

Royal



Yorkers

With the latest Advices, Foreign and Domestick

DISPATCHES
from
WHITE PLAINS
Royal Army Camp at
Pound Ridge, New York
October 31, 1776

The fighting was so spread and confused that the author hopes this will make the heroes see what part they played.

Sir,

Forces of your Northern Brigade were involved in two days of actions near this camp, viz. 27 October and 28 October, which met with near perfect success. I must say near perfect, because the Rebels we met here were so numerous and so fired with the ardour of their tragic 'cause' that they fought us as stubbornly as any veteran can remember, and gave us some surprises, though the savory served to make the sauce sweeter, as they say.

Early on the 27th, their forces began a very abrupt probe of our camp, chasing in our picket rather ignominiously. Only the prompt and courageous action of Herr Schmidt's Jaeger protected our Advanced Camp. As the crisis reached its height, Lt. Howse with the KRRNY and Peters' Corps appeared on the enemy's flank and drove them from the vicinity of our camp. This ended the "first" action, which we all thought at the time to have been both large and aggressive. Little did we know....

The "second" action started from the retreat of the survivors of the first. Joined by a second battalion and a troop of horse, the rebels attempted to take our advance camp by storm. However, their lights were stopped at the sunken road by Peters' Corps and the KRRNY, and their horse balked at the obstacle and the fire. Meanwhile, Sgt. Heppe of the CSM had chosen to

move well to the right of the sunken road where he infiltrated behind the rebel attack. When the Yorkers, Peters' Corps, and Natives turned the rebels flank and drove them back from the vicinity of the road, it was on to the guns of the waiting CSM, who butchered the survivors and took several of the horse prisoner. The combined troops then drove the rebels almost half a mile in a glorious, and stirring advance.

As our troops were rallying at the end of this rapid movement, it began to seem that the whole "Coup de Main" against our Advance Camp had been a feint to draw our troops away from the front of the main camp. As we rallied, we could see another rebel column at least twice our own strength trying to force the bridge near our main camp and attempting to move parties onto the wooded heights beyond the bridge. Lt. Howse took the KRRNY directly south to help hold the bridge while Captain Cameron, the

CSM, Peters', and Natives climbed the ridge into the woods above the bridge, aiming to strike the rebels in the flank. As events would have it, the rebels, pinned against the difficult terrain of a marsh and creek (which all of us seemed to wade without hesitation) were taken exactly in the flank by Captain Cameron's party, and before they could hope to reorganize, a final blow was dealt by a small but able party of regulars (the first we had seen all day aside from the 40th and CSM) plunging into their now exposed rear, completing their defeat. In the opinion of their own commander, we took the lot, and so ended the events of the first day. Every officer and man remarked on the numbers of the rebels (easily one and a half times our own) and their tenacity.

The morning of the 28th dawned even earlier and was even colder. The first patrols went out at six o'clock and continued until some small contacts were made about eight o'clock. It began to seem anti-climatic after the





*As there are
No
Coming
Events
this issue of the
Newsletter is
entirely
Educational!*

(Continued from page 1)

scale of the prior day's activities.

At half past eight, Major Najecki ordered Captain Cameron to take a strong patrol, consisting of the 40th, CSM, Peters' Corps, Jaeger detachment, Captain Patterson's Ranger Co., and the KRRNY, totaling over fifty men. Captain Cameron elected to sweep the high ground that dominated the space between the camps in a five finger formation, and then end the sweep with a large blocking force ambush on the main approach. It is worth noting that these maneuvers were carried out beautifully, because the plan itself did not survive contact with the enemy...

Seconds after our patrol reached its ambush positions (holding very strong ground, thankfully) we were informed that a battalion at least of our own number was marching into our ambush. The battalion was allowed to pass our outposts as our "blocking" elements (CSM and KRR) prepared to seize the road behind them to seal their doom. Our joy at this easy victory was short lived, as before we could

move forward we discovered that there were three battalions on the road, and we had caught a tiger. The ambush lacked the numbers to defeat 150 men, but seemed for a while to have the skill and the ground to keep this vastly superior force out of the high ground. The timely arrival of two Royal Artillery 4 pounders greatly aided the defense, and their spirited handling of those guns over the most treacherous ground kept our forces from total defeat.

