



# The BATTALION JOURNAL

*The Newsletter of Jaeger's Battalion,  
Rogers' Rangers*



Nº 79

Spring 2016

## *Keep it Simple Genius*

By Lt. Matt Wulff  
Ohio Company

Okay, most of you have heard it before “Kiss” or “Keep it Simple Stupid,” so your first thoughts may be as you read the title of this article, what is this idiot trying to say? Well, it will probably be best if I start at the beginning.

Many years ago I started down the path I find myself on today fueled by the exploits of such stalwart frontiersmen as Daniel Boone, Davy Crockett, Bushrod Gentry, and a host of other television and book heroes of my early childhood. I started out with a fake fur coon-skin cap and a Paris Kentucky rifle cap gun. An old powder horn we found in the house I grew up in and a suede leather purse that I begged my Mom out of completed my “kit”

It was many years later before I was finally able to realize my dream of owning a “real” muzzle loading firearm. It was a Springfield Armory “Hawken” style 50 caliber percussion rifle. I bought it to use for deer hunting during Ohio’s primitive weapons season. I used a big 500 grain pre-lubed “Buffalo” bullet and a 110 grain charge of Pyrodex. That is what everyone else was using, no one used a patched round ball, and those little pieces of lead wouldn’t kill anything anyway!

At this time I had absolutely no idea anyone “dressed-up” in historical clothing during their hunting forays or at the local shooting range. In fact the local black powder shooting club in the area was known for their members all wearing denim bib overalls, club tee-shirts, and striped railroad caps. Why did you have to dress-up to shoot your old timey gun?

The first hint I got about people dressing “funny” at black powder shoots or when hunting was an old photo from a Log Cabin Shop catalog that showed a couple of guys in fringed buckskins shooting their long

“Kentucky Rifles.” Wow, these are the guys from my childhood, my heroes! That is what I wanted to do; I was going to be the next Davey Crockett or Daniel Boone or die trying!

I began to ask around to find out how somebody could purchase or make the other clothing a person needed to transform himself into a hero, and I got the same answer from everyone, heck that is easy, you need to go to “Rendezvous.” By the way, there is one being held next month just a few short miles from your house, come on out and see the show!

Not wanting to “stand out” we spent the next few weeks getting some “basic” clothing to outfit the wife and kids and I. Broadfall trousers, calico shirts with the leather ties at the collar, calico prairie dresses and bonnets, rounded out by a wool felt hat and three “center seam” moccasin kits. I didn’t need any moccasins, I had already purchased a pair of knee high suede fringed moccasins just like Ol Danl’ wore, only mine didn’t have a sheath for my tree splitting knife like his did, and yes, I was very disappointed. That is where all the heroes carried their knives, wasn’t it?

The day finally arrived and off we went a bit unsure of ourselves and of what to expect. What we found were a bunch of very friendly people, who accepted us in all our new finery without any criticism. We pretty much fit right in and one of the first things we brought back from that trip was how peaceful it seemed, camping out in a real canvas tent or teepee watching the stars through the smoke-hole, cooking a grand meal over a real fire, shooting your “front stuffer” and throwing your knife and hawk. This was what we were looking for, a good family hobby that everyone could enjoy. You did not need to hold your “doins” at a historical site, all you needed was a flat area to set-up your “lodge,” a safe place to shoot, a hawk block for “throwin,” some firewood and drinking water and you were set. Throw in some woods for a “Seneca Run” or a “Woodswalk” and maybe a pond to fish in with your “cane switch” or paddle around in your “Old Town” ca-

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By Jerry Knitis, Editor

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*No Particular Uniform Coat,  
Context and Authenticity.*

Pvt. Louis Framelli, Michigan Company



A closeup of the "ranger" figure in Benjamin West's, *The Death of Wolfe*.

Presenting an accurate portrayal of a French & Indian War Rogers Ranger can be a daunting challenge for the new enlistee and the veteran campaigner alike. We all understand that the Battalion Uniform Guidelines are a minimum standard, but at what point is 'authenticity' achieved? Early on I had assumed it involved a green uniform coat and buckskin leggings. This "look", famously depicted in *The Death of Wolfe*, is undeniably well represented within our ranks and among other Rogers' units. While the Benjamin West rendered figure is striking, is it an ideal Ranger representation?

