



THE CONTINENTAL SOLDIER

The newsletter of the Continental Line, Inc.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Continental Line,

I hope your units have found the summer off-season fruitful, and that your members are ready to come out swinging. I would like to start off by recognizing the 24th Connecticut Militia for the herculean effort they put forth in hosting the Wyoming event with less than seven months of planning. The efforts put forth by Harry Stephens and his regiment show what a determined group of people can do in a short amount of time. We are all very grateful to the 24th for a wonderful event.

Speaking of events, in my previous letter I touched on that topic, particularly as a mechanism for retaining existing members and bringing in new ones. The Event Committee has been hard at work over the last nine months exploring potential new sites, as well as pre-existing sites previously used. Needless to say, the efforts have proven to be an uphill battle. Although there are a variety of reasons – some depending on a particular region, others depending on timing; one common factor among many of the sites researched is money. When asking a site (whether publicly or privately held) to host us for an event, it tends to cost them above and beyond their normal operating budget, for anything from port-a-johns to extra staffing to additional clean-up costs. All of these things and more can require an additional outlay of funds on their part. As Cicero put it, “money is the sinews of war”, and so too does it seem to be with the re-enactment of the War for Independence!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3 »

OFFICERS OF THE CONTINENTAL LINE

Chairman: Bob Healey
chairman@continentalline.org

Adjutant: Barry Greene
greenebg@comcast.net

Northern Department Coordinator: Barry Greene
ndc@continentalline.org

Mid Atlantic Department Coordinator:
 Harry Stephens – madc@continentalline.org

Southern Department Coordinator: Bert Puckett
sdcc@continentalline.org

Treasurer: Mitch Landin
cwcpacs@comcast.net

Past Chairman: Bob Allegretto
2dragoon@comcast.net

FROM THE EDITOR

We are actively seeking articles for our newsletter. Some topics include:

- The history of our member units for the newsletter, both the Revolutionary War history and the history of the re-enacting unit.
- Articles about aspects of the hobby.
- Descriptions of upcoming local and regional events should be sent as soon as available. We will publish information about Continental Line events in all issues, as long as we have information about the event. In addition, we will publicize all local events on a space available basis. Please note, the Continental Line DOES NOT sponsor local events, however, we are happy to disseminate the information.
- Photographs and AARs are greatly appreciated. See inside for photos of the Battle of Wyoming.
- Local points of interest, especially hidden treasures, with photos and a description.

Please provide all articles and feedback to me at kmpasko@comcast.net.

YMHS, Kathy Pasko, *Editor* | 6th Penna. Reg't | 14th Mass., Glover's Marblehead Reg't

Please distribute this newsletter to your unit members, if you are not already doing *so*.

FROM THE ORDERLY ROOM

Upcoming Events

Local and invitation-only events are listed as the calendar and space permit. Please send event notices to the editor at kmpasko@comcast.net. Those interested in participating in local or special invitation events should coordinate with the respective department coordinator for the event information.

Joint Continental Line/British Brigade National Events 2014

Mt. Harmon Plantation - October 25th & 26th, 2014

600 Mt. Harmon Rd. | Earleville, MD 21919

Sponsoring Units: 1st New Jersey & His Majesty's Marines

2015 Proposed Events

Old Fort Niagara “Rebels & Redcoats” - June 6th & 7th (Not the same as the Old Sturbridge Village event) | Youngstown, NY | Sponsoring Unit: TBA

Fort Ticonderoga - September 12th & 13th

30 Ft. Ti Rd. | Ticonderoga, NY | Sponsoring Unit: 2nd Light Dragoons, Tallmadge's Troop

No events currently approved.

