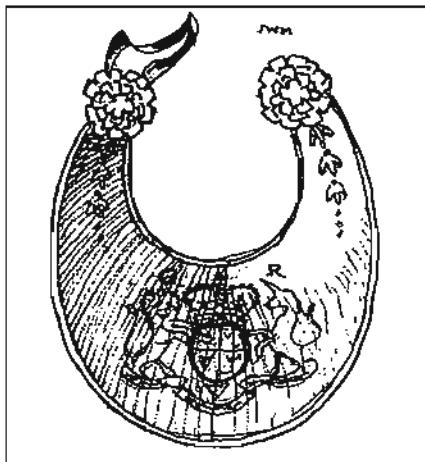
1998, Reg became Major, the second-in-command of the regiment and, in the 18C sense, the field commander of the regiment.

On a great many occasions, Reg commanded the regiment, sometimes when he was a serjeant, sometimes as a lieutenant, and more often as a captain. In more recent times, he has frequently led the Northern Brigade, been given command of the British Brigade's Provincial battalion, and at times all of the Crown Forces at events. At times, he has run events such as Black Creek. In short, Reg

has a tremendous amount of experience.

Of course, there is a dark side to Reg James. He often speaks in tongues with a strange lilt to his voice, making his points in a most obscure fashion. And, considering his immense capacity for the gross consumption of various noxious liquids, he has managed to stay out of the limelight of Peter Johnson's calendar over the twenty-seven years of its existence, no doubt through bribery and threats. Another of his infamous aptitudes is to fall into a deep, hypnotic sleep in the middle of the afternoon, at which time his tent mysteriously levitates, startling the troops and followers into paroxysms of fear. He has also been known to have magic patches on the knees of his breeches, held in place by a mysterious power utterly devoid of stitches.

By employing these awesome, highly questionable characteristics and devices, Reg James has kept a tight control on the troops, which did not go unnoticed by the governor at Head Quarters in Quebec City. So, when the old bugger at last packed it in, Reg was an obvious choice to replace him.



## LtCol James Announces Promotions

In the last newsletter Lt. Colonel Watt announced that he was stepping down from his position as commanding officer of the Royal Yorkers. In my new rank as Lt. Colonel I am pleased to announce the following promotions.



Allan Joyner is now the Regimental 2<sup>nd</sup> in command with the rank of major. Al has soldiered with the regiment for the past three decades, and only Gavin has more seniority. Al

has a wealth of experience in the hobby, having commanded the regiment on many occasions, and has frequently commanded the Provincial Brigade. Al is known for his tactical expertise along with a cool and commanding presence.



Steven Sanford is now promoted to captain of the Light Infantry Company. Steve was Yorker of the Year in 1997 and was co-founder of the Yorker web site which he still contrib-

utes to. Steve originally served in the Grenadiers before transferring to the Light Company and over this past few years he has worked extremely hard at building the Light Company to what it is today, a fast, mobile, and hard hitting company second to none.

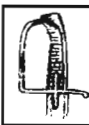


David Putnam has been promoted to captain of Duncan's Company vice Al Joyner's promotion to major. Dave has been a veteran serjeant with many campaigns behind him and was the first winner of the Gray Cup in 1989, and has produced the regimental newsletter for at least a decade and has made it the finest of it's kind in the hobby. He will no doubt set a fine example as a company commander.



Eric Lorenzen has been promoted to 1Lieutenant in Duncan's Company. Eric, like Dave has been a long serving N.C.O. with the regiment.

Eric was Yorker of the Year in 1989. He also founded the 1758 NY Provincials, the first regularly clothed and equipped provincial unit in the Seven Years War hobby. In addition to commanding the Provincials for over a decade, Eric also commanded the Provincial Brigade at the Seven Years War events. His higher leadership role will be a welcome addition to the officer corps.



Alex Lawrence has been promoted to the rank of 2Lieutenant of the Grenadier Company. Alex has much experience in the KRR and also the Canadian Fencibles. Alex has the responsibility of maintaining the regiment's e-mail address list, and printing the Yorker calendar. In addition he manufactures musket and pouch slings, along with waistbelts.



