



# THE BURNING ISSUES



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Volume 10 Issue 2 Official Newsletter of the Burning of the Valleys Military Association, Inc.

June 2002

## From the Chairman

Dear BVMA Members and Units,

I would like to thank all those who put together and attended the spectacular events these past two months. The events at the Old Stone Fort and the Mabee Farm kicked off our 2002 re-enacting season with great success. If it wasn't for all those who hosted, planned and participated, these events would not have resulted as greatly as they did.

Also, I would like to mention I am close to wrapping up my move to Fort Johnson. As I'm completing this task, I ask for your patience with my delay in correspondence via email. I will soon be hooking up my computer at home and I will proceed to get in touch with you all.

Thank you again, and see you all at Johnson Hall

Paul Supley  
BVMA Chairman

## The Global BVMA!

As some of you know, we recently had a membership request from a person from Belgium! You also might be interested to know where the visitors to our website are coming from. During the month of May, we had visitors from the following countries:

Canada (150)	Italy (3)
Belgium (23)	Poland (3)
Spain (13)	Estonia (3)
Portugal (9)	Lithuania (3)
Japan (8)	Netherlands (2)
United Kingdom (8)	Denmark (2)
Australia (6)	Russia (2)
Samoa (6)	Germany (1)

(The number in parentheses is how many "hits" from that country) - KG



## Commemorating the 225th Anniversary of 1777

### Thanks From Mabee Farm

May 28, 2002  
Burning of the Valleys Military Association, Inc.  
Mr. Paul Supley, Chairman

Dear Chairman Supley:

On behalf of the Schenectady County Historical Society, we thank you for your organization's sponsorship and participation in our first Revolutionary War Encampment at the Mabee Farm. Despite this year's uncooperative weather, we believe this has the potential to become an important annual event for the Society and also for the Town of Rotterdam and Schenectady County. We plan to do it again next year and invite the BVMA to join us. The dates will be May 16, 17, and 18, 2003.

Please extend the personal thanks of each member Mabee Farm Committee to all your members who braved the 'historic' weather conditions and stayed for the entire weekend. This Encampment was our first attempt at a large-scale event at the Farm. Many of our

## From Terry Glasier (Ex-Oficio)

- written September 18, 2001  
(Pub. Note: this message never made it into a newsletter last year, but was important to Terry, so we have included most of it here. - KG)

I write this just about a week since September 11. I had an experience this past weekend that I would like to share. My regiment, the Sixth Massachusetts, had an event scheduled for the past weekend. It was a village type event. We were hosted by Windsor, Connecticut. Until Friday I was uncertain whether there would be an event at all. A member of the Sixth confirmed that the event would be held and informed me. Had I recovered from the shock of Tuesday? Not really, did I really want to travel for hours to attend this event, again, not really. However, if this town of fellow Americans wished to carry on with their plans unintimidated, the right thing to do was to help.

It was surreal to greet friends that I had last greeted during peace. Indeed, some I had parted from less than a week before at Ticonderoga. There was a dead seriousness to us all. We all knew that we were there to help show all, that despite the acts of monsters, Windsor was not and would not be cowed. We felt, no, knew, that to carry on, doing what we do dozens of times a year all over the east coast and Canada, once again, at this place particularly at this time, would be significant for us as Americans and re-enactors. During the officer meeting we were informed that across the street was the home of a couple that had worked hard to make the event a reality. They were among the missing since Tuesday.

Would we have a tactical? Yes, we would. Concern was expressed that some of the spectators could become enraged against the British re-enactors. Perhaps, someone would assault them. A concern that we have rarely had.

**Thanks from Mabee Farm***(cont'd from p. 1)*

volunteers have worked for years to get the Farm ready to host such an exciting, public event. No doubt you felt our crushing disappointment, waking to see snow on Saturday morning. If you had packed up and gone home to get warm, we would have understood. Yet, you stuck it out and allowed us to recover with a very successful day on Sunday. Please accept our admiration and respect.

