

# 41st Regiment of Foot (Military Living History Group) JOURNAL



November/December 2004

## Annual General Meeting

Thanks to the generous hospitality of Jim Hill, and the fort staff, the Regiment's Annual General Meeting was held this year at Fort Erie. The date was October 2nd and our day began at 10.00am with arrival and drill. Present were Sgt. Hobbs, Corporal Bateman, Lance Corporal Parkinson, Privates O'Halloran, Fournier, Zorniak, Toderian, Webber. Sgt. Yaworsky arrived later in the day.

In spite of a damp day with some drizzle and rain on occasion, we drilled throughout the morning, and broke for coffee, then lunch. Following lunch the weather began to clear up, but our drill was interrupted by a raid on the fort by a small skirmish party.

The Forty First Regiment of Foot (MLHG) *Journal* is published six times per year.

Editor: Ray Hobbs

The Journal and the Military History Group are dedicated to the life and work of the British soldier during the War of 1812, especially those who served in the 41st Regt. in the Canadas from 1799-1815

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The Enemy attacked from the south across open ground with little cover and reached to within twenty or thirty yards of the fort. Small shrubs and tress afforded them some cover as they kept up a

steady rate of fire into the fort. However, stiff resistance from the palisades inflicted casualties on them, and the skirmish came to an end with the surrender of the attackers. The whole affair was done to the delight of the few onlookers who were visiting the fort.

The Annual General Meeting was held at the fort, then followed by a meal at a local establishment and the Regimental Mess. At the Mess we were delighted to have as our guests, Maj. Lozon of the Crown Forces Staff, and John and Eleanor Greig of his Majesty's IXth Regiment, who were visiting from England. All in all an excellent time.



# Physical Preparation for Events and a Re-Enacting Season - I

## Pre-Season Work-Outs

*Lance Corporal Tom Fournier, #4141*

Looking from the outside, one might not think that ours is a very physically demanding hobby; but dealing with extended marches, carrying kit and accoutrements and dealing with the extreme vagaries of weather can all extract a physical toll. A little thought and planning can help to ensure that you have a comfortable, happy and healthy season!

Just like athletes, a little effort to get into shape before a season helps to ensure your peak performance at events. Perhaps this sounds a little too zealous but think of how many times at an event that your line-mates are huffing and puffing or moaning about sore feet or sore backs?

Face it, most of us now live a pretty sedentary lifestyle and it is a pretty radical shift to travel back nearly 200 years in time to when people were their own mode of transportation. That is they pretty much walked everywhere they had to go. When was the last time that you walked for more than ten minutes? Some preparation will help you get prepared for a season of events where we are trying to recreate the past and we are also walking, marching and standing through the course of a day.

Try going for walks before the start of a season, or even throughout a season if there is some time between events and you are not physically active. Start slow and gradually ramp up the intensity of your "work-outs". To begin, go for a ten-minute walk at a leisurely pace. Within the next two days, go for a second walk also ten minutes in length but try increasing the tempo slightly. Again, within the next two days try another ten-minute walk at a more brisk pace.

Once you can comfortably walk for ten minutes at a brisk pace, try increasing the time. Add a minute every time you go for a walk and before you know it you will be surprised at how far you are going and how much distance you are covering.

Also, try adding a weight load ñ wear a backpack with some weights in it or old books (anything that will make you work a little harder), try some walks in your re-enacting footwear (you also have to condition your feet to walking in shoes to which they are not used to).

An alternate goal supported by walking could be weight loss. If you are striving for that svelte figure in a red coat, then you have to make sure that you increase both the length and intensity of your walks. For the first twenty minutes of a brisk walk, your body is working off the latent energy stored in your muscles. After twenty minutes, this energy has been expended and your body begins to consume fat as its source of energy. If weight loss is a goal then you have to work up your walks to a length in excess of 20 minutes. A brisk walk can be as good a workout as jogging without the rigorous demands on your knees, feet and back.

Remember to ease your way into a workout routine. The biggest pitfall is to be too aggressive and try to do too much the first time out. You end up feeling sore or with an injury and then there is no incentive to continue.

