

Congressional forces as door to door searches were conducted in search of militia officers, proclamations were torn down, citizen groups dispersed, etc. Firewood, flint, steel, and tinder all became tools of the resistance.

The weather can be quite unpredictable, so dress accordingly. While 1991 saw temperatures near 90, with high humidity, 1992 brought highs in the 40's, and rain that appeared to some to have the appearance of snow.

If you can make the trip, by all means do so; you're not likely to be disappointed.

Militia Shoot, May 8 and 9

The 2nd Annual Schohary District Militia Competition will be held at the Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club, Middlefort Road, Middleburgh New York (off Route 30), on May 8 and 9, 1993. The club sits on the site of the historic Middle Fort. Camping is encouraged (primitive), with straw and firewood provided. Restroom facilities are provided in the clubhouse, and food will be available. The registration fee for all events is \$10.00, to help defray expenses.

The bulk of the competition will be scheduled for Saturday, with Sunday set aside for a "wrap up", blanket shoots, and other informal competition. Trap will be shot under the lights on Saturday evening if there is enough interest.

This is an event for reenactors of the French & Indian and Revolutionary War periods. While team events are emphasized (two man Ranger and four man Militia teams), individual participation is encouraged, and teams can be formed at the event. Clothing, equipment, and firearms must be correct for the 1750-1780 period.

Metallic silhouettes, paper, and primitive targets are used in this competition, most of which are fired from 50 yards or less. Although most events require a smoothbore musket, and preformed paper cartridges, there are matches permitting the use of a rifle. Fire striking and tomahawk events are part of the primitive match.

Last year, the 15th Albany's Dietz's Ranger Corp narrowly defeated Claus' Rangers, who have sworn to take their revenge.

for more information, and to register in advance, call John Osinski 518-827-5429 after 6:00pm. We need an accurate headcount by May 1 to purchase firewood and straw, neither of which is guaranteed without a pre-registration.

We hope to see you May 8.

The Winter Scout of February 13 Lt. Art Bush, Claus' Rangers

On February 13, seven members of Johnson's Indian Department, along with four members of Little's N.Y. Provincials, embarked on a two day scout, 16 miles northwest of Sir William's home in Johnstown.

During this scout we met up with James Beck, and a party of two trappers who were wintering in the area of Caroga and Canada Lakes. After a brief meeting, it was determined that there had been no sight of French activity in the thirty mile area for many weeks due possibly to the three large snowstorms in the previous weeks.

In light of this fact we decided to lay over a couple of days with the trappers in their lean-to for a much needed rest. A second lean-to was erected for our use. We spent a comfortable night. The following morning we engaged in a friendly game of shooting at the mark. I think that this was instigated by some members of the Indian Department, who thought that the Provincials would be an easy mark. All that participated shot very well. They held their own against the Indian Department, who pride themselves on marksmanship.

Many ideas were traded among us in regard to better existing in this harsh winter environment. For some of us, we learned to make do with less, and still survive comfortably.

All returned safely to Johnstown, much better prepared for future scouts of our border country and with a better understanding of our capability to handle the hardships of the trail, be it Winter, Spring, Summer or Fall.

(NOTE: The Burning Issues will not compete with the "SPY" in covering Articles focusing on the era more closely associated with the Seven Years War; we will, however, publish from time to time articles submitted by our membership that are of general interest.)