

On the Frontier

Newsletter of the Frontier Living History Group

Date – Aug / Sept 2010

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Important information

Victorian Police's – Re-enactors Guide

http://www.police.vic.gov.au/retrievemedia.asp?media_id=36984&status=active

UP COMING EVENTS



In 2010

September

Southern Cross Free Trappers Camp at Beaver Creek

September 17th – 20th. Spring

Rendezvous with friends at Beaver Creek, Whorouly.

An extended single weekend – Friday 17th through to Monday 20th.

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November

Holey Plains – details to come

20th & 21st Timeline Fair at The Old Cheese Factory, Berwick



See our new Video photo slide show on our website at

<http://frontierslivinghistory.tripod.com/frontiers1.htm>

Grand Portage Trading Post

With Gary having acquiring his 18th century 1st of Foot Regiment Officers uniform we need to tie in the fur trade post to a British regiment.

After some research we found that Grand Portage Trading post fitted in with this perfectly.

Place – Grand Portage on Lake Superior in the Great Lakes District

Grand Portage or great carrying place, as it was early designated by the French, was used by the Indians for generations before the advent of white men in the region.

Time period : 1762 - 1765

In November, 1761, a British garrison took possession of the post at Michilimackinac or Mackinac between Lakes Michigan and Huron. Shortly before this, however, one Alexander Henry, who had outfitted at Albany, New York, arrived at the post prepared to engage in the Indian trade on the upper lakes, and soon after other English traders made their appearance in the vicinity.

If a narrative written nearly sixty years afterward is reliable, a party of these traders, accompanied by a military escort, made its way through Lake Superior to Grand Portage in May, 1762, this being the first voyage through Lake Superior under the British flag. This, if true, would indicate that Grand Portage was recognized at this time as the most important place in the western part of Lake Superior.

The Indians of the Northwest, however, did not welcome the substitution of the English for the French; in 1763 the post of Mackinac was surprised, the garrison was massacred, one of the traders was killed, and the others were taken captive. This outbreak, which was a part of the conspiracy of Pontiac, put an end to British attempts at trade in the Northwest until the close of the Indian war in 1765.

In that year Alexander Henry began trading operations at Chequamegon Bay, on the southern shore of Lake Superior, whence he dispatched an agent with some Indians to Fond du Lac; and in a year or two traders were established at various places around the lake and were making their way over the Grand Portage to the old French posts in the interior.

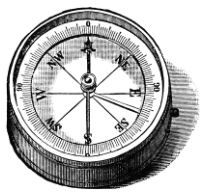
At this stage Alexander Henry is Trading under License for the British

Note: – he and Grand Portage will become the Northwest Company in 1783



Alexander Henry, the Elder.
Saskatchewan Archives Board R-A9857





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British military escort – it doesn't say who these were

But they stayed a number of years at Grand Portage and helped build the fort walls and buildings.

Grand Portage evolved into a major depot for transshipping goods and furs and became a rendezvous place for Montreal merchants and wintering trading partners.

The peace treaty of 1783, which the War of American Independence, made Pigeon River the border between the United States and British North America. Although Grand Portage was now within U.S. territory, it remained the Lake Superior depot for the Montreal fur trade for another twenty years.

But in 1800, the threatened imposition of customs duties on all British goods moving across the Portage finally forced the traders to transfer their operations to British soil.

Today Grand Portage is a National Monument & Heritage centre.



The stockade at Grand Portage as seen from Mt. Rose



Canoe Maker at Grand Portage



Gentleman's desk at Grand Portage.



Trade goods at Grand Portage.

First Regiment of Foot, The Royal Scots

The Royal Scots, the oldest Infantry Regiment of the Line in the British Army, was formed in 1633 when Sir John Hepburn under a Royal Warrant granted by King Charles I, raised a body of men in Scotland for service in France.

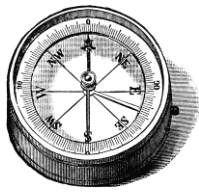
In 1757 the 2nd Battalion was sent to the American colonies to protect them and force out the French invaders from Canada.

In the autumn of 1762 the French, taking advantage of Britain having withdrawn many troops from North America to the West Indies, sent additional forces over and took St. John's, New Foundland.

The British immediately mobilized troops to recapture the own including the two flank companies of the Royals. The Royals along with Montgomery's Highlanders and the grenadiers of the 77th Regiment drove the French from their forts and effected their surrender.



Royal Regiment on foot - soldier (1742)



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First Regiment of Foot, The Royal Scots Uniform Details



Uniform in 1758
- Source: Frédéric Aubert

Headgear

Musketeer black tricorné laced white with a black cockade (left side)

Grenadier British mitre with: a dark blue front embroidered with the regimental badge (king's cypher within the circle of St. Andrew and a crown over it); a small red front flap with the white horse of Hanover surmounted by the motto "Nec aspera terrent"; red back; a dark blue headband wearing the number I in the middle part behind

Forage Caps: Red "Santa style nightcaps" with a plain blue wool head-band and white tassel at point. To be worn when not wearing the mitre. There are no painted or embroidered devices on the blue head-band.

