

YORKER



COURANT

News & Wisdom from Sir John's Regt. – The King's Royal Yorkers

CONTENTS

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1 <i>Colonel's Report from the British Brigade / Continental Line Annual Meeting</i> | 3 <i>Old Fort Niagara Garrison Weekend</i> | 8 <i>You Think the Yorker Uniform Situation Was Bizarre?</i> | 10 <i>Western Hooves of Thunder</i> |
| 2 <i>A Brief Comment on Leadership</i> | 5 <i>Howse Tactical School</i> | 9 <i>Tories: Fighting for the King in America's First Civil War</i> | 11 <i>The Drinker's Dictionary</i> |
| 2 <i>Annual Yorker Dinner, Kingston</i> | 6 <i>Courage of Sir John Johnson</i> | | 12 <i>Links</i> |



COLONEL'S REPORT
FROM THE

*British Brigade/
Continental Line*

ANNUAL MEETING



CAPTAIN David Moore and I once again set out on the long road to Germantown, PA to attend the annual British Brigade / Continental Line combined annual meetings. The items up for discussion were the upcoming campaign season schedule and political issues such as “walk-on officers”, “phantom units”, and basic artillery rules.

Starting on Saturday morning, the first meeting dealt with the “Regional” events, rather than the big “National” events. The two national events this year are Wyoming, PA., which is about a 7 hour drive from the GTA., and Mount Harmon in Maryland, which is approximately 11 hours away.

This discussion also included events that will be promoted in 2012, such as Fort Wellington in Prescott, Ontario. This event was introduced at the 2008 AGM by Dave Putnam for consideration as a national event sometime in 2011 or 2012. Brigadier Mike Grenier was an enthusiastic supporter of an event at Fort Wellington. Both Mike and myself met with Brett Todd, Mayor of Prescott, and Leslie McPherson of Parks Canada last November to discuss the promotion and financing of an event in 2012. The event was not accepted as a national event at the BB/CL meeting, but will be promoted as a regional event among the units of the BB/CL in Upper New York

COMING EVENTS

- WED, FEB 16
Winter Drill, Fort York Armories
- FEB 25, 26 & 27
Fort Niagara Garrison Weekend
- WED, MAR 16
Winter Drill, Fort York Armories
- SAT, MAR 26
Yorker Dinner, Kingston
- APRIL 9-10
Howse Tactical School, Bradshaw Farm
- WED, APR 20
Winter Drill, Fort York Armories
- MAY 14-15
Maybe Farm, Schenectady, NY
- WED, MAY 18
Winter Drill, Fort York Armories
- JUNE 11-12
Gelston Castle, NY
- JUNE 18-19
Black Creek, Toronto
- JULY 9-10
Hubbardton, VT (2nd Battalion)
- JULY 16-17
Wyoming Valley, PA
- AUG 27-28
Newtown, NY (All Up Event)
- SEPT 17-18
Fort Michilimackinac, MI
- SEPT 24-25
Carleton Island, NY and/or Stone Fort Days, NY



and New England. There will be more news published on this event when information is forthcoming.

Black Creek was also discussed as a regional event. However, it would be

unrealistic to expect a large turnout of Americans from the New England states to attend the event. There are surprisingly few, if any, American Militia or Continental Line units in the Buffalo/Rochester area that could support this event.

The master gunner presented a basic set of rules to clarify how new artillery units were to proceed on joining the brigade. Rule #7 stated that all artillery pieces and accoutrements were to be placed in the artillery park after each battle, with no exceptions to the rule. Captain Moore recognized a possible problem, in that some gunners would not be happy having their very expensive artillery pieces being parked out of sight with no guarantee of security, and brought this to the floor for discussion. After much discussion among the group, I suggested that the wording on the rule be changed from, "No exceptions to the rule"

to "at the discretion of the Master Gunner". The change in the wording was accepted by Mark Crosby, the OC of Artillery.

There have been many complaints in the past, and also the present of so-called "officers" with no apparent unit attending events and ending up with field command. It was agreed that more vigilance will be required from everyone to recognize and weed out unqualified officers from taking part in the battles, or representing the Brigade to the public.

The question of phantom units was discussed at length, and the proposed solution was to appoint a committee of three trustees to investigate the problem and report back to the Brigade at the next AGM.

Colonel James

A
Brief Comment
ON
Leadership

IT IS a great mistake when you are in a leadership position to want to be like everyone else, and to please everyone. That, actually, is not your job. *Your job is to set and maintain standards that those below you have to reach to meet.* You have to personally practice these standards with *humility* and *lead by example*, even when it's difficult, even when you know that you yourself are having difficulty meeting those standards. Leadership is *not about personal rewards or gain*. It's about doing what is right and good for those who follow you.

Colonel James



Annual Yorker Dinner

— KINGSTON, MARCH 26 —

THIS year the Yorker's Annual Dinner will be held in Kingston at the restaurant of former Yorker, Paul Fortier. Paul's restaurant is named The Renaissance, and is located in a former church that was built in the 19th Century. It is a beautiful and picturesque location. I've copied the website description below, as well as the menu. The website address is: www.foodandheritage.com. The cost of the dinner is \$32.50 for adults and \$18.00 for a child.

Entertainment will include the issuing of enlistment and promotional certificates and 18th.Century country dancing. This is a great opportunity to meet with friends in the regiment at a lovely location, and have a relaxed and entertaining evening.

"This historic church, built in 1837, is Kingston's oldest surviving church structure. The Upper Salon is the former church sanctuary and presents an elegant event



space with seating for up to 200 guests. Special architectural features include a 20 foot ceiling, marble floors, 8 stained glass windows, a gas fireplace focal point, 5 antique chandeliers and a decorative balcony overlooking the salon. The Lower Salon has a contemporary look and will seat up to 120 guests. Both event spaces are accessed through a new addition on the rear of the historic building accommodating an entrance foyer, washrooms and kitchens. Renaissance is located in Kingston's downtown core close to the 'Hub' entertainment district and within walking distance of several major hotels.