Proposals actively solicited! Please send to: chairman@continentalline.org

MOUNT HARMON REVOLUTIONARY WAR REENACTMENT

October 25-26, 2014

Saturday

9:30 am	Armies form
11:00 – 1:00 pm	Non Public Battles. Public needs to stay out of battle area
11:00 am	Artillery demo - front of sutlers camp
11:30 am	Kids' Musket Drill - front of sutler area
12:00 pm	Court Martial EDC
1:00 pm	People of the Army - EDC
1:30 pm	Fife and Drum Music - front of Mansion
2:00 pm	Ladies Fashion Demonstration - (EDC or front of Mansion)
2:30 pm	Armies Form for Battle
3:00 pm	Battle
5:00 pm	Site closes to public
5:00 pm	Reenact or Flea Market
8:00 pm	Tavern at the Education Center

On-Going Activities:

- Spinner in the EDC
- Cooking demos in the kitchen building
- Surgeon demonstrations at their tents
- House tours



Sunday

Same on-going activities

9:00 am	Church Call - respective camps (come pray with the armies)
11:00 am	Artillery demonstration (front of sutler camp)
11:30 am	Kids' Musket Drill (front of sutler camp)
11:30 am	Court Martial EDC
Noon	Form for Battle
12:30 pm	Battle

On Going Activities:

- Spinner in the EDC
- Surgeon demonstrations at their tents
- House tours

BATTLE OF WYOMING AFTER ACTION REVIEW

Dear List,

I just want to extend a big thank you to Harry Stephens and the 24th CT as well as the 42nd Highland Regiment for hosting an outstanding national event this past weekend. I regrettably missed the first national Wyoming Valley event a couple years back and was eager to see what all the excitement was about. The site and scenarios did not disappoint; I truly got my fill of great action on both days.

The 7th Virginia turned out six riflemen for this event, (it was a 6 to 8 hour drive after all) and we were attached to the 2nd platoon of the Rifle Corps. Our platoon was commanded by Lt. Don Yost of the 1st PA who had roughly the same number of men from his unit. The 1st platoon comprised Donegal's Rifles and Morgan's Rifle Company and we were all under the command of Capt. Chuck Faust. Our total numbers for the weekend were 28 rifles on Saturday and 22 on Sunday (a damn good showing!)

This event, which was unique in several ways from "typical" national events, offers some fine examples of how to "jazz up" events in the future. Saturday morning was pretty relaxed with our first formation at 10 am. This was the head count formation..... At the end of it a small skirmish erupted between the camps, but many of our battalion

(rifles and New England militia) were without rounds, so we did not participate. Instead, we grabbed an early lunch and then went to the sutlers (luckily with our weapons and gear). Before we could return to camp to drop off our new purchases, we got swept up in a skirmish that was fantastic fun. We had been told to expect continuous action so I figured this was one of the skirmishes that were predicted. We joined the rest of the riflemen and marched towards the main battle area, then entered some woods where we made contact with the enemy. What ensued next was an hour of intense back and forth fighting that was an absolute blast!

It would be too difficult to re-count all of the details of the engagement, suffice to say that it was one of those that built up as more and more units arrived to join in. Early in the fight the two rifle platoons, which kicked off the engagement, became separated and I was quite fearful that the 1st platoon was going to become a "Lost Battalion" as I saw a lot of enemy wedge their way between our position and that of the missing 1st platoon. We got bogged down for a few minutes covering our artillery, which joined the fray, and I'm pretty sure we prevented the guns from being overrun a couple of times.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3 »

The timely arrival of a battalion of Light Infantry secured our left flank and allowed us to work our way to the right where we did eventually reunite with the 1st platoon. We took ground, and gave it up, and I thought everyone involved on both sides did an outstanding job of fighting fairly..... There was not a single “stupid” moment (you know, when some group refuses to give ground despite the situation clearly calling for it). The intensity of the fight was great and after awhile I started to wonder how much longer it could possibly go on. The answer was, much, much longer.

The fight, which felt like at least an hour, eventually turned into a stalemate as both sides emerged in the open and took strong positions. It ended with a parley and we marched back to camp, thoroughly drenched in sweat.

