



The Company Informer

Rebellion to Tyrants is Obedience to God

January, 2003



ANNUAL WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY BALL

You are all invited to honor his excellency George Washington in celebration of our most honorable Commander in Chief's Birthday.

A splendid time is guaranteed for all!

When: Saturday February 22, 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Where: BPOE, 142 Seaside Avenue, Westbrook

Price: \$ 20 per person. Includes Hors d'oeuvres, salad, pasta, roast beef, roasted red potatoes, chicken, and vegetables, served family style (all you care to eat). Dessert is also included. Cash Bar will be available.

It is a large well accoutered ball room which can accommodate 100 people Dining will be set in a friendly horseshoe arrangement.. Acres of open floor for which Tom Traue has engaged the services of Peter Liebert for contra dancing.

If we have a February thaw, you may go for a nice moonlight stroll on the beach, as the lodge overlooks the water. For those of you envisioning an old smoky lodge, this is not it. It's a very popular wedding spot.

Please bring your lantern as a table decoration to add ambience. RSVP to Steve Johnson at 860-848-8162 or to Toni Johnson @ t.johnson@theday.com or phone at 860-701-4312.

We need to give a firm headcount to the proprietor by Monday, February 10th. Submit your check in payment to the 5th Connecticut Regiment to the attention of Paul Carmen, 223 New Litchfield St, Torrington, CT 06790

Directions:

Off Rt. 95S, take Exit 65 RT 153 Westbrook. Turn Left onto RT 153 Essex Rd. Travel approx .6 miles. Bear Right onto US 1 West, Boston Post Rd. You pass Ye Olde Dunkin Donuts on your left. At Stop light take Left onto Seaside Avenue. BPOE is on your Left.

Off 95N, take Exit 65 RT 153 Westbrook. Turn Right onto RT 153 Essex Rd. Travel approx .6 miles. Bear Right onto US 1 West and as per above.

Any questions please contact Toni Johnson.

Annual Meeting

A well attended annual meeting of the 5CR was held on January 19th in Newtown. An enormous volume of topics were covered. In other sections of the Informer is information on the Washington's Ball, the Event Schedule for 2003 and the wrap up from two of the longest standing committees in 5 CR history; tent markings and mid-war Regimentals.

In addition:

The 2003 board was submitted and voted into office.:

Commander: Steve Johnson

Asst. Commander: Tom Traue

Paymaster: Paul Carmen

Adjutant: Tom Castrovinci

Quartermaster: Joe Hukill

Commissary in chief: Toni Johnson

Assistant Commissaries: Trish Soucy & April Carmen

Members at Large: Tom Ouellette, Jesse Effros and Tony Bruno

After the meeting a number period artifacts were available for inspection as well as the presentation of the new Regimental coat by Tom Linskey.

It was great to mix valued comments from experienced members with the enthusiasm of new members.

A number of new recruits were also in attendance with wide eyes and many questions!

For the Distaff...

Sandra Tarbox recommends the following Website

<http://brigadeofguards.org/distaffkit.html>.

Looking forward to Monmouth?

The big 225th event has a website running at

<http://roadtomonmouth225.com>

If anybody has any other good resource sites to pass along...please contact Tom 7.

"My ancestors fought in the revolution but all I got was this lousy Tee-Shirt"

Speaking for the newer members to the Regiment...why weren't we told about the T-Shirts? At the annual meeting it was suggested that, to make some extra money, we sell off our inventory of "5th Connecticut Regiments RevWar Tour T-Shirts". I think every member who joined after 1999 was interested in buying one. I checked in with QM Hukill. Here's the count of what's in stock [less the one XL size I already reserved for myself]

Blue - 3 x M, 11 x L, 6 x XL Gray - 8 x L

I guess the Blue are for Northern Connecticut and Gray for Southern?

THE CAMPAIGN OF 2003

CONSTITUTION ISLAND - Sat Jan 25. As we go to print, this 225th anniv. of the founding of Fortress West Point. is back on schedule.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY BALL - February 22nd. Westbrook CT.