Build a positive, comfortable routine and you will live a healthier life and will find yourself ready for the demands of the events of our season.



A gem - An India Pattern Brown Bess, issued in 1806, with 41st Regt. markings on it. Courtesy of Ft. Niagara, NY.

# Visit to Fort Niagara, New York

On Saturday, December 4th, six members of the Regiment visited Fort Niagara, New York for drill. Capt. Doug De Croix, of the 6th Regiment of Foot, Light Company, had extended an invitation for the purpose of helping us get a handle on the basics of light infantry drill.

The weather was decidedly chilly and very windy. The north westerly coming in off the lake made sure that we kept moving when out in the open. Fortunately, the rain did not arrive until early evening when we were well on our way home.

The first part of the morning was spent working on our “wheeling on the march”, not an easy exercise. By the end of an hour or so we felt more and more comfortable with the manoeuvre.

Following a break, Capt. De Croix took us through basics of Light Infantry deployment, which included (in two ranks), “extending to the left/right”, “advance firing”, and “withdraw firing”.

The highlight of the day was to visit the research and document centre at the fort. Here is housed a fine collection of manuscripts, books and artifacts covering the entire history of the fort from its founding in the mid-eighteenth century until its closing as a military

establishment in the 1960s. From period of the war of 1812 there are three fine pieces

One was the watch presented to Lieut. Richard Bullock of the 41st Regiment for “Gallant Service” in 1812 and 1813. The presentors were fellow officers in the regiment. The watch is in prime condition. Also in the collection is an India Pattern Brown Bess, dated 1806, with the regimental markings on the barrel. It too is in excellent condition, and one surprise was the

weight of the piece. It was considerably heavier (by at least 2lbs) than many of the musket reproductions most reenactors use today. The third piece was a Brown Bess bayonet in fine condition. On the sleeve of the bayonet are markings of the 8th (KING’s) Regiment. Another surprise was the light weight of the bayonet compared to modern reproductions.

As the weather turned for the worse and began to rain, we made our way back to the Canadian side of the border, and, en route we dropped in to catch the end of the day at the Vanwell Christmas book sale in St. Catharines. We left there lighter in purse!



This was a good day, and an excellent opportunity not only to fine-tune our drill, but also to establish and maintain contacts with other reenactors, and establishments like Fort Niagara, so important to our hobby.

*The accompanying picture is of Corporal Bateman, with appropriate handwear, drooling over the 1806 India Pattern Brown Bess, an experience which will linger long in his memory!*

# The History of the Forty First

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## Colonel Henry Proctor Comments on The Colonel's Connections

Tom Fournier

We have all heard of the individual who was commander of the 41<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Foot during much of the conflict during the War of 1812, Colonel Henry Proctor.

I could not help but be struck by how often family or family connections intersected with the 41<sup>st</sup>, particularly with Proctor. Here is some casual observations based on research from the 41<sup>st</sup> Database Project:

Henry Proctor Junior like his father was a member of the 41<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Foot. He began the War of 1812 as a gentleman volunteer, much like John Richardson. Proctor, the senior, was cited for misconduct for trying to enlist Proctor the junior when he was under age. Proctor lauded the zeal and activity of his gentlemen volunteers at the recapture of the batteries during the Siege of Fort Meigs. He hoped to gain promotion for them. Richardson was still quite bitter years after the fact at having to share this mention in Proctor's dispatch as he claimed that gentleman volunteer Proctor never left the camp and was not involved in the action.

Lieutenant William Proctor of the New Brunswick Fencibles was the brother of Colonel Henry Proctor. Henry Proctor tried to coordinate an exchange into the 41<sup>st</sup> Regiment for William Proctor. William Proctor was married to Jean Crooks, daughter of James Crooks a local settler and landowner in the Newark (Niagara-On-The-Lake) area.

Lieutenant William Crowther of the 41<sup>st</sup> Regiment had problems with Colonel Henry Proctor in that Proctor

refused to forward a memorial of Crowther due to the fact that Proctor felt he was a person who he deemed as being unworthy to remain with the regiment. Proctor desired his resignation. It was also Crowther, whom Proctor had previously approached trying to negotiate an exchange for his brother William Proctor.