On-site parking is available for 30 cars with lots of adjacent street-side parking and several city parking lots nearby."

DATE: Saturday, March 26
 LOCATION: 285 Queen St, Kingston, ON
 COST: \$32.50 adults; \$18.00 child

SCHEDULED TIMES (approximate):
 5:00 pm Reception: Lower Salon/Cash bar service
 6:30 pm Banquet: Upper Salon/3-course table service dinner where you may choose a starter and main course at the table/cash bar service
 9:00 pm Period Dancing

PROPOSED BANQUET MENU:
 1st Course
 Chef's Soup of the Day with fresh rolls
 2nd Course
 Choice of:
 Chicken Breast Fricassee with a White Wine & Mushroom Sauce, Mashed Potatoes and Vegetable Medley; or

Georgian Stuffed Pepper with Garlic Mashed Potatoes and Vegetable Medley with Tomato Picallily Sauce
 Dessert
 English Sherry Trifle
 Tea or Coffee
 A childs menu is available and will consist of chicken fingers etc. plus dessert.
 Bar Service
 Cash bar service available.

PARKING:
 For most events, parking is permitted in the Colborne Street Parking lot and along with the west side of the event venue, with access from Queen Street. Note that parking in rear of the Law Firm is private parking and not available to the customers of Renaissance. Street parking is available and there are several municipal parking lots in close proximity to the event venue.

Colonel James



OLD FORT NIAGARA GARRISON WEEKEND

— FEBRUARY 26 & 27 —

THE winter wind blew off the cold waters of Lake Ontario and curled around the corners of the French Castle, making the snow scuttle across the parade of Fort Niagara. By the door of the old Castle stood the wooden toboggans, still covered with snow from a recent slide down the slopes of the fort's ditch. And snowshoes, propped up in a nearby drift, stood ready for the soldier's afternoon patrol around the perimeter of the King's fort. In stark contrast to the bright and icy silence of the outdoors, warm sounds of laughter, conversation and music could be heard from inside the Castle. Men, women and children gathered by the blazing fire in the Johnson Room to play cards and tell stories about the last campaign season. You could see on their faces that they were anticipating the camaraderie of the evening meal and the conviviality of the tavern that would



follow. And from the Castle kitchen the sounds and smells of food preparation filled the room, as the cooks chopped vegetables, stoked the fire and tested the hot chocolate bubbling at the hearth. In the front hall the sound of stamping feet could be heard, as soldiers, just in from guard duty, knocked the snow off their boots and removed their watch coats, mitts and toques. Winter in Canada is long, but these soldiers and their families were making the best of it, knowing that Spring and the demands of the new campaign year would come all too soon...

Oh sorry, did you think you were reading a soldier's diary entry from 1781. No, this is just me daydreaming about the upcoming Yorker Winter Garrison Weekend at Old Fort Niagara on February 25, 26 & 27. It's been a long time since we've had a winter outing. The Fort has welcomed us with open arms, and look forward to us



interpreting the site for the weekend. Here's the schedule as it stands right now:

FRIDAY

4:00 pm *Arrival and set up*

9:00 pm *Tavern*

SATURDAY

9:00 am Individual breakfasts

Fort Niagara opens to the public (all accommodations are squared away and all vehicles removed from the Fort)

10:00 am Morning drill for the infantry (indoor if weather bad)

Noon Lunch served

1:00 pm Sentry mounting for the infantry

Non-combatants' activity #1
Activity for the kids #1 (indoor if weather bad)

2:00 pm Tobogganing and snowshoeing for everyone

3:30 pm Perimeter patrol for the infantry
Scavenger hunt for the kids (indoor)

5:00 pm Fort Niagara closes to the public
Talk by Capt Dave Moore - Niagara

6:00 pm Pre-dinner warm drinks at the tavern (i.e. coffee and chocolate)

7:00 pm Dinner

9:00 pm Tavern

SUNDAY

9:00 am Individual breakfasts.

Fort Niagara opens to the public (all accommodations are squared away).

10:00 am 18th & 19th Century Clothing Presentation – Peter Twist

Noon Squaring away and shutting down.

Debra Turrell has dug-deep into her period cookbooks to come up with menus for Saturday lunch and dinner. How does this sound for dinner:

Spiced Nuts

Cheese Wafers

Onion Soup

Beef the French Way

(marinated and cooked with a large assortment of vegetables and gravy)

Soft Gingerbread with Fruit

Eves Pudding with Brandied Caramel Sauce

Tea - Coffee - Milk

On Sunday morning Peter Twist will be joining us to do a program on 18th & 19th century civilian clothing. Peter is a former Yorker, having served in the Colonel's Company back in the late 80's and early 90's. Today he is the tactical commander of the Crown Forces for the War of 1812 period of living history. He is an excellent material culture historian and professional costumer, set dresser, and military advisor to the film industry and museums worldwide.

He has an excellent presentation, which includes original garments.

Here are some things to keep in mind:

- If you plan to attend you need to let Sjt Robert Stewart know as soon as possible (rbgs@hotmail.com)
- The French Castle is heated, but you would be wise to bring extra-warm bedding.
- You'll need warm clothing for outdoor activities (hat, blanket coat, mitts, wool socks, boots, etc).
- If you have a wooden toboggan or snow shoes, bring them along.
- Two meals will be provided (Saturday lunch and dinner). A per person charge will be levied to defray the cost.
- You will need a plate, soup bowl, mug, and utensils for the provided meals.
- Bring your lantern. It would also be nice to have some greenery, fruit or other such items to decorate the dinner table.
- Sjt Robert Stewart and his apprentice, Max, will be running the tavern on Saturday evening. Liquid contributions would be welcomed. Bring your cards, games and instruments.
- There will be visitors in the Fort throughout the weekend. All modern conveniences (sleeping bags, coolers, alcohol, plastic bags, etc) must be kept covered and out of sight.