The BVMA will always be welcomed at the Mabee Farm. We hope to have a long and mutually beneficial relationship with you. The Farm will be made available if you would like to host other events and meetings, or even, dances. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Keith Cramer,

For the entire Mabee Farm Committee



Loyalist force strikes the Liberty pole  
(Mabee Farm, May 19, 2002)

- photo by Steve Crawford,  
2nd Regt., Albany County Militia

**It Rain's Again**

by Chris Miazga,

Ten Broek's Coy' Butlers Rangers

It rains again. . . the smoke from the small fire dances around my head, rises and is quickly lost against the roof of the cave and out up over the ridge, masking my presence. The valley, in which the cave lies, forged over the years by the river below me; I have been here before. I know its secrets, its high ground, its deep hollows, its fragrant meadows and its berry patches. I know the animals that call it home, the red fox, the elk, and the black bear. As I call it home. From my hiding place I can see a worn trail from years of travel beneath the moccasined feet of many Mohawk that passed this way, laden with fur, canoe, and family. Now too, the whites travel this path, . . . but cautiously. Those who call the Mohawk 'brother', still have much to fear. Neighbors can turn on you. Your own blood will tell tales to prove their innocence. Trust in the Lord. Through it all the river still flows on its endless journey to the Mohawk river, then the Hudson, emptying into the sea. The Mohawk named this river 'kuyahoorá', or leaping waters, and below me in the gorge that bridles it, the water flows on its tortured way.

I once held the reins of a plow in my weathered hands and struggled behind my oxen through the rich black soil of the valley floor. Now I hold musket and hawk, lead and steel. What has reduced me so? Some folk say it's 'our patriotic duty', others 'for loyalty'. I just wanted to be left alone to raise my family and tend to my crops, but that wasn't good enough for them; the committee of safety. I followed my heart and thought thus what my father would have done.

The embers at my feet dry my leggings and mocs. My lock, with pan open basks in the glow, a necessity on a damp spring day as dusk approaches. The melting snows once brought apple blossoms, fawn lilies, and the return of the goose and pigeon. Now, spring brings death and terror from the northwest on swift foot with coats of green faced red; Butler's men and native allies. They know their purpose; to silence

the frontier by any means. The whites among them, loyalists all, know the consequence if taken.

My last handful of parched corn does not fill the emptiness within my belly. I sip at a cool rivulet of water that trickles down the cave wall. Both are meager, but I have adapted to survive on this. Darkness approaches. A safer time to travel. This is what I have become. I search for the shadows, and embrace the stars and moon. I throw black earth onto the coals of my fire, it smolders little. The black leather box at my side is unfastened and my fingers feel for the prepared paper cartridges within. With one chosen I rip it cleanly with teeth, pour the contents home and ram it down hard. The priming horn fills and the pan is silently shut. I gather my kit and slip out into the shadows never to return to my valley of the kuyahoorá, for I wear a coat of green faced red.

**American History through Folk Music**

by Kristin Gitler

One of the areas our history text books are sorely lacking in is cultural and social history. A great way to get a picture of a society in any time period is to study the popular folk music. This can often be a difficult task, as folk music, by its very nature, is often not recorded until many years later. This can make it more difficult to pinpoint the specific time period of a given song. There is, however, some information available, and I thought it would be interesting to include articles or bits of information pertaining to folk music during the Revolutionary War.

During the Revolution, there were several types of songs that we might consider folk music today. One type is hymns - the popular hymns of the day might vary from region to region, depending upon ethnic origins and other factors.

Another type is the broadside ballad, or just broadside. A broadside referred to a single sheet of paper on which ballads

*(cont'd on p. 3)*

*From Terry Glasier (cont.'d from p. 1)*

Yet, this was but five days since September 11. Because of Tuesday, the re-enactors resolved to remember the maimed, missing and the dead. Crown and Congressional troops drilled for mourning arms in their memory. That afternoon we battled through the streets to a small field. After the skirmish we lined up before the several hundred spectators and mourned arms. While my head was bowed tears coursed down my cheeks. There was not a dry eye amongst us as we bowed over our muskets. The crowd and troops then sang "God Bless America". I was able to choke out about half the words. Later, others told me their voices had also failed. All those present will carry that moment in time to their graves.

Repeatedly during the event the Americans of Windsor, Connecticut expressed their heartfelt thanks to us for attending the event. Re-enactors are a special type of American. The lessons we teach from 18<sup>th</sup> Century America have a particular relevance now. The United States was born in time of great travail. Courage, self-sacrifice, and perseverance were qualities that created this country. Such qualities can never be outmoded. Such are needed to guide us through the dark coming days. We are a diverse group, some are currently on active duty. Others soon will be. Even on the home front sacrifices will have to be made. In the coming months, perhaps years, other towns like Windsor will desire and appreciate events that involve us to be focal points for this reawakening of American patriotism. What we represent has always been important, it will become more so. Pray for America and the World. Remember Flight 93.