Ninety minutes later, we formed up to do the public battle.... Wyoming Massacre. The rifles had less than half their number, but I'd guess about 2/3 of the continental army reported for duty. I was told it was an optional fight, (I assume for the continentals as the crown forces needed to outnumber us).

This was a scripted battle.... we were destined to lose and lose big and we all knew it. It was pretty straight forward. We deployed in a long line across an open field, engaged the enemy to our front, were flanked on our right by a large party hidden in the brush, and overwhelmed.

I didn't fire much for this, but saw a lot of awesome scenes. First, the militia died in droves five minutes into the fight. Next, the rest of us broke and ran and were disorganized, it was first rate acting (from my point of view). I've often thought we should stage our public battles like this because what I saw Saturday afternoon was much closer to what I imagine a real battle was like than most reenactments (where nobody takes a hit for 20 minutes).

You see, we all had our fun earlier in the afternoon, so for this late afternoon fight, our mentality was to actually act. Guys took dramatic hits or fled in disgrace. Oh, and the attackers were great too. As the natives and rangers swept past our left flank screaming and yelling, a chill ran up my spine. It was Awesome!!

OK, this is getting long (big surprise right) so let me say I was exhausted Saturday night, but the troops from Jersey and the German Regt.

apparently weren't because they sung me to sleep (and apparently kept singing until 2 am).

We had a great morning tactical that again, went extremely well. It started off slow, we couldn't find the enemy, but we made our way to the wood line and took some pot shots at their camp. They immediately played the long roll and we were quickly off to the races. I have an indelible image of a native running towards that wood line at a dead spring, yelling in excitement. It was awesome and scary. Once again, the fight went back and forth. At first we found ourselves in a pretty tight fix, with enemy on three sides. In fact, at one point they were yelling at us to surrender because we were surrounded. The rifles and a company of the 2nd CT from Canada were forced into this pocket and were trapped..... temporarily. We had two choices, comply to their demands, or try to break out. We chose option 2, the whole force attacking one spot, and we broke out of the trap. It was great! Another 15 minutes of back and forth fighting occurred before both sides disengaged. Once again, a ton of fun!

We ended the event with an early afternoon fight (pushed up) to avoid the rain, out in the open for the public. This one had its moments, but nothing could compare to the back and forth of the two engagements in the woods. It was over by 1:30 and the public seemed to enjoy it. I was on the road at 3 pm, which was awesome, stopped by the site of the massacre as well as the Dennison House and Forty Fort and was home by 11 p.m., thoroughly exhausted, dehydrated, but content.

One of the things that I think is extra impressive about this event is that it was put together without the help of a historic site or organization (like a park or museum). In other words, no organization or site profited from this event, nor did they provide the usual financial and logistical support for the event. The folks from the 24th CT and 42nd Highland Regt. took it upon themselves to organize and pay for this event. That is an enormous job and I am very, very grateful for their effort. This will undoubtedly be one of the highlights of my summer.

Thanks Again for all the Hard Work,

All the Best,

Mike Cecere, 7th VA

Campfollower Impressions — Women of the Army, Part 2: Nurses Heidi Bock

A dedicated distaff who has been in the hobby since 2008, but started researching in 2006, because she fell in love with the 18th century.

In colonial America, tending of sick fell to the women in the family. Families with any patch of land would have a kitchen garden which would include herbs for medicines and flavoring. A woman might be lucky enough to have a book, like “The Compleat Housewife,” detailing “receipts” for medicines in varying degrees of effectiveness. Herbal knowledge was generally passed down through generations of women, with a great deal learned from the local Native tribes. Larger towns and cities would have physicians and apothecaries, but smaller settlements usually had at least one midwife, who not only delivered babies, but help heal the sick, and lay out those who had died. Once war began, these women took their skills to the battlefield--if they were brave!