We will wind-up about noon on Sunday so that everyone can get on their way home in reasonable time. Those who are interested may want to head into town for a quick bite before hitting the road.

This promises to be a lot of fun and one of those Yorker events that will be fondly talked about for years to come. Hope to see you there.

Dave Putnam



❁ Howse Tactical School ❁

— APRIL 9 - 10 —

PLANS are underway for the Howse Tactical School on April 9 & 10. Participants may arrive on Friday evening to pitch their tent in the military camp or sleepover at the Wellington Elks Hall in Allisonville, Ontario. After breakfast on Saturday morning, troops will move to the range at the Bradshaw Farm for an introductory live-ball shoot and accuracy competitions. In the afternoon there will be a live "fire & movement" exercise where attacks will be launched using the range terrain and available weapons (including artillery). On Saturday evening we will return to the Hall for dinner, bar and videos of the day's activities. After breakfast on Sunday troops will return to the Bradshaw Farm for a full-day tactical, ending no later than 3 p.m.

It is a 2 minute drive from the Hall to the range entrance. All cars will be parked in a designated area. Carpooling is encouraged. All participants will need to walk 450 meters to the shooting area. Pack accordingly. A single large tent will be provided for shelter. Backpacks and kit can be stored in this area.

LOCATION - Wellington Elks Hall,
Allisonville, ON
11 Dutch Road (corner of County Road 2)
Hall Phone: 613-399-2681

If you need to pickup supplies, Belleville is 25 minutes north and Picton is 25 minutes southeast.

MEALS - *Saturday & Sunday Breakfast* - Bacon, sausage, scrambled eggs, toast & jam, pancakes, juice/coffee/tea, coffee-to-go (you supply the big urn)

Saturday Supper - Buffet style roast beef dinner, mashed potatoes & gravy, veggies, dessert, coffee/tea

ACCOMMODATIONS - Cots, air mattresses, sleeping bags may be setup in the Elks Hall on Friday and Saturday nights. There will also be a military camp for those who would like to pitch their tents.

COST - \$60 per person

RAIN DATE - April 16-17

AMMUNITION - You will need to make live-ball cartridges before Saturday in order to participate in the shoot. Check the internet for a musket ball source in your area.

DIRECTIONS to Allisonville Hall from 401 East and West Approach

For East and West approaches The Belleville exit offers the most direct approach but there will be traffic depending on time of day.

From the West- Follow 401 to Wooler Road (Exit 522)

Follow Wooler Rd (County Rd 40) south for 5.7 km to Loyalist Pkwy.

Turn right (south west) on Loyalist Pkwy (County Rd 33) follow 12 km to County Rd 1

Turn left (east) on County Rd 1 and proceed 13 km, turn left (north) on County Rd 2

Follow County Rd 2 (north) for 1.5 km - Elks Hall will be on the Right.

Approximate driving time from Hwy 401 - 40 min.

From the East- Follow Hwy 401 to the Hwy 62 South Exit at Belleville (Exit 543A).

Caution: There are 2 exits here. 543B will only allow you to go North

Proceed South on North Front Street for 3.5 km to Dundas St (Old Hwy 2)

Turn Right on Dundas St and drive 1 km to Hwy 62 South

Turn Left (South) on Hwy 62, follow Hwy 62 for 10 km to County Rd #2

Turn right (west) on County Rd #2 follow County Rd #2 for 8km, hall will be on the left.

Driving time from 401 exit= 25min + traffic in Belleville.



COURAGE
OF
*Sir John
Johnson*



In our modern times, I like to think that such questions have been 'put paid', as the Brits say. However, in the 19C, Sir John's character was the subject of much scorn. – Gavin K Watt

[Excerpt from an address delivered before the New York Historical Society, at its Annual Meeting, January 6, 1880 by General John Watts De Peyster]

THE CHARGE of "questionable courage" is utterly ridiculous.

In the first place, it originated with his personal enemies, and if such evidence were admissible, it is disproved by facts. There is scarcely any amount of eulogy which has not been lavished upon Arnold's expedition from the Kennebec, across the great divide between Maine and Canada, down to the siege of Quebec, and the same praise has been extended to Clarke for his famous march across the drowned lands of Indiana. Arnold deserves all that can be said for him, and so does Clarke, and everyone, who has displayed equal energy and intrepidity. It is only surprising that similar justice has not been extended to Sir John. It is universally conceded that when he made his escape from his persecutors in 1776, and plunged into the howling wilderness to preserve his liberty and honor, he encountered all the suffering that it seemed possible for a man

to endure. As a friend remarks, one who is well acquainted with the Adirondack wilderness, such a traverse would be an astonishing feat, even under favorable circumstances and season, at this day. Sir John was nineteen days in making the transit, and this, too, at a season when snow and drifts still blocked the Indian paths, the only recognized thoroughfares. No man deficient in spirit and fortitude would ever have made such an attempt. Both of the invasions under his personal leading were characterized by similar daring. The cowardice was on the part of those who hurled the epithet at him. Their own writers admit it by inference, if not in so many words.