Just as the early conception of Rangers in Deerskin Jerkins gave way to the equally erroneous Fringed (Rev War) Hunting Shirts, our understanding of ranger clothing and equipment is still evolving. Continued advances in 18th century material culture research, and the increased availability of primary source material, recommend a periodic reevaluation of our Ranger portrayals. With this in mind, I'd like to review some primary source accounts and restart the dialogue about our uniforms and gear.

The challenge in recreating a Ranger "uniform" is the absence of a complete record delineating what the

rangers wore, which ranger companies wore the items, and what time frames were involved. No corroborated contemporaneous depiction of a Ranger is known to exist. The West painting in question was painted years after the fact, and is known to be allegorical and idealized. The figure in the green coat and buckskins isn't a ranger at all. Many art historians believe this figure represents Sir William Johnson, who was not present, or possibly one of his agents. While evidence suggests other extant images like the Davies painting are likely Rogers or one of his men, none are confirmed. Nor is it known if these images were produced from direct observation. Given this level of uncertainty, these visual sources are better suited to inform or flesh out the fragmentary written accounts that do exist, rather than being the basis for a portrayal by themselves.

An examination of Rogers' Journal offers few details but suggests that early on in 1755 and 1756, the men probably equipped themselves, making uniform coats unlikely. Rogers states, "Ten Spanish dollars were allowed to each man towards providing cloaths, arms, and blankets. My orders were, to raise this company as quick as possible, to enlist none such as were used to traveling and hunting." While Rogers gives few details, his account does not seem to imply uniform coats were ordered. Other sources agree.

The smattering of incomplete, and often contradictory references left by Rogers contemporaries suggest elements of some rangers' appearance for certain times and places. Though not definitively representative across companies or years, these eyewitness accounts and records should still serve as the foundation for any documentable ranger impression because they are the best evidence that exists.

Rufus Putnam noted in his Journal for June of 1757, "...I had nothing but a shirt and Indian Stockings .." While Putnam's attire may have been a concession to the summertime heat, it is interesting because it parallels Rogers' description of Indian combat attire. In *A Concise Account of North America*, Rogers recorded that the natives go, "...equipped for the purpose, with a thin light dress, generally consisting of nothing more than a shirt, stockings, moccasins and sometimes almost naked."

Though considered indecent by society at large, this state of 'undress' patrolling wasn't confined to warm weather. Henry Pringle, recounting his 1758 experience in *The Second Battle on Snowshoes* writes in his *En-*

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noe and you were set. Life couldn't get any better, could it?

That is when the trouble began. Two of the guys at the next rendezvous I attended dressed differently than everybody else, and they shot those long Kentucky rifles with the brass patchboxes and curly maple stocks. They were even flintlock ignition, not the cap locks that everybody else was shooting. Then you heard it for the first time, one of them saying within earshot, "We don't play with cap guns."

What is this all about you wonder, everything was going so well, everybody was happy, or so I thought? Finally I got the nerve to ask these guys about their clothes and rifles, the gear they used, and it was all so different than mine, what gives?

I was lucky; they both turned out to be pretty patient with me and took the time to answer the load of questions I began to throw at them. Finally one of them asked me point blank, just what and who do you think you are historically dressed and equipped like, what time period, are you portraying? What is your occupation? Haven't you ever read any history books?

What the devil was he talking about, of course I had read history books, and some besides what I had to learn and read in school. I knew all there was to know about Daniel Boone and Davey Crockett, "King of the Wild Frontier." What was a "Time Period?" Why did it matter? What difference did it make, I was a colonial frontiersman, fighting Indians and saving the day while making a living hunting and trapping, what more was there to know!

Again, I got lucky. These men, who grew to be good friends, were very patient and began to explain to me the most obvious of the problems with my "kit." When I told them the time period I most admired was the mid to late 1700's in colonial America, the War for Independence, explorers always looking west, yes, I still had a much romanticized idea of what I wanted to be, but at least it gave them a starting point.

Now do not get me wrong, there is nothing wrong with going to Rendezvous and being what these two men called the people who attended them, "Buckskinners." I long ago realized what we do really depends on the individual and how far he wants to immerse him or herself into this "Hobby." Some people are very content with where they are while others seem to have an insatiable yearning to learn as much as they can about a specific time period, including the clothing and other gear needed to properly portray a given character during a given time period of

history.

