



The Company Informer

The Fifth Connecticut Regiment of the Continental Line



Si Recte Facies "Immortal Honor"

February, 2007

NOTICE—Fifth Elects New Board

At this year's annual meeting, in a fine example of self rule and participatory government, the following individuals were voted to serve as the Board for the year 2007.

Commander:	Tom Castrovinci
Adjutant:	Mike Filler
Paymaster:	Albin Weber
QM Sgt:	Michael Zap, Sr.
Distaff Coordinator:	Joy Filler
Dep Adj:	Dan Kinley
Dep QM:	Tony Bruno
Dep QM:	Mike Sutila
Former CO:	Keith Jones
Member at Large:	Tom Traue

The 2007 Event Calendar

You will notice a change in the 2007 calendar of events. In an effort to clarify the unit's commitment to events and to give you information about other events, there are now two levels of events listed on our calendar (sanctioned and other). **SANCTIONED** events will be supported by the Quartermaster Corps. This means that the Fifth will provide equipment, tents and provisions. The remaining events, those listed as **OTHER**, are events that we know of, but that are **not** on our schedule. If a member, or members, have interest in one of these events, they can get the Fifth's support by assigning a coordinator and securing the commitment of at least five other members.

Remember that the funds that we receive from paid events are essential to our survival. Please make an effort to support these events.

Finally, as members of the Fifth, individual members are also members of the Brigade of the American Revolution (BAR) and the Continental Line. As such, you can always attend their events on your own.

As always, event coordinators are in charge of distributing information about the event, recruiting participation, coordinating with the Quartermaster Department, developing a menu and assigning kitchen duties.

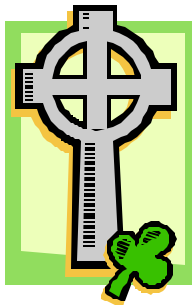
2007 Membership Dues

The basic membership fee will again be \$40. Each additional family member over the age of 16 will be an additional \$5 with a maximum of \$50 per family . All applicants under the age of 16 are free. As always, 5CR dues include BOTH your BAR and 5CR membership. Do NOT submit any dues membership direct to the BAR.

Please submit your dues ASAP to the following address:

**Albin Weber
584 South Britain Road
Southbury, CT 06488**

If you have any questions you may email to grapefisher@charter.net.



St. Patrick's Day in America

Two hundred and seventy years ago next month, on March 17, 1737, the leading Irishmen of Boston -- all Protestants -- gathered at a banquet and as part of their celebration established the Charitable Irish Society.

Their inspiration came, as they put it in their constitution, from "an Affectionate and Compassionate concern for their countrymen in these Parts, who may be reduced [to poverty] by Sickness, Shipwreck [sic], Old age and other Infirmities and unforeseen Accidents." It was the first Irish organization founded in America and the first recorded celebration of St. Patrick's Day.

The first St. Patrick's Day parade was celebrated in New York City on March 17, 1762. Irish soldiers serving in the British Army in the American Colonies marched through the streets of New York to celebrate their Irish homeland from which they had long since been away.

Historians say the first written references to "shamrocks" as part of St. Patrick's Day celebrations also first occur in the early 18th century.

One traveling Protestant minister recorded in his diary in 1726: "This Plant (white clover) is worn by the People in their Hats upon the 17. Day of March yearly (which is called St. Patrick's Day.) it being a Current Tradition, that by this Three Leafed Grass, he emblematically set forth to them the Mystery of the Holy Trinity."

The name "shamrock" is actually an English transliteration from the original Gaelic name for young clover: "seamra" (pronounced "shom-ruh") for clover and "og" for young. In British royal symbols, the shamrock for centuries has symbolized Ireland, just as the rose denotes England and the thistle Scotland.

Commander's Message

I am most honored and grateful for the chance to lead the 5th Connecticut Regiment in the '07 campaign. As I do so, I remind myself of some fundamental facts that must never be forgotten by those taking this job. First, the 5th is, in numbers, peer respect, history, experience and commitment to living history, one of, if not THE most formidable unit in our reenacting community. Second, our new commanders follow in the footsteps of remarkable predecessors. I joined a 5th commanded by Tom Traue at the beginning of the 225th commemorative and ended the cycle following Keith Jones to Yorktown. Those two, as well as those who served between and before, set a standard I can only hope to meet. During my stewardship I commit myself entirely to earning the trust of the membership and guarding the respected position the 5th holds as a premier Living History organization.

