

FORTY FIRST REGIMENT OF FOOT (MLHG) JOURNAL

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REGIMENTAL HAPPENINGS

During March and April members of the Regiment have not been idle. Our regular schedule of drills has been maintained. Some have shared in the drill sessions of the 8th (KING's) Regt. at the Armoury at the Downsview Canadian Forces Base. These have been held twice per month, on the first and third Monday evenings. In addition we have held drill and live-firing practice once per month at the Caldwell's Farm in Lynden, Ontario. Gary and Merle Caldwell have been gracious hosts and always ready with coffee and goodies following our drill in what has been freezing weather this winter. Of interest is that Gary is distantly related to William Caldwell, founder of the Caldwell's Rangers, who fought alongside the 41st during the War of 1812. At the back of his property runs Fairchild Creek, named after the Loyalist Peter Fairchild who settled in the Big Creek area of Upper Canada. Peter's brother, Noah was a sergeant in the Norfolk Militia, and fought alongside Major Muir and Sergeant O'Connell of the 41st Regt. at the Battle of Malcolm's Mill in November 1814. As one colleague said, we were walking on hallowed ground.

On March 15th eight members of the Regiment met at Fort Malden and spent the day in drill and Manual of Arms. Fort Malden is an historic site for the 41st, and the Regiment was garrisoned there before and during the War of 1812. John McLeod of the Fort was most welcoming and has issued us an open invitation to use the facilities of the Fort any time we wish. The drill that day was done through snow and slush, but all enjoyed themselves in double-digit temperatures, under a beautifully sunny sky.

Not so with our planned drill weekend at Fort George (April 4-5). Unfortunately, the weather turned nasty with ice pellets, freezing rain and snow, so the event had to be cancelled. The facilities at Fort George are excellent, and we have been invited to use those premises when we wish for weekend or day drills. David Webb, former member of the 41st MLHG is to be thanked for his offer of hospitality and his helpfulness.

NCO's and OFFICER's SCHOOL

Staff of the Crown Forces in Upper Canada have arranged a School for NCO's and Officers on April 12th at Fort York, Toronto. Three members of the 41st will be in attendance. these schools are an excellent experience of drill with a large number of troops, and each participant has the opportunity to drill the entire assembled group. It is a vastly different experience from drilling our usual six to ten. It sharpens the skills, clears the mind, and is also a lot of fun. ADG Twist is to be thanked for this great opportunity for training.

FROM HEADQUARTERS

Winter has been a busy time for many of us. Regular drill sessions; repairing and making of kit; acquiring the necessary equipment; keeping in touch with distant members; attempts at recruiting, and for some the opportunity to take part in small events which enlarge the profile of the Regiment. I know those in the Windsor/Detroit area have attended local parades and also the River Raisin memorial. In the Headquarters region members of been drilling hard and often, and your CO has been active in some public speaking. I delivered a lecture on the War and the Head of the Lake at the Stoney Creek Historical Association, and at the Dundas Professional and Businessman's Club. In both I gave prominence to the Regiment which was stationed at the Head of the lake for the longest period of any Regiment in the British Army - three and a half months. That lecture will be repeated at the Dundas Valley Historical Society later in the year.

One event which was cancelled was the celebration of the birthday of our Pioneer Terry Woods. It was to have been a surprise party at the Winchester Arms, Dundas, and several members of the Regiment, the Crown Forces Staff, and Officers and NCOs from other Regiments would have been present. Unfortunately, the weather was completely uncooperative, and a winter blizzard put paid to the celebrations. However, the thought was there, and Terry appreciated that.

Our website, which is a work in progress, continues to improve with the addition of new pictures and items of information. Chris Swaffield's cleverness with the computer is responsible for this, and he is to be thanked.

