



# The Company Informer

Rebellion to Tyrants is Obedience to God June, 2003



## SIMSBURY MUSTER

Loads of thanks to go around for a wonderful day spent on the Simsbury Town Green. As in the olden days military preparedness blended with social gathering to make the mustering of the local militia into a town festival.

Thanks to:

**Tom Angels** for being the regiment's liaison with the townsfolk, acting as provost marshal moving things along efficiently all through the day.

To 5CR members who gave special presentations: **John Aherns** [Life of a soldier]; **Jill Padelford** [spinning exhibition], **Sandie Tarbox** [fashion show], **Donna Corio** [crafts] and **Tom Traue** [drilling the young recruits]

To the **Town of Simsbury**, especially the local library and historical society, for stepping up and bringing history to life... and inviting us all to help.

To our hobby brethren, the **Lebanon Town Militia, the 6<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Regt and the Prince Of Wales Royal American Artillery** joining us in the muster.

To **Paul Carmen and Steve Johnson** for putting in much needed time and energy getting the Fifth's drill up to snuff. Not only the standard Steuben, but also a taste of the militia's Pickering drill.

To **Jim Freebairn** for supplying the musket balls and 5CR buttons which enjoyed brisk sales all through the muster

To **Mike Filler** for being a preacher willing to, quite nimbly, stick his finger in the touchhole of the Price of Wales' cannon. Finally to all the 5CR members, **men-at-arms and distaff** who turned out despite foreboding weather and put on a great show. We look forward to Simsbury fulfilling it's promise to repeat the event next year and to expand it into a two day affair.



## 5CR BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the board was held on May 18<sup>th</sup> in Meriden. Quite a number of topics were covered. Here are some bullet notes;

§ **Tent Markings** – The process did not commence at Ridgefield as hoped due to the rains. So, Toms Traue and Linskey will themselves undertake marking the tents. They will do so in a staggered manner, assuring that we will have sufficient tentatage available while the process is underway.

§ **A new hat** design is under consideration to coordinate with the proper time period of our Blue & Red coatee.

§ **Ft Griswold has agreed** to host an encampment in conjunction with this year's Fourth of July parade in Groton. Steve and Toni Johnson will coordinate and keep us all advised.

§ **Newgate – All is not lost.** Some further maneuverings by the Friends of Newgate have given new hope for getting this event, and dedicated 5CR site, back on line next year. More info on this will be available as negotiations evolve.

§ **Paymaster's Report** - Paul Carmen reports that since incoming funds are arriving as anticipated we have been able to financially operate through the early part of this year without dipping into our savings fund.

§ **Quartermaster's Report** - Tony Bruno reports that our equipment has been reorganized in the van. By removing extraneous items, we have spare room and the essentials fit comfortably. The need for a complete inventory of 5CR equipment was discussed. Generally such an inventory has been done during a van clean up event. We have not had one for some time and it was considered that this fall would be a good time to organize such a project.

It was arranged for John Aherns to make powder available at the Simsbury muster

There was discussion of the regiment's musket inventory and questions as to whether any were for sale to members. The inventory stands at 2 old Charelevilles, 2 new Besses, one 1777 Militaire of questionable service and a 6<sup>th</sup> musket out for repair. The board deemed that this is an adequate complement and none are offered for sale at this time. It was agreed that the Regiment however should offer source recommendations, price guidance and pool purchases as necessary to help any member who want to purchase a firearm. [See article below]

§ **Adjutant's Report** - The necessity to improve communications with the membership was discussed. We are trying to get information out to all members as effectively as possible. Email does work well but we cannot confirm that all messages SENT are messages READ. Also we still do not have an effective way of passing on all the simple day-to-day chatter & housekeeping messages to people who do not access email. This may be as many as 2-3 messages per week and thus too cumbersome to continually use the regiment's phone tree. One idea was to develop a mini-phone tree for those who do not have, or do not wish to rely, upon email. Do any of the email orphans have any other suggestions?

