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and the settlements knew that they were on their own hook.

During the Revolutionary War, organized "spy" companies patrolled the frontier areas around forts and settlements. The 18th century definition of spy did not carry quite the same meaning as we give it today. Although espionage and military secrets were sought by classical spies, frontier spies were a different breed of men. They were chiefly scouts employed as messengers, trackers, hunters, rescuers, intelligence gatherers and roving patrollers. In army pay at the rate of six shillings and three pence per day, a spy was a combination of army regular, militiaman and scout all at the same time (Draper 9S: 11). When the politeness of the formal war was over in 1783, these men had the needed experience to form groups of vigilante rangers and scalp hunters for the new frontier posts and settlements.

**T**O INCREASE THEIR effectiveness and to create a certain daring image, spy companies often imitated not only the tactics of the Indians but their appearance and manner of dress as well.

An 1832 act of Congress created a comprehensive pension act for veterans of the Revolutionary War. John Roush, who in June of 1777 had become a spy at Fort Pitt, was required to indicate the time and place of his service, the name of his unit and officers, and the engagements in which he participated. Roush dictated his statement and revealed a little of his service under Capt. Brady:

*Declarent states that in obedience to the order of his said Captain Brady, he proceeded to tan his thighs and legs with wild cherry and white oak bark and to equip himself after the following manner, to wit, a*

*breechcloth, leather leggins, moccasins, and a cap made out of a raccoon skin, with the feathers of a hawk, painted red, fastened to the top of the cap. Declarent was then painted after the manner of an Indian warrior. His face was painted red, with three black stripes across his cheeks, which was a signification of war. Declarent states that Captain Brady's Spy dress—a handkerchief tied around the spy's head of any color, sometimes a capeau [shorter than a hunting shirt] of cloth or a hunting shirt, and moccasins; and thick, loose woolen leggins reaching above the knee, so thick that a rattlesnake could not penetrate through with their fangs.*

*Sometimes we took along wheat bread, and bacon and flour to make ash cakes, and sometimes chocolate; and [we] could always get venison, turkies [sic], and sometimes bear meat, but never took any parched corn meal... in cold weather, [we would make] a fire to lie down by, taking off the moccasins and drying them off, and in warm weather, sometimes a small fire to raise smoke for the night to drive off gnats. Spies often practiced*



*before going on a scout, shooting at a mark, throwing their tomahawks and sticking them in a tree [at] two or three rods and jumping over fences. (Draper 9S:*

## REUNION NEWS 2000

Your  
Unique Talents and Gifts  
Are Needed Now  
**HELP!**

The Reunion Committee needs volunteers to help with the various activities before and during the reunion. Please contact Donna Cuillard (e-mail: [cuillard@aol.com](mailto:cuillard@aol.com)) (805)522-3828 and offer your services. Even if you are not attending the Reunion there are things you can do from your home that will make the Reunion wonderful for those that do attend. Even youth and young adults can help at the Reunion. Children can hand out ribbons, etc. There is something each can do. Help us get to know you as we laugh and bind together like those worked together and supported one another for the common cause of survival and freedom, over 250 years ago on the frontier homestead where we are going to meet. Together, we are a wonderful, joyful blending of Hugh and Hannah. Join in and enjoy all this glorious meeting will be.

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