After fifteen minutes of the most ferocious fighting of the campaign, our guns began to take a toll on their formed men [after a ferocious rules argument]. As one of the rebel battalions disintegrated under repeated rounds of canister, the CSM and KRR were able to turn their attentions...

....to the other 150 rebels who had made a circuitous march of three miles to fall on us from behind. Major Najecki had found four new units from the main camp and two more guns to slow this attack behind us, but he was as heavily outnumbered as ever we had been, and as our men broke the rebel

left with a vicious charge uphill into the New Jersey Continentals (shot in by Mr. Pearson's canister) our own left was broken by a fresh rebel battalion appearing from the woods to the north, and by a troop of horse. [At this point the game was called as both sides had lost all control over the battle. The rebels were kind enough to retire, declaring that their grand attack had failed. I am not at all sure that, had we kept fighting, they would not have triumphed, but was delighted they chose to see it that way!]

By this time, our small Crown Force (perhaps 100 men all told) were tired and had fired great quantities of ammunition. The rebels chose to retreat their whole force (now all visible together for the first time, and in excess of 250 men) back to camp. Naturally, we chose to contest their retreat.

Major James, who had been on the field briefly, took stock of the situation and returned to camp to fetch more men. This would prove, as you will see, the finest decision of the day. In his absence, Major Najecki being

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

wounded, Major O'Shaughnessy of the 10th and Captain Cameron organized a series of haphazard attacks on the enemy rearguard in a desperate attempt to pin them in place before they slipped away. Every man who could be found was hurled at the enemy. In the early going, the KRRNY seized the key lower ridge and held it. The CSM tried twice to cross the brook under fire and could not, but their attacks drew so much attention from the enemy that their columns stopped and deployed, and made their only serious mistake of the day; they attempted to counter-envelope the CSM/KRR position on the ridge, overreaching themselves and losing track of their main objective, which was to retreat. A local counter attack by a

scratch force of the 55th, Peters' Corps, the King's 8th, and 4th foot broke the rebel line in the deep brush and almost closed the door of the battle. Almost reached the bridge. Almost claimed victory, despite the odds.

We lacked the numbers. Despite a temporary superiority, it became clear the rebels would soon enough pull their shattered numbers together, re-take the vital ground and restart their movement. There was nothing more we could do. And it was at that moment that Brigadier James arrived at the head of three or four detachments, Foot Guards, 24th Foot, and others, who formed a line across the road and began the systematic destruction of the bewildered rebels. Never was there more timely a rescue; Brig. James' foresight won us the battle, and the

willingness of a large body of regulars to fling themselves under his baton does him the most credit. They came on so well that their very appearance robbed the rebels of their heart, a few volleys sufficed to break what was left of their resolve, and it is with great satisfaction that I write that this was the end of them.

In the end, the difference was in our men's skill, their dedication, and the number of cartridges they carry that allowed us to fight right to the end; and in Major James's resolve to "bring more men." As it turned out, a better triumph could not be imagined.