These two friends were just as much into historical research as they were into actually dressing and acting the persona they had developed for themselves. They both portrayed "Longhunters," colonial woodsmen who made their living acting as "Market Hunters," supplying meat, tallow, animal oils, furs, and deer hides in exchange for wages or other goods. The first true "Longhunt," where a group of hunters went out on an extended expedition for the purpose of gathering hides, meat, and furs was organized in 1761 in Virginia, two very important facts that helped them in the development of the personas. Clothing styles not only changed over the years it also could vary from colony to colony. What people wore in the New England colonies could be very different than that worn in the more southern climates. The weapons used also varied from place to place, along with nearly every essential piece of gear one carried. If I really wanted to be a frontiersman from the mid 1700's I had a bunch of learning to do, and so these men took me under their wings and started me on the path I find myself on now.

My biggest problem was my rifle. While it was a decent gun it was totally out of place for the time period and area of the country that I wished to portray. What I needed was a flintlock, either a rifle or a smoothbore weapon, but before I bought a new gun, or anything else for that matter, I needed to get down to the nuts and bolts of what I wanted to portray, because everything I would be using, wearing, shooting, etc. all depended on the development of a "persona," or the "character" that I wished to portray.

That first lesson resulted in my developing a longhunter persona like my newfound friends but I quickly realized it was not what I wanted because it did not involve my family. I really wanted my family to be involved with me in this new pursuit so after that first false start I next looked at the persona of a "Rifleman" of the Revolutionary War time period. Many of the men who ended up enlisting in these rifle companies were excellent shots with their long rifles, as well as frontier hunters and Indian fighters, so this persona still adhered to my only slightly less romantic view of what I wanted to do.

This persona did not stick either, as well as the next few that I gave a try. Nothing seemed "right." The longest stretch was when I joined Jaeger's Battalion of Rogers Rangers, spending the next 15 years concentrating on the corps of American rangers led by Major Robert Rogers during the French and Indian War. This

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was my best fit to date and I had some of the best times I have ever experienced since joining the ranks of "Living Historians." Still, I had jumped around a lot and it still felt like I was not quite where I wanted to be yet.

The good part of all of this is that is helped to sharpen my research skills, and led to the writing of a long list of articles, the publishing of 4 books, and eventually joining the staff of *Both On the Trail* and *Muzzleloader Magazines*. My writing is more "sharing" of information I have gathered over the years than it ever will be considered any kind of "Literary Jewel," but it has become a big part of my daily life and I can live with that.

I finally found myself with the persona of a colonial ranger, raised for the defense of the Pennsylvania frontier after General Braddock's Defeat in 1755, as a sort of "early warning" system against attacks by parties of French and their native allies. This narrowed my time period to the mid 1750's to the mid 1760's, a 10 year period where clothing and other gear would have remained fairly constant so that I could tailor my character based on period illustrations, paintings, historical references, and surviving artifacts to be as close to historically correct as my time and budget would allow.

The bad side of this long journey, travelling down roads that I did not belong on, was that it quickly turned expensive, something that can be pretty detrimental when trying to outfit an entire family. I seemed to never be able to settle for the "common" when looking at a new gun or other piece of gear, it always seemed like it had to be "special," translated into 'expensive.'

I finally had an "epiphany" of sorts a few years ago when I wrote a series of articles called "Can Less Mean More" for *On the Trail Magazine*. I had decided to carry my snapsack and blanket roll throughout the day when I was at a historical event, sometimes even wearing it on the battlefield if the scenario, such as an ambush while on the march, warranted it. When one wears these extra burdens all day long, especially during the heat of the summer, you quickly decide that carrying only what you absolutely have to have, and not everything you think you need is of the utmost priority. In my *On the Trail* articles I showed how I pared down the gear I carried and my reasoning on keeping it or adding it to the "Less is More" pile.

A few weeks ago the idea for an extension of the "Less is More" reasoning came to mind. I needed to apply it to the items that I did decide to keep, only with the idea that it did not have to be the most expensive or or-

nate item out there. Friends have always told me I look way too clean for a frontier ranger, and believe me that while I do use my clothes and gear hard at times, my penchant for always looking for that one piece of clothing or gear that was the "right" one, found me wearing or carrying new stuff most of the time, adding to my "Mister Clean" look. I needed to get out of the rut I was in, but exactly how had eluded me until recently.