Liaison Duties -A new list of instructions will be made available to all event liaisons. We are extremely grateful when members step forward to take on this job because it is so important to the well being and organization of the regiment. We do ask the liaisons to please take responsibility for the following:

1. Communicate with the Commander well in advance of an event and discuss any special considerations or instructions.

2. Check with the Adjutant to be certain the unit is properly registered with the event organizers, provide information for dissemination and work together to promote attendance.
3. Provide the best possible attendance estimate. If necessary, feel free to make phone calls and charge cost to the 5CR. In the case of Paid Shows the use of the phone tree or other direct voice communication with the members should be considered mandatory.
4. Contact the Quartermaster 1-2 week prior to the event and provide him with the estimated head count and guidance regarding van requirements, set up and break down needs, tentage and special equipment required [note that the van has been organized thus we should not assume ALL the equipment is in the van ALL the time].
5. Contact the Food/Distaff Coordinator 1-2 weeks prior with headcount and help decide quantity, type and preparation of food required.

**§ Distaff Report.** - Provisioning the troops was discussed. In particular the challenge of balancing adequate food preparation vs. costs. Toni Johnson noted that it is difficult to plan a hot meal program without preplanning and added cost. The board felt the distaff should continue doing their excellent work as the best they can and fully realize that whatever is put out is very much appreciated. If the distaff feel a hot meal is possible then a simple One Pot menu is deemed more than adequate. We will attempt to improve pre-event planning [see new liaison duties] and communication so that distaff can plan for meals while simultaneously providing the proper 'portrayal' aspects of interest to the public. Men-at-arms should continue to assist by cleaning their own utensils and help with kitchen labor and food preparation as much as possible. The board continues to invite any request by the Distaff for support in all duties related to the extremely important campfollower aspects of our presentation.



## COLONIAL CAMPS

As you know, day camps are very popular during the summer months. Historical Societies in some communities sponsor such summer activities and promote them by using a Colonial Camp theme. As your adjutant, I have contacted a few such towns to see if we can contribute. Not only could this be a good teaching opportunity, but it would also help introduce the multi-dimensional 5CR living history program to some new town partnerships. Greenwich has specifically asked for the 5CR to make one 45 minute presentation in each of their two colonial camp sessions. They are scheduled for 11:00 am on Monday July 7 and July 21. I will give a soldier portrayal and invite one or more distaff to join in at each session. Some ladies have already offered to help. There is a fee offered. If you have any questions or wish to confirm your interest please contact me at 966-7651 or [tcast@amsyn.com](mailto:tcast@amsyn.com)  
Thanks Tom 7



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**§ Garrison Weekend** – We are all looking forward to our next event at Strawberry Banke on June 7 & 8. to honor Portsmouth's contribution to the war effort and to celebrate the French Alliance. Over 200 reenactors are slated to attend. For more info see the April INFORMER or go on line to [www.strawberrybanke.org](http://www.strawberrybanke.org). There will be a drill competition on Sunday and Commander Steve feels it appropriate for the 5CR to field a team.

**§ School Show** – June 13. This is one of the most important events on our calendar. Please contact Tom Traue if you can help. Look for more specific information and instructions from Tom 2 over the next several days.

**§ Monmouth** – June 28 & 29. The first big show of the year. Go to [www.roadtomonmouth.org](http://www.roadtomonmouth.org) or [www.monmouth225.com](http://www.monmouth225.com) for more information. The latter has a full listing of registered units. The committed turnout has already surpassed 2,000! Note the 5CR may not be found yet on the list of attending units, but rest assured we are fully registered and they are expecting us to fill our spot in the line. Monmouth was a major engagement for the Fifth Connecticut Regiment during its second organization so I am sure we will hold some place of honour. See descriptions of the campaign from both Crown and Rebel perspectives latter on in this INFORMER. Tom Castrovinci is the liaison so please contact him for more info.

**§ Fourth of July** - Now to include the Groton Parade AND Ft Griswold encampment. Steve and Toni Johnson are liaisons.

**§ NEW ! Conflagration of Norwalk** July 13-14 – A trial run for the 225<sup>th</sup> commemoration next year. Though not officially sponsored by the regiment Tom Traue will be organizing a contingent to attend on one of the days of the event. Those wishing to join will be taking the field under a 5CR officer. Please await further instructions on this event.

**§ ELABORATION -Putnam Park** As we have mentioned there will be a Memorial event on October 11 & 12. Jim Freebairn our liaison wanted us to make clear that this is a 225<sup>th</sup> Commemorative event.



