

MORNING REPORT

of Benjamin Whitcomb's Independent Corps of Rangers.

Being the ramblings of a Soldier who has smelled too much of Congress's Gunpowder
and king George's Lackeys.

DECEMBER, 2008

The renderings of this Instant include –

CALENDAR: 10 Jan: Continental Line Annual Meeting; King of Prussia, PA.

Plus a bunch o' stuff for '09, '010, and even '011.

JIM'S JAWINGS: What happened.

MEMBERSHIP: New guys.

DEPRESSING TIMES: Ti cuts staff.

TIMES GONE BY: Pictures of events.

LEARNING: A couple websites with relevant material.

TWIRLING THE DISTAFF: Runaway women.

And MUCH, MUCH more! Well, at least much more.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

10 Jan: Continental Line Annual Meeting; King of Prussia, PA.

For the first time, the CL and the British Brigade will be holding their respective annual meetings at the same time at the same place. Topics common to the good of both organizations – calendar, safety, etc. – will be discussed together which should help eliminate some confusion about and at events and promote a closer working relationship between the two largest organizations in our hobby.

While the Git Brigade allows only a unit's commanding officer and one toady (who sits behind his officer at the meeting table and has minimal opportunity to speak) to attend their meeting, the CL is open to anyone. So, should you be so inclined as to wanna attend, there is a deal for getting a room at \$99.00/night which you can get by telling them you belong to the CL – or, I guess, the BB, should you be so inclined. You need to reserve the room by 10 Dec. to get the reduced rate although Jim got a bit of a better rate last year by reserving a room as a member of AA ... I mean, AAA. There is also a charge when you register with the CL (don't yet know what it is this time) but that includes morning munchies and lunch on Sat. By the way, except for the board, virtually everything happens Sat. We usually go down Fri. p.m. and return Sun. a.m.

17 Jan: Birthday Dinner for Benjamin Franklin, Queen Charlotte, and Anson Piper; Queensbury, NY.

Anson has been around the hobby for longer than I can remember. the buffet dinner will be held at the VFW Post beginning at 5:00 p.m. (the bar will be open) and dinner will be at 6:30 followed by entertainment. Cost is \$10.00 per person. Reservations must be made by 11 Jan.

18-19 Apr: Battle Road.

2 May: Northern Dept. School of the Soldier; Nurse Homestead, Danvers, MA. (CL)

16-17 May: Jerusalem Mills, MD. (BB national event; probably will be CL as well)

13-14 Jun: 230th of Black Rock; New Haven, CT.

12-15 Jun: 250th Anniversary; New Marlborough, MA.

20-21 Jun: Ethan Allen Days; Colgate Park, Bennington, VT. (LHA)

27-8 Jun: Minute Man NHP 50th Anniversary; Concord, MA.

31 Jul-2 Aug: Redcoats to Rebels; Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, MA.

8-9 Aug: Encampment; Fort Lennox, Canada.

The fort has asked our friends in Warner's to organize an educational weekend and they, in turn, have asked us to participate.

26-30 Aug: 230th of Battle of Newtown; Elmira, NY. (CL Mid-Atlantic)

12-13 Sep: Ti.

19-20 Sep: Gelston Castle Estate; Mohawk, NY. (Proposed BB national event)

An attempt to put together a second national event. We'll see how things progress – they just started working on it.

3-4 Oct: Northern Dept. Event; Nurse Homestead, Danvers, MA. (CL)

16-18 Oct: Burning of Kingston; Kingston, NY.

7 Nov: Battle of the Red Horse Tavern; Wayside Inn, Sudbury, MA.

You can bet there will be more invites coming in. Some will be presented at the CL national meeting in Jan. and I am awaiting the official notices on the LHA events.

There is also a series of clothing construction events that take place one weekend a month over the winter at Minute Man NHP. You can find dates, topics, prices, etc. on the website, www.thehiveonline.org.

The annual reenactments/celebrations of the Boston Tea Party and the Boston Massacre are also willing to take on volunteers. Let me know if you are interested.

One other event note that won't affect most of you anyways (a bit of sarcasm there) – the VT Historical Soc. History Expo will not be happening this year.

2010

25-6 Sep: Philadelphia 1777 Campaign; Brandywine Creek St. Park, Wilmington, DE. (BB national event; probably will be CL as well)

2-3 Oct: Time Line Encampment; Lebanon, CT.