I congratulate members for their continued push towards acquiring their kit. Terry Woods has a wedge tent and a greatcoat with which to go into the new season. Tom Fournier will have most of his basic kit in hand by Longwoods. Rich Parkinson has fashioned for himself the 'elf-cap' forage cap, and we shall demand a parading of the item at Longwoods,

Sgt. Hobbs, Lance Corporal Bateman and Private Parkinson attended the School for NCOs and Officers at Fort York on Saturday, April 12th. It was an excellent day of instruction and learning. the weather was spectacular (sunny and 11 Celsius), and the information helpful. the drills rehearsed will be on the agenda of the Regiment at coming reenactments - to be perfected over the winter months.

Over the winter the Regiment acquired a Bell of Arms tent, and was able to replace the camp colours which were stolen at Fort Henry in September last year. Our paid up membership currently stands at fifteen - Sgt. Hobbs; Lance Corporal Legebaw; Lance Corporal Bateman; Privates Yaworsky; Edwards; Swaffield; Fisher; Moulder; Straisfeld; Parkinson; O'Halloran; Woods; Recruits Fournier and McCallum; Paymaster Berlin. This an excellent base upon which to build in the coming season. Recruitment will be a priority in the 2003 season, so put on your best smiles and manners, talk to the public at events (but be sure of your information!), and encourage them to take part in this great hobby.

Ray Hobbs, Sgt
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LONGWOODS

The first official tactical event of the 2003 season is the encampment and tacticals at the Longwoods Conservation Authority site on May 2-4. This is always a fun event with people shaking off their winter cobwebs, and enjoying the fellowship of the hobby. I have registered all members of the Regiment for the event, and have indicated that we will have an encampment of ten wedge tents, the Flanders and the Bell of Arms. The Crown Forces Staff, in cooperation with the local arrangements committee, have organized an 'authentic' encampment, with proper regimental streets, no fires visible in the streets, and regiments lined in order. The 8th (KING's) Regt and the 41st will form the two sides of the main street of the British encampment.

This is one of our 'all-up' events, so all members are expected to be in attendance. Last year we fielded nine muskets. This year we can do better than that. Bring extra blankets or bedwear - it can sometimes be chilly at the site, on the other hand it might be 30 Celsius!



L/Cpl. Bateman and Private Parkinson during a lull in the NCOs/Officers School at Fort York, April 12th.
Photo Courtesy of Lt. Paul Kelly, IMUC.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DON'T DO RESEARCH

A successful grasp of the history of the Regiment is based on good research in primary documents. In 'old-style' historical research there is a tendency to regard the oldest documents as the most reliable. This attachment to the antique is now very tenuous. Below is a piece of early documentation, published just over 50 years after the war, and clearly dependent upon oral tradition of eyewitnesses. Not least was the memory of the deceased who probably told his 'war stories' over and over again. You will note the numerous factual errors in the obituary. When reading old documents, the adage should be "caveat lector" (Let the reader

beware). As one of my history profs at university told me, Always ask the question “Now, why is this writer lying to me?” Enjoy.

From the *Newark Advertiser*, 25th April 1866

Death of a Veteran - Died at Mansfield, on the 10th instant, aged 71, Mr. William BENT. The deceased had seen much of the vicissitudes of a soldier's life. He volunteered from the Nottingham Militia in 1810, into the 41st Regt. of Foot, and at the latter end of the same year went out to the British possessions in North America. When the war broke out between England and America he played a conspicuous part. In 1812 he assisted at the storming and taking of Queen's Town, and on Christmas Day the same year he was wounded in the forehead by a musket shot, which deprived him of the sight of his left eye, Whilst taking part at the storming of Fort Niagara, under Gen. Brock. He afterwards took part at the storming and taking of Detroit, and while taking down the enemy's colours received a sabre cut on the right ear. In 1813 he was at the storming of Buffalo, and the great battle of Oushley's Farm, near the Falls of Niagara, and was again wounded, being then under the command of General Ryals. He also took an active part at the storming of Fort Airey, and was finally discharged in May 1822 with a pension of 9d per day. He was interred in Mansfield Cemetery on the 13th instant, being carried to the grave by four old pensioners. viz., Sergeant TRUELOVE, Corporal DELLOW, Privates Wm. CROWDER and Joseph HIBBERT.