Corporal Dave Smith has been promoted to Serjeant in Duncan's Company to fill the vacancy left by Eric's promotion. Dave has contributed much to Duncan's in recruiting terms and also the Canadian Fencibles. He was instrumental in organizing two excellent events at Adolphustown and was the Gray Cup recipient in 2004.

Join me in congratulating the above on their promotion. LtCol James

# 2007 Season Takes Shape

In theory there should still be two more years of 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary events, since the American Revolution continued until 1783. But alas, Yorktown really was the last major military action of the war. So as we say farewell to the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary events, it is time to welcome the arrival of 230<sup>th</sup> anniversaries. In fact we are already two years into this new cycle.

And in 1777, 230 years ago this year, Burgoyne headed south from Canada inscribing in the history books names like Crown Point, Ticonderoga, Hubbardton, Bennington, and Saratoga. Does this give you a clue where we will be driving to this summer?

Last December, at the Yorker executive meeting it was evident that many of Rev War organizations had not yet finalized their event schedule. Consequently, some of the potential events are on hold until conflicting dates are resolved and firm details are available.

It is safe to say that most of the Yorker "standard events" will still take place.

- Tactics School, Westfield Village – May 19/20
- Black Creek – June 16/17
- Loyalist Day, Adolphustown – June 16/17
- Thornhill Parade – September 15

As noted in the last newsletter, there will be two change of command cere-

monies in the coming season. The first will take place at Westfield Village on the long weekend in May, when Brigadier Gavin Watt will turnover command of the Northern Brigade to Brigadier Christian Cameron. The change of command ceremony for the King's Royal Regiment of New York will probably happen on the weekend of September 8/9 at Fort Ticonderoga, NY., at which time LtCol Watt will hand the regiment over to LtCol James.

The Annual Trek, as always, is open to anyone in the Yorkers who would like to participate. This year the Trek will take place from August 4 to 9, arriving at Bennington for the August 10/11 weekend.

Other events under consideration include:

- Crawford's Expedition, Gallion OH – June 9/10
- Crown Point – Date to be determined
- Hubbardton – July 7/8
- Fergus Highland Games – August 10
- Bennington – August 11/12 (2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion)
- Saratoga – October 6/7

As always, it ain't official 'til you have the Yorker calendar in your hot little hand, but this gives some idea of what is being considered.

DWP

## Coming Events

- |             |                             |
|-------------|-----------------------------|
| February 21 | Drill, Ft York Armoury      |
| February 24 | Eastern Drill, Adolphustown |
| March 17    | Eastern Drill, TBA          |
| March 21    | Drill, Ft York Armoury      |
| March 24    | Yorker Party, Kingston      |
| April 18    | Drill, Ft York Armoury      |
| May 16      | Drill, Ft York Armoury      |



## YORKER PARTY

**Date:** Saturday, March 24

**Location:** Vimy Officers Mess  
CFB Kingston

**Time:**

- ◇ 2:00 pm - Speaker
- ◇ 5:30 pm - Cocktails
- ◇ 6:30 pm - Dinner
- ◇ Presentations to follow

**Cost:** \$30 per adult  
(reduced rate for children)

*R.S.V.P.*

On Saturday March 24th, this year's Royal Yorker Winter Party will be held in a very special location. Moving to the home of the Yorkers "Army of the East", the event will be hosted at CFB Kingston's historic Vimy Officer's Mess.

The Vimy Mess was built in the 1930s and its a classic example of the lovely wood and leather covered officer's retreat. Our 3 or 4 course dinner will be held in the same room where generations of Canadian Army officers have held their formal mess dinners. With dark mahogany tables and decorated walls, the room is filled with history, and its a worthy place to drape our colours for an evening. You will love the atmosphere and the historic artifacts that adorn the walls.

From 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm there will be an informal lecture for anyone who wishes to attend. The guest speaker is still to be identified, but it will be an interesting and historically relevant presentation. If all goes according to plan, light refreshments will be served.

At 5:30 we will gather in the bar and lounge of the mess for a one hour re-

ception before we are called to seating in the dining room at 6:30 pm.