Your humble serv't,

C. Cameron
Cap't, Northern

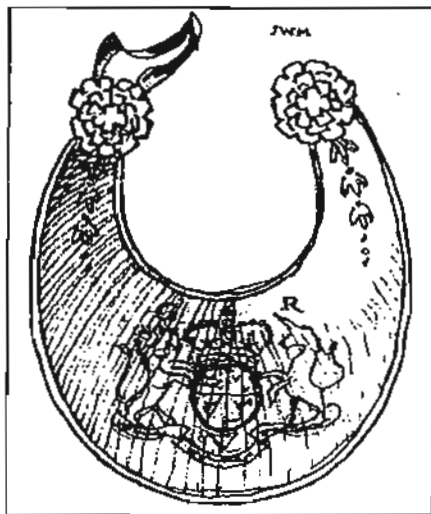
Colonel's New Book Out in Time For Xmas

If you haven't purchased a copy of Gavin's new book, *The British Campaign of 1777 ~ Volume 1 ~ The St. Leger Expedition ~ The forces of the Crown and Congress*, you better get your order in soon. This limited edition publication (it was a very small printing) was written jointly by our Colonel and James Morrison. It is a companion piece to Gavin's soon-to-be-released campaign history of the St. Leger Expedition, entitled *Rebellion in the Mohawk Valley 1777*. And of course, it is no coincidence that the publication date of this next major work will coincide with the 225 anniversary of the St. Leger campaign.

As explained in the liner notes of *The British Campaign of 1777*, "The text gives an overview of the stirring events that shaped St. Leger's siege of Fort Stanwix. However, the book's principle purpose is to provide the names of the men who served under St. Leger, Johnson, Sayenqueraghta, Claus, Butler and Brant and those who opposed them under Schyler, Gates, Arnold, Gansevoort, Willett and Vrooman. Over 2500 men and women are identified by their political orientation and units of service."

The book starts off with a brief overview of the St. Leger Expedition, in-

cluding a comparative chronology of the Crown and Congressional forces. The remainder of the book provides a detailed description of the units and personalities involved in the campaign. Under the heading, "St. Leger's Forces", Gavin describes the Staff, British & German regulars, King's Royal Yorkers, other Provincial units, the British Indian Department and the



Indian Nations. Under the title, "Defenders of the Mohawk Region", the authors cover the garrison at Fort Stanwix, the 3rd New York Regiment, the Tryon County Militia Brigade and Arnold's relief column. The book

concludes with a description of the Schoharie Uprising, St. Leger's official return after the campaign and recruiting during the expedition.

When I suggest that the book is detailed, I mean *it is detailed*. If you want to know the names of those Yorkers who participated in the expedition from a particular Company, turn to the chapter dealing with the KRRNY. Not only can you read the biographies of the main players, but you can get the anecdotal accounts of all the little guys.

For instance, did you know that Jacob Schell was appointed a Corporal in Duncan's Coy on July 10, 1777? During the October, 1780 raid to the Mohawk Valley, Sir John sent Schell on a secret recruiting mission to his home at The Helleburgh, NY. He was betrayed and forced to surrender to the militia. Schell was tried and convicted of spying, and hanged at Albany on October 26, 1780.

Or, did you know that Charles Bambridge served in Captain Stephen Watt's Coy of Light Infantry during the campaign? On October 24, 1778 he was reported to be insane by Major Gray. He was in confinement on February 11, 1779, having attempted to

(Continued on page 4)

set fire to the barracks. He died on October 24, 1780.

These are the guys we represent every time we don our green and blue coats. (I think we have a few guys who would have little difficulty with a first person impression of Bambridge).

There are numerous illustrations throughout the book, many of which were drawn by some of the talented guys in our own unit (e.g. 2Lt. John Moore, Drum Mjr Gavin Watt).

If you're a genealogist with an interest in the names of those who participated in this important period of our history, or simply a military historian who wants more information than is available in most historical sources, this book is a *must have* for your library.

To have a copy mailed to you in time for Christmas, send a cheque for \$25.00 to Gavin at 85 Fog Rd., King City, ON L7B 1A3.

DWP

Planning Ahead to 2003

The Northern Brigade (KRRNY and Friends) will be hosting a major event, with attached wargames, on July 13-15, 2003. This will be the largest Canadian Rev War event in some years, and is an attempt to provide a better schedule closer to home. We will have both Continental Line and BVMA participation, and HOPE to have a solid rebel line to batter. The site of the event will be Upper Canada Village, an excellent venue that has not been available to Rev War reenactors for some years. In addition, we have some very good ground nearby for wargames, and we'll also have a full suite of other activities, including the best live music in the hobby, first rate-taverns, etc. The site is very co-operative, and we expect supplies and facilities to be superior.