16-17 Oct: Millis, MA. (Northern Dept. event)

?????: Fort George; Ontario.

2011

Mid-Summer: Mahogany Jones Voyage 2 – Return of the Privateers; Prince Edward Island.

A group of period boats – with reenactors in them--will spend a few days sailing from Summerside along the Northumberland Strait and end up “attacking” Charlottetown. Indeed, American privateers did just that in 1775. The event is being put together by Vic Suthren and The Colonial Sailor Program of the Canadian Navy Heritage Team. Our cottage is on the Strait

— actually, on the shore — about 15 minutes from Summerside.

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JIM'S JAWINGS

Well it looks like the end of another campaign season. Of the 34 events that we had to choose from, along with, Ti in May, there were 15 that folks were interested in attending. I was able to get to 9 of them. At Boone Homestead and Newtown I chose a civilian role. Pretty strange. We got to talk to a bunch of people about the unit, history, and material culture at the History Expo and Sturbridge Village. Even though it rained at both, there was a lot of activity. We were, in fact, the first contact with our kind that visitors had when entering the Village. I had the opportunity to lead a rangerish section, and to dance, out at Blenheim NY. Being a color guard at The Battle of The Hook in Gloucester VA was a very different but interesting experience. Facing the enemy five paces in front of the line gets to feel very lonely and exposed. The two events where the unit saw some action this year were Mt.I and Ti in September. Some of the action at Ti almost made me glad I was watching from the sidelines with a yellow ribbon on my arm. Watching some of that running made me tired.

I would really like to get together a few times during the winter to drill and for other activities. I think it would help us and the new folks that have joined us this year. We really have to make sure that we have our annual meeting early enough this year so we can get our calendar set and our plans made. With the Continental Line meeting in January instead of February, we can put together an event list a month sooner. Maybe this will help the schedule this year.

I know that this has been a very busy 21st century year for some of us and I want to thank you all for your efforts and exertions this year.

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MEMBERSHIP

A couple newbies have taken on the task of joining our herd. First, in alphabetical order, comes Dave Johnson. He, his wife, Katie, and baby (my sincere apologies — I have forgotten the appellation given the child) live at PO Box 271, Bethel, VT 05032 (it's hard living with a new baby in a PO box). Phone is 703-772-1587 and e-mail be dajohns9@hotmail.com. Dave is new to the hobby and talked with us at Expo.

Second, in alphabetical order, is Ian Tenney. Ian and wife, Brenda, claim residence at 3 Fleetwood Dr., Simsbury, CT 06070 and can be bothered by phone at 860-658-4434 and e-mailed at en-10e@snet.net (read the first part of that closely — clever, that). Ian used to belong to Herrick's so has some equipment and experience and, in fact, attended Sturbridge with us.

When you meet them, be sure to welcome them with a laurel and hardy handshake.

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DEPRESSING TIMES

Well, an era has come to an end at Ti. In a cost-cutting move, the board of directors decided to let a number of full-time staff go and they included Karl Crannell in that group. Karl has been the programs guy at the fort for several years and always seemed to be working his butt off. It is to a great extent the efforts of Karl – and Nick – that have resulted in the fort’s acceptance of the value of reenactors. His duties have been shifted to Mark Turdo, the assistant curator, and Karl had no idea how this will impact on future events at the site although Mark has told me they will go on. To add to Karl’s unpleasant situation, not only has he lost his job but, he and Amy have been living in a fort-owned house and now have to find somewhere else to live. Amy has been several years at her teaching position so they do not want to move out of the area. Karl says he is willing to take on pretty much any job but this is not the best of times for job hunting. Should you see Karl and/or Amy, be sure to wish them well.

The economic recession/depression we are in is impacting a number of history-related activities. Each of us has made decisions about traveling to events the last couple years based on the cost of the trip – something that barely entered into the equation not so long ago. Karl also told me that he heard Williamsburg is doing away with 140 positions and closing a number of shops. You can bet we will be hearing more such stories over the winter. It just may be left to us, the reenactment community, to carry on to a greater degree the telling of history. Do your studying and reading.

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TIMES GONE BY

For those of you who attended Ti – or even for those who did not – there are droves of pictures, although mostly of the Gits, on <http://s132.photobucket.com/albums/q18/phoenix965/>. Click on an album once you get on the website.

