



The BATTALION JOURNAL

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



N^o 74

Winter 2015

A Biographical Sketch Pertaining to Lieutenant Jacob Farrington Of Major Robert Rogers' Rangers

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INTRODUCTION

Lieutenant Jacob Farrington was an officer of Rogers' Rangers and a volunteer in the South Carolina Independent Company during the French and Indian War during the 1750's. Before talking of his service to the British Crown, it is important to put his story into context.

The French and Indian War was the North American conflict of a much larger world war conflict known as the Seven Years' War (1756-1763). The conflict involved the nations of England and France and other countries that were their allies. In North America, it was the contest between England and France that involved Lieutenant Farrington. He would fight for the King George the Second who would be followed by King George the Third, who the American colonists would later rebel against in the American Revolution and fight yet again in the War of 1812.

Numerous books have been written about the French and Indian war, and therefore this introduction is meant to be more of an overview, rather than any in-depth study. At the end of this sketch, a listing of source materials will be provided for further study if desired.

France and England had engaged in many wars

over the course of their history. Here in North America, they fought four wars from the end of the seventeenth century to the mid-eighteenth century which corresponded with those fought in other parts of the world as well. The war that Jacob Farrington was involved in was the last of these conflicts. Known in North America as the French and Indian War and in Europe as the Seven Years' War, it was the First World War being fought in virtually every part of the globe.

With regards to the North American Theater, and the one in which Jacob Farrington participated, the war started in 1754 when the young Lieutenant Colonel George Washington, of the Virginia Provincial Forces, attacked the French officer Jumonville in southwestern Pennsylvania and killed him. Though war had not been declared between the two nations, this action would prove to be one of the catalysts that would lead to that end in 1756.

The war would be fought in various areas of the English colonies and Canada with most of the heaviest action in the province of New York and what are now the Ontario, Quebec, and maritime provinces in Canada. This was due to the major routes of invasion being by water; the Hudson, Mohawk, St. Lawrence and Richelieu Rivers and Lakes George, Champlain, and Ontario comprising the most strategically located. It would be in this area of the war that Jacob Farrington would serve.

This war would introduce regular army troops from both France and England in the largest numbers to date. Besides their own regular troops, both sides drew upon their respective citizens on the continent to supplement these troops. The French also relied on their militias in Quebec, Three Rivers, and Montreal; the marine troops that had been stationed in New France prior to the war, and their Native American allies which were primarily of the Algonquian tribes. In turn, the

Continued on page 3

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← LEFT
 Presiding officers at a court martial; Major George Bray (left) and Lt. Col. James Downey (Fort Stanwix 2005)

RIGHT →
 A candle lantern on a table at Fort Stanwix.



Photos supplied courtesy of Ensign Thomas Pray, New York Company.

Lieutenant Jacob Farrington - continued from page 1

British relied additionally on colonial militia and provincial troops raised by the colonies, the Independent Companies of New York and South Carolina (which were the only regular troops in North America prior to the war), Independent Companies of Rangers, and their Native American allies which were primarily from the Iroquois nation (particularly the Mohawks), Stockbridge Mohegan, and Cherokees for part of the war.

Initially, the British were at a disadvantage having lost many battles and forts between 1754 and 1757. They found it difficult to adapt to the wilderness and guerrilla tactics of the Native Americans initially, but would eventually learn to deal with both as the war progressed. By 1758, the British started to see a series of victories which culminated in 1759 with the fall of both Quebec and capture of several French forts. It would end the following year when the British Commander-in-Chief, Major General Jeffery Amherst captured Montreal in a three prong attack that forced the French to surrender New France without a shot being fired.

Some references for the further study of the French and Indian War follow:

- Anderson, Fred. *Crucible of War: the Seven Years' War and the fate of empire in British North America, 1754-1766* New York: Vintage Books, 2001.
- Brumwell, Stephen. *Redcoats: the British soldier and war in the Americas, 1755-1763* Cambridge, UK; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2002.
- Fowler, William M. *Empires At War: The French And Indian War And The Struggle For North America, 1754-1763*
- Hamilton, Edward Pierce *The French and Indian Wars; the story of battles and forts in the wilderness* Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1962.