Please note that this event is for 2003 -- that is, well over eighteen months away. However, when asking people to drive more than a few hours to an event, it's probably never too early to set the date. This is simply a 'warning order' to avoid conflict and hopefully win enthusiasm

Christian Cameron
Adjutant, Northern Brigade

2002 ~ Year of the 18th Century Clothing Display

The year 2002 is plainly going to be a year of the cloth for 18thC fetishists.

Historic Deerfield (Mass.) opened this fall an eye-catching exhibit, *The Shape of Man (1760-1860)*, all based on its own holdings. Curated by (sometime Torontonionian) Edward Maeder, the 18thC material contains superb examples of embroidered waistcoats, banyans, 3-piece suits (ditto), wallets, and handkerchiefs. Much of this is Fop Fest wear. But there is also a gorgeous small-check indigo workshirt. The label dates it to 1780-1820, but the speaker on shirts at the recent symposium thought it deserved the earlier date and so is within our time frame. The workshirt alone is worth the drive to a -- there's no other word for it -- picturesque New England village.

Deerfield is planning to publish the proceedings of the superb three-day symposium it hosted in October. The exhibit continues until 10 August 2002. Maeder plans to follow up with a women's clothing exhibit opening in spring 2003.



www.historic-deerfield.org

In Montreal, the McCord Museum at McGill University will open a clothing exhibition next May according to two of the organizers. The exhibit will reach back into the 18thC. There is nothing on the McCord's web site as yet, but we should expect more information as the date approaches. The material may well include some of interest to Yorkers. This is after all the terrain in which Sir John continued to

serve, and in which many of his descendants lived.

www.mccord-museum.qc.ca

Finally, next fall, Colonial Williamsburg will open *The Language of Clothing* (October 26, 2002 through October 26, 2003) showcasing its "superb collection of antique clothing, [which] will feature garments ranging from masterpiece court gowns to maternity wear. Visitors will discover how clothing offers clues to understanding people of the past. The objects will be grouped thematically around such topics as changing style, consumerism, the definition of beauty, formal dress, the retention of outdated styles, clothing for work, and dressing for the life cycle." The advance word is that this exhibit will offer much we can learn from; many items in its collection have their provenance in the northern colonies or Great Britain, or even, horrible dictu, France.

www.history.org

Grenadier John Jordan

God Save Great George Our King

Following the Sunday afternoon battle at Schoharie this year, the Royalist and Rebel armies formed in line facing each other. The commentator announced over the P.A. system that, while our battle had been raging, word was received that RAF bombers had begun the attack on terrorist targets in Afghanistan. Immediately both armies broke into a rousing and emotional rendition of *God Save the Queen*.

The first recorded singing of this anthem took place at the Drury Lane and Covent Garden Theatres in September, 1745, shortly after the defeat of Sir John Cope's army at Prestonpans. The Drury Lane Theatre version was arranged by T. A. Arne, composer of *Rule Britannia*. The first dated copy appeared in the *Gentleman's Magazine* in October 1745. Although there are many verses to this song, here are three that could have been sung by both sides on this occasion.

God save Great George our King,
Long live our noble King,
God save the King.
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us;
God save the King.

O Lord our God arise,
Scatter his enemies,
And make them fall;
Confound their politics,
Frustrate their knavish tricks,
On him our hopes we fix;
God save us all.

Thy choicest gifts in store,
On George be pleased to pour,
Long may he reign;
May he defend our laws,
And ever give us cause,
With heart and voice to sing;
God save the King.