One of the traditions of Tryon county, which must have been well-known to be remembered after the lapse of a century, is to the effect that in the last battle, variously known as the fight on Klock's field, or Fox's Mills, both sides ran away from each other. Were it true of both sides, it would not be an extraordinary example. Panics, more or less in proportion, have occurred in the best of armies. There was a partial one after Wagram, after Castalla, after Solferino, and at our first Bull Run. But these are only a few among scores of instances that might be cited. What is still more curious, while a single personal enemy of Sir John charged him with quitting the field, the whole community abused his antagonist, Gen. van

Rensselaer, for not capturing Sir John and his troops, when a court martial decided that while the General did all he could, his troops were very "bashful", as the Japanese term it, about getting under close fire, and they had to be withdrawn from it to keep the majority from running home bodily. The fact is that the American State levies, quasi-regulars, under the gallant Col. Brown, had experienced such a terrible defeat in the morning that it took away from the militia all their appetite for another fight with the same adversaries in the evening. Sir John's conduct would have been excusable if he had quitted the field, because he had been wounded, and a wound at this time, in the midst of an enemy's country, was a casualty which might have placed him at the mercy of an administration which was not slow, with or without law, at inflicting cruelties, and even hanging in haste and trying at leisure. But Sir John did not quit the field prematurely. He was not there to fight, to oblige his adversaries; his tactics were to avoid any battle which was not absolutely necessary to secure his retreat. He repulsed his pursuers and he absolutely returned to Canada, carrying with him as prisoners an American detachment which sought to intercept and impede his movements.

While van Rensselaer, the scion of a race which displayed uncommon courage in the Colonial service, was being tried and

sought to be made a scape-goat for the shortcomings of his superiors and inferiors, Sir John was receiving the compliments, in public orders, of his own superior, Gen. Haldimand, to whom the German officers in America have given in their published correspondence and narratives the highest praise as a professional soldier and therefore judge of military merit. What is more, as a farther demonstration of the injustice of ordinary history, the severe Governor Clinton was either with van Rensselaer or near at hand, and consequently as much to blame as the latter for the escape of Sir John. Stone, who wrote at a time when as yet there were plenty of living contemporaries, distinctly says that Gov. Clinton was with Gen. van Rensselaer just before the battle and remained at Fort Plain, while the battle was taking place a few miles distant. Finally, the testimony taken before the court martial indicates that the Americans were vastly superior in numbers to, if not more than double, Sir John's whites and Indians, and it was the want, as usual, of true fighting pluck in the Indians, and their abandonment of their white associates which made the result at all indecisive for the Loyalists. Had the redskins stood their ground it is very doubtful if the other side would have stopped short of Schenectady. All accounts agree that the invaders had been overworked and were over-burdened, having performed extraordinary labors and marches; whereas, except as to ordinary expeditiousness, the Americans, quasi regulars and militia, were fresh and in fight marching order, for they were just from home. So much stress has been laid on this fight because it has been always unfairly told, except before the court martial which exonerated van Rensselaer. Ordinary human judgment makes the philosopher weep and laugh: weep in sorrow at the fallacy of history, and laugh in bitterness at the follies and prejudices of the uneducated and unreflecting.

Some of the greatest commanders who have ever lived have not escaped the accusation of want of spirit at one time or another. Even Napoleon has been blamed for not suffering himself to be killed at Waterloo, thus ending his career in a blaze of glory. Malice vented itself in such a charge against the gallant leader who saved the middle zone to the Union, and converted the despondency of retreat and defeat into victory. It is perhaps a remarkable fact that the mob always select two

vituperative charges the most repugnant to a man of honor, perhaps because they are those to which they themselves are most open—falsehood and poltroonery; forgetting that it is not the business of a commander to throw away a life which does not belong to himself individually but to the general welfare of his troops. Mere "physical courage," as has been well said by a veteran soldier, "is largely a question of nerves." Moral courage is the God-like quality, the lever which in all ages has moved



this world. Moreover it is the corner-stone of progress; and without it brute insensibility to danger would have left the nineteenth century in the same condition as the "Stone Age." A man, bred as Sir John had been, who had the courage to give up everything for principle, and with less than a modern battalion of whites, plunge again and again into the territory of his enemies, bristling with forts and stockaded posts, who could put in the field forty-five regiments, of which seventeen were in Albany and five in Tryon counties, the actual scenes of conflict, besides distinct corps of State levies raised for the protection of the frontiers, in which every other man was his deadly foe, and the majority capital marksmen, that could shoot off a squirrel's head at a hundred yards—such a man must have had a very large amount of the hero in his composition. Americans would have been only too willing to crown him with this halo, if he had fought on their side instead of fighting so desperately against them.

And now in conclusion, let me call the brief attention of this audience to a few additional facts. Sir William Johnson was the son of his own deeds and the creature of the bounty of his sovereign. He owed nothing to the people. They had not added either to his influence, affluence, position or power. If this was true of the father as a beneficiary of the Crown, how much more so was the son? The people undertook to deprive the latter of that which they had neither bestowed nor augmented. They injured him in every way that a man could be injured; and they made that which was the most commendable in him—his loyalty to a gracious benefactor, his crime, and punished him for that which they should have honored. They struck; and he had both the courage, the power, and the opportunity to strike back. His retaliation may not have been consistent with the literal admonition of the Gospel, but there was nothing in it inconsistent with the ordinary temper of humanity and manliness.

Ladies and gentlemen, the people of this era have no conception of the fearful significance of Loyalty, 100 years since. Loyalty, then, was almost paramount to religion: next after a man's duty to his God was his allegiance to his prince. "Noblesse oblige" has been blazoned as the highest commendation of the otherwise vicious aristocracy of France. It is charged that when the perishing Bourbon dynasty was in direst need of defenders it discovered them "neither in its titled nobility nor in its native soldiers," but in mercenaries. Whereas, in America, George III found daring champions in the best citizens of the land, and foremost in the front rank of these stood Sir John Johnson. Hume, who is anything but an imaginative or enthusiastic writer, couples loyalty and patriotism together; and with his philosophical words this vindication of Sir John Johnson is committed to the calm and unprejudiced judgment:

"The most inviolable attachment to the laws of our country is everywhere acknowledged a capital virtue; and where the people are not so happy as to have any legislature but a single person, THE STRICTEST LOYALTY IS, IN THAT CASE, THE TRUEST PATRIOTISM."



YOU THINK THE
Yorker uniform situation was Bizarre?