The cost for this years event is \$30.00 per adult and about half that for children. A cash bar will be operated at very reasonable cost. We will conduct the meal in the style of an informal regimental dinner. There will be the normal speeches and a resurrection of our old tradition of awarding membership and promotion certificates. Mr. Sanford of the Light Company is working to prepare this year's crop of them. The tradition of awarding these has fallen off in recent years but many of us who have been with the regiment for a while treasure ours. I look forward to seeing a whole new group of them being awarded.

We are inviting a few guests from the Base and from Kingston and it promises to be an entertaining evening. The Loyalist Fife and Drums will be offering music for us and there will be a projected show of slides and old videos of the regiment before and after dinner.

For out of towners, and that will include folks from Toronto, Ottawa, Cornwall etc, we are arranging pre-

ferred pricing at one of downtown Kingston's nicer hotels, and a group rate for the Saturday evening will be available at a VERY reasonable in price. I suspect the party will simply migrate from the mess to the hotel!

We need numbers by the end of February and NCOs will be expected to do a phone poll and report to their Company officer by that date. We need to know who will be attending the lecture, the dinner and who needs hotel accommodation and for how many people.

Directions to the event and information regarding the hotels will be available on the website by mid February at:

[www.royalyorkers.ca/winterparty07](http://www.royalyorkers.ca/winterparty07)

Questions to Major Joyner by email please.

Major Allan Joyner



## 2LT DUFF STEELE ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

One of the truly old guard of the regiment will be gone when Grenadier 2Lieut Duff Steele hangs up his skates forever. Back in 1978, Duff heard about the Royal Yorkers on Danny Finkleman's CBC Saturday morning show; caught the name Gavin Watt and the town King City and looked me up in the phone book.

His first event was with the Colonel's Company at the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemoration of the Cherry Valley Massacre on October 14, 1978. (That's when current Major Al Joyner made himself famous by capturing the rebel commander – the future founder of the Continental Line - who was foolish enough to conduct a recce without an escort.)

Duff soon became well known throughout the unit as Zufeld, the name of his loyalist ancestor, a private in Captain John Waldenmeyer's Independent Company, later of the Loyal Rangers. Duff subsequently found out that another ancestor was 1Lieutenant Henry Young of Captain Robert Leake's Independent Company, later of the 2Bn King's Royal Yorkers, but it was too late, and with the way the Yorkers were back then, the rather comical name Zufeld stuck to him for a long, long time.

Duff and his lady Linda were great supporters of the unit on many, many occasions and one of their first and most comical was before Duff had discovered he had a Young ancestor. The Steeles and the Watts attended a UEL dinner at the Military Institute in Toronto at which I was to toast the sovereign. Because the Watts sat at the head table, the Steeles sat with other couples. As Duff took his seat, the fellow next to him turned and asked 'who' he was. Duff replied with his name, residence and place of work. The fellow responded, "No, who are you?" Duff assumed the fellow was hard of hearing and gave the same reply again. This time, the fellow responded, "No, I mean WHO are you?" Now, Duff got the message and replied, "Henry Zufeld." The fellow grumbled, "a Palatine," as if being a

German descendant was less than second class. Then he turned away and didn't talk to him again.

Duff and Linda hosted a great many parties in the early days: In May, after the Fort York Festival, a rather inebriated crew paraded up and down their street and fired volleys of musket fire to celebrate Victoria Day; and in September, after the Thornhill festival. We enjoyed some great meals and much conviviality.

Duff's zany sense of humour contributed to many inventive skits. One of the most memorable was the introduction of Igor, one of the officers' servants, at the 200<sup>th</sup> of Yorktown. The KRR officers hosted a Soiree in the Colonel's brand new marquee and Igor, complete with humped back, knocked out teeth, filthy face and long night cap, served wine to our guests – at times missing their cups and then wiping and licking their boots clean, and at times threatening to vomit on them. Between Gunga Dave (a.k.a. SjtMjr Moore) and Igor, it was a most memorable event.

Another famous affair was the famous Snipe Hunt at Fort Wellington, a crazy after-action extravaganza which Duff and I conceived in the car on the way to Prescott, and a great many others contributed to. Again Igor appeared, this time chained to Grenadier Lightning Willson. When a Yorker officer downed a snipe, Igor was released to retrieve the bird. Of course, Gunga Dave added his two cents and the buxom Cindy Paul added her two...