STONY POINT - March . Cancelled

RIDGEFIELD SHOW - Sat April 26. **PAID \$HOW**. Despite conflict with the Brigade School it was decided that the Regiment has a clear obligation to support this event. Overnights are invited but not required, so members may easily attend the Brigade school on Sunday. KIETH JONES is liaison.

BRIGADE SCHOOL - April 26 & 27. Experienced members encourage all newer members to attend this event.

6th ANNUAL TRAINING DAY - May 3&4. Lebanon CT. CCMA Connecticut School of the Solider and Distaff :TRAINING DAYS. This event was proposed after the annual meeting. No formal endorsement by the Regiment but we are invited and encouraged .

FIRELOCK MATCHES - May 17 & 18 - We are encouraged to attend and develop safe handling habits, full understanding and comfort with our firearms. JESSE EFFROS is liaison.

SCHOOL SHOW - **PAID \$HOW**. Simsbury school show could not be arranged this year. Tom Traue is talking again with the Mead School in Ansonia but any other suggestions are URGENTLY invited. **This is a key revenue source and no show is as yet confirmed.**

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

- 1) Sat May 24th **PAID \$HOW**- Town wide event in Simsbury. A "a mini-Ridgefield". TOM ANGELS is liaison
- 2) The Pine Meadow Memorial Day ceremony traditionally attended by the 5CR. Contact John Aherns.

PUTNAM PARK MEMORIAL - Weekend May 31 & June 1. JIM FREEBAIRN is liaison.

GARRISON WEEKEND - June date is unclear. This is a CL show in Strawberry Bank, NH. MIKE FILLER is liaison

MARCH OUT OF VALLEY FORGE - Weekend June 21&22 - due to busy schedule during June, the Regiment is not sponsoring this event though members are encouraged to attend and fall in with other regiments.

BATTLE OF MONMOUTH June 28&29.- THE big 3 event for 225/2003. Another Saratoga! TOM CASTROVINCI is liaison.

JULY 4th - **PAID \$HOW**- We are invited again to the Groton parade. Possible coordination with events at Ft Trumbell or Ft Griswold is being considered. TONI & STEVE JOHNSON are liaisons.

NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT - Ft. Lignior, PA. Weekend July 19&20. This BAR event will not be sponsored by the 5CR but attendance is optional and encouraged.

NEWGATE - **PAID \$HOW** Aug 2 and/or 3. Exact date to be determined. It is pending whether the State or 'Friends of Newgate' will run an event this year. PAUL CARMEN is liaison.

BATTLE OF RHODE ISLAND - Labor Day Weekend Aug 30 & 31. Another 225th event. STEVE & TONI JOHNSON are liaisons.

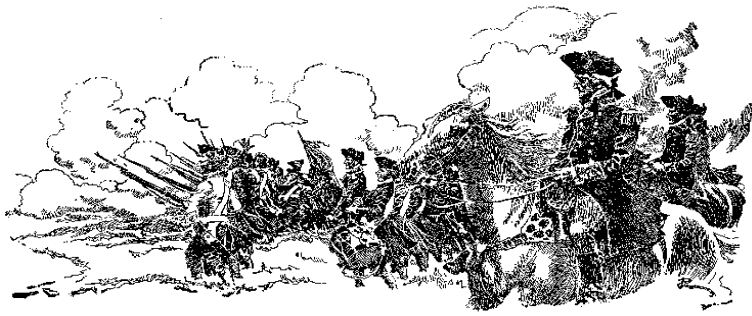
STRATFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY - September 20 - **PAID \$HOW**. TOM TRAUE is liaison.

FREDRICKSBURG, Pawling NY - Weekend September 20 & 21 - JESSE EFFROS is liaison

WATERFORD CT - **PAID \$HOW** Typically the first weekend in October. This event may cover any combination of eras from F&I to Civil War. Steve Johnson is developing more information.

NEW BRIDGE LANDING, River Edger NJ - Oct 11 & 12 - This BAR show not sponsored though members are encouraged to attend.

