



# The Company Informer

Rebellion to Tyrants is Obedience to God

April, 2003



## A quick word from the Commanders tent....

Good day to you all.

As you know we are at war. I can't help thinking of our Men and Women fighting for our freedom. Everyday I take a moment to reflect upon the days' events. I have cursed the barbarians in Iraq, shown my disgust with France, Germany and Canada, the Russians ... no surprise there, and cried for the Marines butchered by cowards. I have thought about Vera and Joe our own members fighting for our Peace and Freedom. With them and all of our Military personal and their families...you have my most heartfelt appreciation...thank you!

Humbly yours Captain Stephen A. Johnson  
Commander 5th Conn. Rgt

*When in England at a fairly large conference, Colin Powell was asked by the Archbishop of Canterbury if our plans for Iraq were just an example of empire building by George Bush. He answered by saying that, "Over the years, the United States has sent many of its fine young men and women into great peril to fight for freedom beyond our borders. The only amount of land we have ever asked for in return was enough to bury those that did not return."*

*It became very quiet in the room.*



## Vive le Roi

*Our own Keith Jones visited France and helped commemorate happier times avec le Belle Alliance. His report:*

American hereditary societies were guests of the French SAR/DAR to honor the 225th anniversary of the French treaties that first recognized our country.

Among the unforgettable thrills were: our own parade down the Champs-Elysee to the Arc de Triumph during rush hour traffic [!], private candlelight tour of Versailles, cocktails at the US Ambassador's residence, luncheon at the French senate's reception room of Luxembourg Palace, etc,etc. But the real honor was for the 5th CT. Two companies of the 5th were under Lafayette's leadership the night of October 11, 1781 at Yorktown during the moonlight raid that captured British re- doubts 9 & 10. Tom Traue designed a nice certificate of thanks from the regiment that I framed to present to a descendant of the Marquis. It turns out that the

Regent of the French DAR is none other than la Comtesse Pusy de la Lafayette, the oldest living descendant. As I was informed that Madame Comtesse spoke no English, I engaged an interpreter and presented the certificate to her at a luncheon. She was in her 80's and remained seated the whole time. Her only words were "Parlez vous, Francais?" to which I replied that I did not, then kissed her on both cheeks and gave her the award (applause). The next day at another luncheon she materialized at my side, and in perfect English thanked me for the gift and said that she gave it to her son, who has strong, who has strong interest in military things.



## Washington's Birthday Ball

Thanks again to Steve and Toni Johnson for planning our annual party. Great fun, food and dancing! Toasts were raised, with the most excellent Port donated by Keith Jones, to his Excellency George Washington, our Regimental leadership, and our brave soldiers past and present. Our own Jesse Effros took the floor delighting us with a variety of humorous awards followed by the

major event; the presentation of the Soldier of the Year Award. This year bestowed most deservedly upon Tony Bruno with Joe Hukill receiving many grateful kudos from our commander as a worthy runner up.

This years NCO's were elected as well. Our commander Steve Johnson will perform double duty as our Sergeant and Paul Carmen shall step in this year as Corporal.

A number of invited guests honored our gala including Rick & Rose Swarhout of the 6th Connecticut, Susan & Mike Alcock of Delancy's Brigade and Karen & Bill Hayes from the Lebanon Town Militia. We are delighted to have these fellow travelers grace our soirée helping to establish, and reestablish, closer relations with our Connecticut brethren in the hobby.



## **The New Coatee takes Shape**

On March 15 Henry Cooke held a clothing workshop at Portland Library. The purpose was to assist all interested members in obtaining raw materials, being properly measured and receiving instruction on sewing the new Blue and Red regimental coatee.

The event was well attended with over 15 coats being measured and prepared for final construction. Reports are that all Regimental participants behaved themselves nicely except for the occasional nasty spat over possession of the sharper scissors.

In a conversation I had with Henry afterwards he expressed shock over the size of the 5CR....not in terms of numbers, but in general Height and Girth.

Apparently we set a record for the most square yards of fabric per soldier! The result was a complete utilization of every scrap of available fabric. Henry has ordered more of the custom made material and hopes it arrives in time for a follow up workshop on April 5. More information on that to follow. In the meantime Paul Carmen has just

posted Coat Instructions on the website in the 'Publications' section.



## **Events**

### **Update**

#### **School Show in Ansonia RETURNS!!!!**

Huzzah to Tom Traue for getting our annual school show back on in Ansonia. They offer a generous payment to us and we beg members for a good turnout. The date is Friday June 13 between 8:30 and 2:00.. The school requests at least 10 reenactors and 5 to 6 education stations

#### **Urgent Cancellation**

Due to the lack of State funding it is most regrettable that the Newgate show scheduled for early August has been cancelled. I know the entire regiment has enjoyed this event and venue and it is hoped that we can return as soon as practicable.