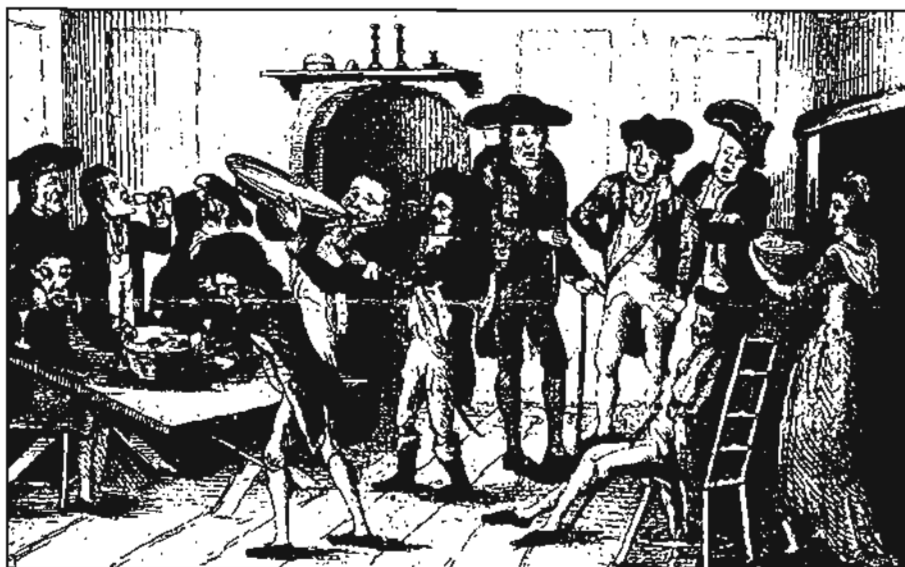


Taverns & Passing The Bowl

At Schoharie this year there was another wonderful Yorker Tavern, with music, singing, birthday festivities, and of course, more punch bowls than you could shake a stick at. The book "Early American Taverns: For the Entertainment of Friends and Strangers" by Kym Rice sheds some light on the practice of passing the bowl.

A popular beverage, punch was considered as genteel as imported tea. It was routinely served at every conceivable tavern event from political gatherings to the meetings of the men's clubs, before and after a meal, or during an evening's activities. A 1737 edition of *Poor Richard's Almanack* included Ben Franklin's lyrical tribute to the preparation of the drink.

*Boy, bring a bowl of China here
Fill it with water cool and clear;
Decanter with Jamaica ripe,
And spoon of silver, clean and bright,
Sugar twice-fin'd in pieces cut,
Knife, sive, and glass in order put,
Bring forth the fragrant fruit and then
We're happy till the clock strikes ten.*



Punch was a combination of then luxurious ingredients. The drink was made using the rinds and juice of imported lemons, limes, and even oranges, commonly mixed with rum, and white or brown sugar. In some taverns, customers paid extra for the inclusion of sugar and fruit in their drinks.

Lime punch was the most popular version of the drink, and the beverage was aptly described as "Sower punch". Paintings such as William Hogarth's *A Midnight Modern Conversation* show lemons being used in the preparation of the drink. However, the tools listed in tavern inventories are identified as "lime squeezers". When Daniel Smith of the City Tavern made punch for Philadelphia's Committee of Safety, he exhausted 200 limes on one occasion and 100 on another. Punch was also made with eggs and milk. Franklin's recipe follows:

*To make Milk Punch
Take 6 quarts of Brandy, and the Rinds of 44 Lemons pared very thin; Steep the Rinds in Brandy 24 Hours, then strain it off. Put to it 4 Quarts of Water, 4 Large Nutmegs grated, 2 Quarts of Lemon Juice, 2 pounds of double refined Sugar. When the Sugar is dissolv'd boil 3 Quarts of Milk and put to the rest hot as you take it off the Fire, and stir it about. Let it stand 2 Hours; then run it thro'*

a Jelly-bag till it is clear; then bottle it off.

Like some other beverages, punch was served warm and sold in taverns by the bowl. A quart of the mix would fill about half a large punch bowl. Tavern inventories indicate that both the delft (tin-glazed earthenware) and

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

china (porcelain) punch bowls, in large and small sizes, were used. Since delft was widely available and inexpensive, most tavern keepers kept only a modest supply of punch bowls on hand, the average was about seven bowls per establishment. Breakage was a liability of the profession, but in several instances, appraisers of tavern keepers' estates noted that punch bowls had been mended for reuse. That punch had a special place in the tavern is also evident from the number of silver punch strainers, punch ladles, punch spoons, and even in one case, silver punch bowls found among the stocks of taverns in centers like New York, Boston, Charleston, Philadelphia, and Williamsburg. With those exceptions silver rarely appears in 18th-century tavern inventories.