Jacob Farrington

Jacob Farrington was from Andover, Massachusetts, born the son of Daniel Farrington on March 16, 1734-5. He is listed in *Historical Sketches of Ando-*

ver, (comprising the present towns of North Andover and Andover), Essex County Massachusetts by Sarah Loring Bailey, page 277 according to a website located at http://fortress.uccb.ns.ca/search/andover_Bailey.htm.

The following website: <http://www.mhl.org/andover/Abbott/Farrington%20Family.pdf> also provides the following information:

Daniel Farrington was married to Elizabeth Putnam who would be Jacob's mother. He was baptized Mar. 16, 1735 according to that record. More information may be found on the website relative to the family. No date of death seems to be listed for Jacob, but it says he and his brothers were prominent in the Revolution and moved to Maine and New Hampshire.

His first military posting was as an Ensign (the lowest officer rank in the British/Provincial forces) in Captain James Neal's (Neile's) company of rangers on April 7, 1758, the same day Neal was commissioned to command the company. This company was one of those that served under the famous commander of rangers Captain (and later Major) Robert Rogers.

Though commonly known today as Rogers' Rangers, they were referred to during the war as "His Majesty's Independent Companies of American Rangers". They fought for the British army and were employed to harass, ambush, capture, and eliminate their French, French Canadian and Native foes. They also provided intelligence and security to the British army.

Captain Noah Johnson would command the company early in 1759 when Neal left the service during the winter of 1758 - 1759. No doubt, Lieutenant Farrington would have continued in the company, and may have been in temporary command during the transition. Noah Johnson would later be killed on June 5, 1759 in a battle in which Lieutenant Farrington also participated with distinction. He apparently commanded the company for 3 days until Johnson's berth was filled by Captain Simon Stevens on July 9, 1760.

Lieutenant Jacob Farrington's name comes into history first when he volunteers for and participates in the famous raid against St. Francis which Major Robert Rogers led with a composite party of British regulars, Provincial soldiers, and Native Americans of the Mohawk and Stockbridge Mohegan tribes.

Rogers had wanted to destroy this village of Abenaki Indians for some time as his homestead as a youth had been destroyed by them. Up until September, 1759 he was not given orders to do so though he would ask permission to do so at various times. However, that fall, Major General Jeffery Amherst ordered him to take a force of 200 (though only 190 actually left on the expedition) to attack this community. Amherst was upset due to the Abenaki taking two regular officers (Captain Quinton Kennedy and Lieutenant Archibald Hamilton) and Captain Jacob Cheeksaukun and six Stockbridge of Rogers' Rangers prisoners when they were on a mission under a flag of truce and under the guise of offering peace to the Abenaki. In truth, they were trying to get through Abenaki lands on the way to Quebec to take messages from Amherst to Major General James Wolfe who was besieging the French capital at Quebec.

Amherst learned of the capture on September 10th when a French officer came to Crown Point with a flag of truce to deliver Amherst a letter from the Marquis de Montcalm, commander of the French forces in North America (and Amherst's counter-part being Commander-in-Chief of the British forces in North America), informing him that the above mentioned officers had been captured and he proposed an exchange of them for French officers taken later in the fall. The two officers had been jailed as spies as they were disguised as Indians on the mission. What angered Amherst even more was the revelation of one of the officers having been tortured by the Abenaki who had cut off one of his ears. In truth, the incident had not happened, but it was enough to have Amherst order Rogers to take revenge on the Abenaki with restrictions.

On September 13th (the same day that General Wolfe would be killed at Quebec), General Amherst delivered his orders to Major Rogers as follows:

"Remember the barbarities that have been committed by the enemy's Indian scoundrels on every occasion, where they had an opportunity of showing their infamous cruelties on the King's subjects, which they have done without mercy. Take your revenge, but don't forget that tho' those villains have dastardly and promiscuously murdered the women and children of all ages, it is my orders that no women or children are killed or hurt."