Not all of Duff's regimental experiences were comical – just close to. Duff was a member of the old Right Section of the Colonel's Company and served under the redoubtable Serjeant Claus Reuter, he of the frog voice and triple-loaded Baker bazooka.

In 1979, Duff was the very first recipient of the Yorker of the Year trophy. Some said he got it for keeping the company fed in fresh roasted peanuts. Indeed he became known as the Big Peanut for some time. By May 19, 1980, he had risen to the heady

height of Lance Corporal.

When Colonel Reg formed the Grenadier Company after Yorktown, Duff was amongst his first recruits and was promoted to Grenadier Corporal on December 1, 1982.

In 1988, the regiment went on a tour in Britain with the British Brigade and Continental Line. We planned to carry both Colours, but were short of an Ensign to carry the Regimental Colour, so Duff was brevetted to commissioned rank and performed that role and promptly fell in love with the job. So, on March 15, 1989, Duff was promoted to 2Lieutenant (Grenadier companies didn't have ensigns) and took on the role of carrying the Colours as his full time job. He and Ensign Dan Moreau served in those roles for many years. Dan, being senior, carried the King's Colour and Duff the Regimental. When Dan was promoted to 1Lieutenant, John Moore came in as the new Ensign and Duff took on the senior role of carrying the King's Colour.

At the ceremony in 2004, Duff and John received the new Colours and bore them on their first public appearance on that beautiful sunny June day. Duff's last duty was at Adolphustown in 2005 when the old Regimental Colour was laid up in the Loyalist Cultural Centre. He has been basically unemployed since then, while I worked to find a craftswoman to make the repairs to the new set. When Duff heard from me that I was stepping down as colonel and retiring permanently to the ranks, he felt it was time to pack it in, as he had been so long out of the ranks, it would be like starting all over again to toss the firelock, so a Chelsea Pensioner he has become.

There it is. One of my oldest and closest friends is leaving the old mob. He shall be missed for all the flair and drama he brought to carrying the Colours, his strutting about with his stick, ostrich feathers and hanky and for the great many poignant memories of the past.

McGeachie

# Gavin's Uniform & Arms Research Continues

If you have not had a chance to read the two *new* articles by Gavin Watt on the subject of Provincial clothing and small arms, set your newsletter down right now and turn on your computer. Go to the Royal Yorker webpage under "Articles" and open the two at the top of the list. His research is split into Parts "A" - Clothing Provincials in the Canadian Department, and Part "B" - Small Arms in the Canadian Department.

When the question of Yorker facing colours came to a boil several years ago, many advocated that no change should be made without conclusive documentary evidence from primary sources that the Yorkers wore red rather than blue facings. In response to this suggestion Gavin undertook an extensive 8-month research project to determine what uniforms were worn by the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> battalions of the King's Royal Regiment of New York, and when. It became evident however that these questions were so intertwined with the Canadian Department's supply of other Provincial corps, that it became necessary to collect information on a broad front. The resulting 52 page clothing thesis pro-



vides numerous primary lists and quotes, starting in July, 1775 and continuing through November, 1784. Throughout, explanations and inter-

pretations are provided based on Gavin's extensive knowledge of the period. The article ends with "An Analysis of Canadian Provincial Clothing" and "American Provincial Clothing". Although he concludes that, "there is no doubt about Kochan's thesis that the green uniforms worn by the Royal Yorkers in the early years of the war (1776-80) were drawn from British supplies sent to clothe Canadian Provincials", nothing was found that would conclusively determine the regiment's facing colour. Perhaps it will never be known for sure.

The article entitled Small Arms in the Canadian Department (Part B) takes a similar approach, and gives a fascinating overview of the small arms supply and usage over the period of the revolution. Gavin has commented, "I find it incredible that Haldimand was willing to send his Provincials on campaign deep into enemy country with such marginal weapons, when he often had substantial stocks sitting in various repositories."

Both articles are fascinating documents, and should be considered compulsory reading for those who consider themselves students of the period.