## PAST EVENTS

**§ School of the Solider, New Windsor** - Several 5CR members attended the event this year. I personally can speak for Sunday which included informative seminars and an athletic [to say the least] exercise in Light Infantry tactics.

**§ Firelocks Competition** -Gene Frechette filed the following report:

I was the only one from 5th at the Firelock Match and came in 9th (out of 22) in aggregate score. I was only shooting my musket, so it isn't so bad considering that the aggregate also includes people in the rifle and pistol matches. High score in the 25yd slow fire match for musket.

The event is a lot of fun. This is very friendly and helpful bunch and not a high-end competition where people are on edge. Anybody with questions or who needs help will find it

available. Cooperation and fun is the idea. It's been perhaps 12 years since I last fired live with my musket. It always is a learning experience finding out what the guns are going to do. I used to compete at skeet and rifle/pistol so I adjusted real quick. The muskets can be really accurate if you work at it. I surprised a lot of people who have never seen me shoot live before :) Never did a BAR match although I shot with 5CR at Black Rock back about 12 years ago and prior to that I practiced with my musket for deer hunting---and have been using a flintlock rifle for deer for perhaps 15 years. One of the CCM members hit a target at 200 yds with a Charliville. That had a bunch of luck attached as it was the target paper (large to be seen at 200 yds) not in the black.

But you should still make up rounds and go to one of the firelock matches. It is fun and you will get a better feel of what the musket will and won't do. Just go and have fun.



### FIRE ARMS PURCHASES

If any member in the market for a fire arm please feel free to contact a board member for advise and to discuss the possible advantages of buying through the regiment. Also stay in contact with other members who may also be looking to buy soon. Perhaps some price leverage via a pooled purchase might be feasible. A posting on the Regiment's website is a good tool in this regard. I would take this opportunity to mention that I am currently shopping for a Pedersoli Charleville. I had a good experience with Flintlock's Etc up in Massachusetts who are a direct Pedersoli importer. Their quote for a fully assembled musket, in stock, is \$845. Other members have spoken highly of Bob Allegretto as a good arms dealer, but I do not have a quote from him yet. If anyone has a better price or wants to share ideas or pool purchases please contact me.

Tom 7



### ACTIVE DUTY SALUTE

Tom Angels received this note recently from our own Staff Sergeant Vera Richardson...

Hey Tom,

*I just want you to know that I made it to Kuwait safely. It is extremely hot here. It has been 120 degrees the last 6 days I have been here. Right now we are getting acclimatized as well as waiting for our equipment to arrive before moving up North for our mission. We do not know exactly where yet. I got to see camels while I am here. That was pretty cool.*

*I also want to tell you that I finally have my teaching certificate. I just finished my student teaching before they called me up. SO when I get back I can look for a job. I am so excited.*

*Tell everyone I said hi and I miss everyone of them. Can't wait to see all of you again. Well I'll talk to you later.*

*Vera*

PS

*Here is my address.*

*SSG Vera Richardson  
248th ENGR CO  
130th EN BDE  
APO AE 09302*

We know Joe Hukill is out there too somewhere and our thoughts and best wishes are with him, Vera and all our other service men and women serving so well on the front line.



### MEMBER NEWS

§ Get well wishes to **Bruce Sheftel** who suffered a heart attack and is now home recovering.

§ Also we were glad to see **Mike Zap the Elder** returning from the corps of invalids and back into the line at Simsbury. He looked no worse for wear after a severe bout with kidney stones.

§ We dropped the ball on this in the last publications but hearty, if belated, congratulations to **Kathy and Tom Smith** on their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary



### REVOLUTIONARY ERA TOASTS

(Given by 1st Rhode Island Regt. On July 4, 1783)

*Courtesy of Keith Jones*

1. To the Day (July 4th)
2. The United States & their Congress
3. The General & the Army of the United States
4. Congress of '76 & "Common Sense"
5. Louis XVI & the French people
6. May the Brave ever receive the smiles of the Fair
7. May the Fair ever have protection of the Brave
8. Memory of all who sacrificed life for the cause
9. May the character of America never be sullied by Ingratitude to her deliverers
10. May Purity of Morals & Dignity of Department ever characterize the citizens of America