AS ROYAL Yorker reenactors, we often get puzzled about the complications of uniforming the original regiment. When all the obvious methods about uniform and facing colour selection were proven incorrect, it was frustrating to discover that our first recruits were issued with green clothing kits with pre-cut red facings that had been sent out from Britain for French Canadians long before the KRR NY was founded. And, the unit continued to draw from that same source for four years until the British government decided to clothe Provincial regiments in red, just like Regulars. Whether Sir John or Major Gray discarded the pre-cut red facings that came with the kits and substituted blue remains an open question, but one would suspect not. There were simply far more important issues to address.

Further, there's every reason to believe that when we were sent red uniforms faced blue in 1779, that choice had nothing to do with the KRR being a "Royal" regiment. It seems to have simply been the luck of the draw. Just maybe, Sir John had some influence with the powers-that-be and requested and received blue facings, but diligent research has not proven this. How he managed to match up the raw uniforms with our exotic, regimentally-ciphered buttons is a mystery, as is how the officers'

uniforms mounted even more exotic, gilt, bone-backed versions. Bottom line – for any of you who want to drown in research for a few years, there remains a great many unanswered questions about the original regiment. Don't for a second think that all has been done. Go to it.

In any event, during the KRR's relatively long history as one of the first loyalist regiments raised, the unit went through two distinct clothing issues. So, if you find that tough to swallow, just look at what the loyalist regiments in and about New York City experienced. Here are some details provided by Todd Braisted, NJV.

In 1777, all uniforms, for all the loyalist regiments being raised, were an identical green faced white.

In 1778, red coats with blue, green and white facings were sent for the loyalist regiments. As well, excess clothing was purchased from British regiments – the 10th (yellow), 28th (yellow), 45th (green), 52nd (buff) and the Loyal Irish Corps (?). How this mish-mash was distributed is unknown.

1779 saw a return to green uniforms, facing colours unknown.

In 1780, red clothing with green and blue facings arrived. The NJV, which was the largest loyalist regiment raised anywhere during the war, is known to have

drawn blue-faced coats. (NB: there is no "Royal" in the NJV title) Also, this is the first year that "RP" ciphered buttons were part of the issue.

In 1781, red coats with multiple facing colours (white, buff, orange, black, green and blue) arrived. This last system of uniform colours continued till the end of the war. In 1781 and 82, the NJV drew blue-faced coats, so the regiment's appearance was consistent from 1780-82.

Those loyalist regiments that were raised to a special establishment in America had specially ciphered buttons, each with a different design. One assumes that their colonels were allowed to follow the British and Irish Establishment practices and ordered their regiments requirements directly through agents in Britain. So, they were able to obtain the same facings for every year. Two of them, the Queen's Rangers and the British Legion, wore unique, sleeved waistcoat-type jackets with very little facing colour showing.

But, for that mass of loyalist regiments not favoured with being raised to the American Establishment, they must have faced constant change.

McGeachie

TORIES:

Fighting for the King in America's First Civil War

Allen, Thomas B., *Tories: Fighting for the King in America's First Civil War*, New York, Harper-Collins: 2010



THERE have been a spate of excellent social histories of the American Revolution in recent years, and *Tories: Fighting for the King in America's First Civil War* is the first popular American treatment of the loyalists which is both sympathetic and broad-ranging. In a future edition of the Yorker Courant, I will examine a recent study of how ordinary citizens of the Thirteen Colonies became militant insurgents for the rebellion. *Tories*, on the other hand, addresses how ordinary people became counter-insurgents.

Thomas Allen begins conventionally, discussing how family, mercantile and intellectual connections led to the creation of a cadre of loyalists in Boston in the period up to the evacuation of that city by Gage in early 1776. This cadre started as a group of people who had reasons for supporting the King. At first, they merely found themselves isolated from the intellectual "patriots" of New England - men like Samuel Adams and John Hancock. Later, as the colonial militias of Massachusetts and the other New England colonies came under the control of militant committees of safety, these Boston loyalists found that living in a society which was, at best, indifferent and unresponsive, had become unsustainable. They fled to the protection of the British garrison of Boston and, ultimately, evacuation. In turn, those citizens of Boston who sympathized with the rebellion fled the city to escape the close supervision of the redcoat garrison. Eventually, with food, forage and firewood becoming scarce in the besieged city, the only civilians who stayed were loyalists who had nowhere else to go.

The more interesting part of this work is what Allen hints at, but does not expressly address, the dynamics of rebel or loyalist militancy. There is a spectrum, from rabidly militant rebels on the one extreme through groups who are mildly sympathetic to the rebellion, the group in the center which is essentially neutral, through loyalist sympathizers, to militant loyalists on the other

extreme. The key to understanding the appeal of rebellion or loyalism is understanding how large the neutral center is at any given time or place. In Massachusetts in the spring of 1775, there does not appear to have been a neutral center. The majority of the population either actively or passively supports the rebellion. When shots are fired at Lexington, the population responds by sending men to fight at Concord and Bunker Hill, but also by accepting that committees of safety would operate in each community which had the authority to



measure the political loyalty of all citizens and to prosecute those who would not conform. At a time and in a place when and where the neutral center of the population accepts the authority of such committees, the loyalists are in trouble.

Allen also cites places and times where the neutral center does not support the committees of safety. A prime example is New York City after its capture by Howe's army in the summer of 1776. Prior to the arrival of the British fleet, the City was conspicuously neutral - loyalists and rebels felt free to proselytize freely, and neither side appears to have been strong enough to quash the other's efforts. With Washington's defeat at the Battle of Long Island and Howe's capture of Manhattan itself, the loyalists came to the forefront, which is where they remained for

the duration. By the autumn of 1776, New Jersey had become the neutral territory.