#### **Keith Jones the liaison for our encore show at Ridgefield provides the following preparatory information:**

From 10-4 on Saturday, April 26th, the 5th will encamp at Ballard Park, on Main Street in the center of Ridgefield. This is a paid show during which we are to educate the public, work on our drill, and actively recruit new members. We will perform memorial volleys at three sites in town, and will be free to walk the town at leisure (lots of folks remember last year fondly and we will be treated like celebrities).

At 4:30 I have arranged free beer and nosh at the 18th century Elms Inn taproom across the street. Then at 6-10 there is a costume ball with food, drink and dance (Peter Leibert) at our new Historical Society (1713 saltbox).

Since the 5th will be the only re-enactors invited, I am counting on a big turnout. And we could use

some serious drill before Monmouth. Set-up will begin at 8:30 that morning and Mike Zap & I could use some help.

### *An important Change in Schedule*

The Putnam Park Memorial HAS BEEN CHANGED from May 31~June 1 to October 25~26, Jim Freebairn remains the regimental liaison for this event

### *Confirmation of the Garrison Weekend Dates from Mike Filler, liaison*

The date is June 7-8th. Strawberry Banke museum is a great site and the town of Portsmouth, N.H. has much to offer including the following RevWar Sites of interest in New Hampshire.

**Fort Constitution (formerly Fort William and Mary) New Castle - Portsmouth**  
The first military installation on this site dates to 1632. This early fort was followed by a timber blockhouse in 1666. Cannon and a breastwork were added in 1692. The breastworks remained unchanged until the time of the Revolution. Each was a rampart of turf three feet high protected by a seven foot stone wall. Batteries of guns were clamped to wooden platforms and fired through window-like openings called embrasures. The fort was updated in both the 19th and 20th centuries. On Dec. 14, 1774, following a little-known ride by Paul Revere, Portsmouth's Sons of Liberty, accompanied by Rye and New Castle Patriots, seized the British stronghold in Portsmouth Harbor. 98 barrels of powder (approximately 5 tons) were removed. The next night a small party led by John Sullivan carried off sixteen pieces of small cannon and military stores. These were later used by the New Hampshire troops at the Battle of Bunker Hill. The sloop Canceaux arrived Dec. 17, followed two days later by the frigate Scarborough with 40 guns and 100 British marines. This prevented further raids. By the summer of 1775, Royal Governor Wentworth, Lady Frances and their infant son took refuge in the fort. They lived there two months before being evacuated to the Boston. Admission Free, self guided tour.

### **Strawbery Banke Museum, Portsmouth**

The museum has more than forty buildings from the period 1695 to 1950 on 10 acres of historic waterfront. Of note are the 1762 Chase House, 1780 Wheelwright House and the William Pitt/Earl of Halifax Tavern. In 1777, with revolutionary fervor running high, a Portsmouth mob attacked the Earl of Halifax Tavern. Tavern keeper, John Stavers, along with 14 other wealthy, Portsmouth residents thought to be sympathetic to the King, were arrested and charged with opposing American Independence. Following payment of a substantial fine and his release, Stavers changed the tavern's name to the William Pitt, a more neutral moniker. Interpreters present 18th century cooking, coopering, boat building, pottery and other crafts. Other periods are also represented, including a World War II era, family-run grocery store. Hours: Daily 10 - 5. May - Oct. Admission \$10; over 65, \$8; ages 7-17, \$7; family rate \$25.

### **John Paul Jones House, Middle and State Streets, Portsmouth**

The house was built in 1758 by Capt. Gregory Purcell. After his death Purcell's widow operated the house as a guesthouse. Capt. John Paul Jones lived in the house while supervising the outfitting of the *Ranger* in 1777 and again while the *America* was being built. Chin, silver, glass, portraits, costumes and a model of the *Ranger* are displayed. Hours: Mon. - Sat. 10 - 4, Sun. Noon - 4. Admission \$4; over 65, \$3.50; ages 6 - 14, \$2.