Nurses were less structured in the beginning of the war, with only a few from the women following the army, but within a couple years, there was a dire need. General George Washington requested his officers to find and pay soldier's wives to tend to the wounded. One matron and 10 nurses per every 100 infirm men was the set standard. The pay was lucrative: 2 dollars per month plus a full ration, with supervising matrons receiving 4 dollars per month plus the ration. If a woman had children to support, she may be allotted extra rations depending on how many children she had. A nurse was expected to be clean, sober, and punctual, and to keep her charges clean, groomed, fed, and to attend to their every need. Chamber pots were to be emptied as soon as they were used; the wards swept out and sprinkled with vinegar a few times

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

Campfollower Impressions » CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

a day. If a patient died, she was to notify either the physician or matron on duty and deliver his things to the ward master. She was never to leave during her shift without permission.

Despite the good pay, it was a hard job to keep filled. It was difficult, dirty work, but it was the danger of death from illness like camp fever and smallpox that kept many women away. Mortality rates were almost as high for caregivers as it was for patients! The Continental Congress tried raising the pay to attract and retain women: in 1776, it was raised to four dollars a month, a year later eight per month. Desperate commanding officers would threaten women with ration loss if they didn't "volunteer" to become nurses. Sometimes, they didn't properly check who they'd hired. In New Jersey, April 1777, General Israel Putnam allowed Elisabeth Brewer, a newly-arrived woman from British occupied New Brunswick, become a nurse for his troops. Within two months, she was convicted of espionage.

Portraying a nurse is not as difficult as it may seem—just because there isn't a hospital building at every site doesn't mean you can't do it! There are Surgeon interpreters that you can work with in the Continental Line, but if that is not possible don't let it stop you. You can create your own "medicines" at home to display to the public, or grow herbs like yarrow, angelica, feverfew and valerian. Granted, this is if you want to include home medicine in your interpretation. For strict warfront, I recommend you keep yourself as clean as possible, even if it's only clean hands and face. Keep a kettle or two of water on the fire and a basin or bottle of white or cider vinegar nearby. Cut strips and squares of white muslin for "bandages"—linen was period correct, but in interest of cost use the cheaper fabric. Stain some of them with food coloring (washable) or red ink found at office supply stores (not washable) to mimic blood. Having extra basins or bowls with natural sponges is very useful. Find a shady spot or an extra dining fly to set up your "hospital". Cots make decent enough beds, but straw laid out on the ground with some blankets would be better. If you don't have enough blankets, that's fine—hospitals during the war were frequently short on blankets and you can tell the public that your poor charges have been without for months! Or, your volunteers can bring their own.

Next, find some volunteers within your circle of reenacting friends. Folks who like to nap before or after battles are good for this role, as are "theatrical" or ham types. For the former, just have them lie out on a bed and take their respite, perhaps with a bloody bandage around their head, arm, or leg. For the performers, have them play an active patient—complete with moaning and belly-aching. Depending on your relationship with the volunteer, you can help them eat or swab their brow with a nearby basin and sponge. If you are feeling particularly ambitious and are talented with theatrical makeup, you can put sores, cuts, and pustules on your patients.

Next time, we cover the next female-held duty, one that we all dread in modern day: Laundry.

» CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As such, to discuss this and many other issues, the Continental Line held its first Board meeting in several years this past August. Over a period of six hours, event sites were the most discussed topic. After careful consideration, the Board has decided to propose a change to the existing by-laws of the Continental Line that would institute a \$50 per Member Unit dues per year. While some Member Units may find this very reasonable, the Board is under no misconception that there will be Units that may find this distasteful. Unfortunately, we must deal with the reality of the changing environment of the re-enactment hobby as a whole. It is one thing to have a conversation with a site and offer them \$1,000 for an event (the maximum the line normally gives for an event) and quite a different conversation when that number is \$4,000 (roughly eighty Member Units times \$50 per unit). From the perspective of a public site, the difference could cover the cost of additional employees it would need to cover maintenance and clean up for the event. From a private site perspective, it would allow Member Units to have events without "paying to play". Imagine, if you will, a Mt. Harmon event in abbatis and full breastworks, or the 240th of Yorktown at a private site with real extensive lines of trench works.

