



The Company Informer

Rebellion to Tyrants is Obedience to God

March, 2001



Commander's Message

We had a very good start to this coming year with the Annual Banquet at the Oxford House. For those who attended, thank you for supporting the 5CR. It was one of the best ones we've had. The food was great, the music was lively, and the presentations of past 5CR events was first rate. A special Huzzah (or is that Huzzay?) to Tom Angels and Trish for bringing it all together.

The Soldier of the Year Award was given, by unanimous vote to Jim Freebairn, a charter member for his dedication to the 5th and the Hobby. Although the Camp follower of the Year Award was not given out this year, the ladies of the 5th who help us in many ways and do a top-notch interpretation deserves our gratitude. We would not be the quality organization that we are without them.

The membership voted Steve Johnson/Sergeant, and Herr Johan Ahrens/Corp for the 2001 campaign. My sympathies to you both.

The strength of a group is based on the commitment of the membership and the addition of new members. As we enter the 2nd year of 225th anniversaries in the Rev. War, try to set aside some time for the 5th. Lend a hand to set up and break down camp, try to find ways to improve your interpretation, and encourage new members with your enthusiasm. The Board has taken on the goal of getting new members started with a New Member Package, (something I would have liked when I signed up) but we need to get members who

Campaign 2001

- April 21-22 Brigade School, New Windsor Cantonment Vails Gate NY
- May ? School Show – Site to be determined
- May ? Memorial Day Parade, Ridgefield CT
- June 2-3 BAR Encampment, Wethersfield CT
- July 21-22 Fort No. 4, Charlestown NH
- July 28-29 British Occupation of Staten Island Historic Richmond Town, Staten Island NY
- Aug 4-5 Old Newgate Prison, E. Granby CT
- Sept 9 Stratford Historical Society, Stratford CT
- Sept ? Battle of Fairfield, Fairfield CT
- Oct 27-28 BAR Battle of White Plains, Pound Ridge Reservation, Lewisboro NY



Commander's Message Continued...

are committed to the Hobby. Read Todd Post's front-page article on Living History New Years Resolutions in the BAR Courier, he really nailed it down.

One final comment I'd like to mention, let's have fun in what we do. We all have enough serious things at work and in our private lives to frustrate us, lets shed that when we enter the 18th century. As always

Thank You,
Tom Traue, Commander

Colonel Bradley writes, "The Regiment is in dire need of all its fuloughed solders to return to the Regiment for the remainder of the Campaign."



From the Adjutant's Desk

Dear Members-

There's a new guy on the block filling some very large shoes...those of Mike Filler. This is a new position for me but I plan to continue this most important source of communication in an interesting and timely way. This Informer belongs to all of us so please send in any information or articles you'd like to see published. I will offer regular pieces and features as well as the usual event information.

There is currently a sense that a great year lies ahead. Commander Traue will focus on and set in motion our goals as a living history organization with the membership input. And Tom Linsky has put together a fine welcome package to assist in this very important area of recruiting.

The General Washington Ball reminded me of my very first at the "Bird and Bottle" 13 years ago. I was impressed then and I am still impressed today, and honored to be in this fine organization. Let's take this optimism and carry it with us the rest of the campaign. We can take an even bigger lead in this hobby and be the premier group that others in the BAR will wish to emanate. To quote our commander "it's a hobby, let's have fun!" And through this fun we will build on a solid foundation so that the "spontoon" can be passed on to capable leadership.

Yours in Colonial Spirit,
Tom Angels, Adjutant

Profile of a Soldier...

I, Chris Hatch, a resident of Milford, Ct. since marriage, 4 Jul 1975 to Betsy, have one son Joshua a Soph at the University of Vermont and daughter Katie who is a Freshman at Lauralton Hall, formally announce my enlistment into 5th CT Regt for the purpose of ridding the Colonies of the tyrant English and to honor, with my life, the freedoms of all people and the Constitution of this great America.

My first enlistment was in New Haven, Ct during the last Great War and served four years in Col.Nathan Whittings 2nd Ct Regt under Capt.John Eric Nelson. The Regt saw service against the French, Courier Du Bois, and heathen Western Indians at Lake George, Lake Champlain, Fort Ticonderoga (taking a wound at the French lines), and later with Wolfe at Quebec.

I have done ranging sortie's with Rogers Rangers, under the command of James Hayes, and narrowly escaped capture at the Battle of Snowshoes.

Because of volunteering my services with Robert Rogers, I felt it important to continue my association with him and enlisted with the Queens Rangers during the start of the Rebellion. I also spent a short time with DeLancey's 2nd Brigade under Jack Frost. Secretly I have been able to provide detailed information as to the activities of the Loyalists and Washington's enemies throughout Southern New England.

Towards the end of the Campaign of 1776, with patriotism burning in my heart and the knowledge that soon I might get caught spying, I looked to enlist with a Continental Regt that was well officered, had served with distinction in the first year of the war, and provided exceptional camaraderie. The internet disclosed some very interesting information about the 5th Ct and I was intrigued to participate with the unit which I had the great fortune to do at Stratford, Sep 2000.

It was an honor to serve with the 5th Ct. I'm looking forward to fielding with this unit and would be proud to offer my services wherever needed.

My work background is that of a Photography Editor for the Queens Edition of Newsday, in New York. My employment started there in 1983 as a photographer and I've been editing since 1988.



Famous Quotes: Mike Kenny, former member, on seeking directions... "How far down is the 5th CR's fly?"

What a Ball!

