

The Continental Line
Minutes of the 21st Annual Meeting
February 16, 2008

The meeting was called to order with welcoming remarks by John Taber, Chairman. Anne Henniger, 1st Maryland Regiment led the group in prayer. George Radecsky, 6th Pennsylvania Regiment led the Pledge of Allegiance.

John Taber introduced the Department Coordinators and thanked them for their service during his tenure as Chairman of the Line.

Jim Stinson, Proctor's Artillery read a letter from Sam Ricco, Line Adjutant, who was unable to attend. In the letter, Sam recognized the successes of the 2007 events, noted the possibility of the British Brigade and Continental Line meeting together at the same location and thanked John Taber for his service.

Jim Stinson then reported that the minutes of the 2007 Line meeting had been posted on the Line website for all to review. Jeff Smith, 24th CT. made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Jim Stinson. The motion carried.

Jane Ritchie, Line Treasurer gave the treasurer's report. A copy of the report was included in the information packet. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, 24th CT to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded and passed.

Brad Chetwynd, Line Liaison Officer recognized Neil Sorenson, British Brigade Liaison and Gene Frechette, BAR Liaison and reported on the meeting that was held between the Continental Line, BAR and British Brigade liaison officers on November 4, 2007. The main topics of the meeting were 2007 event issues, including safety, and future events. A copy of those minutes was included in the information packet..

John Taber then discussed the proposed safety regulation and bylaw changes. Due to the short notice he asked members to review these changes. Copies of the proposed changes were included in meeting packets. He indicated that a vote would take place later in the meeting.

Anne Henniger, Southern Department Coordinator gave the Southern Department report. She indicated the successes of many of the 2007 events including: Cowpens, Bordentown, Williamsburg, Monmouth, Mount Vernon, Camden, Jerusalem Mills and Gunston Hall. She noted that the Gunston Hall site is a spectacular site that is very re-enactor friendly.

Jim Stinson, Mid-Atlantic Coordinator gave the Mid-Atlantic Department report. He noted the success of the 2007 events. He mentioned Bordentown, Jerusalem Mills. Monmouth, Brandywine and Bradford Plantation. He indicated that the 2008 Mid-Atlantic Department meeting would be held at Hope Lodge.

Mike Barbieri, Northern Department Coordinator gave the Northern Department Report. He indicated that he had been elected the new Coordinator at the Department meeting that was held

in November, 2007. He discussed the success of 2007 events including: Battle Road, Fort Taber, Fort Ticonderoga, Bordentown and Mount Vernon. He said that the Northern Department has sanctioned the War in Schoharie, Blenheim, NY event. He reported that the Northern Department favors the changes to the safety rules and bylaw. He also discussed the musket accident from the previous season and the need to pay attention to the condition of arms.

Marshall Smith, 1st VA Regiment, filling in for Tom Edwards, gave the report of the Western Department report. The Western Department has two full member units with four units in the applicant process: 7th PA., 8th PA., 4th MA., and 3rd NY. All four applicant units attended Yorktown. Marshall reported that an insurance company in Michigan is willing to write reasonably priced policies for living history units. Interested units should contact the Western Department Coordinator for information.

Jack Zarra, 4th Continental Light Dragoons, reported on the work of the Horse Committee. He indicated that the committee was working on safety and operational guidelines as well as insurance guidelines for mounted troops. He said that the committee would have something more formal to present at the 2009 Line meeting.

Jim Stinson, Proctor's Artillery, gave the report of the Artillery Committee. He discussed the need for better communication between artillery and infantry. He discussed the proposed artillery safety change for signals to indicate when a gun is loaded or has had a misfire. These signals were then demonstrated. Jim reported that photos of the signals would be on the Line website if the proposed safety change was accepted. Jim noted that artillery safety would be reviewed at event officer meetings.

Mike Barbieri, Whitcomb's Rangers, reported from the Boat Committee. He indicated that the number of units with boats is growing. Mike reported that a new umbrella organization, The Age of Sail Maritime Alliance, had been formed. Dean Barnes and Kevin Richard/Morrow reported and introduced the new organization as representing American, British and French naval forces as well as civilian trade for the Seven Years War through the War of 1812. The purpose of the organization is to work with the existing reenacting community to represent the maritime interest of the hobby. The new organization will not be a member of the Continental Line, but a complimentary organization. Mike indicated that with the formation of the Age of Sail Maritime Alliance the work of the Boat Committee had been put on hold.

In the absence of Jim Garner, John Taber reported on the work of the Rifle Committee and the proposed safety change to require flash guards on rifles. John reported that at many events riflemen are operating in close proximity with one another and as a result have been burned by rifles throwing sparks during engagements. The proposed safety change is designed to address this safety issue.

Jim Casco, Whitcomb's Rangers discussed the proposed change to the bylaw concerning applicant members. A copy of the change was included in the information packet. The proposed change would indicate that the applicant unit would be the guest of, and field under the direction of the sponsoring unit and that if the applicant unit did not attend the next annual Line meeting it would lose its applicant status and not be considered for full membership. Jim indicated that the

reason for the proposed change was to prevent applicant units, who had not attended the annual Line meeting, from keeping their applicant status indefinitely and continuing to enjoy the privilege of attending Line events without being a full Line member. John Mills, Mott's Artillery suggested adding that units who have lost their applicant status could re-apply for membership. Jim said that he felt that it was implied and that a unit could re-apply for membership at the next Department meeting.

John Taber led a discussion of the 2007 events. No issues or problems were brought up. The successes of the major events were noted, especially the celebration at Mount Vernon.