It bears mentioning that we are not the only group experiencing this and looking for a solution to the problem. This January, our British Brigade counterparts will be in a meeting room next to ours discussing a similar topic. For those Member Units who feel this by-law change is unnecessary, I would ask you to take the next several months to truly examine the reasons for it. Poll your members and explain it to them. I've always found one of the strengths of our membership to be its reasonableness and the ability to constructively overcome challenges. If you have real concerns, the Department Coordinators, myself and your Adjutant, Barry Greene are always available to discuss it with you.

During the August board meeting, the subject of safety was the second most discussed topic. It has been intimated to me and other members of the board that the Continental Line is becoming lax on this subject. Obviously, this is of great concern as we all know that one safety violation affects not only the Unit or person in question, but also all of us who enjoy the hobby. In order to address this issue, the Board will be suggesting the creation of the administrative position of Provost. This person will be on hand to be an expert in Line safety regulations. They would be tasked with insuring that the safety standards of the organization are upheld and to deal with issues that may arise. As these acts may require the person who holds this position to at times make difficult decisions, the board feels the position should be appointed rather than elected. Because of this, the board also feels that the position should not have a vote on the board. You will see both of these outlined in detail in the language of the suggested by-law changes included in this newsletter.

Also on the subject of safety, the topic of horse and cavalry was also discussed. For the past several years this arm of the Continental Line has grown steadily in strength and size, and with that growth has come increased activity and interaction on the field. In the previous issue of *The Continental Soldier*, attention was given to changing the black powder guidelines in order to cover and allow what was already in practice for the horse. Giving these changes further review, the point was made that what we were trying to achieve was a bit cumbersome and really did not cover the full scope of the role of the cavalry. I would like to take a minute to thank John Taber of the United Train of Artillery for spending the last year really driving this point home to me. There has been circulating for the past year a document known as *Guidelines for Mounted Re-enactors*, a document that was created with the input of ALL of the cavalry units on both sides of the field. Originally this was supposed to be an unofficial reference material that units could

FROM THE CHAIRMAN » CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

use to keep themselves safe. However, it is now felt that this document should be submitted to the Line to become canon. As such, we will submit for approval the Guidelines for Mounted Re-enactors.

These guidelines were a labor of love; as mentioned above, all of the horse units had input. They include portions of the previous guidelines that were never passed, authored primarily by Bob Allegretto of the 2nd Regiment Light Dragoons and Glen Garwood of the 4th Legionary Corps, in addition to the new practical rules of engagement heavily influenced by Dan Murphy of the 3rd Dragoons and Jess Phillips of the 17th Dragoons. While these guidelines are too large to include in this issue of the Continental Soldier, they will be posted Continental Line website (which is currently undergoing a facelift for debut in January) for Member Units to review. It is hoped that these rules will codify all of

the new and existing guidelines as well as create a safe environment for our mounted troops and horses to interact with everyone on the field.

I know this must be a lot to digest; by nature the hobby is not one that is quick to change, but these changes have been a long time coming. I will be at Mt. Harmon if any of you would like to speak to me personally. I am also extremely accessible by phone or email, as are most members of the Board. I look forward to seeing you all in a few weeks.

Your Friend and Colleague,

Bob Healey

4th Legionary Corps

Chairman, Continental Line

PROPOSAL FOR DISCUSSION AND VOTING AT THE 28TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONTINENTAL LINE

All proposed changes are in *italics*.

An addition to the By-Laws under **Article III. – Membership** **“Section 4 – Dues**

Each Member Unit shall pay an annual dues of \$50, due no later than before the opening of the annual meeting. Failure of any Member Unit to pay dues by the aforementioned date shall result in that Member Units’ inability to register or participate in Continental Line sanctioned events for that calendar year. If, during that year, the Member Unit satisfies its dues, it shall be allowed to register and participate in sanctioned events the following calendar year, provided it also satisfies its dues requirement for that year as well.”