Sgt. “Signing in” for the NCO/Officer School, Fort York, April 12th 2003.

A Well-run Site for Reenactors

With increased concern over insurance and the handling of black powder weapons, sites have become aware of the necessity to spell out carefully the responsibilities of both the hosts and the reenactors at events. Some have done this well for years, others are developing new policies as the reenacting hobby grows in popularity. Below are the current regulations from Mississinewa. They set a high standard, not only for other sites to follow, but for reenacting participants to achieve. It is offered FYI.

Mississinewa 1812 Rules and Regulations

1. **REGISTRATION.** All participants must pre-register. Sutlers, traditional artisans, food purveyors and blanket traders must register by July 1. All other participants by August 1. The Mississinewa Battlefield Society reserves the right to exclude those who fail to pre-register by their respective deadlines.

Applicants must include photographs of trade goods, their period shelter and their 1812 era clothing. All applicants will be judged on space available, appropriateness, and clothing.

Refunds will be made if the Society is notified before September 1. Acceptance or rejection of applications will be sent as soon as possible and no later than September 1.

All participants must check-in at the registration tent upon arrival at Mississinewa 1812. Gate registration is from 8 a.m. to midnight Thursday and 3 p.m. to midnight Friday immediately before Mississinewa 1812 weekend.

2. **AUTHENTICITY.** Mississinewa 1812 has a tradition of being a quality educational and cultural experience for the participants and the visitors. During the public hours of 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, every attempt should be made to maintain a high level of authenticity in your interpretation, dress, camp or trade booth.

Modern equipment must not be visible from any direction. That includes anything not of the 1812 era such as: ice chests, flashlights, Coleman lanterns, plastic containers, foil, enamel ware, sleeping bags, etc.

Appropriate clothing includes anything that is appropriate to Indiana in 1812 and must be worn at all times during the hours of 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Period dress is strongly encouraged after public hours. Non-appropriate clothing includes, but is not limited to wrist watches, sun glasses, modern eye glasses, modern jewelry, tennis shoes, nylon items, etc. Please use common sense. Cameras may be used. Please be discreet about using one during public hours.

Only 18th and early 19th century trade goods of the Northwest Territory may be sold. Only 18th and early 19th century shelters may be used by participants. No tipis, lean-pees, coureur du bois, or baker tents will be allowed. Only canoe and diamond shelters will be allowed in the voyageur camp.

The Society reserves the right to prohibit any item, dress, or conduct that is inappropriate to 1812.

3. **BOOTHS.** All booths must reflect the 1812 era and be approved in advance by the Society if it is not an 18th or early 19th century shelter.

All booths must be set-up by 7 p.m. Thursday of the weekend of Mississinewa 1812.

Booth decoration must be in a manner consistent with the 1812 era. No metal display cases may be used. Tables must be skirted to the ground. All non-period items must be covered with canvas, blankets, or plain white sheets to conceal them from public view. No staples. Booth signs must be of the 1812 era.

All vendor signs must be appropriate to the 1812 era. Modern organizational names may not be used.

Booths cannot be dismantled until 4 p.m. Sunday

4. ARTISANS. Individuals registering as traditional artisans must demonstrate their craft using tools and equipment of the 1812 era and must demonstrate seventy-five percent (75%) of the time. They may sell only items demonstrated.

5. MERCHANTS, BLANKET TRADERS, FOOD PURVEYORS. Individuals registering as Merchants, Blanket Traders, or Food Purveyors must sell food or wares appropriate to the 1812 era and pay the appropriate fee as set forth in the application form.