**Bits & Pieces**

*Don't put these on your fine new shirt...*

**iron ruffles:** Handcuffs. A character in a 1776 play threatened "I'll make each of them a present of a pair of iron ruffles."

*From Richard M. Lederer, Jr. Colonial American English. Essex, CT, Verbatim, 1985*

**A 1784 Busk**

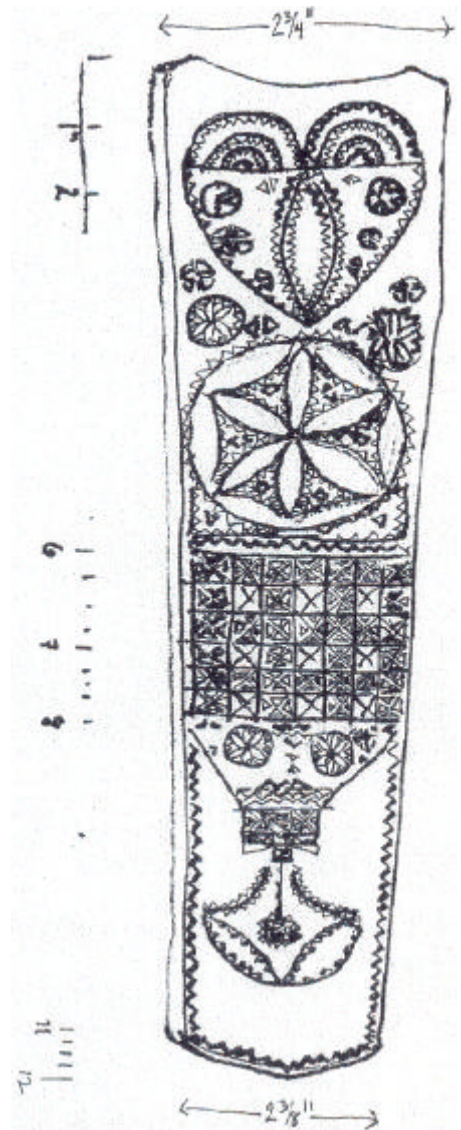
by Jennifer Richard-Morrow

To obtain the posture and shape that was considered ideal in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, women wore a pair of stays, a stiff undergarment around the torso. To keep the front of the body very straight, a busk could be added to the front of the stays. This was a piece of wood inserted in the front of the stays, sometimes in a sewn in busk pocket or tied in the stays. There is a very nice example in the collection of the New York State Museum.

This particular busk [pictured at left] is carved on both sides. On the back is the owner's name, Anna Camp, and the date, 1784. It is made of a dark closely grained wood, probably maple. It measures 11 3/4 " long and is about 1/8" thick. The top is slightly wider than the bottom, the top being 2 3/4 " across and the bottom measuring 2 3/8 ".

Busks were sometimes given to young women as a gift from their suitors who carved designs on them. The carvings on this busk are an interesting design of circles and little chip carved triangles, often seen in the Hudson Valley and in New England. The little triangles make a sawtooth design lining the inscribed curves.

Several similar busks were offered for auction at Sotheby's in 1994. An even more elaborately carved one, also with chip carved hearts and pinwheels, was included in the auction lot of five



busks. This particular one was signed Eunice Davis, North Weymouth, Massachusetts, 1787.

*American History through Folk Music (cont'd from p. 2)*

were printed and distributed. These broadsides were often used to editorialize current events, and functioned as singing newspapers. The art of balladry had a long and well-established tradition in the British Isles by our time period, and singing ballads, both traditional and new, was an integral part of the heritage which the early Americans brought with them to their new country. Ballads told stories, ranging from simple romances to great acts of heroism. Quite often the ballad, like a good story, would keep the listener in suspense until the last verse. One of the fun things about ballads is how they tend to change and get added to over the years, and from region to region. One ballad that was popular during the war was the English ballad "Barbara Allen", which by our time period was already several centuries old, and was said to be a favorite of George Washington. The timelessness of folk music is illustrated by the fact that this song re-surfaced in the Southern mountains in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and again during the folk revival of the 1950's and '60's.