Don’t remember how it happened but I came across another collection of interesting photos of Rev War events. Some appear as though a painting. There are some really great ones so check ‘em out at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/mikont/sets/72157600305381776/>.

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LEARNING

There’s a neat website put together by NYU that deals with investigating everyday life during our period. Take a look at <http://maass.nyu.edu/resources/r1/index.html> and click on the modules at the bottom to go to a discussion and teaching plans for given topics. The modules contain links to other sites on the topic, many with primary source materials.

Another site features an excerpt from a doctors journal of a cruise on a privateer. It’s a lousy transcription but still neat: http://www.shsu.edu/~his_ncp/Privat.html.

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TWIRLING THE DISTAFF

Following are some pieces from period newspapers advertising run away women. Enjoy.

From *The Pennsylvania Chronicle, and Universal Advertiser*, 7-31-69, vol. III, issue 27, p. 227.

RAN away the fourth of this instant, at night, from Joseph Haight, of the city of Burlington, a servant girl named Margaret Joyce, about five or six inches high, with black hair, black eyes, rosy cheeks, and thick lips; had on when she went away an India callico short gown, and had with her a long gown of the same stuff, a brown quilted petticoat, and striped linsey petticoat bound with red, a pair of good cotton stockings, and good leather shoes, and a black-hat, with a blue ribbon round the crown, had formerly lived with Mr. Joseph Parker, Taylor, in Philadelphia, ran away from him, and hired herself as a free girl; it is imagined she will do the same again. Whoever will take up and secure said girl, so that her master may have her again, shall have Twenty Shillings reward, and all reasonable charges paid by
JOSEPH HAIGHT.

From the *Boston Evening Post*, 11-28-74, issue 2044, p. 4.

Ran away from the Subscriber on the 26th Inst. an Apprentice Girl, named Jane Fontena, about 19 Years of Age: She speaks French, and had on when she went away a red Stuff Damask Gown, green Stuff quilted Coat, a long brown Cloak, and a black Bonnet. Whoever shall take up said Jane Fontena and convey her to the Subscriber as Newport, shall have One Dollar Reward, and all necessary Charges paid by
WILLIAM SELBY.

N.B. Any Person securing said Runaway, and will give Information thereof to JOHN SELBY, in Sudbury Street, Boston, shall receive the forementioned Reward.

From *The Pennsylvania Evening Post*, 4-29-77, vol. 3, issue 345, p. 240:

Whereas and indented servant girl named JANE GRAY, belonging to Mr. George Gordon of Wilmington, in the Delaware state, did run away on or about the first instant, and made her escape to this city, where she was apprehended and committed to the workhouse, as she refused to return home. The subscriber was desired to send her back, but she took the opportunity to make here escape from him on the 25th instant. She is a slim, ordinary face girl, much pitted with the smallpox, about eighteen or twenty years of age and dark brown hair. She had on a light ground calico gown, linsey petticoat, cross barred silk handkerchief, and a pair of mens shoes. Whoever apprehends said servant, and secures her so that her master or the subscriber gets her again, shall have Eight Dollars reward, and if brought home reasonable charges paid by George Gordon of Wilmington, or by the subscriber living in Water-street, a little below the Drawbridge.
ALEXANDER GRAHAM.

From *The Royal Gazette*, 3-15-83, issue 675, p. 3:

RUN AWAY From the Subscriber on the 10th instant, A Mulatto, or Quadroon Girl, about 14 years of age, named Seth, but calls herself Sall, sometimes says she is white and often paints her face to cover that deception; she staid out of her master's house for two or three nights before she went off, and was seen dancing in a house, at or near the old barracks, where, it is probably, she is still lurking. – She had on when she went off, a red baize jacket, petticoat, and high-heel'd shoes; she has black curled hair, and a large spot of the leprosy on her right side, she is well known in town, and particularly at the Fly-Market, for many wicked tricks. – Two Dollars reward will be given to any person who will bring her home, or give information so that she may be found. All Masters of vessels, and others are forewarned not to harbour the said Mulatto Girl, as they shall answer at their peril.

A.A. McKAY,
No. 27, Maiden Lane.

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Happy Holidays!

Michael Barbieri
662 Creek Rd.
Wallingford, Republic of Vermont 05773



Benjamin Whitcomb's Independent Corps of Rangers

A non-profit corporation established in 1975 to re-create the life style of the Rangers in the War of Independence, 1776-1781.