...Drinking was a social rather than a solitary activity. The small space of the tavern public room furnished with

a few tables and many more chairs physically drew people closer together. Sharing a bowl of punch or toddy became an 18th-century symbol of congeniality (an admired trait) and fellowship, even a prelude to a conversation between two strangers. Recalling a convivial evening at a tavern, Samuel Sewall noted in his diary, "I treated with a Bowl of Punch...". When a traveler, merchant, and another man met outside a tavern in Lewis Morris' imaginary "Dialogue Concerning Trade" (1732), the group agreed to go inside to share "a good bowl of punch" together. They immediately inquired of the landlord at the door whether there was "any company in the house," presumably to invite them to join them.

The scarcity of punch bowls and the absence of punch cups in early American tavern inventories implies the bowls were shared. John Greenwood's painting, *Sea Captains*

(arousing at Surinam), shows one tavern patron with a large punch bowl lifted to his lips, about to pass it to the companion on his left. A Frenchman reported of Philadelphia in 1782 that "one who is thirsty drinks himself and [then] passes it to his neighbor... in America one would pass for the most uncivil man if one refused to drink after one is offered it..." Not everyone was delighted by the practice. An Englishman visiting a Norfolk tavern in 1785 complained, "The long legged Virginian planters... help themselves to any bowl of a stranger's toddy (which is rum and water with sugar) and make no apology..." The sentiments expressed in the journal of William Black, who spent hours in taverns enjoying "the Pleasures of Conversation and a Cheerful Glass," confirm one historian's statement that "drinking together generally symbolizes durable social solidarity."

Loyal Toasts To Remember

There you are sitting in the tavern and you can see two bowls converging on you from opposite directions. It's inevitable, you're going to end up holding them both, and will have to rise to deliver an appropriate toast. Will you attempt to get away with an unimaginative, "To the King", or will you dazzle the crowd with a clever 18th century saying. Here are a few suggestions from the 1779 publication, "Loyal and Humorous Songs" by Hugh Gaines.

- May the numerous offspring of Royal love inherit the numerous virtues of their magnanimous parents.
- Rewards to the honest sons of America, who withstood the torrent of disobedience.
- Veneration to the Parent state that amply provides for, and nobly fought in defence of her children.
- Chastisement to malevolence, adequate to the iniquity thereof.
- To the immortal memory of heroes slain in the cause of Constitutional Freedom.
- Disappointment to American Whigs: To their European, Asiatic, and Afric friends, infamy and destruction.
- The Continental Congress, with all their subordinates: May their commissions prove death warrants, and their sword belts be exchanged for halters.
- Restoration to the injured, abdication to the injurers.
- When the King extends his mercy, may he be guided by justice, and dictated by prudence.
- Success to the enterprising genius of all loyal refugees.
- May French Wines meet with the same treatment as French Politicks, honest abhorrence.
- The noble fabrick of the British Constitution: May it never moulder nor decay, but unblemished withstand despotic rage, and republican subtlety.



Stirring the Pot

It seems that the dispute between the hot-dipped tin kettle promoters and the cast-iron pot advocates has finally come to a boil. It is a regular topic in the BAR Brigade Dispatch, and at this point it appears that the tin folks are winning. But where do the Yorkers stand on this hot issue. Of course, it is the Yorker way to carefully consider the merits of each case, and then head off in a totally different direction.

The following narrative, written by Colonel Marinus Willett at German Flatts on August 11, 1777, describes the rebel sortie from Fort Stanwix against St. Leger's camp, while Sir John Johnson was off ambushing Herkimer's relief force at Oriskany. He writes:

"...About eleven o'clock three men got



into the fort, who brought a letter from General Harkaman of the Tryon County militia, advising us that he was at Eriska with part of his militia, and proposed to force his way to the fort for our relief. In order to render him what service we could in his march, it was agreed that I should make a sally from the fort with 250 men, consisting of one half Gansevoort's, one half Massachusetts ditto, and one field piece.