DWP

## Sir Johnson's Burial Vault

*About a year ago there was an article in the newsletter by Ray Ostiguy about the work being done to restore Sir John Johnson's Burial Vault. At last report a committee had been formed to negotiate with the property owners and carry the project forward. Unfortunately, the owners at that time did not agree with the proposal that the committee put to them. In February, 2006 the owners sold the property to the Centre for Ecological Interpretation (CIME). Discussions have now resumed and the new owners seem more sympathetic to the project. Ray Ostiguy provided the following update:*

...I waited to reply in order to bring you up to date following a meeting we had with CIME officials at the site on

November 13th and to get back from development, some photos I took while there. I finally had the opportunity to "walk" the property and put a geographic perspective on all the papers I had examined.

The meeting was a positive one. CIME is open to a cooperative venture, but wants to see concrete proposals before agreeing to the form and substance it will take. As you will see from the attached photos, the remains of the vault are exposed and not well protected. It was agreed that the first step to be taken would be to protect what is there by placing a layer of sand over the foundations. Nicole Poulin is to contact Quebec Ministry officials versed in preservation to obtain the technical information required for this

purpose. CIME is in agreement that this step should be taken. It will be the first.

Not far from the vault there used to be a very large building used as a warehouse. It burned down not long ago and the site has been levelled for a future parking lot. From there, the vault is about 50 feet down a gentle slope in a south west direction. This will be an ideal method for reaching it. There is already a clearing (of apple trees in the orchard) around the vault. Why, I will never understand, but the main well for the property is directly in front of the former opening to the vault, in fact, less than 10 feet from it. As you will see from the photos, it is capped by a square wooden structure, the roof of which is clad in metal siding. It will have to be closed and re-

*(Continued on page 6)*



# Crossing the Border Gets Tougher



*John Andre didn't have the right documents, and look what the rebels did to him.*

Crossing the Canada-U.S. border has been a concern for reenactors in recent years, particularly since 9-11. Although initially the issue was taking muskets and black powder into the States, this matter has been clarified and seems to be going smoothly. That's not to say that you won't run into a border guard who doesn't know the rules and who consequently gives you a hard time. Apparently, this was the case as some of the Yorkers crossed-over on their way to Yorktown. However, for the most part, *all is well.*

The next big issue on the horizon is the requirement to have a passport. Beginning **January 23, 2007**, ALL persons, including U.S. citizens, traveling by **air** between the United States

and Canada will be required to present a valid passport.

Few of us will be flying to events, so this should not be a problem, right? Not quite. As early as **January 1, 2008**, ALL persons, including U.S. citizens, traveling between the U.S. and Canada, by **land or sea** (including ferries), may be required to present a valid passport or other documents as determined by the Department of Homeland Security. While recent legislative changes permit a later deadline, the Departments of State and Homeland Security are working to meet all requirements as soon as possible.

That means that less than a year from now your reenacting will be limited to Canada if you don't get a passport. It may be wise to start the process of getting a passport now, if you don't already have one. Although it is not legally required to have one until next year, it already seems to be a *magic document* if you have one in-hand when speaking to the border guard.

And then there's the question of food that you take with you to an event. You don't want to have to stop after getting into the States to do your grocery shopping, and you certainly don't want to spend U.S. dollars if you can buy the same thing at home. However, a recent "U.S. policy posting advises travellers that all agriculture items must be removed from baggage - including meats, fruits and vegetables - to protect U.S. crops and livestock from disease." Them *damn'd Rebels*

don't want us *rascally Tories* bringing our *mad-cow contaminated* roast beef sandwiches into the Colonies because they're a threat to their national security. The following quote is from a Canadian Press release that came out in December.

*U.S. border cracks down on lunch bags (Dec. 13, 2006) - Lunch bags are now on the list of items that have to be declared at the United States border.*

*Whether it's a sandwich, a can of soup or a piece of fruit, truckers who regularly travel across the Canada-U.S. border are finding that packing a lunch can be risky business. If they don't declare precisely the contents within their lunch bag, they may be looking at a hefty fine, reports the Niagara Falls Review.*

*Drivers say they've been fined, detained and threatened with confiscation of their U.S. issued identity cards for trying to enter the U.S. with undeclared food.*

*A member of the Ontario Trucking Association says the lunch-bag crackdown is another addition to close to 10 new U.S. security measures aimed at stopping terrorists, smuggling and threats to the food supply. A U.S. policy posting advises travelers all agriculture items must be removed from baggage - including meats, fruits and vegetables - to protect U.S. crops and livestock from disease. "It all started with the mad cow problem a couple of years ago," said Doug Switzer, manager of government relations for the Trucking Association. "But in the last six months, the target has shifted over to fruit and vegetables as well."*

*Kevin Corsaro, spokesman for U.S. Customs and Border Protection in Buffalo, N.Y., said although they will seize beef and other prohibited food items from entering the country, fines will not be levied unless the traveler "purposely hides specific items."*

So be forewarned. Meats, fruits and vegetables that you hope to put into hot water at an event, could get you into hot water at the border.