It all began with my wife Beth. She is recognized for the beautiful silk gowns she wears at historical events, to the point that the group of other silk gown-wearing women that she hung around with at events being named "The Silk Snob Society." While Beth enjoyed these forays at events she told me that it did not exactly lend itself to being practical when in camp at night and trying to do basic chores or cook over a fire while wearing a \$500.00 silk gown. She wanted to "dress down," to look more the part of the wife of a frontier farmer who enlisted his services as a ranger when the need arose. I need to look more "common" she told me, simple petticoats, rough fabric aprons, dirty day jackets, the everyday clothing of a frontier woman.

Common, the word hit me like a ton of bricks, which is what I should have been trying to do as well, not to stand out, but to be just another guy in the group. So my focus has shifted, once more, but this time I think I have finally found my calling, the place I belong, the persona I always, really, wanted to be. I would still with my chosen "Who, What, Where, When, and Why of a colonial ranger from Pennsylvania, but instead of the new and shiny, it would become the used, drab, common clothing and gear of common man.

I have picked three articles of gear I use in this persona that I think could better represent the "common" items a man of my position might have carried. Simple, less expensive items to start, that feel right for me.

My mantra would be as stated before, "KISS" or "Keep it Simple Stupid." The first item I looked at was my powder horn. What you say, a powder horn. All it does is hold your gunpowder, what difference could a powder horn really make in your ability to portray a historical persona? Well let me tell you, something as simple as this can paint a guy in a corner that he simply may not be able to get out of. Powder horns changed in size and style during different historical periods, most often they tended to be larger in the early 1700's and got smaller as time went by. Some are a direct reflection of the area of North America from which they originated. An original powder horn with a historical provenance to a New Eng-

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land colony can be very different from a banded horn from South Carolina. Many screw tip horns come from distinct areas of Pennsylvania. Form, construction, length, diameter, and even the type of cow a horn came from can be vastly different from one area of the country to another, as well as in what historical period they were common.



*A reproduction of the powder horn carried by Chief Paugus of the Narragansett Tribe, who was killed at the Battle of Lovewell's Pond in 1725. Another fine horn but one that would be best suited for a native than for an English colonist.*

Engraved horns, although they can often be beautiful works of art or a treasured possession for sentimental reasons, can very tricky when using them as part of your persona. An engraved "map" horn of a certain area of the colonies, although many surviving original examples of just this type of powder horn exist, might be a real problem if it includes a fortification or town that did not exist until the late 1760's and you are portraying a member of Rogers Rangers in the 1750's. Native style engraving on horns as well as military influenced images can also be a problem unless you portray a native or want to limit the use of a horn to a certain military organization. The photo of a powder horn I used to own featuring the King's Cypher is just such an example, especially if I was a "Rebel" during the American War for independence. Your fellow soldiers might question your loyalty if you show up wearing such a horn.

So what, many of you might be thinking, how many people go around checking out a person's powder horn to make sure it fits the historical period of the person they are portraying or the event they are attending? Believe me, more than you would ever think. I attended an anniversary event commemorating the defeat of General Braddock's forces in 1755 a few years back and the event guidelines, which I did not think were all that strin-



*A powder horn I (Matt Wulff) used to own featuring an engraving of the King of England's Cypher. A Beautiful and functional horn but engraving like this can limit the places and time periods you could wear this and still be historically accurate.*

gent, actually prohibited the use of any engraved powder horns that did not fit the time period.

So, what to do? There is nothing wrong with just simply continuing to use the horn you have now, many events are not as strict as others, and you and your horn may be most welcome. Others may simply overlook it. What it really boils down to is you, how far do you want to go in your historical pursuits? If you want to put more effort into your persona, going the "common" route may be the easiest answer. This is what I tried to do with the new powder horn that Alec Fourman, a very talented artisan of 18<sup>th</sup> Century crafts who might be best known

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*The Author's plain large powder horn made for him by Alec Fourman. A simple working man's Horn.*

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for his finger woven products, made for me.

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*See Next Issue for next installment.*



*Green Coat...continued from page 3*

trybook, "Here we remained all night without any blankets, no coat and but a single waistcoat each, for I gave one of mine to Mr \_\_\_\_\_, who had laid aside his green jacket in the field, as I did likewise my fur cap which became a mark to the enemy..... So that I had but a silk handkerchief on my head". Pringle's entry is interesting, because it indicates that while coats and jackets were initially worn, it demonstrates the prioritization of camouflage and mobility over warmth during the winter deployment.