...Nothing could be more fortunate than this enterprise. We totally routed two of the enemy's encampments, destroyed all the provisions that were in them, brought off upwards of 50 brass kettles..."

Did he say brass kettles? Could it be that some brass kettles were carried into the field during the St. Leger campaign? This should stir the pot a little.

DWP

How Do You Like Them Potatoes?

Some have argued with me that the "potatoes" mentioned in the 18th C were really Jerusalem artichokes or sweet potatoes, but not the white variety. I remain unconvinced, however, given what I have unearthed (sorry) over the past few weeks. While I do not refute the evidence which points to the availability of sweet potatoes or Jerusalem artichokes (Indian potatoes), in our time period, the recent discovery of an interesting little volume has led me to believe that the white potato was a far more common foodstuff than originally thought.

I managed to find Eleanor Robertson Smith's Loyalist Foods in Today's Recipes in my local library. As I skim more and more of it, I am astounded by the mention of potatoes in huge quantities. Of particular note to the continuing discussion of the appropriateness of the simple spud to our time period, in addition to the acknowledged sweet and Indian potatoes, I have discovered that as early as 1787 potatoes were a standard crop in the Loyalist settlements of Nova Scotia, a mere three years after the Loyalist deportations from the "dissenting colonies".

Alexander Huston's 1787 diary has an annotated list of his potato plantings and harvesting. The month of April was spent preparing the ground and hoeing. During May and June he planted nine bushels and by the end of October had dug 30 bushels. [Loyalist Foods, p. 141, Alexander Huston, Diary of Alexander Huston 1787-88. Public Archives of Nova Scotia MG1, vol. 48]

Captain William Booth's diary also offers the following: "Walking this afternoon I saw Parson Rowland -- I spoke to him; he was employing his people in planting potatoes -- setting them in hills, which he says answers best; he tried them every way in Rhode Island, where he lived last, and found that method was best." [from the MS diary of Captain William Booth, May 12, 1789] Where the good parson lived last, of course, was before the end of the American Revolution.

Boston King, a Black Loyalist, happily described an increase in his winter supplies: "...and my Winter's store consisted of one barrel of flour, three bushels of corn, nine gallons of treacle, 20 bushels of potatoes which my wife had set in my absence, and two barrels of fish; so that was the best Winter I ever saw in Burchtown". [Loyalist Foods, p. 14, Phyllis Blakely, Boston King, p. 3]

And, by the way, potatoes were considered more basic than bread: "In contrast to the gay time of some inhabitants [Robertson Smith had just discussed the feast of a birthday celebration held at Halifax in honour of Queen Charlotte, as reported in The Royal Gazette and New Brunswick Advertiser, St. John, Feb. 21, 1786], the poor of the towns suffered and even died from the lack of the necessities of life.... The court testimony reveals that the regular weekly poor rations were: three quarts of Indian meal, a pint of molasses, three ounces of salt fish and six quarts of potatoes..." [Loyalist Foods, p. 13]

Naturally, questions arise from these primary sources. Surely the American Loyalists were producing these quantities of (white) potatoes and/or viewing them as a staple as readily before their arrival in Nova Scotia as afterwards. Why would this heretofore "unknown crop", as some would insist, suddenly burgeon three years after the diaspora? In none of the references is there any indication that this crop is a novelty or "the latest".

As well, to my knowledge, Indian potatoes cannot be produced in the same quantity as white potatoes, and sweet potatoes cannot be grown, or at least not abundantly, in such a northern climate (I could be wrong). Also in Robertson Smith's work, she documents the vegetable plants, herbs and seeds available to the Loyalists in Shelburne [from M. M. Harvey, MSS Curatorial Report 27, "The Gardens of Shelburne, Nova Scotia 1785-1820"]. Three types of potatoes are listed: English white, blond and blue.

