

RNR History

The Royal Newfoundland Regiment of Fencible Infantry (RNR) was raised in 1795 as a body of regular soldiers to provide for the defense of England's oldest colony. Briefly disbanded during the peace of 1802-3, the RNR served at various stations in Canada through the end of the War of 1812.

Although equipped and trained as regular infantry, the RNR contained many men familiar with maritime life. Prior to the onset of war with the United States, five companies were detached for service as seamen and marines, and were posted in detachments to ships of the Provincial Marine. In this capacity men of the RNR saw naval service on lakes Ontario, Erie and Huron. In June 1812 the Lake Erie detachments served as infantry in the capture of Detroit, winning a special commendation from General Brock.



In 1812 the remaining companies of the regiment were scattered in detachments posted to Quebec, Prescott, Kingston, Fort George, and York. The large detachment at Ft. George was significantly involved in the defense against the American amphibious attack

in May 1813.

The 100-man detachment serving as marines to the Lake Erie Squadron accounted for twenty eight percent of total British casualties in the Battle of Lake Erie, fought in September 1813.

In 1814 two companies of the RNR, ordered to reinforce the key British post at Michilimackinac, built then sailed a fleet of small open boats from Georgian Bay to the post at northwestern Lake Huron. In August the garrison repulsed an American attack; the Newfs then participated in the naval night operation that captured the



American sloops *Tigress* and *Scorpion*, which returned control of the upper Great Lakes to the British.

At war's end the RNR returned to the St. John's garrison. The RNR was disbanded along with the other North American fencible units in 1816.

Organization & Membership

Members join the RNRLHA, paying dues and insurance. Annually members elect an Executive (organization business) and Field Commander (military and camp affairs).

Contact Information

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Related Facebook page: *The Royal Newfoundland Regiment of Fencible Infantry 1803-1816*



Regimental Crest of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment

Come “Kiss the Cod”! Join the Royal Newfoundland Regiment



The Royal Newfoundland Regiment of Fencible Infantry, by Robert Marrison
CWM 19810948-009, Beaverbrook Collection of War Art, Canadian War Museum.
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RNR Living History Association

Who We Are

The Royal Newfoundland Regiment Living History Association (RNRLHA) portrays soldiers and civilians involved in the War of 1812. The portrayal is a form of “living history”, by which we reproduce the past in appearance and behavior in order to better understand history. Our primary impression is a company in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment (Skinner’s Company) within the Crown Forces, but we also portray a detachment of the U.S Marines (Niagara Detachment), as well as non-military civilians of the period.

What We Do

Members of the group attend a wide range of activities pertaining to the War of 1812 period:

- Battle reenactments
- Commemoration ceremonies
- Community education events
- Period-themed social activities, such as dances

Skinner’s Company of the RNR serves with **Crown Forces** of North America (www.crownforces.ca).



Formed in square with the Crown Forces battalion, 2015



With the British North American Battalion, Waterloo bicentennial, 2015

Living History

RNR members aim to re-experience the past by wearing period clothing, using period items, and practicing period behavior.

Military members of the group participate in **reenactments** of major battles of the War of 1812 wearing the uniforms, carrying the weapons, and practicing the drill used by the British Army at that time.



Street fighting, Ogdensburg, 2015



Amphibious at Grimsby, 2013



RNR colours, Ft. George, 2013

Reflecting both land and lake service during the war, Skinner’s Company also participates in **naval events**. Group members occasionally portray an alternate impression as U.S. Marines.



Brig Niagara, Hamilton, 2013



US Marines, USS Constitution, 2012

Newfs participate in **ceremonies** honouring history.



RNR monument dedication, Ft. Willow, 2015



Promise of Peace ceremony, Dundurn Castle, Hamilton, 2015

Social occasions include informal time in barracks or around the campfire.



Navy Hall tavern, Beat to Quarters naval school, 2016

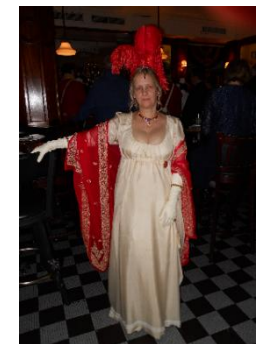


Ft. George barracks, 2016

Some members also participate in **period dancing**.



Commandant’s Quarters, Boston Navy Yard, 2012



Jackson’s Victory Ball, New Orleans, 2015