



Spring 2005 Officer Reports

Chairman's Report – Spring 2005

Dear Continentals,

After braking camp in the snowy climes of Annapolis, things have been warming up and jumpin. The minutes of that meeting have been posted and your Department Coordinator and Adjutant have made efforts to get some of you to return the CL Census and proof of insurance. Please respond and get your returns in, as it is the only thing that we “require” you to do to remain a member of this great organization.

Those happenings outside of re-enactments include a film shoot at Moores Creek NMP, which went very well. The shoot took place at night such as the battle. Members of the re-enacting community came together and we had a ball. They came from the CL, BAR-Southern Dept and BB. We had a ball and shared lots of laughs as we shivered in the cold night air. The film company made certain we were well fed and filled with hot coffee and/or chocolate so we could continue with our version of A Christmas Story and Monty Python.

An article, written by yours truly, regarding the CL appeared in the Sons of the American Revolution Magazine and the response has been positive. In a related item the CL-SAR Guide to Co-sponsored Events will be released shortly and we are looking to have this appear on the CL website to facilitate those interested in pursuing this. It's easy and fun to do. This past GW Birthday weekend, the First Virginia Regiment hosted a wreath laying ceremony in Alexandria, VA at the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier. Those taking part included the SAR and allowed us to put a personal touch to the remembrance of who and why we take part in this hobby.

I attended the North Carolina Society of the Sons of the American Revolution in Asheville, NC this past month and I received a certificate of appreciation in the name of the Continental Line for outstanding service to the American people and representing our patriot ancestors. The President General of the National Society, Hank McCarl, of Massachusetts, initiated this. It was present by the Secretary General and next President General Dr. Roland Downing of Delaware. I have also been contacted by the Daughters of the American Revolution to the procedure to getting a subscription to the Continental Soldier and possibly securing past volumes of the same for the DAR library in their HQ in Washington, DC. Folks, your work is being recognized. Huzzah!

Your Depart Coordinators have and will be contacting you regarding your 2005 CL Census report. Please take a few minutes to fill this out and forward them on ASAP. The CL has opened up a mail list which I affectionately call the “Officers' Mess”. The names and emails submitted on the census will be the ones used to make up the list participants. This mail list will be a great place for the CL units to keep in touch and share information regarding upcoming events as well as discuss issues at past events.

I look forward to seeing you on the field soon and do remain
Your most humble & Obt Sv
Jeff

Adjutant's Report – Spring 2005

Ladies & Gentlemen of the Line,

Firstly, I want to thank the members of the Continental Line for electing me to the position of Adjutant. I also want to thank Mark Magiera for his six years of service to the Line as outgoing Adjutant, and assisting me by bringing me up to speed. I still have a lot to learn, but I knew that when I became a living historian in 1991. Thank you Donah Crawford as well, for taking over the Soldier Newsletter. You have done an outstanding job so far and I look forward to future issues.

At this past January's meeting, I ran on the platform of redesigning the Continental Line's web site and improving communication. Since my appointment, I have had discussions with many of the unit officers about the Line's web site design. We decided that there was a definite need to bring the web site up to the 2005 standards for design, usability and accessibility. The first step in the process was to design a new layout, which was presented to the Chairman and Department Coordinators for approval. Once approved, I then built the redesigned site and launched the first phase of the site on April 1, 2005. Additional changes are in the works and will be launched in the coming months. Please feel free to let me know what you think of the new site at: adjutant@continentalline.org

Jeff Lambert, Chairman of the Line, put me in charge of getting a place where unit officers could talk and exchange information on the internet. I have created an invitation-only Yahoo group called the Officers' Mess. Officers of the Line are already members and during the coming weeks unit officers will be invited. The requirement for invitations is having your 2005 insurance and census form in my hands. I am hopeful that this will become a very useful tool for the Continental Line.

This brings me to the last point of my Spring 2005 report. I want to thank all the units that have submitted their 2005 insurance and census forms. Unfortunately, I am still missing many units' information. Please forward both to me ASAP.