Before we assume that these are isolated incidents, please note several additional eyewitness accounts, including Hervey, document Rangers and other units ordered to patrol, stripped to waistcoats. Gary Zaboly cites early records that establish the New Hampshire Men that constituted the 1755 core of Rogers unit arrived in Albany in this very condition, and may have inspired the Wraxall description as "...Raw Country Men... with nothing more than a waistcoat, 2 shirts and one blanket..."

Another well known "uniform quote" regarding the Rangers was authored by Cpt. John Knox. Knox's eyewitness account of the Rangers serving under Wolfe in Canada in 1757 suggests a continued lack of uniform-

ity, if not undress, and lends insight to some accoutrements:

*A body of rangers, under the command of Captain Rogers, who arrived with the other troops from the southward, march out every day to scour the country; these light troops have, at present, no particular uniform, only they wear their cloaths short, and are armed with a firelock, tomahock, or small hatchet, and a scalping knife; a bullock' horn full of powder hangs under their right arm, by a belt from the left shoulder, and a leathern, or seal's skin bag buckled round their waist, which hangs down before contains bullets and smaller shot....*

How do these eyewitness descriptions comport with our portrayals? Clearly our waistcoat, shirt, & indian stockings are documentable items of apparel, and in the proper context, constitute an accurate representation by themselves. Of course, the pertinent question becomes one of commonality. How common, or representative of Rogers Rangers was this mode of dress overall? Other documents clearly establish additional civilian clothing was purchased by or provided to these men through the 1755 - 1757 period. This is significant as it indicates the undress was consciously adopted for patrolling, rather than being necessitated by impoverishment or lack of supplies. Are we demonstrating this innovative and controversially indecent practice with our portrayals?

At this point you may be wondering about the Ranger in a cut down green uniform coat and buckskin leggings. At the risk of being flogged, I would humbly suggest that these eyewitness accounts demonstrate this isn't necessarily a valid representation. None of the accounts we've reviewed indicate the level of uniformity or standardization we typically portray. They indicate "no particular uniform", and seem to indicate the absence of uniform coats within the contexts described. Also conspicuously absent from these accounts are bayonets and cartridge boxes.

To be fair, Pringle does mention a green jacket and coats of unknown color were shed. Rogers famously leaves a coat in the field as well. Inventories of the effects of Rangers killed in Canada record jackets and coats as well, but they are a multitude of colors and patterns, seemingly civilian, and confirming the Knox description.

Hunting Coats of an unknown color were issued to Hobbs and Speakmans companies from MA in 1756. These were a civilian style coat popular with sportsman.

*Green Coat* - continued on next page

*Green Coat...continued from previous page.*

An Albany sutler records that Rogers had purchased green course wool coats with white metal buttons for an unknown number of his men in 1758, and a future order was being contemplated. Little else is known at this time.

Did the green coat become a ubiquitous ranger uniform item after 1758? In the Lake George theatre it is possible. Green "ranger coats" do show up in runaway ad descriptions later in the war. In Canada, Knox seems to indicate the four ranger companies serving under Wolfe with "no particular uniform" were later issued Black with blue uniform coats typically associated with Gorham. Even if the Green Coat did become ubiquitous in northern NY, did the Ranger Companies suddenly prioritize appearance over function in the field, or did they continue to shed their coats on patrol?

In summary it seems the preponderance of sources do not support a wide distribution of green uniform coats among our rangers during the years 1755 through 1757, for those later serving under Wolfe and described by Knox, or those rangers on many patrols, regardless of year. Given these parameters, why are so many of us wearing them? Someone has to represent the early, civilian attired rangers, Speakman & Hobbs' men in hunt coats, or Rangers at their unconventional finest; traveling light & fast, stripped down and on the move.

As for buckskin leggings, virtually all primary source accounts that detail the material and construction of leggings, or indian stockings, specify wool. This was true for both the Europeans and Natives with access to trade goods by midcentury. Leather leggings MAY have been present, but there is little to no documentation for them. I wish there was. Knox again provides the most detailed description:

Leggers, Leggings, or Indian spatterdashes, are usually made of frize, or other coarse woolen cloth; they should be at least three quarters of a yard in length; each Leggin about three quarters wide (which is three by three) then double it, and sew it together from end to end, within four, five, or six inches of the outside selvages, fitting this long, narrow bag to the shape of the leg; the flaps to be on the outside, which serve to wrap over the skin, or fore-part of the leg, tied round under the knee, and above the ankle, with garters of the same colour; by which the legs are preserved from many fatal accident, that may happen by briars, stumps of trees, or underwood, & c. in marching through a close, woody country. The army have made an ingenious additon to them, by putting a tongue, or slope piece before, as there is in the lower part of a spatterdash; and a strap fixed to it under

the heart of the foot, with fastens under the outside ankle with a button. By these improvements they cover part of the instep below the shoe buckle, and the quarters all round..."