Allen has conducted a lot of research into the activities of both sides in New Jersey from 1776 onwards, and has concluded that the neutral center was so badly squeezed by rebel and loyalist foraging, patrolling, and campaigning (in that order) that by the end of the war there was no neutral center left. Each resident of New Jersey was compelled to pick sides, and not necessarily for ideological reasons. Without explicitly saying so, Allen makes clear that Washington's army forfeited the support of many residents of New Jersey by looting its way from Fort Lee all the way across the Delaware River in the autumn of 1776. Equilibrium gradually returned as Washington re-established rebel control of western New Jersey and both sides set down to competitive foraging in the Colony for the duration of the war. This is particularly interesting to those of us who are descended from the Associated Loyalists who operated from New York City throughout New Jersey because warfare in New Jersey was normally war between rebel insurgents and loyalist insurgents. The prize in this kind of warfare was not the occupation of land, but the obtaining of firewood, forage, and food for the British garrison of New York and for Washington's various cantonments in western New Jersey. This logistical war became more and more bitter as the war progressed and, according to Allen, its participants devolved into bands of raiders operating outside any law to seize provisions on behalf of their respective patron armies. As a rule with very few exceptions, neither the rebel nor the British army operated en masse in New Jersey after the summer of 1778.

Another example, about which I had read practically nothing in the past, is the Colony of Georgia after the capture of Savannah. Who among us realized that, in Georgia, the counter-revolutionaries succeeded in re-establishing royal government? A royally-appointed governor governed the

colony. The Crown's courts heard cases. A loyal militia was re-established. The large neutral center of the population accepted that the rebellion was over in their colony and became tacit loyalists.

Until Yorktown, the rebels gave little thought to recapturing Georgia. When Washington sent Anthony Wayne to recapture it in 1782, Wayne did not conduct a military campaign. He took advantage of the fact that there were few hard feelings amongst the Georgians, few militants on either side, and a large neutral center. Wayne persuaded the large numbers of soft loyalists to swing back into the neutral center. Land and cattle were offered to royal militiamen who would desert to the re-established rebel militia, and they did by their thousands. The more ardent loyalists accepted evacuation as their fate when Carleton ordered the abandonment of Savannah in 1782. Georgia fell into rebel control because, for most of its citizens, it seemed to be the right thing to do.

The key to understanding the dynamics of loyalism during the Revolution seems to be the size of the neutral center of the population. In Georgia, individuals felt practically no pressure from the rebels, and the neutral center was consequently huge. In New Jersey, the neutral center started large but became smaller as time passed and the population became radicalized not by committees of safety or organizations like the pro-Crown Loyal Association but because the depredations of years of insurgent warfare compelled everyone to choose sides. In the Wyoming Valley in upstate Pennsylvania, the neutral center simply ceased to exist after Brant and Butler's raid in 1778. Those residents who were pro-rebel or even neutral simply left the Valley. Allen even describes one widow who walked with her children back to her birthplace in Connecticut, never to return. One suspects that much the same was true in the Mohawk Valley, where the homes of loyalists left unburnt by loyalist raiders were promptly destroyed by vengeful rebel militiamen.

There simply cannot be a neutral center where everyone is forced to choose an allegiance.

Sjt Robert Stewart

Western Hooves of Thunder

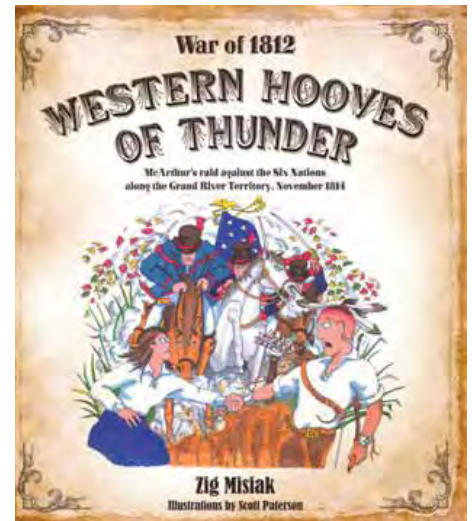


OUR GOOD friends, Zig Misiak (author) and Scott Paterson (illustrator), have collaborated on a new children's book on the War of 1812 entitled, "Western Hooves of Thunder: McArthur's Raid Against the Six Nations Along the Grand River, 1814". They have combined their talents and historical re-enacting experience to give the reader vivid visuals and an exciting story. This War of 1812 book is based on historical fact and real locations. It is intended to support the history curriculum in schools, but is a wonderful easy to read resource as well. Here are some of Zig's comments about the book.

CAN YOU GIVE A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE BOOK'S SUBJECT MATTER?

Two adolescents are born on the same day across the Grand River from one another in 1800. One is a Mohawk boy, the other a settler's daughter. The book describes the Six Nations migration to this area after the American Revolution. General Brock, John Brant, Joseph Brant, Tecumseh, John Norton and other historic characters make appearances. The children are 12 when the war starts. The young boy follows his fathers scouting party to the Niagara frontier. The book touches on the War of 1812 in other areas and the effect it had on our local inhabitants, the Six Nations and country settlers.

The story's main focus revolves around an attack in 1814 by American an General, who with over 700 cavalry, attacked the Six Nations territory and was confronted right here at the banks of the Grand River by militia, a few British regulars and Six Nations warriors. Villages up and down the Grand are threatened. The young girl is stranded on the side of the river that is being ravaged. The young Mohawk boy swims across the river during McArthur's attack to find his friend, whose whereabouts is unknown. He nearly loses his life looking for her.



The Americans then turn south towards Mt. Pleasant and then Oakland. They are confronted by several hundred allied defenders at what is known as the Battle at Malcolm's Mills. Then as quickly as he came, McArthur heads home towards Fort Detroit.

At the end of the book the two adolescents are shown in their 80's at the monument in Victoria Park. The book is full of validated Six Nations cultural information and nicely footnoted.

WHY IS THIS SUBJECT RELEVANT (WITH REFERENCE TO UPCOMING FIAR OF 1812 ANNIVERSARY AND THE LOCAL ASPECTS)?