The 5th CR pulls off another memorable Washington Ball. We begin by recognizing Tom Traue as our new commander. We are in the capable hands of one of our most dedicated hobbyists. What a great speech he gave, calling up the memories of past commanders and their commitment to this fine organization. They all brought different gifts and levels of volunteerism to the group, some on the field, others in the boardroom. One man to fill this all-important call is Tom Linsky, past commander. He kept the continuity and gears oiled which allowed us to start this new year galloping out of the box. His efforts with the new recruiting package will pay off handsomely. We thank him for his precious time (shared with little ones) and the use of his wonderful tavern.

A guest appearance by a much admired and respected Mannie Padin only added to our rich history that evening. He was asked to speak and did so as only a seasoned vet can. New members were also asked to speak and did so eloquently. It's a joy to hear the enthusiasm they carry in their words and deeds. A friend of the 5th CR, Trish Soucy, helped with the storyboards that were well received. Many thanks.

The NCO vote went as follows: Sergeant Steve Johnson, Corporal John Ahrens and Acting Corporal Tom Linsky. Our commander will fill in at these positions as necessary or appoint them in the field.

Finally the highlight of every ball is the Peter Annuziato soldier of the year award. Peter was a well-respected and dedicated member. When cancer took him from our physical presence we chose to keep his spirit alive with this ceremony. There's been one member who we all recognize as a knowledgeable yet independent team player, always giving 100%. Many on the board felt this choice was overdue and wondered aloud that surely he was chosen in the past. It is perhaps his consistency year in and year out that has lulled us to sleep. He's no flash in the pan, whether it's white-smithing, carrying a musket or supplying our donation pail, Jim Freebairn is well deserving of this award. As new members fill the ranks may they possess this private's qualities and dedication to our family. We can always use more Jims in the Fifth CT and society at large. Huzzah Jim, and may providence always watch over you and your lovely bride Ruth.

From the News-Times (Danbury)

William I. Allen, 67, of 20 Fairview Ave., Ridgefield, husband of Pamela Keeler Allen died January 27th 2001 at his residence.

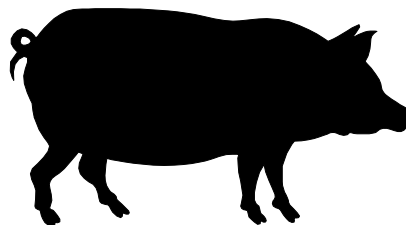
Bill was born October 26, 1933 on the Philippine Island of Corregidor to the late William I. and Florence Laird Allen. As an "army brat" Bill grew up on army bases there, in Panama, and at West Point where his father was an instructor. He attended Middletown NY schools and graduated from the state University of NY with an English Degree. He was once a radio broadcaster, gandy dancer, debt collector and photo technician. A resident of Ridgefield since 1953, he was an active member of the 5th CR. In 1977, he served as the chairman of the 200th anniversary re-enactment of the Battle of Ridgefield. He was also a US Army veteran.

You STINK!!!!!!

Summer of 1777...

On their return to New York, British foraging parties entered a city apparently in decay. 'Noisome vapours arise from the mud left in the docks and ships at low water,' A loyalist serving with the British army complained.

"Unwholesome smells are occasioned by such a number of people being crowded together in so small a compass almost like herrings in a barrel, most of them very dirty, and not a small number sick of some disease, the itch, pox, fever, or flux, so that altogether there is a complication of stinks to drive a person...into a consumption in the space of twenty four hours. If any author who has any inclination to write a treatise upon stinks and ill smells, he could never meet with more subject matter than New York." ~from *Redcoats and Rebels* by Christopher Hibbert



Next Board Meeting:

Tom Linsky's Tavern

Saturday, March 24, 2001 1-4 pm



IF IT FLOATS ~ ARM IT

An excerpt from- Pirates & Patriots of the Revolution

Through the years, American shipyards had developed fast and highly maneuverable small vessels to compete with the more sluggish European cargo ship. With a few changes, these craft made decent enough privateersman. First, bulwarks must be pierced (hopefully, the cannon would be located). The magazine must be outsized, placed in the hull and made of the most up-to-date anti-fire construction. This was one of the most expensive changes. Shot lockers were built. Decks must be reinforced to withstand the cannon's recoil. The crews quarters must be enlarged for a greater number of crewmen. The shipyards were not found wanting. It was a rare vessel that could not be converted into a privately armed ship in several weeks.

The "Spider Catchers" - One needn't have the wealth and resources of the ship owners to take part in this great ocean going bonanza. A number of enterprising citizens might pool a small amount of capital and man their own small armed boat. Whaleboats were preferred, although barges and other small open craft were also used. Few "Spider Catchers", as they were called, were more than thirty feet in length, and most were of eight to ten tons burthen. Many were decked for longer excursions. They carried eight or more oars and often held a sail as well. Usually a swivel gun – and sometimes a small cannon – was mounted in the bow. The crew ranged from less than a dozen to thirty or more. Most were armed with pistols and muskets – or at least a sword.



These small boats grew in numbers as the War for Independence progressed. They worked well together – a bit unusual for the average privateersman – and a flotilla of four or five presented a combined firepower that could hit an enemy vessel from many sides at once. Merchantmen, transports, supply ships and occasionally an armed vessel of fair size fell into their bag of prizes.

Nantucket and Vineyard Sounds off New England, Long Island Sound, and Chesapeake Bay areas were favorite haunts for the whaleboat privateersmen. But busiest of all were the entire New Jersey coastline and New York Bay. Perhaps this was largely due to Adam Hyler of New Jersey, one of our most famous flotillamen. As soon as the British had occupied New York City in 1776, Hyler led his swarm of hornets between Egg Harbor and Staten Island. Occasionally one of his boats fell victim to those sent out by the British fleet, but new ones were quickly built as replacements. Hyler's activities were the greatest between the years of 1781 and 1782.

Author – C. Keith Wilbur