*(cont'd on p. 10)*

**Pub. Note:** *The following pieces are reprinted with permission from the website [America's Historic Lakes](http://www.historiclakes.org) (www.historiclakes.org), created and maintained by James P. Millard. Be sure to visit this site, as it is an excellent resource for historical & geographical information on the Lake George/Lake Champlain region, F&I War, Rev. War, Native Americans, etc. - KG*

## General John Burgoyne's Proclamation

**Issued at the Camp at Bouquet Ferry June 20th, 1777**

*transcribed by James P. Millard from*

*Hadden's Journal and Orderly Books: A Journal Kept in Canada and Upon Burgoyne's Campaign in 1776 and 1777, by Lieut. James M. Hadden, Roy. Art<sup>1</sup>*

*Gen. John Burgoyne: Public Papers of George Clinton, Vol.II. 1900: Published by the State of New York<sup>2</sup>  
Courtesy of the Floyd Harwood Collection*



**Author note:** The following proclamation was issued by Burgoyne as his forces were encamped at the Bouquet enroute up Lake Champlain towards the Fort Ticonderoga/Mt. Independence complex and eventually, Saratoga. It is typical Burgoyne style, full of bluster and grandiose speech. It was received with much derision by the Americans, who especially criticized Burgoyne's threatening of them with "the Indian forces under my direction..." Digby records a mocking, sardonic reply from the Americans in his journal, dated July 10, and delivered to Burgoyne a few days later. You can read the reply [on p. 5]. [jpm]

By John Burgoyne Esq'r; Lieut Gen'l of His Majesties Armies in America, Col. of the Queens Reg't of Lt. Dragoons, Governor of Fort William in North Britain, one of the Representatives of the Commons of Great Britain in Parliament, and Commanding an Army and Fleet employed on an expedition from Canada &c &c &c.

The forces entrusted to my command are designed to act in concert, and upon a common principle, with the numerous Armies and Fleets which already display in every quarter of America, the power, the justice, and when properly sought the mercy of the King. The cause in which the British Arms are thus exerted applies to the most affecting interests of the human heart; and the military Servants of the Crown, at first called forth for the sole purpose of restoring the rights of constitution, now combine with love of their Country, and duty to their Sovereign, the other extensive incitements which spring from a due sense of the general privileges of Mankind. To the Eyes and Ears of the temperate part of the Public, and to the breasts of suffering Thousands in the Provinces, be the melancholy appeal whether the present unnatural Rebellion has not been made for a foundation for the completest system of Tyranny that ever God in his displeasure suffer'd for a time to be exercised over a froward and stubborn Generation.

Arbitrary imprisonment, confiscation of property, persecution and torture, unprecedented in the inquisitions of the Romish Church are among the palpable enormities that verify the affirmative. These are inflicted, (by the Assemblies & Committees who dare to profess themselves friends to Liberty,) upon the most quiet Subjects, without distinction of age or Sex, for the sole crime, often for the sole suspicion, of having adhered in principle to the Government under which they were born, and to which by every tye divine and human they owe allegiance. To consummate these shocking proceedings the profanation of Religion is added to the most profligate prostitution of common reason, the consciences of Men are set at naught and multitudes are compelled not only to Arms, but also to swear subjection to an usurpation they abhor.

Animated by these considerations; at the head of Troops in full powers of health, discipline, and Valour; determined to strike where necessary, and anxious to spare where possible, I by these presents invite and exhort all persons, in all places where the progress of this Army may point- and by the blessing of God I will extend it far- to maintain such a conduct as may justify me in protecting their Lands, habitations, and Families.

The intention of this address is to hold forth security not depredation to the Country. To those whom spirit and principle may induce to partake the glorious task of redeeming their Countrymen from Dungeons, and reestablishing the blessings of legal Government I offer encouragement and employment; and upon the first intelligence of their associations I will find means to assist their undertakings. The domestick, the industrious, the infirm, and even the timid inhabitants I am desirous to protect provided they remain quietly in their houses, that they do not suffer their Cattle to be removed, nor their Corn or forage to be secreted or destroyed, that they do not break up their Bridges or Roads; nor by any other acts directly or indirectly endeavour to obstruct the operations of the Kings Troops, or supply or assist those of the Enemy.

Every species of Provision brought to my Camp will be paid for at an equitable rate and in solid Coin.