While Amherst's intentions were honorable, the situation of such a mission would have made the portion of the order about no women or children being harmed would have been virtually impossible to carry out. Though the orders are dated September 13th, this mission was discussed between Rogers and Amherst before that and the destination of the expedition kept secret. As a matter of fact, the newspapers (Boston Gazette for October 8th being one) carried stories claiming that Major Rogers was said to be "set out with a design to join General Johnson (Sir William Johnson) who had marched with 3000 Men to attack Oswegatchi." Oswegatchi is Fort La Presentation located on the St. Lawrence River where the Oswegatchi River empties into it at present day Ogdensburg, NY. This, of course, was a false report to provide operational security for Rogers and his men.

Departing from Crown Point the evening of September 13th, Rogers and his party (with Lieutenant Farrington) headed north up Lake Champlain to Missisquoi Bay in 17 whaleboats. After evading the French vessels patrolling on Lake Champlain, they arrived at Missisquoi Bay on September 23rd. After hiding their whaleboats and leaving two Stockbridge Indians to watch them and report to Rogers should the enemy discover them, the remaining members of the party proceeded on their way to St. Francis. He had lost several members of his party before this point due to accidents and illnesses.

Leaving the boats behind, the expedition started on a 9 day march taking them through endless swamp and bog which forced them to sleep in uncomfortable hammocks made in trees from local materials. The one good thing about the situation was it would be impossible for an enemy to track them, and it was only two days out when the two Stockbridge caught up and informed Rogers that the enemy had indeed found the boats, destroyed them and the provisions in them, and were in hot pursuit. It was at this point that he decided to send Lieutenant Andrew McMullen (who had become lame) back to Crown Point to alert General Amherst of the situation and to have supplies sent to a rendezvous point at the junction of the Wells and Connecticut Rivers. Rogers also decided to continue on the mission since there was no way to return from whence he had come. The enemy made the mistake of thinking his objective was another Abenaki village between his location and St. Francis called Wigwam Martinique. This allowed Rogers to continue to the intended target without incident.

They arrived at St. Francis River on the twenty-second day after they had left Crown Point. They made a human chain to cross the river and continue north toward the Abenaki village 15 miles away. That evening, with Lieutenant George Turner, Ensign Elias Avery, and a Stockbridge Indian named Samadagwis, Rogers went into the village as the Abenaki were drunk from a wedding celebration that had been going on. After going through the village undetected, they returned to the main party to get ready for the attack to come at two o'clock.

Upon returning, the officers conferred and decided to march closer to the town and "lie by until the morning at dawn". Within five hundred yards of the village they threw off their packs and prepared for the attack which took place "at half between Day-break and Sun-Rise" with three divisions advancing and surrounding the town. Though Rogers' was to fire the first shot designating the beginning of the attack, a ranger's musket fired prematurely and Rogers fired as well. The attack was underway with the rangers breaking into the Indian houses and killing the inhabitants.

It was during this time that Lieutenant Farrington and Sergeant Benjamin Bradley, both of them described as robust rangers, burst against one door of a house "so violently that the hinges gave way, and Bradley fell in headlong among the Indians, who were asleep on the floor. They were all slain before they could make any resistance."

Rogers was in every part of the engagement encouraging his men and giving orders. The Abenaki were taken entirely by surprise and many were killed. A few of the Abenaki did escape despite the disposition of the rangers who were trying to prevent it. Some of the village's warriors were not present as they had left to go defend another Abenaki village.

The battle soon came to an end by seven o'clock and Rogers found he had one ranger killed (actually he was mortally wounded and it was the Stockbridge Samadagwis who may have warned a girl in the village before the attack when with Rogers, Turner and Avery) and seven others wounded, one of which was Captain Amos Ogden who was wounded in the head and body, but none the less had continued doing his duty and encouraging his men. The casualties for the Abenaki were much harder to discern as many had concealed

themselves in their dwellings and died when they were burned to the ground. Rogers' estimate that 200 were killed, but it could have been far less. The French seemed to claim not more than 40 were killed. Rogers also had 20 prisoners, among who were the sons and wife of the Abenaki prayer chief Joseph Louis Gill. He also had liberated five white captives (three rangers, a New Hampshire Provincial soldier named George Barnes, and a twenty year old German girl who had been captured at German Flats (present day Herkimer, NY) in 1757 or 1758 (as it was raided twice during the war).