### **American Independence Museum, 1 Governors Lane, Exeter**

The museum is housed in the 1721 home of John Taylor Gilman, the Colonial Governor of New Hampshire. The house held the state treasury from 1775 - 89. In addition to furnishings belonging to the original family, the museum contains the **Badge of Merit** awarded to David Bissell and an original copy of the Declaration of Independence. The site continues to serve as a hall for the Society of Cincinnati. Hours: Tues. - Sat., 10 - 4, Sun. Noon - 4. Admission \$4; over 64, \$3; under 19,



**A first hand report of the Action  
this January instant on the Constitution Island**

So here we were, the three of us, Pvt Keith Jones, Pvt Tom Castrovinci and Pvt Mike Zap (the elder), the only remnants of the original 5th CT Regiment to have crossed the Hudson from Constitution Island to West Point. The day was bitter cold. A small fire burned to keep us warm and to provide for the cook to prepare a warm meal. We waited anxiously for any site of the enemy, and for orders to cross the frozen river. Luckily there were no enemy in sight when the order from Col Jim Johnson came. The 5th CR was to lead our column (including 6 of our comrades from other regiments) across the narrow point on the river. The brief march down the steep hill of the island was fraught with peril of snow, ice and hidden branches. We succeeded in our descent with no casualties, and out onto the ice. Crossing the shoreline crusted ice gave ponder to how thick this ice really was! The creek's, groans and grunts of the ice were all too apparent to we soldiers. But march we did. That is until we met the area that was too thin and the opened to water by those blasted 21th century ice-breaker barges. So, with faint consternation, we returned to the island and sent off a good number of volleys over the river just to let them know we were there and we meant business. Back to camp and a good hot meal of venison stew, bread, baked delights and hot cider (I never miss a meal even in the face of battle). We then crossed to the other end of the island to inspect the anchorage of the soon to be built great chain. All looked in order, so we sent another few volleys into the air to scare off any enemy scouts that may think the island was theirs for the taking. Back at camp we listened to speeches about the importance of the island and the hand we would all play or did play on that fateful day of January 25, 1777 in the founding of Fortress West Point. After our fill of speeches and venison stew, we made our way (via shuttle bus) back to the mainland (Cold Spring, NY), and to the nearest

tavern for additional refreshments to be had with our comrades in arms. Maybe we can persuade our comrade Pvt Jones to share his pictures on our Web site.

Your humble servant, Pvt Mike Zap (the elder)



**Washington's Spring of  
1778: Getting the Army Moving**

**Again !**

**[...imagine if he had to deal with CNN and Katie Couric !]**

General Washington to Congress  
Valley forge, March 24, 1778.

.....I have this whole Winter been clearly of opinion, that Genl. Howe's movements would be very early this Spring to take advantage of the Weak state of our Army, or late, if he expected considerable reinforcement from England and meant to avail himself of his full strength.

If the first takes place, as appearances indicate, it may I think be considered as a proof of one or both of these two things; that he is either well informed (he cannot indeed be otherwise) of the situation and more than probably the strength of our Army, or that he expects no considerable reinforcements this year from Europe. In either case it is our indispensable duty to reinforce and arrange our Army, as speedily as possible, that we may in the first Instance be prepared for defence. In the second to take advantage of any favourable circumstance, which may happen to injure the enemy.

Whatever may be the designs of Congress with respect to the establishment of the Army, I know not but do most earnestly and devoutly recommend a speedy adoption of them, and the appointment of Officers, as our present situation at this advanced Season is truly alarming, and to me highly distressing, as I am convinced that we shall be plunged into the Campaign before our arrangements are made and the Army properly organized....

As it is not improper for Congress to have some idea of the present temper of the Army it may not be amiss to remark in this place that since the Month of August last between two and three hundred Officers have resigned their Commissions and many others with difficulty dissuaded from it. In the Virginia line only, not less than Six Colonels as good as any in the Service have left it lately, and more I am told are in the humour to do so. Highly advantageous also would it be if the Recruits and draughts from No. Carolina and Virginia were not Suffered to Halt on their way to Camp (under pretence of getting equip'd) but sent forward and incorporated into the different Regiments of their respective States, as soon as it could be done. Out of the number of Men said to be draughted in Virginia last fall and others from No. Carolina very few have joined the Army, but owing to desertion and other causes have dwindled to nothing, and this will always be the case with new recruits (especially those who are unwillingly drawn forth) if much time is spent in getting them to their Regiments under the care of proper Officers; this shews the necessity, if the Season, and other powerful reasons did not loudly call for it of hastening them to the Army.

My Sollicitude for the preservation of the communication of the No. River gives me very uneasy Sensations on account of our Posts there, and will excuse my again asking if the Troops to the Northward except such as are necessary for the defence of Fort Schuyler can be so advantageously employed as at the Works on that River. A respectable force at those Posts would awe New York and divide Genl. Howes force, or expose the City. To depend too much upon Militia, is in my opinion putting every thing to hazard.