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.



Our own Daniel Morgan....

Huzzah to our Tony Bruno who has done Yeoman's work keeping the regiment's van in good working order. With all due respect to Daniel Morgan, we have our own 'Old Wagoner' in Tony.

At the annual meeting Tony gave us an update on the regimental workhorse. A new spare tire has finally been obtained and a variety of ingenious devices are being considered to utilize roof carrying capabilities thus alleviating the chronically cramped storage space. The idea of obtaining a trailer was well received by the membership. A trailer could be used to carry more equipment, but just as important, give us a protected storage space to leave behind equipment not needed for a particular show. This might be smarter than taking everything, everywhere, all the time!

Of course there are limits to just how many Stone the old wagon can carry...the driver can only peddle so fast up those steep hills! Thanks again to Tony 'The Old Wagoner' Bruno for taking on this job.

Tent Stencil Report

Another long standing committee has made it's report! For a significant period of time, research has been ongoing as to the proper method for stenciling our camp tents. This has been a key subject being given attention by the entire Brigade, so once again the 5th Connecticut is in the van. Mike Filler, Ed Wittkofski and Tom Linsky presented at the annual meeting the form and method by which our tents will be stenciled. According to thorough research, each tent must be folded with the properly stenciled ID visible for efficient storage and reuse. The BAR has been encouraging this practice which is sporadically used amongst the Lobsters but not yet found with the American Forces.

Each tent stencil will include 3 components. Every tent will be marked with BRADLEY'S REGIMENT. Next, each group of 6 tents will be marked with the name of the appropriate COMPANY. Finally each tent will be given a NUMBER designation. Further tests and trials are yet to be undertaken, and the final decision to proceed with stencils on the tents has yet to be finalized. But if approved by the Command, a stenciling exercise is certain to be part of some future 5CR show.

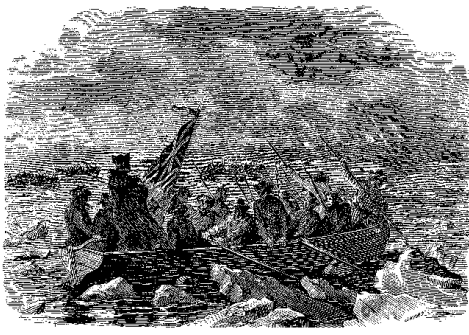
Time to Turncoat?

The select committee on determining the appropriate mid-war Regimental coat revealed their final product during the annual meeting. With all due diligence the committee, led by Tom Linskey, and supported by the exhaustive research of Henry Cooke, provided to each member a detailed report on how the design for the jacket was developed. The objective of the committee was to design an accurate portrayal of the coat worn by the 5th Connecticut during the time under the command of Colonel Bradley...essentially 1777~1781. The coat itself is short, made of blue wool with scarlet facings. The buttons are roped USA. The craftsmanship and fabric used is minimal to accurately reflect the dire shortages which pertained during the mid war period when Bradley was in command. Turnbacks are nonfunctional to save labor costs on button holes [the distaff had a loud AMEN to that]. The lining is partial with a mind that soldiers would wear a sleeved waistcoat beneath for necessary warmth. There is evidence which indicates the small clothes for our regiment would be green. Tom L, had lots more to say during the presentation. So any member wishing to see a copy of the full report, ask any questions or to arrange a viewing of the finished article, should contact Tom Linskey or Tom 7 in the adjutants tent.

Paymaster Report....Dues are Due!

Last year the Regiment netted \$3,000 for paid events! Now for the bad news... Our operating expenses exceeded receipts by a significant amount. Some good reasons for this. The 5CR Quartermaster made significant new purchases for our armory. Also, a continued growth in membership means added cost for administration, food, communication &tc. Some ideas were suggested to improve our financials; sell T-Shirts, offer Buttons & Balls at shows; procure food in bulk and make certain our donation bucket is out and visible at all events. Another key cost saving is communication by e-mail. Not terribly 18th century I know [in our hobby the epitaph "How Retro" is a compliment!] but passing the word electronically will save substantial cost. As the campaign year progresses the Adjutants office will be conversing with each member to determine on how reliably they access email. We do have the phone tree but that is as slow, expensive and cumbersome as a British Brigadiers Baggage! In any case we must treasure every farthing in order to avoid the pernicious insolvency of our own CONGRESS!