My thoughts for the 2007 year....

Scheduled and sanctioned Events

After reviewing the available '07 events, it is obvious there is no 'let down' as the 225th cycle ends. Not being encumbered by numerous 225th anniversaries seems to have opened the flood gates to a wonderful selection of interesting events. But how can we propose all these exciting events knowing most members have only limited time for the hobby? To reconcile this, the board offers an extensive 'buffet' of shows members can consider while setting apart a smaller group of 'sanctioned' events. In the latter group are the paid shows; the 2 remaining school shows, the Wethersfield event and a tentative Fairfield show. In addition we selected three larger 'just for fun' shows; Battle Road in April, Bordentown in June and Saratoga in October. As sanctioned events, the 5th will provide equipment and provisioning. Mileage allowance may also be available for paid shows.

Other Events

Of course any member is welcome to attend the non-sanctioned events, falling in with fellow 5CR members or other units. However, if a coordinator steps forward and 6+ members pre-plan and attend, the 5th will consider 'sanctioning' any event, to the extent resources are available. So far Fort Ticonderoga and Mt. Vernon [September] and Cooches Bridge [August] already have potential for this status. The key, as always, remains the willingness for members to step up as coordinators. Please volunteer!!!

Finances

As paymaster for 3 years, I enjoyed watching the 5th clear enough funds to allow us to offer *gratis*, great food, travel subsidies, upgraded equipment and entertainment at various events. However, I look to '07 with some trepidation. We do have the three school shows but not much else; no Southbury...nor the typically reliable Simsbury or Ridgefield. Remember, it costs about \$4,000 to run the regiment even before attending a single show. Dues only net about \$700. As you can see we need the paid shows to survive. With so many members and EACH REQUIRED TO ATTEND ONE PAID SHOW PER YEAR it should not be difficult to support this effort. The school shows are a key. Three is quite a

Commander's message continued:

lot, but dispersing them to Winter, Spring and Fall helps to ease the burden. MARK YOUR CALENDERS...the next is April 20th in New Canaan. Please help. If we all chip in, the 5th can continue to subsidize the group in a manner not enjoyed by any other unit in the hobby.

Event Policy

I hope to have a team meeting at the start of each event. I think it is important to review fundamentals, share ideas, review schedules and most importantly to keep everyone apprised of duties and expectations. In recent years, I have been most grateful and proud to see how nearly everyone helps with set up, break down and kitchen labors. We must be sure to keep this up. It is so simple when "many hands make light work", but unfair if we leave all the heavy lifting to a few hardy Quartermasters and Distaff. We will be reminding everyone continually about this as the campaign steps off.

The 2007 Board

We have changed the board configuration to keep ourselves attentive to the organization's requirements. First, each board member now has a specific job to perform. Second, we have added reinforcements to those departments which do much of the support work. In doing so, I am happy to report that a few new faces have volunteered. Dan Kinley will be helping Mike Filler in the Adjutant's Dept. Mike Sutilla joins Tony Bruno and Mike Zap boosting the Quartermaster Corps to three. This added staffing emphasizes how critical and how much hard work is performed by the QM dept. To add weight, Mike Zap will be given the standing rank of QM Sgt and thus he, or his designee, will be fully invested with Provost Marshall authority in camp. Please do all you can to assist these fellows...keeping in mind that the two Mikes are pretty big guys and Tony is a master of the killer 'sock puppet'!!!

BAR, CL &tc.

It is apparent that nerves are being rubbed raw with barbs flying at the BAR from individuals, units and other umbrella organizations. The board is aware of this. We have taken steps to be as equally 'invested' with the CL as the BAR. My opinion is that the BAR can certainly do things better. However they do many things well. It is only a matter of adjustment. I find it positive that that the BAR is having vigorously contested elections this year. I feel confident the board will place the 5CR vote in a way to join others in making gradual improvements in that organization. There is a great deal of acrimony and vitriol flying around out there. I ask that members of the Fifth remain gentlemen and ladies avoid unhelpful comments that may make matters worse or cast an unattractive aspect to our unit.