*editor's note: In the light of modern European perfidy we should endeavor every effort to not dismiss the second half of No. 5 nor delete No. 9 altogether. As for No. 10, well I think the likes of Jerry Springer sent that one to 'hell in a hand basket' quite some time ago.*

*Tom 7*



### 18<sup>th</sup> CENTURY WORDS

**Bone-box** (the mouth) "Oh, shut your bone-box, you bird-wit!"

**Blasted** (a curse) "This blasted tent stake won't go into the bloody ground!"



## ACCOUNTS OF MONMOUTH

### *James Pattison's Crown Account:*

June 17th, 1778 The chief part of the artillery stores, provisions, and baggage having been previously transported across the Delaware to Cooper's Ferry on the Jersey shore, and put under the protection of Brigadier-General Leslie's Corps (consisting of the following regiments which had been detached some time before for the purpose of covering the wood cutters) viz, the 7th, 26th, 46th, 55th and 63rd with Colonels Clifton's and Allen's battalions of provincials, and Captain Hovendon's troop of provincial dragoons. At 4 o'clock this morning Lieutenant-General Knyphausen crossed over and joined General Leslie with the following regiments, viz: Queen's rangers, provincials

Jagers mounted and dismounted Hessian Grenadiers, Provincials Two battalions New Jersey Volunteers Maryland Volunteers Volunteers of Ireland Caledonian Volunteers

At 6 o'clock in the evening the remainder of the troops were put under arms, and marched to the rear of the several redoubts, where they lay upon their arms all night.

June 18th. A little after daybreak the troops were put in motion, and abandoned the redoubts as well as the city of Philadelphia without the least annoyance or molestation from the enemy, marching in three columns to Gloucester Point, where flat boats lay ready for their reception, in which they crossed the Delaware and landed on the Jersey shore, the whole having got over by 9

o'clock. Some few of the enemy's dragoons entered the city immediately after the troops had quitted it, and appeared upon the shore after they were in the boats.

June 19th. The Commander-in-chief marched at daybreak with the following corps, viz: 1st and 2nd battalions Light Infantry 16th regiment Light Dragoons 1st and 2nd battalions British Grenadiers Three battalions Hessian Grenadiers Brigade of Guards 4th brigade of British 3rd brigade of British 17th regt. Light Dragoons Two medium 12-prs One 5 ½ inch howitzer. At the same time Colonel Prescott was detached with the 28th and 55th regiments of foot, and two light 6-prs. to Billings Port in order to bring off the 15th regiment and provincial regiment of Vandyke, which had taken post there some time before. These regiments joined him at Manto Creek, and the whole marched to Haddonfield in the evening, having met with no interruption in the march, except from a few stragglers supposed to be militia, who by a scattered and concealed fire wounded the surgeon's mate and a soldier of the 55th, and killed a dragoon's horse.

June 22nd. The army marched again in two divisions, the 1st under the command of Sir H. Clinton and Lord Cornwallis moving at 3 o'clock, and the 2nd under Lieutenant-General Knyphausen at 6, and following the baggage of the 1st; the face of the country though much better settled and more open than at the beginning of our route, not admitting of the two divisions taking different roads. The army again encamped in two lines near the Black Horse [tavern], where the Commander-in-chief had his head-quarters. One of the rebel

party who had fired upon the jagers on the 20th instant and was taken prisoner, proving to be a deserter from the 28th regiment, was tried and condemned by a general court martial at Mount Holly, and this day executed and left hanging on a tree near the high road [just west of Columbus, NJ].

June 23rd. From this encampment the army marched in two columns. Brigadier-General Leslie's corps consisting of the 7th, 26th and 63rd regiments of foot, and reinforced by Hovendon's troop of provincial dragoons forming the vanguard of the 1st division, which formed the left column and marched at 4 o'clock.

The 2nd division under Lieutenant-General Knyphausen, led by the 2nd battalion of light infantry formed the right, and marched as soon as the 1st division was off the ground; this column he ordered to pay every attention to their right flank. The enemy had all along made attempts to obstruct, or at least retard our march by pulling up the bridges thrown across the small creeks and causeways, and felling timber across the roads, but have never appeared with any troops to protect or defend any of these passes, though many very strong by nature, and which might have been rendered much more so by art, occurred in our route.