Neckstock Neckwear is a white cravat or white roller

Coat

brick red lined dark blue and laced and edged white (plain white braid) with 3 white buttonholes under the lapels (same lace as above)

Collar none

Shoulder Straps red fastened with a white button (left shoulder)

Lapels dark blue laced white (same lace as above) with 7 pewter buttons and 6 white buttonholes (same lace as above)

Pockets horizontal pockets with white laces (same lace as above), each with pewter buttons

Cuffs dark blue (slashed in the British pattern) laced white (same lace as above) with white buttonholes on the sleeve

Turnbacks dark blue

Waistcoat brick red laced white (same lace as above) with white buttons and white buttonholes

Breeches dark blue with a button front "French fly" Buttons are pewter

Shirt: two white common linen shirts

Gaiters white with black buttons - 18 black bone buttons per leg, over-the-knee gaiters. The tops of the gaiters should come up to your mid-thigh Brown, grey or black Gaiters were used during campaigns (black after 1759)

The white gaiters were used for dress and parade wear.

And a pair of black garters that are used to hold the gaiters up and are attached at just below the knee

Leather Equipment

Crossbelt natural leather

Waistbelt natural leather

Cartridge Box black

Bayonet Scabbard black

Scabbard black

Footgear black shoes

Troopers were armed with with a "Brown Bess" muskets, a bayonet and a sword.

Bayonets: Must have a scabbard and are worn with the socket facing in, towards the body

They also carried a dark brown haversack with a metal canteen on the left hip.

Musicians

According to the Royal Clothing Warrant of 1751:

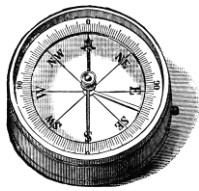
The drummers of the regiment wore the royal livery. They were clothed in red, lined, faced, and lapelled on the breast with blue, and laced with the royal lace (golden braid with two thin purple central stripes).

The front or fore part of the drums was painted blue, with the regimental badge (king's cypher within the circle of St. Andrew and a crown over it), and the number "I" under it. The rims were red.

Regimental Motto

Nemo me impune lacessit

(No one provokes me with impunity)



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Officers

According to the Royal Clothing Warrant of 1751:

Officers of the regiment wore the same uniforms as the private soldiers but with the following differences

- gilt gorget around the neck
- an aiguillette on the right shoulder
- golden lace instead of normal lace
- a crimson sash

The Clothing or Uniform of the Officers, to be made up in the same manner as those of the Men, laced, lapelled, and turned up with the colour of the facing, and a narrow hold, or silver lace, or embroidery, to the binding and buttonholes, the buttons being set on in the same manner as on the Men's Coats; the Waistcoats and Breeches being likewise of the same colour as those of the Men.

The Housings and Holster Caps of the Officers to be of the colour of the facing of the Regiment, laced with one gold or silver lace, and a Stripe of velvet in the middle of the colour of that on the Men's.

Officers wore the same headgear as the private soldiers under their command; however, officers of the grenadier company wore a more decorated mitre cap.

Their sashes to be crimson silk, and worn over the left Shoulder.

Their Sword Knots to be crimson and gold in stripes, as those of the Infantry.

Officers generally carried a spontoon, however, in battle some carried muskets instead.

The Standard belts to be the colour of the facing of the Regiment and laced as the housings.

Hanger: Historically, the regiment used brass basket hilted-swords. Or a Model 1751, British Grenadier Infantry Hanger or 1742 model hanger



Portrait of Capt John Clayton Cowell, 1st (or the Royal) Regiment of Foot



Captain and Lieutenant Colonel John Thomas de Burgh, 1st Regiment of Foot Guards, a veteran of the American War of Independence. Founder of the Connaught Rangers, one of the British Army's most celebrated Irish regiments.

Quarter Masters

The Quarter Masters to wear crimson sashes round their waists
Serjeants

The Serjeants to wear Pouches as the Men do, and a worsted sash about their waist, of the colour of the facing of the regiment, and of the stripes on the lace of the housings.

Colours

King's Colour: Union with its centre decorated the regimental badge (king's cypher within the circle of St. Andrew and a crown over it). The regiment number "I" in roman gold numerals in the upper left corner.

Regimental Colour: blue field; centre device consisting the regimental badge (king's cypher within the circle of St. Andrew and a crown over it); the Union in the upper left corner; the thistle and crown in the 3 other corners. The regiment number "I" in roman gold numerals superposed to the Union in the upper left corner.

N.B.: since this regiment exceptionally counted 2 battalion, the colours of the 2nd Battalion were distinguished by a flaming ray superposed to the upper left branch of the saltire.

Their nickname as Pontius Pilate's bodyguard, originated from a 17th century boasting contest with the French Regiment of Picardy, who boasted that prior to the Resurrection Christ's tomb was guarded by the French regiment. Both claims are, of course, baseless.

The Royal Scots were also known as "First of foot, right of the line and the pride of the British army".

Web Sources :

1st Foot

http://www.kronoskaf.com/syw/index.php?title=1st_Foot

The Royal Clothing Warrant, 1751
<http://www.fifedrum.org/crfd/1751-2.htm>