Before concluding, I must acknowledge the material culture work of Artist/Historian Gary Zaboly. His examination of collated primary sources concerning Rogers' Rangers clothing and equipment, in the "Rangers and their Uniforms" Appendix to *The Annotated and Illustrated Journals of Major Robert Rogers* by Mr. Todish, remains invaluable. Mr. Zaboly covers the topic, including these sources and many others, in much greater detail. I would urge anyone interested in the topic to begin there.

**Post Script:** A peripheral perk of the non uniformed, largely civilian attired Ranger is that it offers Battalion members a greater opportunity to portray the documentable diversity of Rogers Rangers provided they do the leg work. With research it is possible for Battalion Members to represent the subtle regional, socioeconomic and civilian identity distinctions relevant for a truly fleshed out persona beyond "generic ranger". Would you expect, the original NH company of frontier roughstock to have identical personal effects, accoutrements and clothing as the Rangers recruited in places like the Boston waterfront or the Jerseys? How about the later Provincial and Regular volunteers? I believe there is value in representing this variation and would love to hear your thoughts on the subject. -LT.

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## Duly Noted

### ORDERS TO LIEUT. RODGERS

*You are to proceed with the party under your command to Tiondorogo in order view the posture & strength of the Enemy as distinctly as you possibly can. If you find the Enemy a considerable Body you are to dispatch Two of your party hither with an acct & proceed with the rest to Crown Point where you are to make all the discoveries you can & if possible to take a Prisoner.*

*Given under my hand this 16 day of Novr at ye Camp at Lake George 1755.*

(Endorsed) Orders to Lieut Rodgers 16 Novr 1755.  
These orders were issued by Sir William Johnson.

### REPORTS OF LIEUT<sup>r</sup> RODGERS & CLAUS.

By Orders of the Honble Major General Johnson Lieut Rodgers & Claus made the following discoveries at Diontarogo & Crown Point.

#### 1755 Novr 16th

*In the Evening sat off in a Battoe with 2 Mohawk Inds and one of the Newhampshire Men, came that Night as far as the large Bay of the Lake, abt 12 or 14 miles from the Camp where we Lay that Night.*

**17th** *Travelled on, discovered nothing.*

**18th** *Ditto, heard 3 Canon fired abt 2 or 3 o Clock afternoon.*

**19th** *abt 4 in the afternoon came where the french advanced Guard keeps, Lieuts Rodgers & Claus with an Indian went on top of a mountain opposite the Diontorogo Camp, where they discovered at the foot of it the french advance Guard, seen them walk upon the Beech judged their Number abt 40 or 50.*

*Observed the Smoke of Diandorogo Camp to be at the same Place Capt Rodgers discovered it, but the Inds said it was then not to be compared to the smoke he seen when there a few Days before, heard frequent firing of Guns & Drums baiting staid till dark, & then went back to our Company.*

**20th** *Early in the morning all of us went further down towards Diondarago abt 2 miles from when we encampd and coming to a mountain opposite the Camp went up & laying there a little while heard a Gun near us tried to come up to it but found it to be at the advance Guard.*

*Hendrick the Indian with Lieut Claus went upon an Eminence of the Mountain to View the french Camp, but the Indn was surprised to find such an alteration for he said the smoke he seen when there last was much larger and he could not but thinck the greatest part marchd of for Want of Provisions, abt noon sat off for Crown point;*

**21t** *Abt 3 o Clock afternoon came within fair Prospect of Crown Point Fort and the adjacent Plantations, but could make no remarkable Discovery as the Place seemed quite desolate to us we could observe no smoke in the Fort or neighbouring houses tho' we staid till dark, saw no Body stirring, no Craft upon the Lake, heard only 2 or 3 Guns fired in the Woods over the Lake, We thought to intercept a Prisoner there or burn their Grain but seeing no house inhabited, & no stack wth Grain (which article Henry the Indian observed to be too precious to the french as to leave it upon stacks :) we returned at Dark a little ways & encamped.*

