

In the summer of 1777 Major Gilfred Studholm and a small number of troops secured the valley of the Saint John River for the government of Nova Scotia. Life returned to normal.

The area around Maugerville usually flooded in the spring bringing enrichment to the soil but making life difficult for those living on the land. Eventually many of the settlers moved to the higher west side of the Saint John River (actually south on the map). This was Burton Township in Sunbury County. The Kenneys were among those who moved. Susannah Kenney gave birth to a son in Maugerville in 1777 and the next year to a son in Oromocto, Burton Township, and this may indicate the move was made late in '77 or early in '78.

Before the American Revolution a block house had been built at the mouth of the Oromocto River to control a water route used by the Indians. Israel Kenney built his log house at the mouth of the river just above the block house. It stood on the site of an ancient Indian burial ground. The French had a village here but were driven away in 1759 by Hazen's New England Rangers. The Kenney farm stretched up the hill where the village of Oromocto is now located.

The Kenneys and the Kimballs had much in common: immigration from New England, service on the Sunbury committee and their attitude to the American Revolution. Before long they had something else in common. Sarah Kenney and Richard Kimball were wed.

Soldiers from Scotland, the British Royal Highlanders

Before news of Lexington & Concord reached England several battalions were ordered to ready themselves. One was the 42nd Foot of the First British Royal Highlanders. (The 42nd had formerly been the 43rd of the Line, better known as the Black Watch.) They arrived in New York on July 22, 1776 and just a month later took part in skirmishes in the area. The broadswords and pistols that had been issued in Glasgow were found impractical in moving through the brush and were ordered set aside. (They have not been used since.)¹⁰

In various encounters the Americans were driven back. Washington, however, avoided decisive battles and was able to retreat. When the British attacked Ft. Washington 5,000 Hessians were on the north; Guards and 33rd Foot and others, on the east; 42nd Highlanders, a little south; while other Hessians and nine British battalions came up from the south. Americans suffered 3,300 casualties and captured, and Howe's casualties were only 458. Washington and his troops escaped across the Delaware River.¹¹ Ft. Lee in New York City was taken in November, and advanced posts occupied by Hessians and the Royal Highlanders. However, in New Jersey Washington surprised the Hessians at Trenton in January 1777, and both Hessians and Highlanders fell back, the latter spending the remainder of the winter at Pisquataua. Conditions there were very severe, the houses sheltering less than half the men. The Americans attempted to surprise the camp but the pickets held, and the soldiers had time to assemble and force their enemy back.

The British mounted a drive to take Philadelphia, and a major battle occurred at Brandywine in which Washington was defeated. Some companies of the 42nd played a part in the battle and in taking Philadelphia. In September, the Black Watch destroyed 70 privateers,

¹⁰ The web page, www.electricscotland.com/history/scotreg/bwatch/bw for Black Watch. Also, Hogg & J. H. Batchelor, *Armies Of The American Revolution*, IV, 1975, 32. The 42nd had used a single-edged sword with a basket hilt. "By the end of the war the splendor had vanished from British uniforms. The change most affected the Highland Regiments—they were obliged to hand in their broadswords and pistols in 1776, and the kilt and sporran [pouch] were also abandoned." The drawing of a soldier is from the same source.

¹¹ Hogg & Batchelor, *ibid*, 32