After reorganizing his force and accounting for his losses, Rogers had his men gather Indian corn and he interrogated his prisoners. He learned the enemy was near with a force of 300 French and some Indians and only about four miles distant. And there were 200 more enemy posted at Wigwam Martinique where they had expected Rogers to attack. It was imperative that the party start moving as the enemy would soon be there and on their trail.

Releasing fourteen of the Indian prisoners, Rogers and his men started back to their packs they had dropped with the remaining prisoners and redeemed captives to start toward Lake Memphremagog. They found on the trip there that food was scarce and no game was to be found. The food the rangers had taken was running out, and in some cases some rangers had taken more loot than food causing more problems. Near the lake, the officers held a council and all decided it was best to split up. According to Burt G. Loescher, in his book "The History of Rogers' Rangers, Volume 4, The St. Francis Raid", Lieutenant Farrington led a group of 10 rangers as part of the split. The rendezvous point for the ranger parties was to be at the junction of the Lower Ammonoosuc, Wells and Connecticut Rivers. Once there, Lieutenant Samuel Stevens of the rangers would have food and provisions waiting for them. Farrington would lead his party south and eventually meeting Rogers at the Connecticut, but not without having lost many of his men on the way. To find out more about this raid and Farrington's route see Loescher's book mentioned above published by Heritage Books, Inc.

The following year, Lieutenant Farrington also served conspicuously in a skirmish that took place on the shores of Lake Champlain at Point au Fer on June 5, 1760. Captain Noah Johnson, who now commanded the ranger company, formerly held by Neal (who had resigned his commission during the winter of 1758 -59),

was mortally wounded in the battle, and his company was given over to Lieutenant Simon Stevens on July 9th, 1760. On that same date, Ensign Farrington was promoted to Second Lieutenant filling Stevens' vacancy in the company.

The one biographical sketch that may be found for Jacob Farrington can be found in Volume III of Burt G. Loescher's "The History of Rogers Rangers, Volume III, Officers and Non-Commission Officers". On page 59, the following information is provided:

"Having received these instructions I returned to Crown Point as fast as possible, and about the beginning of June set out from thence with a party of two hundred and fifty men (a footnote mentions the Stockbridges were to join him on the march to complete his compliment) down Lake Champlain, having four vessels, on board of which this detachment embarked, putting our boats and provisions into them, that the enemy might have less opportunity of discovering our designs . . . I, with the remainder, crossed Lake Champlain to the west-side, and the 4th in the morning got into my boats, and landed with about 200 men, about twelve miles south of the island Noix, with an intent to put in execution the General's orders to me of May 5th (should be 25th) with all speed . . . In the afternoon of this day (June 5th), several French boats appeared on the Lake, . . . These boats continued as near as they could to our vessels (two sloops) without endangering themselves, till after dark. Concluding their boats would cruise the whole night to watch the motions of our sloops, I imagine it would be a prudent step to send the sloops back to Capt. Grant, the commander of these vessels, who lay near Mott Island; I accordingly went to the sloops in a boat after dark, and ordered them to return. The enemy, who kept all night in their boats, having, by a strict look-out, discovered where I landed, sent a detachment from the island next morning to cut off my party. I discovered their intentions by my reconnoitering parties, who counted them as they crossed from the fort in the morning in their boats, to the west-shore, and informed me that they were 350 in number. I had intelligence again when they were about a mile from us. Half after eleven they attacked me very briskly on my left, having on my right a bog, which they did not venture over, thro' which, however, by the edge of the lake, I sent seventy of my party to get around and attack them in the rear. This party was commanded by Lieut. Farrington. As soon as he began his attack, I pushed them in front, which broke them immediately. I pursued them with the greatest part of my people about a mile, where they retired to a thick cedar swamp, and divided into small parties . . . I called my party immediately together at the boats, where I found that Ensign Wood of the 17th regiment was Killed, Capt. Johnson wounded through the body, a second shot thro' his left arm, and third in his head. I had two men of the Light Infantry, and eight Rangers,

wounded, and sixteen Rangers killed. We killed forty of the enemy, and recovered about fifty firelocks. Their commanding officer, Monsieur la Force, was mortally hurt, and several of the party were likewise wounded. After the action I got the killed and maimed of my detachment together in battoes, returned with them to the isle a Mot near which the brig lay. I dispatched one of the vessels to Crown Point, on board of which was put the corpse of Mr. Wood, but Capt. Johnson died on his passage thither; . . ." (Robert Rogers, Journals of Major Robert Rogers, (London: J. Millan, 1765), pp. 175, 178-181.)