Again I want to thank you for this honor and I look forward to working with each of you. Please do not hesitate to contact me on any issue.

Thank you,
Sam Ricco
Adjutant, The Continental Line, Inc.

Northern Department Report – Spring 2005

Greetings from the great (and until only recently) white north, It looks like the campaign season has arrived after a winter that saw the “Blizzard of ‘05” unfortunately curtail many from attending the CL annual meeting, and as I write this the echoes of the 230th commemoration at Minuteman National Park are still in the air.

The site staff at the Little Farm, the Danvers Alarm List, Tallmadge’s Troop, 2nd Dragoons, and the event planning committee are hard at work putting together a great event for May 21-22 in Newbury, MA. If you haven’t done so, be sure to register and get all the latest updates at www.battlefornewbury.org.

Following Newbury, our next sanctioned Dept. event will be on July 9-10 at Crysler’s Farm and Upper Canada Village, in Ogdensburg, Ont. This is a fantastic site, actually a War of 1812 battle site, but we are extended a warm welcome and guaranteed a target rich environment by the Northern Brigade. Cherry’s Co will be assisting on the Congressional side. As this event commemorates the 2230th anniversary of the invasion of Canada, early war dress has been requested. On-line registration is available at www.cryslersfarm.com

Moving on in the season we come to “The Defense of Redway Plain” at Rehobeth, MA on September 23-25, sponsored by the Rehobeth Minutemen, aka The 13th Continental Regiment. For more information and registration, go to www.2ndmass.org/redwayplain/

Our final department event of the season will be held at the Warren Farm in Chelmsford, MA on October 8-9. This event is in conjunction with Chelmsford’s 350th anniversary with Knox’s Artillery as host unit. For more E-updates, visit www.chelmsfordbattle.com.

Let me extend a formal welcome to the 13th MA Regiment and the 5th NY Regiment as full members of the Line. Herrick’s Regiment and Eames Rangers will no doubt be joining them soon as full members. I am also pleased to introduce Capt. George White’s Company of the 11th MA regiment, who are seeking CL affiliation and will be sponsored by Cherry’s Company.

To those of you who have submitted unit census forms and proof of insurance to the adjutant, my thanks. To those of you who have not, and you know who you are, please do so as soon as possible so the most up to date contact information is available.

A special thanks to the 2nd Light Dragoons, Danvers Alarm List, Cherry’s Co, 13th Contl. Regiment, and Knox’s Artillery for undertaking the responsibility of coordinating events. This is not always an easy thing to do and often much work is done behind the scenes to make things go smoothly for the participants. On behalf of us all who will attend and participate in the events made possible by your hard and often unseen work, thanks again.

I hope this note finds everyone well with complete sets of clothes, and full haversacks and cartridge boxes.

YHOS,
Bob Balcius

Mid-Atlantic Department Report – Spring 2005

The Mid-Atlantic Dept. has had a lot going on during the month of April.

I would like to thank Donah Crawford for putting on the Medical Seminar at Washington Crossing Park. All of the speakers were very interesting and the luncheon was wonderful. No one walked away without having their head and stomach filled at the same time.

There was a Market Fair at Hope Lodge for the first time this year and it was small but successful and hopefully in the future it will grow and become annual event.

Thanks to 2nd NJ, Helm's Co., and Morristown National Historical Park for hosting the 225th Jockey Hollow Encampment. We had a very fine turn-out of troops and the weather was beautiful especially for the men who worked on reconstructing the huts at the Pennsylvania Line.

We were lucky enough to pass through the Bound Brook weekend without a major downpour. Thanks again to 2nd NJ for sponsoring this event. We had some really good press in the local papers. The town treats us like royalty every time we are there and it is much appreciated.