Only 1812 era trade goods indigenous to the Great Lakes area may be sold. Modern pow-wow items, dream catchers, rock candy on a stick, carbonated drinks, hair pipes, turquoise jewelry, Mexican blankets, southwest pottery, bamboo flutes, prayer drums, artifacts, plastic, souvenirs, cork or pop guns, holiday items, neon-colored feathers, mass produced items, foreign made items (unless historically appropriate), photographs, stationery, cards, items using the trademark "Mississinewa 1812," raffle tickets, or books (limited to a small selection related to your specialty) are forbidden. Tapes of period music may be sold, but not displayed or advertised. Children's toys offered for sale must be of wood and of the 1812 era, containing neither sharp edges nor plastic. The Society reserves the right to sell trademark items of a non-period nature.

All food cooked on the site must be over an open fire. For public safety, all open fires must be approved by the Mississinewa Battlefield Society.

All perishable food items must be kept cool with dry ice (or ice if proper temperature is maintained). All food purveyors must comply with all state and local health regulations.

No electrical generators are permitted.

No vendors permitted in the Indian village or the military encampments.

Booths cannot be dismantled until 4 p.m. Sunday.

6. **CAMP FIRES.** Keep fire pits shallow (eight inches) and carefully remove sod to side of the fire pit and save for backfilling. All fires must be extinguished and pits must be backfilled. No rocks are allowed around fire pits.

7. **ALCOHOL/DRUGS.** No alcoholic beverages may be consumed during public hours. Intoxication, disorderly conduct or use of drugs (controlled substances) without a valid prescription will not be tolerated at Mississinewa 1812. No loud noises after 11:00 p.m.

8. **FIREWOOD.** Limited amounts of firewood will be furnished by the Society to all participants except food purveyors. Food Purveyors are required to furnish their own firewood.

9. **WATER.** Will be furnished on the site from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

10. **STRAW.** All straw on the site is for the Society's use for period camp sites and in case of wet grounds. It is not to be used as tables or benches. Merchants, Artisans, and Food Purveyors must furnish their own straw.

11. **VEHICLES.** Except for service vehicles, no vehicles will be allowed on the grounds between 8:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m. Friday and 7:00 a.m. Saturday to 4:00 p.m. Sunday. Vehicles servicing food booths may be on the grounds only from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday mornings. Anyone violating this rule shall have their vehicle towed immediately.

12. **SECURITY.** Do not leave valuables unattended as the Society does not assume any liability for loss or damage to you or your property. Security on the grounds is for civil disturbances only.

13. **CLEAN-UP.** Condition of sites must be left the same as or better than they were found. Participants failing to do so will be banished from future events.

14. **PETS.** Participants may have leashed pets in their camp only. The public may not bring pets on the grounds except for assisting animals. All pets or animals must be on a leash.

15. **WEAPONS.** All weapons must be flintlock and of the 1812 era. Weapons must have frizzen stalls and flash guards and an operating half-cock for safety. There will be no discharging of weapons in the various camp areas. Firing of weapons will be done only in designated areas set by the Society except during pre-approved program demonstrations. Loading from powder horns is strictly forbidden. There will be no ramming of charges except for cannon. Ramrods are not permitted on the field of battle. Only black powder may be used. There shall be no gluing, waxing or stapling of cartridges.

Live firing with shot is strictly forbidden. No leveling of muskets within 40 feet of an opposing line. No closing with weapons unless by pre-arrangement and approval of the President of the Mississinewa Battlefield Society. All edged weapons must have a scabbard or sheath.

16. RAFFLES. Raffles may not be held or advertised except by permission of the society.

17. FIRST AID. First aid/emergency services will be available at the entrance gate during public hours.

18. CHILDREN. Must be under the care, supervision, and control of their parent, guardian or sponsor at all times.

19. HOURS. Public hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

As to all matters, the decision of the Mississinewa Battlefield Society, Inc. is final.

Mississinewa Event dates:

2003 Oct 10-12

2004 Oct 8-10

2005 Oct 7-9

2006 Oct 15-17

For more info visit:

<http://www.mississinewa1812.com/>