*(cont'd on p. 6)*

## An American reply to... General John Burgoyne's Proclamation

Issued at the *Camp at Bouquet Ferry* June 20th, 1777

transcribed by James P. Millard from

*The Journal of Lieut. William Digby. Campaign of 1777. By an officer in the Northern Army under the command of His Excellency Lieut.-Gen. John Burgoyne.*

*To their capture at Saratoga.*<sup>1</sup>



Gen. Philip Schuyler.  
From *The Pictorial Field-Book of the Revolution*,  
by Benson J. Lossing.  
Courtesy of the Floyd  
Harwood Collection]

**Author note:** The quotes below are of a mocking, sardonic reply delivered to Burgoyne in reply to his lofty proclamation issued at the Bouquet. Digby does not tell us who penned this missive, it was probably anonymous, closed only with "Saratoga, July 10-- 1777 A B. C D E & c." This writer believes it makes for marvelous reading, as Burgoyne's Proclamation was intended to strike fear and submission into the hearts of the Americans, this derisive reply shows just the opposite. [jpm]

[Digby writes]...About this time, a letter addressed to general Burgoyne, burlesquing his proclamation appeared, which perhaps may entertain the reader.—

To John Burgoyne Esq Lieut General of his majesty's armies in America, Colonel of the Queen's Regiment of Light Dragoons, governor of Fort William in North Britain, one of the Representatives of the Commons of Great Britain and commanding an army and fleet on an expedition from Canada & c & c & c .

Most high, most mighty, most puissant, and sublime general! When the forces under your command arrived at Quebec, in order to act in concert and upon a common principle with the numerous fleets & armies, which already display in every quarter of America the justice and mercy of your King; we, the reptils of America, were struck with unusual trepidation and astonishment. But what words can express the plenitude our our horror, when the Colonel of the Queen's Regiment of Light Dragoons advanced towards Ticonderoga? The mountains shook before thee, and the trees of the forest bowed their leafy heads. The vast lakes of the north were chilled at thy presence, and the mighty cataracts stopped their tremendous career and were suspended in awe at thy approach.

Judge then, oh! ineffable Governor of Fort William in North Britain, what must have been the terror, dismay, and despair that overspread this paltry continent of America, and us, its wretched inhabitants! Dark and dreary indeed was the prospect before us, till like the sun in the Horizon, your most gracious and irresistible proclamation opened the doors of mercy and snatched us, as it were, from the jaws of annihilation. We foolishly thought, blind as we were, that your gracious master's fleets and armies were come to destroy us and our liberties; but we are happy in hearing from you, and who can doubt what you assert, that they were called forth for the sole purpose of restoring the rights of the Constitution to a froward, stubborn generation?

And it is for this, oh! sublime, Lieut Genl! that you have given yourself the trouble to cross the wide Atlantic, and with incredible fatigue traversed uncultivated wilds; and we ungratefully refused the profered blessing?

To restore the rights of the Constitution, you have called together an amiable host of savages, and turned them loose to scalp our women and children and lay our country waste. This they have performed with their usual skill and clemency, and we remain insensible for the benefit, and unthankful for so much goodness.

Our Congress have declared Independence, and our assemblies, as your highness justly observes, have most wickedly imprisoned the avowed friends of that power with which they are at war, and most profanely compelled those whose conscience will not permit them to fight, to pay some small part towards the expenses their country is at in supporting what is called a necessary and defensive war. If we go on thus in our obstinacy and ingratitude, what can we expect, but that you should in your anger give a stretch to the Indian forces under your direction, amounting to thousands, to overtake and destroy us, or what is ten times worse, that you should withdraw your fleets and armies and leave us to our own misery, without completing the benevolent task you have begun in restoring to us the rights of the Constitution.--

We submit, we submit most puissant Col l of the Queen's regiment of Light Dragoons & Governor of Fort William in North Britain, we offer our heads to the scalping knife, and our bellies to the bayonet. Who can resist the terror of your arms? who can resist the force of your eloquence? The invitation you have made in the consciousness of christianity, your royal master's clemency, and the honour of soldiership we thankfully accept; The blood of the slain, the cries of the injured virgins and innocent children, and the never ceasing sighs and groans of starving wretches, now languishing in the gaols and prison ships of New York, call on

(cont'd on p. 6)



**Burgoyne's Proclamation** (*cont'd. from p. 4*)

In consciousness of Christianity, my Royal Masters clemency, and the honor of Soldiership, I have dwelt upon this invitation, and wished for more persuasive terms to give it impression; and let not people be led to disregard it by considering their distance from the immediate situation of my Camp. I have but to give stretch to the Indian Forces under my direction, and they amount to Thousands, to overtake the harden'd Enemies of Great Britain and America, (I consider them the same) wherever they may lurk. If notwithstanding these endeavours, and sincere inclinations to effect them, the phrenzy of hostility shou'd remain, I trust I shall stand acquitted in the Eyes of God & Men in denouncing and executing the vengeance of the state against the wilful outcasts. The messengers of justice & of wrath await them in the Field, and devastation, famine, and every concomitant horror that a reluctant by indispensable prosecution of Military duty must occasion, will bar the way to their return.