Unfortunately, not a lot of his exploits in the rangers are documented other than the above. The French would later capitulate to Major General Amherst at Montreal on September 8th, 1760. No doubt, Lieutenant Farrington was at Montreal with Rogers when this event occurred. Though New France (Canada) was now British, and the war over with the French in North America with the surrender of Montreal, conflict was still going on in North America.

The following year, the Cherokee and English got involved in a conflict over the treatment of the Cherokee who had once been allies to the English. The Governor of South Carolina, William Henry Lyttleton, had held 32 chiefs prisoner and treated them badly. As a result, a war began which would involve Robert Rogers and Jacob Farrington. Rogers had been rewarded by Amherst after the conquest of Canada with a regular army commission on October 25th, 1760 as a captain in one of the South Carolina Independent Companies due to the death of the commander of the company Captain Paul Demere. Lieutenant Farrington offered to serve as a Gentleman Volunteer until a vacancy for an ensign occurred. Unfortunately, a vacancy never occurred.

Major General Jeffery Amherst, Commander in Chief of the British Forces in North America, and the conqueror of Montreal and New France, wrote to Jacob Farrington the following:

By His Excellency Jeffery Amherst, Esqr., &ca, &ca, &ca, To Mr. Jacob Farrington, late Lt. of Rangers

His Majesty's Ship Greyhound, being to sail tomorrow for Charles Town in S. Carolina, you will accordingly repair on board the same, & take under your care and charge, the nine Indians & five White Men belonging to Maj. Rogers that are already embarked in the said ship, and on your arrival at Charles Town aforesaid, you will, as soon as you possibly can, go on shore, & make report

to Col. Grant, or officer commanding His Majesty's Forces there, of . . . your arrival, and the state of the men under your care. You will, at the same time, deliver to Col. Grant the packet you receive herewith, containing my dispatches to him which you will likewise take particular care, and you will follow, and obey, all such orders as you shall from time to time receive from the said Col. Grant, or the officer commanding His Majesty's Forces in Carolina. Given &c, New York, 17th March 1761.

Colonel James Grant's packet referred to in Farrington's orders reads in part:

*Sir,
As Maj. Rogers is setting out for Albany in order to fetch some vouchers that are wanted for the passing the remainder of his accounts, he cannot, as I had proposed, take the benefit of His Majesty's Ship Greyhound (which is to sail tomorrow) to go & join you; but, as the Indians whom I mentioned to you in a former letter he expected would go with him, had better be employed than to remain idle until his return, I have according caused them to be embarked in the Greyhound to the number of nine, besides five white men, agreeable to the enclosed list; a the head of which there is a Lt. Jacob Farrington who is going to serve as a volunteer in the Major's Company, and is to have the care of these men in their passage, & until their arrival with you, when you will order him & them to join Capt. Kennedy, & employ them & the volunteer on such services as you shall judge proper until the Major gets to his company, when they are to be turned over to that.*

These fourteen men, having made away with their arms & everything they had, I did not think it prudent to trust them with others, as I am certain they would have gone the same way. You will therefore direct Capt. Kennedy to supply them with whatever they may want to render them fit for service.

Lt. Farrington is the bearer of this letter which he has my orders to deliver to you immediately upon his arrival that you may give directions for landing the men & ordering them where you shall think proper.

I am, Sir, &c.

List of recruits belonging to Maj. Rogers Independent Company embarked on board the Greyhound Man of War for S. Carolina

Lt. Jacob Farrington; William Miller; Lowris Vesterroot; Daniel Nepash; Daniel Whitham; Billy Cooper; Richard Aspinwell; Frederick Cahow; Wonks Napkin; Samuel Obiran; Joseph Chandler; Samuel Mamenash; David Way; Abraham Fowler; Thomas Clish.

Colonel Grant writes back to General Amherst from the Camp at Congarees on April 25th that he had "directed Mr. Farrington and his party to be armed at Charles Town & to proceed directly from thence to joyn the troops." They were then on the march.