This past weekend, the Mid-Atlantic Dept. put on a great show at Crooked Billet. We had a excellent militia interpretation. I would especially like to thank Mr. Eric Fliesher and the Craven Hall staff, which included two of our CL members, Anita Miller and Denis Cooke, Also, thanks to Mr. Paul Loane of the 43rd of Foot/2nd PA and Mr. Carl Szathmary of the 3rd PA for commanding the battles and putting on a very good show that the public very much enjoyed.

We are now looking forward to Oldwick which is a reenactors event and should give us a chance to really enjoy ourselves.

Just a reminder that there will be an artillery school at Washington Crossing State Park on the NJ side on June 11-12. There is a \$5 fee and camping is optional. This event will be sponsored by Lamb's, Mott's and the Royal Artillery.

The Battle of Monmouth has now been scheduled for June 18-19 and we will be able to support the Park for this annual event. The Mid-Atlantic is sponsoring this event and we hope for a good turn-out.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone and sharing the good times that we all have.

Patrick Jordan
MAD Coord.
Continental Line

Southern Department Report – Spring 2005

I am happy to report that they season is well under way here in the land of magnolias, azaleas, and of course fire ants and mosquito's. There are critters called "May Flies" but I feel certain that you will read more about them in the not too distant future.

We have in fact had several successful events already this year. A few of the members were at the annual event, in January, at Cowpens. Then on to the "Line" meeting in sunny Annapolis. Well the sun might not have been there but our own Mrs. Ann Henninger secured us a place for the meeting that was outstanding. For us from the deeper south the Ice and Snow just added to the adventure. However, it seemed to keep down the overall attendance from our area. The meeting went well, actually about normal. Once again the South hosted a hospitality suite, and since many were frozen in place at the motel, it was very well attended. Thanks to all who helped and attended.

We did have one event in February that the Line members from the Carolina attended, (6th NC, 2nd NC and 2nd SC). That was just out side of Charlotte at a remote and quite suitable site. It was a warm up to what we hope is a larger event next year; to commemorate the crossing of the Catawba River and the fighting that took place around Charlotte as part of the "Race to the Dan". Again, this is a very good site, and the event has a good deal of potential. We really hope that more will be able to attend next year on the 225th.

This past month in March, even more of the Southern units were together for what was a really pleasant Guilford Courthouse. After threats of snow and gloom and doom for the weekend, the weather turned off beautiful for not only the traditional Guilford one day, but for both days. The Carolina members as mentioned above were joined by Members of the First MD, and the 7th VA expanding the attendance for the Southern contingent of the "Line". That brings us up to date as to what went own during the cold of winter. Now to the future.

Charleston, the event that just keeps going and going, has appeared on the radar screen yet again. I was contacted by National Park Service at Ft. Moultrie. It appears that they feel left out of the celebration of the fall of Charleston, and have asked a few of us to come and encamp on the park that weekend. (May 13th and 14th) They are bringing one of the 18 pound cannons down from Yorktown and will be firing it during the weekend. Heck that is a thrill in itself. There is a tie in here to not only the Yorktown event, but also to the National Park assistance for the Event at Cowpens in January of 2006, which has already been voted on as a line event for '06. We are going to support these folks in their efforts. However, this is going to be done kinda quietly. There have been enough waves made with the other event there in Charleston, that we are not supporting, so again just us local "southern" folk. However, you folks from VA and MD, certainly had troops there and any of you Arty types who would like to do a little drill, and maybe and I emphasize maybe, get a chance to shoot and 18, the come on down. We have the space and the Park has the enthusiasm so if you want to see Charleston in the spring,

and camp somewhere, where the bugs aren't going to be angry at the intrusion, then "yall come on down now ya hear.

