From Your New Publisher

As I put together my first issue of The Burning Issues, I know that I have some tough shoes to fill. Over the years, our previous publisher, Wayne Milward, has done an excellent job providing news, information and articles of interest to the membership. He deserves our heartfelt thanks for his years of service, and we hope he will continue to participate as a contributor.

Huzzahs to Wayne!

There is much news to disseminate in this first issue of the year – much change and growth for the BVMA – so if you have submitted an article and don’t see it here, it is because there just was not enough room this time! Please continue to submit articles and tidbits of interest for future issues.

Help Wanted!

Crown & Congressional Editors wanted (one of each) for The Burning Issues. In the past, the Chair & Vice Chair have carried out this duty, however it was felt that they have enough responsibility. The Crown & Congressional Editor would each be responsible for gathering articles of interest to the Military membership and ensuring that items are submitted to the publisher for each issue.

The Changing of the Guard: New Executive Officers Elected

At the February 23, 2002 annual Board meeting, the following new Officers were elected:

Chairman
Paul Supley
Vice Chairman
John Osinski
Executive Secretary
Wade Wells
Recording Secretary
Dean Barnes
Treasurer
Mike Kowalski

Our thanks go to former Officers Terry Glasier, Noel Levee, Ben Carlos, and Kevin Rudolph for all their hard work over the past years, and for helping to bring the BVMA through a tough transition period!

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Bits & Pieces . . .

“If the enemy pursue your rear, take a circle till you come to your own tracks, and there form an ambush to receive them, and give them the first fire.”
- from Journals of Robt. Rogers, 1764

New Member Units

The following new units (all Crown) were voted in:
- 16th (Queen's) Light Dragoons
- 64th Stannus’ Coy.
- 74th Foot Highland Regt.
- Hesse-Hannau Jae-gers
- Royal Irish Artillery
- Company of Select Marksmen
- Onaquaga War Party
Dues
The suggestion has been made to make dues mandatory for all adult members, but that has not been passed at this time. However, the BVMA is strongly encouraging all adults (over 16) from member units to pay dues and help support your organization. Dues are $5.00, and should be paid through your unit. Mike Kowalski has roster sheets (available on the website soon) that should be filled out and sent in with your dues. Checks should be made payable to the BVMA, and sent to Mike – Unit Commanders, please contact him for more information.

Events
The 2002 Event Schedule is a busy one this year with many 225th events in our neighborhood. The BVMA has voted to sponsor four events this year: Old Stone Fort Opening Day & 18th Century Symposium, the Mabee Farm Encampment, the 225th Battle of the Flockey in Schoharie, and the 225th Burning of Kingston. A sponsored event means that the BVMA is helping to coordinate, organize and run the event, as well as ensuring turnout from the membership. Please think of how you can help the event coordinators with these events – it is a lot of work, and we all have something to contribute!

The membership has also voted to support the following events: Johnson Hall Market Fair, Fort Ticonderoga (Brown’s Raid), and the 2nd Battle of Saratoga (225th). A BVMA supported event means that we have promised our support by means of membership turnout.

Please see the Schedule later in this issue for more information.

Safety Guidelines
The BVMA Safety Guidelines have been passed, and incorporate the best of the BAR, BB, & CL safety guidelines. They will be printed and passed out to the membership soon, hopefully by the Johnson Hall Market Fair in June, and will also be available on the website.

Our Online Community

BVMA List
The BVMA now has it’s own forum for discussions about BVMA issues - the BVMA List!
To subscribe, go to: “http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BVMA/join” or contact our list moderator, Dean Barnes at Thetavernkeeper@hotmail.com

BVMA Web Site
For those of you who don’t know it, our website is at www.bvma.org. Check there for updates about events, directions, and other information. If you have ideas about what you’d like to see up there, please send them to me at webmaster@bvma.org.

Message from the Chairman, ex-Officio

Terry Glasier

Publishers Note: The following is an excerpt from a letter that Terry had intended to go into the newsletter last year.