If I should appear uncommonly anxious, respecting the several Matters contained in this Letter by repeating them, Congress will do me the justice I hope to believe, that I am actuated by no views but such as are prompted by circumstances, and the advanced Season. With the greatest respect I have the honor, etc.



## Today's 18th Cent. Euphemism

**Addle-pate** - An inconsiderate, foolish fellow.  
"What addle-pated officer ordered THIS maneuver



## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome into our ranks two new recruits for the 2003 campaign

### **Albin Weber**

You can say that in general, new recruits have 'found a home' in the 5CR. In the case of Albin Weber it was his home that found him a place in the regiment. Albin's interest in 18th c. history began when he purchased 'the oldest house still standing [c. 1738] in South Britain.' Many years of painstaking restoration led to an even greater interest in "American History and Colonial Values". The clincher was some friendly persuasion by his neighbor, our own Sandie Tarbox, at the Hurd House event last year. Sandie prudently swayed Albin from his initial Loyalist leaning by suggesting that any Patriot spirits yet residing in his home might take umbrage at his bearing arms for the wrong party. Albin has invited his whole family to join him in the hobby and we look forward to meeting them all as spectators or participants. Oh yes, against my better judgment I feel obliged to reveal Albin's enthusiasm and ability to produce period Cider, Beer and spirits... I hesitate as he most certainly shall be assaulted at every event by the most pathetic looks of soldierly longing from the Regiments many, many well known dry mouthed and hollow legged men-at-arms!!!

### **The Parkhurst Family**

Welcome back to John, Arlene and their sons Jason and Ethan. The Parkhursts are former members having served 1978 - 1983. After their departure they helped formed the 7CR until a transfer to Michigan. There they were seduced by the tyrannical forces of the dark side joining the 84th

Highland Regiment where Jason, [obviously serving against his own free will] was a drummer. Returning to Connecticut in 1990 they became involved in the Wilton Historical Society and decided a reinsertion into the hobby and the BAR might be a good idea. So, once again in the Cause of Liberty, the Parkhurst Regimental is out of mothballs, the muskets are off the wall and once again in steady veteran hands. Glad to have you all back with the upper party.

### Quartermasters Note

Speaking of new recruits, QM Hukill has pointed out that any member who has never received a 5CR welcome packet should notify us. This packet is an excellent source of 5CR knowledge and all members should be acquainted with it.



## CAMPAIGN OF 2003

RIDGEFIELD SHOW - Sat April 26. **PAID SHOW**. [Keith Jones]

BRIGADE SCHOOL - April 26 & 27.

6th ANNUAL TRAINING DAY - May 3 & 4.  
Lebanon CT [\*]

FIRELOCK MATCHES - May 17 & 18. [Jesse Effros]

### MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Sat May 24th **PAID SHOW** - Simsbury  
[Tom Angels]

Mon. May 26 Pine Meadow Memorial Day  
ceremony [John Aherns]

GARRISON WEEKEND - June 7 & 8. Strawberry  
Banke NH [Mike Filler]

MARCH OUT OF VALLEY FORGE - Weekend  
June 21 & 22 [\*]

SCHOOL SHOW - **PAID SHOW**. Ansonia,  
Mead School, June 13 8:30 - 2:00

BATTLE OF MONMOUTH June 28&29.- Big  
Three.[Tom Castrovinci]

JULY 4th - **PAID SHOW** Groton parade. [Toni &  
Steve Johnson]

NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT - Ft. Lignior, PA.  
NEWGATE - Cancelled

BATTLE OF RHODE ISLAND - Labor Day  
Weekend Aug 30 & 31. Big Three [Steve &  
Toni Johnson]

STRATFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY -  
September 20 - **PAID SHOW**. [Tom Traue]

FREDRICKSBURG, Pawling NY - Weekend  
September 20 & 21 [Jesse Effros]

WATERFORD CT - **PAID SHOW** Typically the  
first weekend in October. [Steve Johnson]

NEW BRIDGE LANDING, River Edger NJ - Oct 1  
& 12 [\*]

PUTNAM PARK MEMORIAL - **NEW DATE !!!!**  
Oct 25 & 26 [Jim Freebairn]

\* Denotes when attendance is encouraged though the event is  
not formally sponsored by the Regiment

[ ] Name in brackets are Regiment liaisons.

This is a full schedule giving all the members every opportunity to present the 5th Connecticut Regiment to the public and do honour to our country's history. We ask that as many members as possible plan on attending PAID SHOWS. We need to respond in numbers and enthusiasm to the kind invitations we have received. As you all know the Regiment needs the revenue generated by these events in order to sustain our enjoyment of this great hobby.