The last weekend in May, that would be Memorial Day Weekend, we have a memorial event, no battle, at a small state park right outside of Charlotte, in SC. That would be at Andrew Jackson State Park. It is in memory of Buford's Massacre by Tarleton's troops. The ceremonies on Sunday will take place at the church site where the wounded were taken, and the final ceremony on Sunday Afternoon at the location of the actual Massacre. The Park and their local supporters are cooking a fish fry for us on Saturday night, and feeding us lunch on Sunday. This should be a really laid back living history only event in remembrance of those who died there. You all are invited, and all that I ask is that you let me know who all can come so I can let them know how many to plan on feeding. And even then that can be a last minute kind of thing.

I'm sure that we all have our own favorite small events across the summer. However, don't forget that we voted to support the event at Camden, SC on the weekend of the 16th of August. This will be the celebration of the Battle of Camden, (225th) On Sunday morning, early, we are going to be bussed out of town and have the opportunity to actually do a battle on the actual site of the original battle. This property has just been purchased and very little improvement has been done. It is another of those all too rare occasions when we can do a reenactment on the original site at the original time with a 225 year offset. This site will be developed in the future, and you can be sure that regulations will never allow this to be done again. Put this one on your calendar for sure. For more information and to register go to camden225.org. This should be a really big event, and again we have the rare opportunity to actually fire our muskets and do a reenactment on the original site. Please help us with this one.

Lastly I am going to mention the 225th of Cowpens. I'm sure that you will be tired of hearing about this one before I get through. Yes it is in January, but January in South Carolina, so here is a chance to get a real jump on the '06 season. Again we are working on the original site. The encampment will be right in the middle of the battlefield. We will literally march across a small two lane country road and do the battles there. More details about that later. Remember this is one of the most studied battles of the war, and we get a chance to do it, in conjunction with NPS, on the actual site. They are bending over backwards to help us with this one. Sutlers on site, full encampment. You Cav guys, lets turn out in way big numbers for this one, it surely had Cav there in numbers at the original. The web site is to be up and running this week on this event. So look for the announcement of the ability to register on the Rev List in the very near future. Register early and reserve your spot for the event of 2006. Whoops did I say that. Guess I better mention that Jeff Lambert, you know him, talks a lot at the meetings, and Chip Gnam of the 1st VA, have very recently had some very productive meetings with the NPS at some place called Yorktown. They say that the Yorktown thing may be the event of the year in '06, but hey lets do the Cowpens thing on a major scale.

See you all soon. Or at least at Camden.
Herb

Western Department Report – Spring 2005

At this time the Western Department has 2 Full member units: (the 9th and 10th Virginia Regiments) and one applicant, (the 7th Pennsylvania from Minnesota).

There is one 225th anniversary event offering; the Battle of Peckuwe, which took place August 8, 1780. Raids against Ruddle's and Martin's Stations in Kentucky prompted Col. George Rogers Clark to lead a force north to stop the attacks at their source. The force consisted of Kentucky militia under Col Logan, and Regulars under Col Harrod, plus a six-pound field gun, about 1000 men in all.

The fortified village of Peckuwe, on the Mad River was home to Shawnee, Wyandotte, and Delaware Indians who were lead by Catahecasa (Black Hoof). As Clark's force approached in three divisions, Catahecasa evacuated his noncombatant dependents, and attempted to engage, but was driven into the cabins of the village. Clark set up his field piece on a nearby hill and began to cannonade the fort. As Catahecasa decides to sally out and fight in the open, Clark forms square around his field gun and repulses the attack. Native forces withdraw to the northeast, through a gap in some limestone cliffs so there is no pursuit. Clark orders the village and all crops burned, thus ending the attacks on Kentucky settlements.

The Commemoration will take place July 16-17, 2005 at George Rogers Clark Park, Springfield, Ohio, the actual site of the battle. This is an invitational event: all participants must be registered. The battle re-enactment will take place on Sunday at 2:00 PM. with a rehearsal on Saturday. Continental Forces will be under the command of the BAR-NWD, and will only portray troops that were present at the battle.

For more information see the website: www.grcha.org or email info@grcha.org.
Call: GRCHA Gathering House (937) 882-9216

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That's all for now

Thomas Edwards
WDC