DWP

*(Continued from page 5)*

placed elsewhere if the vault is to be respected.

We walked up the Mount following the trails leading to the site where most likely the Johnson manor house was constructed. The view from there is magnificent. There are remnants of the poplar trees shown in Notman photographs and there are old lilacs nearby, a sign of former domestic usage. The CIME officials have asked us to prepare a short brochure (en français) on the Johnsons that can be used by their guides for interpretation purposes. All in all, a good start.

Regards,  
Ray Ostiguy

# LtCol John Butler Gets Busted

The Federal Government has recently unveiled 14 bronze statues at the National War Memorial honouring four centuries of Canadian war heroes. They include such personages as Frontenac, Laura Secord, General Sir Arthur Currie, and Lt Hampton Gray. The one that got the most coverage in the Canadian press however was Lt Col John Butler, and it wasn't good. The following excerpts were taken from one of the articles that appeared in the media. The headline was "Col. Butler: Canadian hero gets bad rap south of the border":

They were known as The Valiants, 14 Canadian historical military heroes who will be commemorated in life-size statues and busts as part of a \$1.1 million project financed by the federal government and private donations.

Among the valiants is Lieutenant-Colonel John Butler, leader of Butler's Rangers during the American Revolutionary War.

While he gets a statue here, Butler gets a bad rap south of the border, where history blames him and his son, Walter, one of his officers, for two brutal massacres on the frontier.

Butler was a Loyalist living in New York State who stuck with the British Crown when the American Revolution



*Zig Misiak with the new bust of John Butler. You've heard of the Young Pretender in reference to Prince Charles Stuart. Well, this is the Not-So-Young Pretender.* GKW

broke out. After the war, he moved to the Niagara region, where he died in 1796. Butler raised his regiment of raiders and set about terrorizing the enemy in the tradition of the time. By all accounts, he was a hard man and his Indian allies were harder.

They get the blame for the actual killings; Butler is fingered for doing nothing about it.

"When he would come across revolutionary troops, he would slaughter without much mercy," said Arthur Sheps, a historian at the University of Toronto.

Sheps added, however, that there were atrocities on both sides and that more sophisticated American university textbooks make that point without heaping all the blame on Butler.

But popular history has branded him as a killer, Sheps said.

"It goes to show that our heroes are other people's villains," he said.

Even popular culture in the U.S. has whacked the colonel. Writer Stephen Vincent Benet, in his short story, *The Devil and Daniel Webster*, plays on the Butler legend.

David Bercuson, a University of Calgary historian and author who was on the committee that helped select the 14 from a list of 400 names, says Butler fought in a style that arose from what Americans call the French and Indian War.

"They took no prisoners when they raided," he said. "It was a brutal tradition of striking terror into the heart of the enemy, burning, shooting, turning prisoners over to the Indians."

So, hero or villain?

## Captain Duncan's Hermitage

*In recent months the citizens of Niskayuna, NY (located east of Schenectady) have been lobbying to save a piece of land in their community from commercial development. This is significant to the Royal Yorkers because the property was once the home of Richard Duncan, captain of Duncan's Coy. Shaun Wallace recently traveled to Niskayuna to lend support to this cause. He wrote:*

On January 23rd, 2007 I attended the Town Hall meeting in Niskayuna, New York on behalf of the Museum of Applied Military History, King's Royal Regiment of New York, Captain Richard Duncan's Company to speak in

support of preserving this historic property. I presented two letters of support (one from the re-created KRRNY, the other from the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada) to Supervisor Luke Smith and the Town Board of Niskayuna.