An addition to the By-Laws under Article V – **Section 4 – Duties of the Administration**

“Provost: *The Provost shall be responsible for the implementation and adherence of the Line’s safety regulations including but not limited to the Black Powder Safety Regulations, Artillery Field Safety Signals, and Regulations For Mounted Re-enactors at all Continental Line sponsored events. The Provost shall address safety issues during events sponsored by the Line, and may make recommendations on safety practices, protocol and guidelines.”*

Linked with that change will also be:

A change under **Article V – Section 1 – Composition of the Administration**

From:

The Administration of The Line shall consist of one Chairman, one Adjutant, one Treasurer and one Department Coordinator for each Department within The Line. In addition, the immediate Past Chairman of The Line shall be a voting member of the Administration.

To:

“The Administration of The Line shall consist of one Chairman; one Adjutant; one Treasurer; one Provost; one Department Coordinator for each Department within The Line; and the immediate Past Chairman of The Line. The Board of Directors of The Line shall consist of the Chairman, Adjutant, Treasurer, the Department Coordinators for each Department, and the immediate Past Chairman. The Provost shall not be a voting position or a board position”

And:

Under Article V – **Section 2 – Election**

From:

The Chairman, Adjutant and Treasurer shall be elected at the annual meeting by a simple majority of the member units present. The Department Coordinators shall be elected by the member units of their respective departments at a time and place determined by that department.

To:

“The Chairman, Adjutant and Treasurer shall be elected at the annual meeting by a simple majority of the member units present. The Department Coordinators shall be elected by the member units of their respective departments at a time and place determined by that department. The Provost shall be appointed by the Chairman.”

As well as:

An addition at the end **Article V – Section 3 – Term of Office:**

“The Provost shall be appointed for a two (2) year term and will serve at the pleasure of the Chairman.”

An addition at the end of **Article V – Section 5 – Vacancy:**

“In the event of a vacancy in the position of Provost, a new one shall be appointed by the Chairman at the soonest appropriate time. Any individual chosen to fill the office of Provost shall serve the remaining term of that office.”

UNIT HISTORIES

Brief Histories of member and applicant units will be presented in this and subsequent newsletters. Descriptions of the original unit composition and actions are desired, as well as the history of the re-enacting unit.

Colonel Ogden's First New Jersey Regiment

Gregory Fields, Jr.

The First New Jersey Regiment was part of the famed "Jersey Blues". Before the outbreak of the American Revolution, the colony of New Jersey relied on provincial troops to defend its borders from attacks by Native Americans and European rivals. When the colony of New Jersey was called upon by Parliament to raise troops during the wars with France, including the French and Indian War, they provided volunteers that formed the New Jersey Regiment. They became known as the "Jersey Blues" due to the uniform that was assigned to them by the New Jersey Provincial Legislature. Their uniforms consisted of blue coats with red lapels, facings, and cuffs, red waistcoats, and blue breeches. The harshness and isolation of operating in the wilderness of New York and Canada left many of the men's breeches wanting and so buckskin or leather breeches were sometimes worn and were also authorized. They assisted the British regulars throughout the war in constructing defenses and garrisoning forts and outposts and in some cases providing a rear guard. All future New Jersey regiments would then hold the nickname "Jersey Blues" in honor of these men.

When fighting occurred in New England, the Continental Congress, on October 9, 1775, authorized the raising of two regiments to fight against the injustices and atrocities being committed against the 13 Colonies. During this early part of the American Revolution, the regiment was also known as the First or Eastern Battalion of Foot of New Jersey or simply the Eastern Battalion of New Jersey since the troops were recruited from this area. It joined the newly created Continental Army under the command of Colonel William Alexander, also known as the Earl of Stirling for his unrecognized claim to Scottish nobility.