June 24th. The 2nd division, under Lieutenant-General Knyphausen, marched at 4 o'clock in the morning, and formed upon the heights above Wall's Mills [Walnford], whilst a bridge over Crosswick Creek, which had been destroyed by the enemy, was repaired; this was completed about 11 o'clock, and all the column over it by 12, bending their course to Emely's Town, where they arrived about 3 o'clock and lay that night.

June 25th. The whole army continued their route, Lieutenant-General Knyphausen's division moving off their ground near Emely's Town at 4 o'clock in the morning, General Clinton's column with Brigadier-General Leslie's corps filing off to their right and falling into the rear of Knyphausen's division. The army had now advanced so far into Jersey that there was more reason to expect the enemy in our rear than in our front; some alteration was therefore made in the disposition of General Clinton's column, the guards, grenadiers, and light infantry forming the rear of the column instead of the front. The whole halted from 12 to 3 o'clock in order to refresh the men and horses and then proceeded, Lieutenant-General Knyphausen to Thompson's meeting house and General Clinton to the Rising Sun. the roads through which the army marched this day were remarkably bad.

June 26th. The army was again put in motion...reached Freehold between 9 and 10 o'clock, and encamped with their right extending about a mile and a half beyond Monmouth Court House on the road to Shrewsbury and Middleton [Middletown], and covered by a small skirt of wood. The division under General Clinton took up their ground about two miles on the other side of the Court House, with their right towards the Court House and their left to a thick wood and a morass running towards their rear, the front of the whole covered by a wood and towards the left by a morass. The first part of this day's march was through a close and unsettled country, the latter through a more settled and open, the village of Freehold standing on an extensive plain.

June 27th. The army halted this day. Many straggling parties of the enemy, both horse and foot, were seen hovering about, and some of the King's troops were picked up by venturing too

far beyond the advanced pickets. The greater part of the village of Freehold was abandoned, but some stands of arms were found, supposed to belong to the militia.

June 28th (Sunday) The army marched in two columns, the left division led by General Clinton taking the high road from Freehold to Middleton, and the right under Lieutenant-General Knyphausen, having with it the whole of the baggage of the army, marched through a close woody country for several miles without the least molestation or annoyance from the enemy until about 12 o'clock, when a party of 15 or 16 of their militia, taking advantage of our flanking parties too widely dispersed, broke through the provision train and wounded two or three men and as many horses, without halting at all, and another party of about 40 or 50 made an attempt upon the baggage, but went off again on the appearance of two companies of the 40th regiment, which composed part of the rear guard. Upon the alarm being given in front, the 10th and 49th regiments, which had been covering the flanks of the artillery, provision train and baggage, were ordered to the rear with two 3-prs., and the 2nd brigade of the British was

halted to reinforce them in case of necessity. The enemy, however, did not make any further attack upon this column, but the engagement with the left column was of a much more serious nature.

Mr. Washington, having crossed the Delaware at Correll's Ferry with his whole force, marched to Hopewell township about five miles from Princetown, when he halted till the 25th instant, making large detachments under Wayne, LaFayette, and Morgan. On the 28th in the morning he marched to English-town, about five miles from Monmouth, having an advanced corps of 5,000 men under General Lee, which about 8 o'clock in the morning came up with the rear of the left division, but were soon repulsed and driven back with little or no loss on our part. General Clinton being apprehensive in case of his not pushing them further, that they might fall in with our light column, which was much encumbered with provision wagons and baggage of the whole army, therefore continued his pursuit and between 11 and 12 o'clock fell in with the main body of their army, when a very heavy cannonade supported by musketry took place on both sides for several hours, and the enemy were driven from height to height beyond the village of Freehold, but night coming on, General Clinton thought proper to make a junction with his other column, which he effected about nine o'clock the next morning, the troops having been 30 hours without halting or hardly any refreshment for man or horse. Many more men died through fatigue alone than fell by the hands of the enemy. The loss on the part of the King's army amounted to about 340 killed, wounded and missing, and fell chiefly upon Captain Williamson's and Standish's brigades of artillery, 1st battalion of guards and the two battalions of British grenadiers. The most mortifying circumstance attending the action was that notwithstanding the enemy was beat back in every attack and our troops kept the field till 12 o'clock at night, we were under the necessity of leaving a great part of our wounded officers and men behind for want of sufficient wagons to bring them off. Lieutenant-General Knyphausen's column halted at sunset at a place called Nut Swamp, about two and a half miles from Middleton, where he encamped in nearly a circular form with his rear to Middleton.