Kathleen Manneke

Benefits of Drill

"So, at the very start of training, recruits should be taught the military step. For nothing should be maintained more on the march or in battle, than that all soldiers should keep ranks as they move. The only way this can be done is by learning through constant training to manoeuvre quickly and evenly."

This was written in 383 AD.

(Source: Publius Flavius Vegetius Renatus, *Epitomae Re Militaris*. Book I, Section ix.)

Capt Allan Joyner

Websites of Interest

I thought I would draw attention to two marvellous websites. The first is from the distaff section of the 4th Coy Brigade of Guards, written by Katie Caddell and Rebecca Fifield. They have published their own version of a Distaff Starter Kit on-line. As well, their extensive bibliography would be of interest to anyone interpreting an 18th-century woman's role, military or civilian. Sub-sections cover Clothing and Textiles, Period Diaries, Childbirth and 18th century Home Life, general resources like Military History and Women, Material Culture and more. Look for it all at <http://www.brigadeofguards.org/distaffbiblio.html>. Katie Caddell promises plenty of updates to the site at the end of November.

Secondly, for those interested in Intelligence, "Spy Letters of the American Revolution" from the Collections of the Clements Library should not be missed at <http://www.si.umich.edu/spies>. My thanks to Dana Bogdanski of the CSM for bringing this to my attention. Of particular note for the Yorker distaff is the section on Women Spies; both a Rebel and a Loyalist woman's undercover activities and capture are highlighted here. Original spy letters have been scanned and then transcribed. More research into this area of Rev War interpretation could add a whole new dimension to women's activities at encampments.

Kathleen Manneke

REGIMENTAL NOTICE BOARD

Found at Schoharie

One Capote - white with blue stripes. This is a non regulation pattern. It is without the light blue tape used to bind the edges and as the cross-ties. It also lacks the two box pleats at the back, but it does have a pair of light blue rosettes. Apply to: Himfelf

Rainshirt Order

The Company of Select Marksmen is bulk ordering oilskin rainshirts from Peter Marks of Tentsmiths after reviewing his documentation package at White Plains and finding it satisfactory. The salient points:

- 1) Some British and Provincial units did issue rainshirts in the Northern Department (no idea about the Yorkers, Butlers, or Queens per se.)
- 2) Oilskin was made over cotton cloth during our period (vice linen - ie, the Tentsmiths' oilskin is a correct type.)
- 3) Rainshirts were made as "shirts" which is to say, closed in front like any 18th century shirt. Troops did sometimes split them down the front to wear over packs.

After a year of being VERY damp, the guys in the CSM have decided to spend the bucks and get the rainshirts. Peter is giving us a 25% cost reduction for an order of more than 20. The CSM already have 25 ordered, so we have the reduction in the bag, but I thought others might be interested. The price is \$60.00 US per shirt. They are \$80.00 in his catalogue, may go to \$90.00 next summer.

If you want to order, please send me your size by December 15.

Chris Cameron

cqc.sjw@sympatico.ca

Light Coy Going To The Dogs

Let it be known that the Lights have decided to promote Indian Joe Cocker to Corporal. Many will know Joe as an outstanding and consistent member of the company who never fails to chase cats, bark at the rebel horses, and catch a scrap of food around the campfire. Joe's other outstanding duties include guarding the serjeant's tent, keeping the serjeant warm at night and entertaining the ladies.

Lt. Steven Sandford

Queen Charlotte's Birthday

Historic Fort York ~ Saturday January 26

A NEW, day long event, focusing on entertaining in Upper and Lower Canada in the late 18th & early 19th centuries. Includes afternoon dance workshop, illustrated talks, supper and evening ball. Tina Bates from the Museum of Civilization will present a lecture entitled *Real Men Waltz; Dance and Department from the Minuet to the Polka*.

\$60.00 per person.

Pre-registration required ~ 416 392-6907, or email: fortyork@city.toronto.on.ca

Register before Dec. 31st for \$5.00 off the ticket price.