Captain Quinton Kennedy, who was the same who had been captured which had led Amherst to send Rogers and Farrington against St. Francis, is the same who is referred to in Amherst's correspondence to Colonel Grant. Farrington and the recruits became part of Kennedy's provisional battalion at Fort Ninety-Six temporarily. This was revealed in a letter to General Amherst from Colonel Grant dated at the Camp near Fort Prince George on June 2nd, 1761.

"We have got about seventy Indians, including Mohawks, Stockbridge, Chickasaws, Catabaws, &c. I have formed them into a corps with Lt. Farrington, Maj. Rogers' recruits, a detachment of the Provincial Regt. & a few men from the troops. I have given the command of the whole to Capt. Kennedy who has with him Lt. Wesfall (Wastel) of Barton's, a good active young man."

The service of these men saved the army when attacked by Cherokees under Little Carpenter (also known as Great Warrior). Their knowledge of Indian warfare and tactics and sharp eyes prevented the army from ambush and defeat prior to the attack on the Cherokee village of Etchoe. They also were instrumental in guarding the convoys that brought military supplies and food to the army. More on the activities can be found in "Genesis, Rogers' Rangers, The First Green Berets, The Corps and Revivals April 6, 1758 - December 24, 1783" by Burt G. Loescher.

Rogers arrived at Fort Prince George on August 26th, with 18 ex-rangers for his South Carolina Independents. Lt. Farrington now entered Rogers' South Carolina Independent Company as a volunteer the same day. Colonel Grant sent them all to Charlestown where Rogers was ordered to take command of the troops in the town. Once there the ten Stockbridge refused to put on the "Red Cloethes" or uniform of the Independent Company. Rogers asked Amherst for

permission in a letter dated October 19th to discharge them as they would not put on uniforms and would not be agreeable to the other members of this command. Amherst gave the permission and the Stockbridge and Mohawk were sent back to New York. Farrington and the other rangers remained to serve in the company.

Unfortunately at this point, nothing further is found on Jacob Farrington, though it is known he never got a regular commission as Rogers had.

Books on Rogers' Rangers that may or may not mention Farrington.

- Cuneo, John R. "Robert Rogers of the Rangers" Oxford Univ Press, NY, 1959. (Reprint for Fort Ticonderoga, NY, by Academy Books, Rutland, Vermont, 1988); Library of Congress Catalog Number: 88-81932
- Jackson, Lt.Col. H.M. "Rogers' Rangers; A History" published privately by the author, Toronto, Canada, 1953.
- Loescher, Burt G. "The History of Rogers' Rangers, Volume I: The Beginning" San Francisco, CA, 1946 (Reprinted Heritage Books, Inc. Bowie, Md., 2001); ISBN 0-7884-1741-X
- Loescher, Burt G. "The History of Rogers' Rangers, Volume II: Genesis - Rogers' Rangers - The First Green Berets" published privately by the author, San Mateo, CA, 1969 (Reprinted Heritage Books, Inc. Bowie, Md., August 2000); ISBN 0-7884-1575-1
- Loescher, Burt G. "The History of Rogers' Rangers, Volume III: Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers" published privately by the author, Burlingame, CA, 1957 (Reprinted Heritage Books, Inc. Bowie, Md., 1985, 2001); ISBN 0-7884-1967-6
- Loescher, Burt G. "The History of Rogers' Rangers, Volume 4: The St. Francis Raid" Heritage Books, Inc. Bowie, Md., 2002; ISBN 0-7884-2077-1
- Rogers, Major Robert "Journals of Major Robert Rogers" London, 1765. University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, MI, 1966
- Rogers, Robert J. U. E. "Rising Above Circumstances" Sheltus & Picard, Bedford, Quebec, Canada, 1998; ISBN 0-9696296-5-6
- Ross, John F. "War on the Run, The Epic Story

of Robert Rogers and the Conquest of America's First Frontier" Bantam Books, New York, NY, 2009; ISBN 978-0-553-80496-6