**22d** *Weather & Scarcity of Provisions would not permit us to lay by any longer, wherefore took to our Retour, had an other view upon an eminent Rock of a Mountain of Diondaroga, heard firing of Guns & Cutting of Wood, is seen some smokes on the other side of Lake Champlain, when the old Indian was convinced of the Enemy's marching backward as he said the smoke of ye Camp was higher up the Lack when he saw it last, as also the firing & beating of Drums;*

**23, 24, 25th** *Travelled homewards under great deal of hardships suffered by ye severity of the Weather.*

*Which is Report of your Honours Most Obedient humble Servants*

To The Honble Major General Johnson

Richard Rogers  
Danl Claus

The above passage can be found in the "Journals Of Sir Wm. Johnson's Scouts 1755, 1756" Page 182



## *Sustenance and Libation*

### Beef Olives

The British term for wrapping meat around a stuffing, browning it and finishing it in a brown sauce is called an “olive,” although there are no olives in it. Perhaps the word referred to the final “*olive-like*” shape the meat took when it was tied up and cooked. Beef, veal and even fish olives have been part of the British cuisine since the 16th century.



Photo of Beef Olives by Sam Nott  
Picture Editor of the BBC History Magazine

#### 18th Century

Take some of a Buttock, or Rump of Beef, and cut some of it into slices, then hack them with the back of your Knife, lard them with fat Bacon, and season it with Pepper, Salt and Nutmeg, some sweet Marjoram, a little Onion, some Butter'd Eggs; then lay it on the slices of Beef, and roll them up together round in a Veal Caul; you may roast them or bake them; then garnish with Artichoke Bottoms, try'd Lemon sliced, your sauce gravy, with a Glass of Claret; serve on Sippets hot.

“The House-Keeper's Pocket-Book” page 31

#### 21st Century

- 6 lb. rump roast
- 2 cups bread crumbs
- 2 slices of bacon, minced
- 2 Tbsp. fresh parsley, minced
- 1 medium onion, minced
- 2 oz. beef suet, shredded
- ½ tsp. mace
- Salt and pepper
- 2 egg yolks
- 10 wooden skewers
- 1 cup of lard
- 1 pint beef broth
- 2 oz. flour
- 2 oz. butter
- 1 pint red wine
- 1 cup mushroom catsup or Worcestershire Sauce

#### Instructions

1. Cut meat into slices about 6 inches long and ½ inch thick.
2. Beat them flat with a metal meat mallet.
3. Make a forcemeat by combining the bread crumbs, bacon, parsley, onion, suet, mace, salt and pepper.
4. Add in the two egg yolks to make a thick sausagelike paste that holds together.
5. Lay the meat on a flat surface. Spread ¼ to ½ cup of the mixture on each slice of meat.
6. Starting at one end, roll each piece of meat into a tight cylinder, securing the roll with wooden skewers. Try not to squeeze the forcemeat out the ends.
7. Roll the remaining forcemeat into ½ inch to 1 inch balls and set aside.
8. Heat the lard to 350 degrees and brown each piece of meat on all sides. When nicely colored, set them to drain on a drying rack until all the meat is done. Press the flour and butter together with your hands until it forms one mass.
9. Using a straight sided sauté pan, add the beef broth, wine and Worcestershire Sauce and bring it to a simmer.
10. Add in the butter/flour mixture and cook until it begins to thicken. Add in the beef rolls into the pan, cover and simmer on low heat for 30–40 minutes until tender.
11. Fry the remaining forcemeat balls as a garnish.
12. Served with seasonal vegetables.

*continued on next page*

## RATTLE-SKULL

Colonial drinkers didn't bother chasing their shots with beer—they simply imbibed them together. Flip was one example of this—and Rattle-Skull was another.



Though the term was English slang for a chatty person, the name of the drink was probably more descriptive of what one could do to your brain.

On its surface, this blend of dark beer, rum, lime juice, and nutmeg doesn't seem to differ much from the other rum-based drinks of the day. Yet it packed a wallop from its proportions: three to four ounces of hard liquor (usually an equal split between rum and brandy) are dropped into a pint of strong porter, tarted up with the juice of half a lime and then showered with shaved nutmeg. This bad-ass drink is a dangerously smooth and stultifying concoction.