One of the first actions of the 1st NJ was to secure Long Island in New York and disarm or otherwise contain the Loyalists in preparation for the defensive fortifications and units that would be stationed there.

Long Island was to become the scene of the largest battle of the revolution. "Lord Stirling" was promoted to General and command of the Jerseys was given to Colonel William Winds. Stirling would go on to command the right flank of the Continental Line at the Battle of Long Island. His forces saw the heaviest fighting of the battle and personally led the 1st Maryland Regiment in repeated attacks against the British line, for which he became famous. Unfortunately, the 1st NJ did not participate in the battle as they were ordered to support the Continental campaign for Canada in May 1776.

During the Canadian campaign, the unit suffered due to disease, poor supplies, and fatiguing work. Elements of the regiment may have been involved in the debacle at Trois Rivieres (Three Rivers). With the press of the Crown forces south of Canada, the Continentals retreated, eventually fortifying Fort Ticonderoga and Mount Independence.

Some of Jerseymen were drafted to serve in Benedict Arnold's flimsy flotilla opposing the forces of Guy Carleton during the Battle of Valcour Island. The battle resulted in heavy loss of life and the complete destruction of Arnold's fleet but delayed Carleton's forces long enough for the Continental Army to secure their position at Fort Ticonderoga. When the troops' enlistments ran out in November of 1776, Winds encouraged them to head home instead of remaining beyond their reenlistment period. The regiment withdrew from Ticonderoga and returned home. While many of the regiment's men went home at the conclusion of their enlistments, others reported for duty and assisted Washington and the main army. About 40 men of the 1st New Jersey helped lead a vanguard for Sullivan's attack column during the Battle of Trenton.

In January of 1777, the Continental Army went through a restructuring process. The newly reorganized 1st New Jersey Regiment, Continental Line was placed under the command of Colonel Mathias Ogden. Ogden had been a Brigade Major for Benedict Arnold during the earlier phase of the Canadian Campaign of 1775-76 and served as Lieutenant Colonel with the unit prior to taking command. The Jerseys would go on to participate in some of the war's heaviest fighting. The regiment rejoined its sister units under the newly appointed Brigadier General William Maxwell. Maxwell had been Colonel of the 2nd NJ Regiment prior to being promoted to Brigadier General. Henceforth, the regiments of NJ would fall into the same brigade together and be known as "Maxwell's Brigade" and later the Jersey Brigade. In early 1777, the Jersey brigade helped keep British incursions into the state of New Jersey in check. Stirling's command, including Maxwell's Brigade, fought a hotly contested battle at near Metuchen Meeting in June that became known as the Battle of Short Hills. In August, Ogden's 1st New Jersey and Dayton's 3rd New Jersey participated in a retaliatory action against Loyalist units on Staten Island under the command of Major General John Sullivan. After this, the two units headed south to thwart an anticipated Crown forces offensive against the Continental capital.

Maxwell's Brigade joined Washington's main army during the Philadelphia campaign where they attempted to block British General William Howe's force during the Battle of Brandywine. The brigade was attached to Lord Stirling's command on the Continental's right flank. It was here that the Crown forces launched their flanking maneuver and nearly rolled up Washington's entire army. The successful intervention by General Sullivan's troops, the presence of Marquis de Lafayette (who was wounded in battle), and the stalwart defense by the troops in Stirling's command (including the 1st NJ) allowed the forces of Washington to escape total destruction. Unfortunately Philadelphia was captured later that month and was held by Crown forces until June of 1778. During the occupation of Philadelphia, both Washington and Howe probed each other for weaknesses. One of these probes resulted in the Battle of Germantown in which the 1st NJ participated. The battle is best known for the repeated unsuccessful assaults on the Chew House (also known as Cliveden). The 1st NJ was among the units that were involved in the attack. These assaults proved costly



for Washington's army as it delayed their advance long enough for the Crown forces to reorganize and reinforce their positions. The 1st NJ, along with the rest of the army, withdrew into winter quarters at Valley Forge until the weather improved. It was here that the Continental Army was trained by Baron Friedrich von Steuben.