… In my first address to the BVMA as Chair I pointed out that my Chairmanship would not be as your leader. It would be as your administrator. I consider it an accomplishment of my tenure that rule by the membership has become a reality in practice and now by rule. A fine example of this is our last Annual meeting of the membership. During my address I reported that our looking into insuring the whole organization had been tabled because the delegates felt it would be best to incorporate first. This led to Laura Sawyer Sr. rising and telling us we had dawdled long enough. She moved that we incorporate, it was seconded and passed unanimously by the membership. [The BVMA is now incorporated –Pub.]

The BVMA is a healthy growing family and as such expect more family conflict in the future. It is really unavoidable. However, having said that, I have never seen reenactors more cooperative than now. We will have disagreements in the upcoming season but the spirit of camaraderie between Congress and Crown when not in actual combat has never been stronger in the BVMA then the present. The existing spirit of cooperation and friendliness within the BVMA continues to be among our great-

...
est strengths. This also continues to attract new units to us.

In closing, it is time to have patched your clothes, tuned your lock, and make sure your powder is dry. Looking forward to being with you all on the battlefield and around the camp fire during the upcoming campaign.

Your most humble servant
Terry Glasier

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Old Stone Fort Opening Day
18th Century School and Symposium
May 4, 2002

Be sure to watch for more information about this event! Due to the positive response from the membership, the BVMA will once again be sponsoring Old Stone Fort Opening Day. This time we will be having an 18th Century School & Symposium, featuring lectures and round-table discussions on topics both military and non-military, including clothing, accoutrements, agriculture, cooking, tactics and merchants and sutlers. There should be something of interest to everyone, so come out and support this event!
The Retreat, under normal circumstances, signals the end of the soldier’s working day. It’s origins date back to the days of medieval walled cities, when drummers mounted the walls and beat a signal to warn the inhabitants that the gates would be closing for the evening. As late as 1759, the Prussian Regulations still contained instructions for the “Ceremony of Opening and Shutting the Gates”. Bland and other military treatises of the day expanded the function of the retreat beating to signal retreat on the battlefield as well. This practice was followed by many American regiments early in the Revolution. In his Regulations, Steuben did away with it’s battlefield use and stated that ”The Retreat is beat at sunset, for calling the roll, warning the men for duty, and reading the orders of the day”.

The Retreat generally takes place between 5 and 6 o’clock in the evening depending on the time of year. It begins with The Drummer’s Call 15 minutes beforehand and then proceeds to the Three Taps and Three Rolls, followed by The Retreat beating itself by the assembled Field Music. In between the beating of Drummer’s Call and Retreat, the troops should be assembling on their respective company and regimental parades, as they did for Troop. In some cases, the Retreat would be accompanied by the firing of an evening gun as well. The function of the Retreat is similar in many respects to the Troop in the morning. The roll is taken and any further orders or information that the troops need to know is given out. If the troops fired their weapons during the day, they are inspected again to insure that they are clean and in working order (they would not be expected to be “spit-shined” at this time, just in usable condition).

In most cases, the Retreat is also the time when punishment would be given out. After other business was finished, the guilty party(s) would be brought out, perhaps to the tune of The Rogues March, and receive punishment. This normally consisted of a number of lashes on the bare back with the “cat o’nine tails” given out by the drummer(s). If “drumming out” was part of the punishment, this would occur after the lashes. The guilty party(s) would be paraded in front of the troops, marched to the edge of the camp and “dismissed”.

Once all the business of the Retreat has been carried out, the Drum-Major would be given the signal to end the Retreat. This would be done by the repeating of the Three Taps and Rolls, with the Retreat played once through by the Drum-Major. The troops and Field Music are dismissed in the same manner as for the Troop. At this time the men would normally be free to cook their meals and pursue their own affairs until the beating of the Taptoo later in the evening.