This land, 12.5 acres, is all that is left of the Duncan's 800 acre estate which was known as the Hermitage. The estate was originally acquired by John Duncan around 1760 and a fine home was erected on this country retreat. After the death of his father, Captain Richard Duncan KRRNY inherited the property and resided there until about 1810, at which time an aging Richard sold it to the Schulyer family. The original house is reported as having burned to the ground about 1815 and the current mansion was erected about 1816.

There were about 225 people at the meeting that evening, with the overwhelming number there in support of saving this well know "park-like property", along with the current Stanford mansion. Linda Champagne presented the Town Board with two petitions: a copy of an on-line petition, and one that was circulated locally. There were about 1000 names in total on those petitions.

A number of creative alternative suggestions were brought forward for the property other than letting a local developer pave over the land and create another strip mall.

While in Niskayuna I also gave two presentations about the KRRNY and the Loyalists to the grade 4 and 5 classes at Paige Public school. This school is built on land that was once part of the Hermitage. S Wallace

# Family Compact Myth

The following article by Brandt Zatterberg recently appeared in the "Loyalist Trails" UELAC Newsletter (Issue 2007-01).

Sometimes, if we read something often enough we are inclined to believe it. Until recently, what I knew about the "Family Compact" equals what is written on the Wikipedia website, that is:

"The Family Compact was the informal name for the wealthy, conservative elite of Upper Canada in the early 19th century... centred in Toronto. Its most important member was Bishop John Strachan; in fact, many of the other members were his former students, or people who were in some way related to him. The rest of the members were mostly descendants of United Empire Loyalists or recent upper-class British settlers."

Given that the Family Compact is viewed negatively, stating that "the rest of the members were mostly descendants of United Empire Loyalists" misrepresents the truth. Two recently published books have taken this a step further. "Private Demons," by Patricia Phenix quotes "The Rock and the Sword: A History of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Kingston, Ontario," by Brian Osborne, when it says, "together with Niagara, and York, Kingston became one of the centres of military, political, and social control administered by the Loyalist elite



known as the 'Family Compact'."

Statistical fact does not bear this out. From its creation in 1792 to its dissolution in 1841, the Executive Council [Family Compact] of the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada had 36 members that served a total of 283 years. Of those, a total of 4 were UE (three having served with the Queen's Rangers and 1 with the King's Royal Regiment of New York). Those four veterans of provincial regiments, in the American Revolution, sat for 53 years, or 19% of the service on the Executive Council.

Four sons of United Empire Loyalists' served 12% of the time between 1792 and 1841. Speaking of Sons and Grandsons of UE's may not be relevant, as further statistical analysis will

probably prove that there were as many UE Grits as there were UE Tories in the Legislative Assembly.

(NB - Of the two men hanged after the Upper Canada Rebellion in 1837, one, Peter Matthews, was the grandson of Captain Peter Ruttan, the Adolphus-town Loyalist)

At least 40% of the total service on the Executive Council was either Scottish born or Scottish descendants. For me to say that the Family Compact was controlled by a "Scottish Mafia" makes as much sense as saying it was "administered by the Loyalist elite."

Brandt Zatterberg  
Executive Director,

U.E.L. Heritage Centre & Park  
(and Musketman in Duncan's Coy)

## Sjt Sean Jeffrey – Winner of James Gray Trophy

Of course we all know that the Gray Cup has nothing to do with Canadian football. The Major James Gray Trophy is awarded each year to the individual in the regiment (officer, NCO or musketeer) whose department, drill, personal presentation and overall proficiency best depicts a provincial soldier of the Revolutionary War period. When I say, "awarded each year", it needs to be clarified that the James Gray trophy was not presented in 2006. Nonetheless, a winner was se-

lected. For a variety of reasons beyond everyone's control, the presentation and announcement was not made. However, it is not too late to say "Congratulations" to Sjt Sean Jeffrey, the winner of the award last year.

As a serjeant in the Light Company, Sean has demonstrated that he is a very worthy recipient. His knowledge, experience and military training has been a real asset to the regiment.

Sean, although you have not had the opportunity to display the magnificent

trophy on your mantel, or to drink a cool, frosty beer from it's silver bowl, we all look forward to the Yorker Party when you can buy us a beer in honour of your achievement.

Well done Sjt Jeffrey.

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