Our area was a bee hive of activity during the War of 1812. Collectively our communities were an important junction to the western part of Upper Canada, as well as the main route toward the ports at Lake Erie, not just for the movement of goods, but for the quick deployment of the military. Our farm lands were fertile, producing an abundance of food. The many mills in this area made flour that helped feed the British army. The British regulars were vastly outnumbered by the Americans, so the Six Nations alliance and support of the local militia was essential to win the war. The local settlers outside the Six Nations Territory knew how to work closely with the Six Nations warriors. There is not a single significant battle that was fought during the war that did not have warriors and militia standing along side British regulars.

I see the 200th Anniversary as an opportunity to review our collective history from a variety of angles. To present currently accepted history in a different way.

To discover new facts and highlight their impact on ordinary people. For example, the Six Nations tormented over the fact that one day they were likely going to confront their cousins on the other side of the Niagara River in battle again.

I plan to do my part by doing readings, lectures, workshops, book signings, and anything else that can help instill a pride and awareness of our exciting collective histories.

COMMENT ON THE QUALITY OF ILLUSTRATIONS BY ARTIST SCOTT PATERSON

Scott is clearly very talented. His attention to detail is excellent because we both have extensive knowledge of appropriate attire and accessories of that time period. The illustrations are vivid and appealing. I created a thought, then he created an illustration, then I adjusted the writing based on the image he'd provided. It was great.

WHEN AND WHERE IS THE BOOK AVAILABLE?

Right now at:

- Brantford Tourism – 519-751-9900
- Brant County Museum – 519-752-2483
- Canadian Military Heritage Museum – 519-759-1313
- Iroqrafts – 519-445-0414
- Wifred Laurier (Stedman) Bookstore – 519-756-8228
- Woodland Cultural Center – 519-759-2650

A bargain at \$14.97 (Was recommended at least \$19.99, but I don't want price to be a deterrent. I want it to be easily accessible and read by many).

HOW HAS REENACTING INFLUENCED YOUR WRITING OF THIS BOOK?

I wear my reanctor's status like a badge. There is not a workshop or presentation that I do that is void of that part of my life. Reenacting made me a prouder Canadian. I've stepped back, but not out. I hope that my contributions to this most unselfish hobby have been good ones. Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few. (Okay, that last sentence is not mine, but I like it).

Kindest regards,

ZIG MISIAK

www.realpeopleshistory.com

www.warof1812rph.com

THE *Drinker's* dictionary



While Benjamin Franklin is not one of our most respected individuals, he does, at times, provide a few examples of wit and wisdom that can benefit us all. I offer this purloined excerpt from the Pennsylvania Gazette of 13 January, 1737 for the consideration of the more learned Courant readers. Nota Bene: this is not meant as a challenge you to try to experience each described state but rather a warning against things that should, for the most part, be avoided. Learn from the mistakes of others, we don't live long enough to make them all ourselves.

Capt. Alex Lawrence

NOTHING MORE LIKE A FOOL THAN A DRUNKEN MAN. - Poor Richard

'Tis an old Remark, that Vice always endeavours to assume the Appearance of Virtue: Thus Covetousness calls itself Prudence; Prodigality would be thought Generosity; and so of others. This perhaps arises hence, that Mankind naturally and universally approve Virtue in their Hearts,

A

He is Addled,
He's casting up his Accounts,
He's Afflicted,
He's in his Airs.

B

He's Biggy,
Bewitch'd,
Block and Block,
Boozy,
Bowz'd,
Been at Barbadoes,
Piss'd in the Brook,
Drunk as a Wheel-Barrow,
Burdock'd,

Buskey,

Buzzy,
Has Stole a Manchet out of the
Brewer's Basket,
His Head is full of Bees,
Has been in the Bibbing Plot,
Has drank more than he has bled,
He's Bungey,
As Drunk as a Beggar,
He sees the Bears,
He's kiss'd black Betty,
He's had a Thump over the Head
with Sampson's Jawbone,
He's Bridgey.

C

He's Cat,
Cagrin'd,
Capable,
Cramp'd,
Cherubimical,
Cherry Merry,
Wamble Crop'd,
Crack'd,
Concern'd,
HalfWay to Concord,
Has taken a Chirripping-Glass,
Got Corns in his Head,
A Cup too much,
Coguy,



and detest Vice; and therefore, whenever thro' Temptation they fall into a Practice of the latter, they would if possible conceal it from themselves as well as others, under some other Name than that which properly belongs to it.

But DRUNKENNESS is a very unfortunate Vice in this respect. It bears no kind of Similitude with any sort of Virtue, from which it might possibly borrow a Name; and is therefore reduc'd to the wretched Necessity of being express'd by distant round-about Phrases, and of perpetually varying those Phrases, as often as they come to be well understood to signify plainly that A MAN IS DRUNK.

Tho' every one may possibly recollect a Dozen at least of the Expressions us'd on this Occasion, yet I think no one who has not much frequented Taverns would imagine the number of them so great as it really is. It may therefore surprize as well as divert the sober Reader, to have the Sight of a new Piece, lately communicated to me, entitled THE DRINKERS DICTIONARY.