Accordingly, as specified in the Regimental by-laws, all members are required to submit their dues in full to the Paymaster by March 1. If you haven't paid up, please send your payment of \$35 for individuals and \$40 for families out today to the Fifth Connecticut Regiment, attention Paul Carmen, 223 New Litchfield St, Torrington, CT 06790. Remember the allotment of powder to each Man at Arms is subject to his dues being promptly paid in Full.



As we pull our warm comforters up around our chins tonight....some history to think about.

The following section of quotes comes from "The Spirit of Seventy-Six," edited by Henry Steele Commager and Richard B. Morris.

"The army was now not only starved but naked; the greatest part were not only shirtless and barefoot, but destitute of all other clothing, especially blankets. I procured a small piece of cowhide and made myself a pair of moccasins, which kept my feet (while they lasted) from the frozen ground, although, as I well remember, the hard edges so galled my ankles, while on a march, that it was with much difficulty and pain that I could wear them afterwards; but the only alternative I had was to endure this inconvenience or to go barefoot, as hundreds of my companions had to, till they might be tracked by their blood upon the rough frozen ground. But hunger, nakedness and sore shins were not the only difficulties we had at that time to encounter; we had hard duty to perform and little or no strength to perform it with. The army continued at or near the Gulf [Gulph] for some days, after which we marched for the Valley Forge in order to take up our winter-quarters. We were now in a truly forlorn condition – no clothing, no provisions and as disheartened as need be."

From our own Joseph Plumb Martin....

Private Yankee Doodle, J.P. Martin.

"...we have now little occasion of few men having more than one Shirt, many only the Moiety of one, and Some none at all; in addition to which as a proof of the inability of an Army under the circumstances of this, to perform the common duties of Soldiers (besides a number of Men confined to hospitals for want of Shoes, and others in farmers Houses on the same Acct.) We have, by a field return this day made, no less than 2898 Men now in Camp unfit for duty because they are bare foot and otherwise naked...."

From the Commander in Chief.....

George Washington to Congress, Dec. 23, 1777, Valley Forge

"I do not know what is done in the clothing department; but it is certain that half the army are half naked, and almost the whole army go barefoot.... Now we have hardly been here six days, and are already suffering for want of everything. The men have had neither meat nor bread for four days...."

An interesting bit in this missive...it's nice to be from a well-to-do colony relatively close at hand.....

George Washington to Continental Congress War Board, January 2, 1778
Head Quarters, Valley Forge, January 2-3, 1778.

It would be a happy circumstance, if the Cloathing from Virginia was made up, that it might be delivered to the Troops from thence. I believe there will be little, nay none for any other part of the Army, after they are supplied, supposing such to be the wish of the State. Their views do not extend only to such of their Soldiery as are now in Camp, but to their Men in Hospitals and the recruits or drafts who will join hereafter; And I am satisfied, should any of it be appropriated to the use of others and their own troops want, there will be disgust and dissatisfaction. From the Letters I have received upon the Subject, it is particularly mentioned that the supplies which the states procures, are intended for their own Men and this is agreeable to the Idea entertain'd by the other States.

The Connecticut Troops now here, have received from thence more necessaries of an essential nature than their present wants require and these are kept for their future demands. As to Blankets, I really do not know what will be done. Our situation in this instance is peculiarly distressing. I suppose that not less than from 3 to 4000 are now wanted in Camp, Our Sick want, Our unfortunate men in captivity want. I gave Doctor Shippen an order some time ago for 400, said to be coming from the Eastward; whether they have been received or not, I cannot tell. To relieve in one quarter, is to distress in another, and I do not see that any of those sent from Virginia, can be possibly spared from the Troops here.