## SYLLABUB



When combined with eggs or cream, alcohol's supposed nutritive powers were thought to multiply—which might explain the overwhelming popularity of posset, a blend of ale, cream and spices that was often swilled at weddings.

A syllabub is a sibling to posset, but uses wine or cider as its base and gains visual drama from the cloudlike egg whites that are spooned on top. Want to try it? In a

measuring cup, combine five ounces of inexpensive floral white wine (these days, try Torrontes) with two or three ounces of cream, a spoonful of sugar, and the juice of half a lemon. (In lieu of sugar, a nontraditional tablespoon of maple syrup can add sweetness). Stir to combine. In a separate bowl, beat two egg whites with a dash of sugar until somewhere between frothy and peaked. Decant wine mixture into a favorite glass, spoon over thickened egg whites, and shave over some nutmeg. The flavors are akin to lemon ricotta cheese.



## Message from The Major

Wed, Apr 13, 2016

To: All members of Jaeger's Battalion  
**Special attention:** Pennsylvania Company Members

Rangers!

I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to all of the members of the former Pennsylvania Company of Jaeger's Battalion for the orderly and honourable way you have dispersed the balance of your company treasury. A number of worthy organizations and historic sites have benefited from your generosity, enhancing the name not only of the Pennsylvania Company, but of Jaeger's Battalion as well.

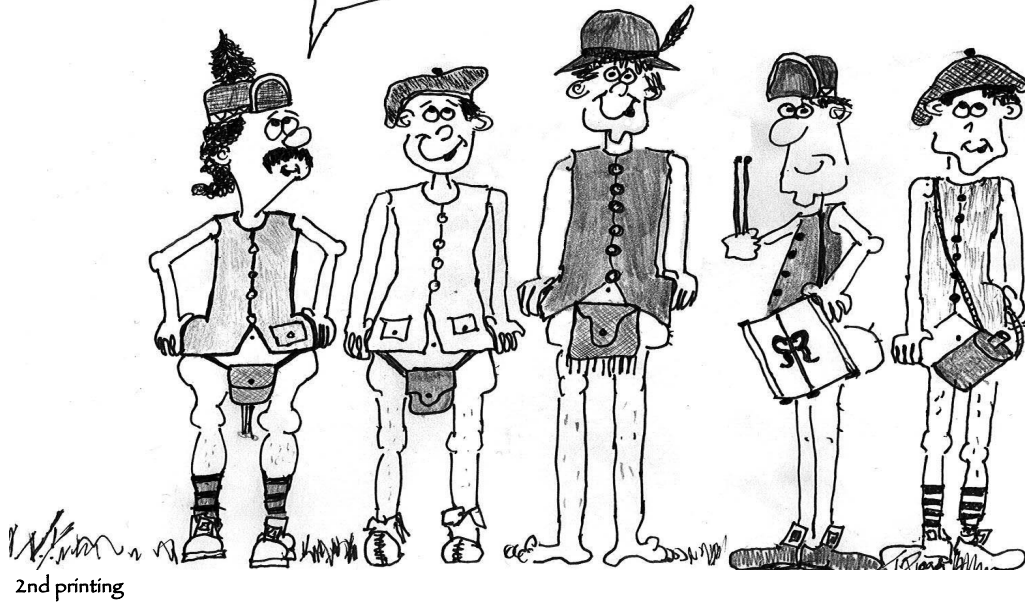
I am especially pleased that a portion of this money will purchase a mahogany side table for the newly updated Commandant's Quarters at Fort Michilimackinac. This table will be a permanent memorial to our late co-founder and commander, Major John C. Jaeger, displayed in the very quarters that Major Robert Rogers occupied when he was commandant at Michilimackinac.

Again let me express my thanks for your generosity and thoughtful planning in disbursing these funds. I also wish to express my sincere gratitude to Captain Steve Patarcity, and to each and every one of you, for your service to Jaeger's Battalion over many years. I hope that we will meet again on the campaign trail.

Major Tim Todish

Ranger Toons

BUT SIR!  
LAST NIGHTS POSTED ORDERS  
CLEARLY STATED:  
"MEN TO GO IN THEIR  
WAISTCOATS ONLY"



*The Battalion Journal*  
637 Telegraph Road  
Peru, New York 12972

Mailing Label