By order of his (Signed) John Burgoyne.

Excellency the Lt. Gen'l

(Signed) Rob't Kingston.

Secretary.

Camp at Bouquet Ferry June 20th, 1777

**Sources/notes:**

**1 James Hadden.** *Hadden's Journal and Orderly Books: A Journal Kept in Canada and Upon Burgoyne's Campaign in 1776 and 1777, by Lieut. James M. Hadden, Roy. Art.* Edited by Horatio Rogers. (Albany: Joel Munsell's Sons, 1884)

**2 PUBLIC PAPERS OF GEORGE CLINTON: FIRST GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK. VOL. II.** Published by the State of New York. (New York and Albany: Wynkoop, Hallenbeck, Crawford, 1900) 143

**An American Reply** (*cont'd. from p. 5*)

us in vain, while your sublime proclamation is sounding in our ears!

Forgive us, oh! our country! forgive us dear posterity! forgive us all ye foreign powers! who are anxiously watching our conduct in this important struggle, if we yield implicitly to the persuasive tongue of the most elegant Col l of the Queen's Regiment of Light Dragoons. Forbear then, thou magnanimous Lieut general, forbear to denounce vengeance against us! forbear to give a stretch to those restorers of the Constitution's rights, the Indians under your direction! let not the messengers of wrath & justice await us in the field, and devastation, famine and every concomitant horror, bar our return to the allegiance of a prince, who by his royal will, would deprive us of every blessing of life with all possible clemency. We are domestic; we are industrious; we are infirm and timid; we shall remain quietly at home and not remove our cattle, our corn, or forage, in hopes that you will come at the head of troops, in the full powers of health, discipline, and valour, and take charge of them for yourselves.—

Behold our wives and daughters; our flocks and herds; our goods and chattels, are they not at the mercy of our lord and king, and of his lieutenant general, Member of the house of Commons and Governor of Fort William in North Britain?

SARATOGA, July 10-- 1777 A B. C D E & c .

**Sources/notes:**

**1 William Digby.** 1776-1777. [*The Journal of Lieut. William Digby.*] 1887. *THE BRITISH INVASION FROM THE NORTH. The Campaigns of Generals Carleton and Burgoyne from Canada, 1776-1777, with the Journal of William Digby, of the 53d, or Shropshire Regiment of Foot, illustrated with historical notes, by James Phinney Baxter, A.M.* Albany, New York: Joel Munsell's Sons. 229-233

**2 Benson J. Lossing** 1850. *THE PICTORIAL FIELD-BOOK OF THE REVOLUTION.* New York: Harper & Brothers Publishers.

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## Annual BVMA General Membership Meeting March 23, 2002

The meeting commenced at 1:50 PM

### **Opening Welcome from Vice Chairman John Osinski:**

The Vice Chair introduced the new executive officers elected at the Annual BVMA Delegates meeting held on February 23, 2002: Paul Supley , Chairman ; John Osinski , Vice Chairman ; Executive Secretary , Wade Wells ; Recording Secretary , Dean F. Barnes ; and Treasurer , Mike Kowalski . Also, the new publisher of Burning Issues and BVMA webmistress Kristin Gitler and the current Behind the Lines and Guild of Artisans and Artificers Chairpersons were recognized.

The Vice Chair further recognized our guests from local historic sites : Susan Jones of Fort Stanwix ; Laura Spickerman of Old Stone Fort ; and Keith Kramer of Mabee House.

### **Introduction of Meeting from Chairman Paul Supley :**

The Chairman gave a brief history of the founding of the BVMA and where we are today discussing the proposed bylaws changes including the individual membership requirement and Executive Board to be elected of the General Membership instead of the delegates. The Chair reviewed the Missions and Goals of the current Bylaws and upholding them.

### **Business Session**

Mr. Supley began the Business Session by thanking the Former BVMA Board Officers , Terry Glasier, Noel Levee, Ben Carlos, and Kevin Rudolph for their hard work over the last few years and through a period of transition. He also recognized the former publisher of the Burning Issues for his work over the years.