Copey,	<i>F</i>	Got on his little Hat,	Middling,	<i>R</i>	He's right before the	<i>V</i>
He's heat his Copper,	He's Fishey,	Hammerish,	Moon-Ey'd,	He's Rocky,	Wind with all his	He makes Virginia
He's Crocus,	Fox'd,	Loose in the Hilts,	Muddled,	Raddled,	Studding Sails out,	Fence,
Catch'd,	Fuddled,	Knows not the way	Seen a Flock of	Rich,	Has Sold his Senses.	Valiant,
He cuts his Capers,	Sore Footed,	Home,	Moons,	Religious,	<i>T</i>	Got the Indian
He's been in the	Frozen,	Got the Hornson,	Maudlin,	Lost his Rudder,	He's Top'd,	Vapours,
Cellar,	Well in for't,	Haunted with Evil	Mountous,	Ragged,	Tongue-ty'd,	<i>W</i>
He's in his Cups,	Owes no Man a	Spirits,	Muddy,	Rais'd,	Tann'd,	The Malt is above
Non Compos,	Farthing,	Has Taken	Rais'd his	Been too free with	Tipium Grove,	the Water,
Cock'd,	Fears no Man,	Hippocrates grand	Monuments,	Sir Richard,	Double Tongu'd,	He's Wise,
Curv'd,	Crump Footed,	Elixir,	Mellow,	Like a Rat in	Topsy Turvey,	He's Wet,
Cut,	Been to France,	<i>I</i>	<i>X</i>	Trouble.	Tipsey,	He's been to the Salt
Chipper,	Flush'd,	He's Intoxicated,	He's eat the Cocoa	<i>S</i>	Has Swallow'd a	Water,
Chickery,	Froze his Mouth,	<i>J</i>	Nut,	He's Stitch'd,	Tavern Token,	He's Water-soaken,
Loaded his Cart,	Fetter'd,	Jolly,	Nimptopsical,	Seafaring,	He's Thaw'd,	He's very Weary,
He's been too free	Been to a Funeral,	Jagg'd,	Got the Night Mare,	In the Sudds,	He's in a Trance,	Out of the Way.
with the Creature,	His Flag is out,	Jambled,	<i>O</i>	Strong,	He's Trammel'd,	
Sir Richard has taken	Fuzl'd,	Going to Jerusalem,	He's Oil'd,	Been in the Sun,		
off his Considering	Spoke with his	Jocular,	Eat Opium,	As Drunk as David's		
Cap,	Friend,	Been to Jerico,	Smelt of an Onion,	Sow,		
He's Chap-fallen,	Been at an Indian	Juicy.	Oxycrocium,	Swampt,		
<i>D</i>	Feast.	<i>K</i>	Overset,	His Skin is full,		
He's Disguiz'd,	<i>G</i>	He's a King,	<i>P</i>	He's Steady,		
He's got a Dish,	He's Glad,	Clips the King's	He drank till he gave	He's Stiff,		
Kill'd his Dog,	Groatable,	English,	up his Half-Penny,	He's burnt his		
Took his Drops,	Gold-headed,	Seen the French	Pidgeon Ey'd,	Shoulder,		
It is a Dark Day with	Glaiz'd,	King,	Pungey,	He's got his Top		
him,	Generous,	The King is his	Priddy,	Gallant Sails out,		
He's a Dead Man,	Booz'd the Gage,	Cousin,	As good conditioned	Seen the yellow Star,		
Has Dipp'd his Bill,	As Dizzy as a Goose,	Got Kib'd Heels,	as a Puppy,	As Stiff as a		
He's Dagg'd,	Been before George,	Knapt,	Has scalt his Head	Ring-bolt,		
He's seen the Devil,	Got the Gout,	Het his Kettle.	Pan,	Half Seas over,		
<i>E</i>	Had a Kick in the	<i>L</i>	Been among the	His Shoe pinches		
He's Prince Eugene,	Guts,	He's in Liquor,	Philistines,	him,		
Enter'd,	Been with Sir John	Lordly,	In his Prosperity,	Staggerish,		
Wet both Eyes,	Goa,	He makes Indentures	He's been among the	It is Star-light with		
Cock Ey'd,	Been at Geneva,	with his Leggs,	Philippians,	him,		
Got the Pole Evil,	Globular,	Well to Live,	He's contending with	He carries too much		
Got a brass Eye,	Got the Glanders.	Light,	Pharaoh,	Sail,		
Made an Example,	<i>H</i>	Lappy,	Wasted his Paunch,	Stew'd		
He's Eat a Toad &	Half and Half,	Limber,	He's Polite,	Stubb'd,		
half for Breakfast.	Hardy,	<i>M</i>	Eat a Pudding Bagg,	Soak'd,		
In his Element,	Top Heavy,	He sees two Moons,	<i>Q</i>	Soft,		
	Got by the Head,	Merry,	He's Quarrelsome,	Been too free with		
	Hiddey,			Sir John Strawberry,		

The Phrases in this Dictionary are not (like most of our Terms of Art) borrow'd from Foreign Languages, neither are they collected from the Writings of the Learned in our own, but gather'd wholly from the modern Tavern-Conversation of Tiplers. I do not doubt but that there are many more in use; and I was even tempted to add a new one my self under the Letter B, to wit, Brutify'd: But upon Consideration, I fear'd being guilty of Injustice to the Brute Creation, if I represented Drunkenness as a beastly Vice, since, 'tis well-known, that the Brutes are in general a very sober sort of People.

*The Pennsylvania Gazette,
January 13, 1737*

— Links —

GAVIN WATT'S WEBSITE


Graham Lindsey has built a fabulous website for Gavin Watt that is really worth exploring. From the Home Page you can move to a section about Gavin, his family and his activities as an author and as a reenactor. You can also go to a page that deals with his books, with a description and picture of each (including an opportunity to purchase on-line). And then there are pages on articles written, recommended reading, favourite links and contacting Gavin. This is a great site that you will only appreciate by going there and having a look.
<http://gavinwatt.ca/>

ROYAL YORKER WEBSITE

Graham Lindsey has also been busy updating the Yorker website. This is a great spot to go for current news about the regiment, including past issues of the Yorker newsletter. It's also a good spot to send potential recruits when you're trying to explain why they should join the regiment.
<http://royalyorkers.ca>

BLACK WATCH

Ron Atkins sent this link along for those interested in the Black Watch, their history and heritage.
<http://www.theblackwatch.co.uk/index/index>

The
YORKER  **COURANT**
News & Wisdom from Sir John's Regt. - The King's Royal Yorkers

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