Website & Communication

Website overhaul is a key objective for 2007. With 70+ members even email falls short of our needs. With long address lists, SPAM filters often cut out recipients. Frequent changes in email addresses are lost as members trade back and forth the 'definitive' membership roster. Often email strings perpetuate incomplete or erroneous email address lists. Of course there is also that hard core few who still do not have email. Simply put, too many people are left out of important exchanges. I am hoping that even those without email can access a computer and review a website regularly. Even as a quarterly newsletter is being printed, new details and updates are flying fast and furious, so that it is often outdated within days of delivery. I hope that in addition to the newsletter and email, we evolve our commu-

Commander's message continued:

nications so that members can visit a simplified, efficient, user friendly and frequently updated website. In addition, we hope the website provides pictures and AARs from previous events to show everyone just how much fun we are all having. This will also to help with recruitment and soliciting new events. A sub-committee including Albin Weber, Joy Filler and Paul Carmen has been formed to engage in this project. Anyone else with interest or skills in this area are welcome.

NCO & Drill

We are going to try a few new things with field command this year. First, permanent field command is limited to the Commander, Adjutant and First Sergeant. We are doing this so brevet NCO opportunities are offered to as many interested members as possible. A number of qualified fellows have stepped forward expressing interest in trying field command. At each event we will endeavor to give each a slot, either in a primary or subordinate NCO function. Secondly, officers and NCOs will be most stern in matters of the DRILL. At each event we WILL practice. No one is perfect, however each member will be pressed to perform all motions of the exercise at a steadily improving pace. Random discourse in the ranks about nuance of the drill will NOT be tolerated! The field commanders will meet prior to the campaign season in order to formalize the specifics of the manual of arms and field exercises. Once thus codified it will be adhered to and administered with clarity and discipline.

Those are my thoughts for the upcoming year. I invite and hope members will contact me if you have ideas or comments to share. My email is tcast@amsyn.com. My home phone is 203 966-7651; work 203 329-6500 x 103. I am actually freer to talk at work than home so don't hesitate to call during the day.

Your Most Humble and Obedient Servant
Thomas 'Sephen' Castrovinci



Fifth Connecticut Regiment 2007 Event Schedule



SACTIONED EVENTS

Date	Event	Coordinator	
Jan. 26	Plainville School Show	Traue	Paid
Mar.	Live Shoot	Albin	
Apr. 15	Battle Road, Lexington, MA	Carmano	
Apr. 20	New Canaan School Show	Castrovinci	Paid
Jun. 9-10	Bordentown, NJ	Traue	
June 16-17	Wethersfield, CT	Carmano	Paid
Sept. 15-16	Fairfield, CT	Castrovinci	Paid
Oct. 5-7	Saratoga, Fort Edward, NY	Castrovinci	
Nov. ?	Newtown School Show	Filler	Paid
Dec.	Putnam Park Winter Walk, Redding, CT		

OTHERS

Apr. 28-29	Sybil Ludington, Carmel, NY
Apr. 28-29	BAR School of the Soldier
May ?	Cold Spring, NY
May 5-6	Jerusalem Mill, Kingville, MD
May 14-18	Putnam Park School Week (individual stipend)
Jun. 2-3	BAR Firelock Match, Boone Homestead
July 21-22	Battle of Oriskany, NY (tentative)
Aug. 25-26	Cooch's Bridge, Newark, DE
Aug. 18-19	Battle of Bennington, Walloomac, NY
Sept. 8-9	Fort Ticonderoga, NY
Sept. 8-9	Brandywine, PA
Sept. 29-30	CL 20th Anniv., Mt Vernon, VA
Oct. 13-14	Putnam Park LH Weekend
Oct. 27-28	225th Last Encampment, New Windsor, NY
Nov.	Puerto Rico
Dec.	Putnam Cottage, Greenwich, CT