- Todish, Timothy J. "The Annotated and Illustrated Journals of Major Robert Rogers" Purple Mountain Press, Fleischmanns, New York 2002; Library of Congress Control Number: 2002101418
- Todish, Timothy J. "America's FIRST First World War: The French and Indian War 1754-1763" Purple Mountain Press, Fleischmanns, New York (revised and expanded) 2002; Library of Congress Control Number: 2002101417
- Todish, Timothy J. & McCulloch, Ian "British Light Infantryman of the Seven Years' War, North America 1757" Osprey Publishing, London, UK 2004; ISBN: 184176733
- Zaboly, Gary S. "American Colonial Ranger, The Northern Colonies 1724-64" Osprey Publishing, London, UK 2004; ISBN: 1841766496
- Zaboly, Gary S. "A True Ranger: The Life and Many Wars of Major Robert Rogers" Royal Blockhouse LLC., Garden City Park, NY 2004; ISBN: 0-9761701-0-8

Also the following publication from Heritage Books mentions him in the Cherokee War as noted above.

- Amherst Papers 1756-1763 by Edith Mays (Heritage Books, Inc. Bowie, Md., 2006); ISBN 978-0-7884-1131-4



*Rangers on winter patrol.
Photo courtesy of Shannon Green*

British Six Pence

Our Sixpences are, many of them, worn to Groats, and some Shillings are not much better in Proportion. The Half-Crowns are not so bad, but then they are not so common; the latter ones, since King *William*, being most of them melted or transported

Steven Leake 1745

The sixpence (6d) was a common Colonial Coin of the French and Indian War. They were first minted in 1551, in the Reign of Edward VI and were 92% Silver. They would continue to be minted by every British Monarch until 1967. They would be minted in a vast number of variations and styles. They also would suffer from counterfeiting. During the Reign of George II the chief Royal engraver was John Sigismund Tanner. He produced many styles, and it is possible that the nickname of Tanner's for these coins can be attributed to him. Starting with Elizabeth the 1st, the date of minting is stamped on the reverse. The Sixpence coin enjoyed both Traditional liking but also came to represent Tax woes. The Tradition of the coin being Good Luck goes back to the Middle Ages where a talisman might hold off bad or evil spirits.

Silver was considered a good metal to fight against Evil. It became customary, especially, for New Brides, to wear a silver sixpence in one shoe before her wedding. It became part of the Wedding Tradition of British Families and Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Blue, and a Sixpence in her shoe remained in our cultures for hundreds of years. It was also Traditional to put a Silver Sixpence in a Christmas Pudding and they who found it would receive good luck throughout the year. War with France led to Taxation and in 1733 the Molasses Tax of Sixpence per pound of Molasses to help raise revenue was unpopular. Sixpence Tax, would over the years, expanded, to Sugar, Rum, and many other imported products. A simple to use and exchange coin, it was one of the more common metal coins passed frequently during the French and Indian War. Here, a 1757 coin shows the common features for this period. King George II is on the Obverse. On the Reverse is a cross represented by Shields. They are the Hanoverian Shield, Ireland's Harp, England's Rampant Lion and the Fleur de Leis as , as the English

Kings still claimed reign over parts of France by God and their Right. A small coin, easy to lose, they turn up on Colonial sites of the French and Indian War Period frequently. Many of these coins were found by Earl Stott and David Starbuck on Rogers Island at Fort Edward. Such a found coin might easily have been lost by one of Major Robert Rogers men.



Frontside of Coin



Reverse side of Coin

Sustenance and Libation

Article submitted by Ensign Thomas Pray
New York Company

List of Victuals and Prices. 1759

Camp at Montmorency Falls, Quebec

“WE are now tolerable well provided with the conveniences of life. At times butcher's meat is scarce, but that supplied by young horse flesh; a loin of colt eats well, roasted, and there are many other parts of the carcase, which if disguised in the same manner one meets with other victuals at table, may deceive the palate, I shall here annex the prices of several under-mentioned articles, which only vary as there is plenty or otherwise.”