#### **Board Reports**

The Secretary encapsulated the Delegates Meeting that Bylaw changes were discussed and it was recommended that they be presented and voted on by the general membership at today's meeting. New units voted in were the 16<sup>th</sup> Queen's Light Dragoons, the 64<sup>th</sup> StannusCoy, 74<sup>th</sup> Foot Highland Regiment, the Hesse-Hannau Jaegers, the Royal Irish Artillery, the Company of Select Marksmen , and the Onaquaga War Party. Finally, new Board Officers were elected.

The Treasurer gave a brief account summary. As of the Delegates meeting, our treasury totaled \$ 423.00. With the memberships collected at the Delegates meeting, we were able to start a bank account in the name of BVMA, Inc. with a deposit of \$968.00 . With memberships collected since and including today, it is anticipated that our treasury will be approximately \$2000.00 . BVMA, Inc. is currently a Not-For-Profit corporation. We are applying to be a tax-exempt corporation as well.

The Webmistress advised that the new BVMA units have been added to the website. Coming soon a search engine, awards information. If you have a website with your event's information, please let her know. The Burning Issues newsletter was seeking a Crown and Congressional Editor (now filled- Shawn Natole and Steve Crawford).

BTL 's Shari Yaddaw announced it would be a building year for the BTL seeking to develop the Paul Brown Scholarship program, the Children's Awards, and workshops and symposiums. Anne Clothier announced the OSF opening day schedule for the BVMA School of Instruction. It will include a roundtable discussion on 1<sup>st</sup> person impression with Terry Glasier interpreting his ancestor. They also called for people to step up to do future workshops.

### **New Business**

- I. Mr. Supley advised that Butler's Rangers- Frey Company requests that their membership application be officially considered at the meeting. It had been on hold at their request. Jim Stevens did an introduction on the unit, and motioned to approve their unit membership. It was seconded by Kevin Richard Morrow and the floor vote approved their membership unanimously.
- II. New Committees: Volunteers are needed to spearhead BVMA shooting matches. Dave Goodrich is head of the BVMA Wargames Committee. The main obstacle in obtaining sites is proof of insurance. Everyone who wants to attend must be an individual paying member of the BVMA and submit proof of insurance. It was suggested that next year it be reviewed as a possible membership requirement- if we had it all on file, then securing a site would be no problem. There will be judges, rules, limited ammo. Please let Dave know of any sites you can recommend. BVMA safety rules will be in effect.
- III. Paul distributed a list of potential historical sites in our region along with a list of 225<sup>th</sup> anniversaries in our region for the next four years and asked for volunteers/units to take ownership to host them. This may be an additional committee.

### **Announcements**

- I. A status report on our own 2nd Continental Artillerist Anson Piper's condition. He had been ill and also had hip surgery but is looking forward to field in June.
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- II. Mr. Supley suggested the BVMA start a lifetime achievement award for someone's educational contributions be instituted . It would be a unique gift special to the person and would only be awarded in those rare instances. Kevin Richard Morrow moved that the first recipient be Anson Piper. It was seconded by Dave Goodrich. Sue Wheadon made a motion that the gift be limited to approximately \$50.00, and Cathy Levee seconded the motion. Both motions passed.

#### **Executive Committee's Bylaw Change Report and Floor Vote**

As voted on by the Delegates at the Delegates Meeting, the Executive Committee introduced the proposed Bylaw change recommendations to the General membership.

- I. They suggested a point by point motion and vote. Jennifer Richard Morrow made the official motion which was seconded by Kristin Gitler. The motion passed.
- II. Article III .The member group entity language currently indicates "Regiment Unit" in the Bylaws definition for member units.(Revises Article III Section 1, Section 2, section 3, throughout Bylaws)
- III. Suggested it be changed to "unit" throughout the Bylaws as more encompassing of actual current member groups. Terry Glasier made a motion to accept the change. Kevin Richard Morrow seconded. Motion passed.
- IV. Individual membership requirement for anyone over age 16 seeking to participate in BVMA member only activities including workshops, symposiums, wargames, shoots, etc. Associate membership status only applies to members under 16 and new recruits added that year to a unit after the Annual General membership meeting. Dave Goodrich motioned to pass. Terry Glasier seconded. The vote passed. (Replaces Article III, section 4)
- V. Honorary Members and Lifetime Membership. Suggested to strike their current no vote at the General membership meetings status. Motion to approve by Kevin Richard Morrow. Seconded by Kristin Gitler. Motion passed. (Article III, section 6 revision)
- VI. Article 5 indicates that potential candidates for the Board of Directors currently must be delegates at the Delegates meeting. Suggested that anyone who was a BVMA member in good standing for one year be considered as an eligible candidate as long as they are present at the Delegates meeting. Terry Glasier so moved to accept. Kevin Richard Morrow seconded .The motion passed.
- VII. (Revises Article IV section H and Article V section 1)
- VIII. Article V. Suggestion to add BTL and Guild elected leaders to the Board of Directors in an advisory position for nonmilitary matters. Sue Wheadon made a motion to accept. Kevin Richard Morrow seconded . Motion passed. (addition of a section F to Article V)
- IX. Article 7 /Section 2 . Suggestion that the Annual Delegates meeting be moved to the third Saturday in January, and that the individual membership fees be due by the Annual General membership meeting. Motion by Terry Glasier. Seconded by Kristin Gitler. Motion passed.