*...and then fully aware they had been in a good fight off to NYC*

July 5th. The troops were under arms at 4 o'clock in the morning, and moved towards the sea beach in four columns, from which they doubled up, first into three, then into two, and finally into one, in order to cross the bridge, the passage of which they effected in about four hours and the bridge was broken down. The flat boats being ready to receive them, the embarkation began from the beach of the lighthouse island and was completed that evening, but too late for the transports to proceed to their respective destinations. The Commander-in-chief after having seen the passage of the troops to the lighthouse island effected and the bridge broke down, came up to New York where he fixed his headquarters.

*From the Rebel Viewpoint a poignant if not gruesome excerpt from an upcoming work on the Monmouth battle*

Dr. Read, one of the American surgeons at Monmouth caring for the wounded, gives a most compelling account of the aftermath:

"The evening at length came on, and the battle ceased, except some skirmishing at a distance, and some struggles to the left in arranging off prisoners ... with the approach of night, both armies lay exhausted by fatigue and the heat of the day – a deep morass lying between them. They lay down, man and horse, just where they halted; Washington and his suit[e] lay upon the field. It was generally understood the battle was to be renewed at the dawn of day. Dr. Reed, with his servant, rode on to the left of the line, seeing, in a few instances, regimental surgeons officiating, and administering to some wounded soldiers, and hearing the groans and cries of some men who crawled, or been brought off into the rear. They reached a wagon which stood in an inclined situation, having the fore-wheels shot away; this position afforded a comfortable shelter to the two adventurers ... At the dawn of day they heard the shout of victory – 'the British are gone!' Dr. Read mounted, and rode down the hill which bounded the morass, and observing several men entering the low ground to cross over, he did so also. The bog was very deep, and required the utmost effort of his and his servant's horse also, to get through it. As objects became visible, he saw several dead soldiers in the bog, mired to the waist, and probably shot. On the opposite side he saw an officer lying a few yards from the morass, nearly cut in two by a cannon shot; he was alive, and spoke, implored Dr. Read to lift him to a tree which stood near, alleging that he had been all night trying to do so, 'that he might die easy.' The clotted blood was piled up several inches on his front, and it had ceased to flow. Dr. Read, with the assistance of his servant, essayed to lift him tenderly, and, stepping backwards, they placed him against the tree. The blood now began to flow perceptibly, and in all probability terminated his life; they heard him utter a few words of thankfulness, and proceeded on. At the summit of the hill, dismal, indeed, was the scene; there lay fifty or sixty British grenadiers – some dead, some alive, calling for 'help!' 'water!' uttering the most dreadful and severe imprecations on 'the rebels.' Dr. Read and his servant ran down the hill, and found plenty of water; with his servant's hat he administered many draughts of water to these poor, famished soldiers; it was busy occupation for an hour. Dr. Read ... now proceeded to dress wounds and apply bandages. Tearing off shirts from the dead, he made bandages, and applied them, to the best of his skill, for

remedying hemorrhage. Some country people and Negroes coming to the field of carnage, Dr. Read enlisted their feelings, and hired them to assist in lifting and turning these wounded men, and, at length, in procuring wagons and straw to remove them to the courthouse ... he was greatly assisted by his servant, Peter Houston ... They succeeded in moving twenty-one grenadiers, all with broken legs, or muscles so lacerated as to render them helpless. Dr. Read, seeing no medical aid come to him, proceeded to amputate whenever the patient would consent to the operation. In these operations he was aided by lint and bandages being sent, he knew not from whence, and every article of nourishment. Dr. Read continued to dwell in the courthouse, sleeping ... in the Judge's bench. There he was observed by sundry groups of officers, who came riding around on a tour of observation, and his name enquired into ... [His servant sometimes informed the visitors that his master was

working] 'at his own expense.' This explanation must have had an effect, as on the third day he received from the Secretary a special commission, which gave him rank in the medical department, and extra rations and forage."