William Howe was replaced by Henry Clinton as commander of the Crown forces in Philadelphia in May of 1778 and withdrew his forces a month later. Washington sent an advance force, including the 1st NJ, into New Jersey to monitor the Crown forces' withdrawal back to New York City. Opportunity presented itself for the newly trained Continental Army to attack the rear of Clinton's army at Monmouth Courthouse, NJ. The 1st NJ under command of General Charles Lee opened the engagement and then later helped cover the retreat of Lee's forces. While considered a draw, the battle ended in a much needed moral victory for Washington's forces.

The 1st NJ spent the next several months watching over northern New Jersey and New York City and engaging in intelligence operations until the summer of 1779 when it was assigned to the Sullivan Expedition. The expedition's mission was to destroy the Iroquois Confederacy's ability to support their British allies in attacking the countryside of northern Pennsylvania and western New York. The expedition only led to one major engagement, the Battle of Newtown, on August 29 during which the Iroquois were routed. Sullivan's forces destroyed much of the land and agriculture the Iroquois produced which led to many withdrawing to Canada and dying of starvation. However, the expedition did little to alleviate the attacks in the countryside and is considered by many to be a failure. The 1st NJ then returned to New Jersey to spend their winter quarters at Morristown, NJ where one of the worst winters ever was experienced. Officers of the regiment played important roles in securing food and provisions from local officials and Jersey residents to help supply the army during what would become known as the "Hard Winter."

The regiment would fight their last major engagements in New Jersey at the Battle of Connecticut Farms, the Battle of Springfield and outside Morristown, NJ as the Crown forces attempted to attack Washington's position in June of 1780. Maxwell's Brigade, along with some NJ militia, succeeded in thwarting these attacks.

The following month saw Maxwell resigning his command over the Jerseys with the unit going through a third restructuring later that fall. Colonel Ogden retained his command over the First but was briefly captured in November 1780.

The 1st NJ was involved in the mass mutiny of the Jersey Line in January, 1781. The mutiny was put down through use of force. Later that year the regiment would see some of its men transferred to Virginia to act as light infantry under the command of Lafayette. When British General Charles Cornwallis became trapped at Yorktown, VA, the rest of the regiment followed and participated in the siege. Cornwallis surrendered his army in October of 1781 and the unit once again returned north. The 1st NJ spent another winter at Morristown, NJ in 81-82. The rest of the war was spent providing garrison duty in the Hudson Highlands in NY. The regiment was officially disbanded in November of 1783 following news of the Treaty of Paris.

The recreated First New Jersey reenactment group was created in January of 1994. Its original members, who are still with the unit to this day, include Steve Patacity, Glenn Schumacher, Larry Schmidt, Bill Davis, Conrad Quinn, Evan Rudge, and Tom Vogeley. Mr. Vogeley has been the unit's commander since its inception and continues to be its Captain. In 2001-02, the unit established its regimental hospital with Marjy Weinkop as its surgeon. The first nonpaying event the unit attended was the School of the Soldier at Peter Wentz in April of 1994. Other memorable events the unit attended include reenactments held in Quebec, Canada in both 1994 and 1998 and a brief affiliation with Princeton University from 1995-97 where the unit encamped on school grounds. This year will mark the unit's 20th Anniversary and will be celebrated during the reenactment at Mount Harmon Plantation in October of this year. This will be the fourth year in a row that Ogden's Jersey Blues have hosted this splendid event and encourage all to attend.

Many Thanks To

- Tom Vogeley, Unit Commander
- Larry Schmidt, Senior Member



The Continental Soldier Newsletter
934 County Road N, Stoughton, WI 53589



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**28th Annual Meeting
of the Continental Line, Inc.**

Crown Plaza Valley Forge Hotel
260 Mall Rd, King of Prussia, PA

January 11, 2015

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.CONTINENTALLINE.ORG