- Beef: from 9 pence to 1 shilling per pound.
- Mutton: from 1 shilling to 1 shilling 3 pence per pound.
- Hams: from 9 pence to 1 shilling per pound.
- Gloucester or Cheshire Cheese: 10 pence per pound.
- Potatoes: From 5 to 10 shillings per bushel
- A reasonable loaf of good soft bread: 6 pence.
- Bristol Beer: 18 shillings per dozen.
- London Porter: 1 shilling per quart.
- Bad Malt drink from Halifax: 9 pence per quart.
- Bad Spruce Beer: 2 pence per quart.
- West-India Rum: 8 Shillings per Gallon.
- New England Rum: 6 to 10 shillings per gallon.
- Sour Claret: 8 shillings per gallon.
- Excellent Florence: 2 shillings & 6 pence per flask.
- Madeira: 12 shillings per gallon or 11 pounds per cask.
- Lemons: From 3 to 6 shillings per dozen.
- Lump Sugar: 1 shilling to 1 shilling 6 pence per pound.
- Ordinary Powder Sugar: 10 pence per pound.
- Roll Tobacco: 1 Shilling and 10 pence per pound.
- Leaf Tobacco: 1 shilling & 10 pence per pound.
- Snuff: From 2 shillings to 3 shillings per pound bottle.
- Hyson Tea: One pound 10 shillings per pound.

- Chouchon Tea: 1 pound per pound.
- Plain Green Tea, and very bad: 15 shillings per pound.
- Hard Soap: 10 pence to 1 shilling per pound.

Lieutenant John Knox

Grog

Submitted by Ranger Darrylee Foertsch, Ohio Company

To take the foul taste from the water within the rum ration, citrus juice of lime or lemon was added. An interesting result was that the sailors were healthier. Now we know that it was due to the dose of vitamin C that prevented scurvy and other diseases.

The modern Mojito is a similar drink which adds mint and some carbonated water instead of the plain water.

Pusser's recipe:

<http://www.pussers.com/t-rum.aspx>

- 2 parts water
- 1 part Pusser's Rum
- Lime juice to taste
- Dark cane sugar to taste

Rum Ration

2 Gill or 1/2 pint was issued daily to sailors since 1655. Official regulations of the Royal Navy change this in 1765 where they mixed a 1/2 pint (one cup) of rum with one quart of water. This was then issued in two servings a day. One before noon and one after the end of the working day.



Duly Noted

BACKGROUND

The Rangers of Major Rogers Companies performed various duties for the British army. Scouting was foremost as was information gathering, obtaining prisoners, and keeping the French occupied with their movements. They also were escorts and many times guards for both Provincial and Regular soldiers. They protected Work crews that gathered Spruce, built Ba-teaux, cut firewood, or made roads. It was the Ranger presence and safety provided by them that allowed this work to progress. These Duly Noted writings attest to their value.

Januray 1756

Fort William Henry

January 26, 1756. Pursuant to orders of this date, from Colonel Glasier, I marched from Lake George with a party of fifty men, with a design to discover the strength and works of the enemy at Crown Point.

There is an error in the dates. The date above is from Rogers Journal and the orders below are from Colonel Glasier. However, the discrepancy fits the time frame and should not be of concern.

Fort Willam Henry, 29th Jany, 1756

"Sir,

You are hereby ordered to march the party under your command the nighest and best way you can to Crown Point. Then take a view of the fortress and outerworks, and make minutes of the same. If you meet Indians, ot any enemies on your way, you are to take them prisoners, or kill them, or distress them in any other way or means your prudence shall direct. You are to take good care of your men, and not expose them too much. You are to use imaginable protection not to loose a man. If it should snow, you are to return immediately to this fort. If you discover any large bodies of the enemy, you are to send one of the most active of your men with intelligence to me. As soon as you can perform this ser-

vice, you are to return to this fort with your party. I heartly wish you success."

*I am Sir, your Humble Servant,
B. Glasier*



A Ranger on winter patrol
Photo submitted by Sgt. Tim Green

Halifax, January 24th, 1759

Governor Lords- To Colonel Murray

As the French Inhabitants and Savages commit acts of hostility and find opportunities by lying in wait to harass and attack our parties as they pass and repass, I am in hopes that you may send some Wood Rangers to hunt them out of their lurking places. It would be best, in answer to their scalping of some of our people to drive them off and to assess a rich bounty for scalps that they may be driven away or destroyed. Troops from Ireland, having been sent after these Savages have not met with the success hoped. Rangers, if one can spare, would be best.



The Battalion Journal
637 Telegraph Road
Peru, New York 12972

Mailing Label