

II. Individual Records

Department: The Royal Green Jackets (Rifles) Museum, Winchester

Collection Type: North American Powder Horns

Accession number: WINGJ.2006.1761

No. of items: 1

Category
Equipment

Object name:
Powder horn





Description

Powder horn with engraved inscriptions, a plan of Fort Edward, floral motifs, and a Native American dyed porcupine quill strap. It is dated 1757 and belonged to Lieutenant John Longsdon of the 3rd Battalion 60th Royal Americans. One end has a rounded wooden cap or plug with metal loop, attached to this is one end of the strap, bound with a piece of leather, and with small pieces of red wool or hair tied to the end of each strand of the strap. The other end of the powder horn has a metal tip, and the horn has a scalloped edge where it meets the metal tip. The strap is made up of eight strands consisting of leather or vegetable fibre wrapped in dyed [red and yellow/white] porcupine quills. The strap was knotted and looked as though it had been like that for some time, as a result, and without conservation advice, it was difficult to ascertain the full length of the strap.

Notes

The strap was possibly made by a Native American from the Woodlands region and may originally have been used as a cord to restrain prisoners. Prisoner cords were long in length but narrow in width, and were often made of vegetable fibre ornamented with dyed porcupine quill wrapping, metal cones and red-dyed deer hair. Prisoner cords were commonly taken into battle in readiness to tie up prisoners and it is possible that this one was taken by a British soldier, possibly Lieutenant John Longsdon himself, or simply left behind after a fight, then repurposed and added to the powder horn as a strap.

The horn was loaned to the museum in 1955 by the Administrator Estate of Major L R Tilling, then later gifted and fully accessioned. However, from related documentation we know that it formerly belonged to Mr W A Andrew, founding Member of the British Numismatic Society, who owned seven powder horns in total. These were exhibited at the British Numismatic Society's meeting in 1927. Mr Andrew's collection of coins were sold via Sotheby's in April 1934 following his death and it is possible that other items belonging to him were sold at the same time (a Virgin and Child ivory statue from Romsey Abbey, now in Andover Museum's collection, is known to have been sold at this auction). He also lived in Hampshire not far from the museum and it is possible that there was another local

connection.

Original description

CATALOGUE ENTRY: [under acquisition] loan from: The Administrator estate of Major L R Tilling from the collection of the late Mr Andrew, 1955

Inscriptions

Bought By Lieut John Longsdon of ye: 3 Battalion of the Royal Americans FORT EDWARD YE 2 DAY OF AUGS

The initials J and L either side of floral [?] motif and a British coat of arms with 'GR' directly underneath it and '1757' to the right hand side.

Ariel view/plan of Fort Edward, including identification of 'The Comds [commanders?] House'

On the opposite side to the inscriptions the horn is covered with engraved floral decoration and scroll like pattern, and there is similar decoration around the scalloped edge of the top of the horn. Whereas the carved decoration around the base of the horn is more of a geometric pattern. The inscriptions and the floral decoration are separated by a band of geometric pattern and another band of a swirling/scroll pattern.

Production information:

Place: Fort Edward, Washington County, New York, USA, North America

School/style: Eastern Woodlands

Date: 1757

Materials: Horn
Brass
Wood
Porcupine quill
Wool
Hair
Leather
Vegetable fibre

Techniques: Carved
Dyed

Condition assessment

Purpose: curatorial comment

Condition: Good

Date: 2014-08-08

Location

On display : 2014-04-10 :

Name Associations

The Royal Green Jackets
Longsdon, John, Lieutenant
1756-57 (fl.)

Tilling, L. R., Major 1955 (fl.)

Type

regiment/service
personal name

personal name

Note

3rd Battalion of the Royal Americans
Commissioned 1756 as a lieutenant.
62nd or Royal American Regiment,
then later the 60th.

This is possibly Major Leslie Roy
Tilling, born in 1897 on the Isle of

<p>Andrew, Walter Jonathan, Mr (1859 -1934)</p>	<p>personal name</p>	<p>Wight, and who served with the Worcestershire Regiment from the First World War up until the 1930s at least. During the Second World War he was a Prisoner of War in Malaysia and died in Romsey, Hampshire in 1954. Founding Member of the British Numismatic Society and Antiquarian.</p>
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<p>Associations Seven Years' War (1754-1763)</p>	<p>Type event</p>	<p>Note</p>
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Other numbers:

<p>Number 900 19</p>	<p>Originator [?] [?]</p>	<p>Date</p>
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Exhibitions

Name of exhibition: *Royal Green Jackets Museum Permanent Display*
Exhibition area: North America (1754-64)

Notes:

DISPLAY LABEL: Lt. John Longsdon's Powderhorn (WINGJ:/2006.1761) John Longsdon was a founding member of 3rd 60th, here using the Royal American title. The carvings on the powderhorn of 1757 include a plan of Fort Edward, where the train leads north from the Hudson for lake George. Unknown to Longsdon, on 2 August 1757, Montcalm was secretly sailing down with a large force to seize nearby Fort William Henry; after its fall some of the 3rd 60th were massacred by native North Americans.

Name of exhibition: *British Numismatic Society, London, Wednesday January 26th 1927*

Notes:

In connection with the Bicentenary of the birth of General Wolfe, an exhibition was held by the British Numismatic Society, London, at its meeting on Wednesday, January 26th, 1927. In addition to medals relating to General Wolfe shown by various members, Mr. W. J. Andrew, F.S.A., of The Old House, Michelmersh, Hants, exhibited a series of seven powder horns of the Seven Years' War in America, 1752-59. The horns are beautifully engraved with views of the towns, forts, rivers, ships and forces. [...] Another horn bears the inscription: "Bought by Lieut. John Longsdon of ye 3rd Battalion of the Royal Americans, Fort Edward, ye 2nd day of August, 1757." From: The King's Royal Rifle Corps Chronicle, 1927, p. 220

Bibliographic references

The King's Royal Rifle Corps Chronicle, 1955, p. 120

Royal Green Jackets Chronicle, 1999, p. 184

The King's Royal Rifle Corps Chronicle, 1927, p. 220

Proceedings of the British Numismatic Society 1927-1928, p. 226

R. S. Stephenson. 'The Decorative Art of Securing Captives in the Eastern Woodlands' in Three Centuries of Woodlands Indian Art. A Collection of Essays edited by J.C.H. King and Christian F. Feest, 2007, pp. 55-66

Grancsay, Stephen V. 1945. American Engraved Powder Horns: A study Based on the J. H. Grenville Gilbert Collection. Metropolitan Museum of Art.