Applicant units were introduced. Jim Stinson reported that there were no applicant units from the Mid-Atlantic Department. He reported that there had been no contact with the 7th PA and that their applicant status should be removed. Anne Henniger introduced the Spanish Louisiana Regiment and the 2nd Virginia Regiment from the Southern Department. Mike Barbieri indicated that there were no applicants from the Northern Department.

Units applying for permanent membership were then introduced.

Northern Department: Eames Rangers, sponsored by the 10th Massachusetts, Henry Cook spoke in favor., Crane's Artillery, sponsored by The United train of Artillery, Joe Giammarco spoke in favor., Royal Artillery Reg't Auxonne, sponsored by The United Train of Artillery, John Taber spoke in favor., 4th Massachusetts, sponsored by The First New Hampshire Regiment, Mark Richardson indicated that there had been no contact since Yorktown and that the application should be removed., Warner's Regiment, sponsored by Whitcomb's Rangers, Mike Barbieri spoke in favor., Tryon County Militia, sponsored by 2nd Albany., Herrick's Rangers, sponsored by Whitcomb's Rangers, Mike Barbieri said that the application should be removed due to lack of contact.

Mid-Atlantic Department: No permanent applicant units.

Southern Department: No permanent applicant units. Anne Henniger indicated that the 8th Pennsylvania would attend the 2009 Line meeting.

Applicant units then left the room during discussion by the membership.

Eames Rangers: Discussion centered around concerns about the unit's cooperation and willingness to take direction at events. Motion by Larry Gorecki, PA State Regiment to table Eames Rangers' application until the next Line meeting and have the 10th MA work with Eames Rangers over the next year to address issues of concern. The motion was seconded by the 11th PA and the motion carried.

Crane's Artillery, Royal Artillery Reg't Auxonne, Tryon County Militia and Col. Seth Warner's Regiment were all voted in as full members of the Continental Line.

Election of Officers

John Taber thanked all for their support during his tenure as Chairman of the Continental Line. He discussed the accomplishments of the past few years and remarked on the strength of the

Line.

A motion was made by the 24th CT for George Radecky of the 6th PA to be the next Chairman of the Continental Line. The motion was seconded by Jim Stinson, Proctor's Artillery. Brad Chetwynd, 2nd MA moved and was seconded that nominations be closed. George Radecky was then voted in as the Chairman of the Continental Line.

The meeting broke for lunch at 11:33 am.

The meeting reconvened at 1:06 pm. with role call, George Radecky presiding.

Jim Filipski of Selin's Independent Rifle Company indicated that the Unit wanted to do more early war portrayals and announced that the Unit would also be known as Captain Selin's Company of DeOttendorff Corp.

At 1:10 pm. The meeting divided in Department meetings led by each Department Coordinator.

The full meeting reconvened at 1:40 pm.

2008 events were discussed.

The Boone's Homestead event had been sanctioned by the Line in 2007. Monmouth was discussed and the Battle of the Hook, Gloucester, VA was presented. A motion was made by Paul Loan, 2nd PA. and was seconded by Bob Allegretto, 2nd Continental Light Dragoons for the Battle of the Hook to be sanctioned by the Continental Line. The motion carried.

2009 Continental Line Meeting, January 10, 2009, King of Prussia, PA.

2009 Jerusalem Mills, MD.

2011 Battle of Jersey, Island of Jersey, England

Department Coordinators highlighted 2008 events within their Departments.

Discussion and vote on proposed changes to the safety regulations and Bylaws.

1. All muskets must have a well fitting and tight metal flash guard. (page 6, The Lock #9, Continental Line Musket and Rifle Inspection Checklist). To be changed to: All muskets and rifles..... This change would be for a one year trial period and acted on permanently at the next Line meeting. Ken Miller, NJ Militia, motion to accept, seconded by Chip Gnam, 1st VA., motion carried.

2. Bylaw Change. Add the underlined passages to the current Article III, Section 1 of the Bylaws. Presented by Jim Casco, Whitcomb's Rangers.

The sponsoring unit(s) will invite the "applicant" unit to the Line field events for that year as its guest. At these events, the applicant unit will field with, or under the direction of the sponsoring unit, or another full member unit designated by the sponsor, and be observed as to safety,

authenticity and cooperation.

This representative however, shall not be present in the meeting room when the vote is taken. In the event that no member of the applicant unit is in attendance at this meeting, the unit may maintain its applicant status for one more year. If no member of the applicant unit attends the next annual meeting, the unit will lose its applicant status and not be considered for full membership at this meeting.

A motion was made by John Taber, United Train of Artillery and seconded by Sal Tarantino, 2nd Continental Light Dragoons to accept the change to the bylaw. The motion carried.

3. Proposed artillery safety change. Presented by Jim Stinson, Proctors' Artillery. This change would be for a one year trial period and acted on permanently at the next Line meeting.

Loaded Gun - Artillery, both in battery and battalion, upon completion of loading to have the #3 (Rammer) and #4 (Worm) gunners stand outside of the cannon wheels in a present arms position. The #1 (Firing) gunner will raise the linstock above their head, which will be the signal for a loaded gun ready to fire.

Cannon Misfire - When a cannon has misfired or its safety zone is violated, both #3 (Rammer) and #4 (Worm) gunners will cross both the rammer and the worm over the cannon barrel and the linstock will be lowered to the ground position. This is the signal to take just care to stay clear of the artillery piece.

A motion was made by Jeff Smith, 24th CT and seconded by the 1st RI to accept the proposed artillery safety change. The motion carried.

At 2:22 pm. John Taber made a motion to adjourn the meeting and the meeting adjourned.

The day's proceedings ended with the usual raffle.

Respectfully submitted by:

Bruce W. Batten, First New Hampshire Regiment, United Train of Artillery, substituting in the absence of Sam Ricco, the Adjutant of the Continental Line.