— Wayne Milward
**BVMA Member Units**

### Crown Forces

**8th Foot Light Coy.**  
Eric Bloomquist  
Lewiston, NY  
716-285-8013  
http://members.tripod.com/~Gargano/Eighth.html

**21st Foot RNBF**  
Paul Supley  
Ballston Lake, NY  
518-399-7611  
pasg21@aol.com  
http://www.21stfoot.cjb.net/

**64th Foot Stannus' Coy.**  
Joe Blanchard  
Fairport, NY  
716-377-9249

**74th Highland Regt.**  
William Siebert  
Dixmont, ME  
207-234-2253  
wseibert@aol.com  
http://users.erols.com/seventyfourth/74th1.htm

**84th Foot RHE 10th Coy. 1st Bn.**  
Erwin Splittgerber  
Amsterdam, NY  
518-843-0102  
splitt@klink.net

**16th Light Dragoons**  
Don Beale  
http://generalsguard.homestead.com/Generalsguard.html

**Company of Select Marksmen**  
Christian Cameron  
416-603-1743  
cgc.sjw@sympatico.ca  
http://www.iprimus.ca/%7Elougheed/CSM_ID/index.html

**Royal Irish Artillery**  
Ray Chavarie  
Windsor, ME  
207-445-4224  
maltaray@tivot.net  
http://www.ziplink.net/~edkreutz/

**Hesse-Hannau Jaegers**  
Drew E. Smith  
Yardville, NJ  
609-298-5925

### Congressional Forces

**Congress' Own 1st Canadian Regt.**  
Noel Levee  
Johnstown, NY  
518-762-7419  
levee@superior.net  
http://www.bvma.org/ members/1stCanadian.html

**2nd New York Regt.**  
Karl L. Crannell  
Ticonderoga, NY  
518-585-7880  
karl@fort-ticonderoga.org

**6th Conn. Regt. Light Coy.**  
Richard Swartwout  
Andover, CT  
860-742-9843  
captain6th@qwestonline.com  
http://www.6thconnecticut.org

**Col. Ichabod Alden's Regt, Sixth Mass.**  
Terry Glasier  
Granville, NY  
518-642-3457  
http://www.aldens6thmass.com/

**2nd Continental Lt. Dragoons**  
Salvatore Tarantino  
Farmington, CT  
860-675-8461  
sh2ldhq@erols.com

**2nd Continental Artillery**  
John Faulhaber  
Fort Edward, NY  
518-747-7934

**2nd Continental Artillery Savage's Detachment**  
Dave Morgan  
Rome, NY  
315-338-6114  
dmorgan4@twcny.rr.com  
http://www.geocities.com/savagesdetachment/

**1st Ulster County Militia**  
Ben Carlos  
Saugerties, NY  
845-246-6305  
hudvcapt@ulster.net  
http://www.firstulstercountymilitia.homestead.com/home.html
Crown Forces (cont’d)
Drewesmith@aol.com
http://www.hannau-jager.com

Kings Royal Regiment of New York "Johnson's Greens"
Gavin Watt
King City, Ontario, Canada
416-833-6435
gk.watt@sympatico.ca
http://www.globalseve.net/~louheed/yorkweb/

Queens Rangers Company of Horse
Gary Corrado
Oneonta, NY
(607) 432-0222
grranger@yahoo.com
http://www.bvma.org/queens.html

Butler's Rangers Ten Broeck's Coy.
Chris Miazga
Poland, NY
315-826-5258
kuyahoorakil@aol.com

Claus' Rangers
Jason Bush
Johnstown, NY
518-762-0330
arthur@superior.net
http://msnhomepages.talkcity.com/VolunteerSt/clausrangers/

Brant's Loyal Volunteers
Bob Smith
716-343-7620
http://www.geocities.com/Yosemite/Trails/7255/brants.html

Doxstaders Coy. of Loyalists
Richard Schultes
Cherry Valley, NY
607-264-3994
richard.schultes@bassett.org