Major William Shortt of the 41<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Foot married Janet Crooks (his second marriage after the tragic death of his wife and new born daughter) sister of Jean Crooks which would make him brother-in-law of William Proctor. Shortt died at the assault on Fort Stephenson.

Ensign George Proctor of the 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot was a nephew of our beloved Henry Proctor. George Proctor went on to become a novelist. He is also noteworthy for marrying Proctor's daughter, and is described as both a nephew and a son-in-law of Proctor.

Ensign James Cochran of the 41<sup>st</sup> Regiment was part of the "anti Proctor" divide within the 41<sup>st</sup>'s officer's mess. His brother, William Cochran, was the prosecutor at Proctor's court martial hearing.

*The Executive of the  
Forty First Regiment  
wish  
all the Journal's Readers  
a Happy Christmas  
and a  
Prosperous and Peaceful  
New Year*

**NEW BOOK ON THE WAR OF 1812**



A. Barry Roberts, *For King and Canada: The Story of the 100th Regiment of Foot During the War of 1812*.

(Ottawa:Goulborn Township Historical Society and Museum, 2004). Pp. x + 243. ISBN 1-55036-683-1. \$34.94, plus \$3.00 shipping in Canada.



This is an interesting and relatively useful book following the fortunes of one Regiment of the British Army which fought in the War of 1812. The years covered are from the Regiment's original embodiment in Ireland in 1804, until its standing down in Canada after the War of 1812. That Regiment is the 100th Regiment of Foot (later, the 99th), also

known as the County of Dublin Regiment.

The motivation for the writing of this volume, and its publication, is the local interest in Goulborn Township, now part of the National Capital Region, in which many of the Regiment's men and officers settled after the war.

This is a useful "nuts-and-bolts" type of history, which involves research in the original Regimental documents, and which presents a simple, straightforward narrative of events over the years covered with the minimum of interpretation. Gaps are filled in by general sections the perils of shipboard transportation, and army life of the period.

The book concludes with several useful returns of the Regiment and names of many of the men of the Regiment who settled in Goulborn Township by 1819. The book is illustrated with photographs of reenactors, and some maps of the skirmishes and battles in which the Regiment took part. One valuable section is a listing of several of the members of the Regiment, including Methodist preacher and circuit-rider, George Ferguson, who made significant contributions to their adopted home following the end of the war. The style is easy, and the writer has obviously done some good homework on the Regiment.

We follow the fortunes of the Regiment from its first embodiment in 1804, its journey to the Canadas and its various stations in both Lower and Upper Canada. The performance of the Regiment during the war of 1812 is quite well covered, and the author brings together both contemporary military sources and supplementary material, such as memoirs and biographies of descendants of personnel of the Regiment. The narrative is clear, orderly and easy to read. The final three chapters of the book deal with the Regiment after the war, and the settlement of many of its officers and men in Goulborn Township. The Appendices mostly serve this latter purpose with their lists of settlers and land grantees. The author has done a respectable job with what this reviewer would call a 'minimalist history'.

But - and there is always a 'but' - the book has some deficiencies which could easily have been avoided. Unfortunately, the volume suffers from a lack of an index. References to personnel, events and locations have to be dug out of the main text of the book. This is a tiresome exercise, especially with the absence of subheadings in the chapters. The use of primary sources is annoying for the following reason. Of just over eight pages of chapter six, only one and a half contain the author's comment on an extensive citation from primary sources which make up six of the remainder. The other space is devoted to a full-page map. This suggests that the primary sources are quite reliable, and can speak for themselves. Further, the book contains no list of primary or secondary sources consulted. Within the pages of the book are references to valuable primary sources, but no indication is given as to the location or availability of them. Use of secondary sources, such as carefully researched studies on the battles in which the 100th Regiment were involved, would have enhanced the volume considerably. Both of these omissions detract from the value of such a work, and should be corrected in a second printing. A chronological chart would also have been a helpful addition.

The book is valuable as a bare outline of its subject matter. The 100th Regiment has certainly not received its due in books and research on the War of 1812. This volume goes some way in correcting that.

Ray Hobbs.