#### **Additional New Business**

- I. Proof of membership. Individual membership cards will be issued. They are encouraged to be shown at BVMA member only events .However, a list will be on hand for those who forget.
- II. Insurance viability for the organization. The current atmosphere makes it nearly impossible. It was suggested that each unit provide proof to the BVMA annually so they have it on file. Terry Glasier motioned to table until the next Delegates meeting. Seconded by Kevin Richard Morrow. Motion passed.
- III. Ted Windsor from the former Fort Engagement of Milford presented a \$600.00 loan check to add to our treasury. This will be reimbursed if the site is ever reestablished.

#### **Awards**

- I. The Youth Award went to William Rudolph for his Gunstock Warclub project.
- II. The Arthur Bush Officer of the Year Award went to Jim Stevens.
- III. The Bernie Sawyer Soldier of the Year Award went to Steve Crawford,
- IV. The Marguerite Seifert-Hines BTL Distaff Award went to Laura Spickerman
- V. The Steve Hines Musician Award went to Bill Sawyer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dean Barnes,  
Secretary

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Sights from Mabee Farm: above: Sarah Yaddaw, Hugh Francis and John Catalfumo displayed their equine talents. Bottom left: A spectator enjoys the horses. Bottom right: Dave Morgan inspects his field piece before action.

*Photos by Steve Crawford, 2nd Regt., Albany County Militia*



*American History through Folk Music (cont'd from p. 3)*

The third type of folk music is the war-related song, which has surfaced during most conflicts, and the American Revolution is no exception. These songs can be written to cheer the troops, build their morale and rekindle their patriotism, or they can be written about the people who are affected by the war, those who are back home, behind the battle lines. Some are political in nature; some boast of heroic military feats or belittle the enemy, and others are reflective and sentimental. Quite often these songs, as well as other types of folk songs, were written to the music of an existing song. Once such song is the well-known "Chester" by William Billings, a passionate supporter of the American cause, who set it to the tune of one of his existing hymns.

There is so much rich music out there from our time period. I would love for people to submit a song with its history, or a tidbit about folk music in the 18th century. Although much of what we know and think of as folk music in our time originated in the British Isles, our valleys offer a unique landscape in which to study folk music, with our Palatine and Dutch roots, I'm sure there are some interesting stories waiting to be told!

I'll leave you with a song that was inspired by the events that surrounded the American victory at Bennington, where General Stark commanded a contingent of Mountain Boys who repelled an attempt by Burgoyne's troops to raid important stores stockpiled outside Bennington.

**The Riflemen of Bennington** (*Revolutionary War Broadside*)

Why come ye hither Red-coats, your mind what madness fills?  
In our valleys there is danger and there's danger in our hills;  
O hear ye not the singing of the bugle wild and free?  
Full soon you'll know the ringing of the rifle from the tree.

*Chorus*

For the rifle (clap-clap) For the rifle (clap-clap)  
In our hands will prove no trifle (clap-clap)

Ye ride a goodly steed, ye may know another master;  
Ye forward come with speed, but ye'll learn to back much faster.  
When ye meet our mountain boys, and their leader Johnny Stark  
Lads who make but little noise, lads who always hit the mark.

*(Chorus)*

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Sources: Samuel L. Forcucci, *A Folk Song History of America*. Englewood Cliffs, Prentice-Hall, 1984

John Anthony Scott, *The Ballad of America: The History of the United States in Song and Story*. Carbondale, Southern Illinois University Press, 1983

**NEXT ISSUE SUBMISSION DEADLINE**

Next issue will be published in early September. Please submit articles, ideas, questions, etc. at any time or by August 26th for the next issue.

— Kristin

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