Onaquaga War Party
Armstrong, Will
Sloansville, NY
518-868-6962
warmslyo@gw.neric.org

Congressional Forces (cont’d)

2nd Regiment Albany County Militia
John Osinski
Middleburgh, NY
518-827-5429
josinski@midtel.net
http://www.starry-nite.com/2nd_albany.html

3rd Tryon County Militia
Col. James F. Morrison
Gloversville, NY
tryonco@superior.net
http://www.geocities.com/tryoncountymilitia/index.htm

4th Tryon County Militia
Jim Stevens
Manlius, NY
stevensj@twcny.rr.com
http://www.bvma.org/tryon4

13th Albany County Militia
Kevin Rudolph
Glenville, NY
518-381-8937
militia13thalbany@juno.com
http://www.bvma.org/members/13thAlbany.html

Whitcomb’s Rangers
James Casco
Middletown Spring, VT
802-235-2457
caspar@vermontel.com
http://www.mafseminars.com/whitcomb's.htm

Publishers Note: This Unit Listing contains the information that was available to me as of March 20. An updated listing will be available soon. - KG
In May the British began to implement a strategic plan to seal off the northern and New England colonies. The plan consists of three major parts: (1) General John Burgoyne was to move up Lake Champlain, then follow the upper Hudson to Albany. (2) Colonel Barry St. Leger, with a smaller force was to go up the St. Lawrence and Lake Ontario to Fort Oswego and there cut across New York to seize Fort Stanwix on the upper Mohawk, and to march down the Mohawk valley to Albany. (3) Sir William Howe was to ascend the Hudson with a fleet and army, capture the fortresses on that river, take possession of the villages and meet the other two armies at Albany.

May 6
General Burgoyne landed at Quebec to command British forces in Canada.

May 23 - Colonel Meigs captured ninety prisoners, a gunship, and military stores at Sag Harbor, L.I.

June 1 - Burgoyne invaded northern New York.

June 16 - Crown Point Evacuated.

June 30 - British returned to Staten Island from New Jersey.

July 6 - Ticonderoga evacuated by General St. Clair and 3000 men.

July 7 - Skenesborough seized.

July 7 - Battle of Hubbardton. American force retreating from Ticonderoga routed by British and German troops after heavy fighting.


July 12 - General St. Clair arrived at Fort Edward.

July 27 - Jane McCrea murdered.

July 30 - Burgoyne reached Fort Edward.

August 4-22 - Fort Stanwix (Fort Schuyler). Barry St. Leger attacked fort under Colonels Gansevoort and Willet.

August 6 - Battle of Oriskany. General Herkimer checked and mortally wounded in an ambuscade of Tories and Indians.

August 12 - General Benedict Arnold marched to relief of Fort Stanwix.

August 16 - Battle of Bennington. Colonel Baum defeated by General John Stark at Walloomsac.

August 19 - General Schuyler superseded by General Gates.

August 21-22 - Staten Island raided by General Sullivan and Colonel Ogden taking stores and 130 prisoners.

September 18 - Colonel Brown attacked British at Ticonderoga and on Lake George.

September 19 - First battle of Saratoga.

September 20 - Burgoyne fortified his camp.

September 23 - Battle of Diamond Island.

October 3 - General Clinton ascended Hudson to cooperate with Burgoyne.

October 6 - Forts Clinton and Montgomery captured by Sir Henry Clinton.

October 7 - Second battle of Saratoga; British defeated.

October 13 - Kingston Burned

October 17 - Saratoga; surrender of General Burgoyne.

Map courtesy of the General Libraries, the University of Texas at Austin

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— Kristin

NEXT ISSUE SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Next issue to be distributed at Johnson Hall (or by mail if you are not in attendance at J’Hall.) Please submit articles, ideas, questions, etc. at any time or by May 24 for the next issue.

BURNING ISSUES