Horst Dressler. <u>Defenders of Lower Canada: The Canadian Voltiguers</u>. Woodstock: Anything Printed, 2013. 162 pages, illustrations, maps, select bibliography, notes, index. $34.95 (Canadian) paper. $29.95 (Canada/U.S.) paper.

Review by John R. Grodzinski

The Provincial Corps of Light Infantry or *Voltigeurs Canadiens* was a provincial regiment raised in Lower Canada in 1812, and was arguably the best effective Canadian unit to serve alongside British regulars in the War of 1812. During 1813, a detachment from the *Voltigeurs* reinforced the garrison at Kingston and participated in the raid on the American naval base at Sackets Harbor, New York. Detachments of the regiment also participated in both actions that ended the American offensive against Montreal in 1813, namely the battle of the Châteauguay and Crysler's Farm. In 1814, the *Voltigeurs* helped bring defeat to the American forces at Lacolle Mill and later that year, participated in the only major British offensive in the northern theatre, against Plattsburgh, New York.

Horst Dresler, a living history enthusiast produced this history of the raising, campaign history and disbandment of the *Voltigeurs Canadiens*. Of particular interest are the nearly 50 pages of appendices that include copies of muster rolls and the text from correspondence and descriptions of several actions.

Many maps and colour images appear throughout the book. The best of the images are a series of beautiful watercolours depicting various aspects of regimental life and active operations commissioned by Parks Canada and drawn by artist Eugene Leliepvre. Other artwork depicts *Voltiguers* in action, including the skirmish at Halsey's Corners during September 1814, as the British advance to Plattsburgh.

While one may quibble about several minor errors in the text, such as Sir George Prevost being incorrectly ranked as a major-general (p. 96), this book is a commendable introduction to the history of fine regiment, more of which can be learned from the author's bibliography.