



THE BURNING ISSUES



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Volume 11 Issue 3 Official Newsletter of the Burning of the Valleys Military Association, Inc. September 2003

From the Deputy Chair

Our commemoration of the 225th Anniversary of the 1778 campaign is rapidly coming to a close. We have two 225's under our belt so far. Cobleskill was literally washed away at the end of May and Hurricane Isabel visited Cherry Valley; not enough of a visit to effect our program, but serious enough to keep some units away. With our track record to date, I can hardly wait for what we have in store for us weather-wise at German Flatts and Schoharie. Anybody remember 1987? UGH!!!!!!!

OK, now for some serious business. Like any organization, we have safety standards and guidelines for a reason. I draw your attention to Tactical Demonstration, Item 16, available on the website:

"16. Under NO circumstances shall a weapon be discharged anywhere other than the Individual Demonstration or the Tactical Demonstration or other area designated by the Event Coordinator. Weapons shall not be discharged in camp or anywhere off the field of demonstration."

At a BVMA sponsored and another recent event, we have had incidents associated with unauthorized, "after hours" use of firelocks "off the field of demonstra-

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1778

"The Destructives"

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Behind the Lines

Greetings from Behind the Lines! As we enter the last busy months of the 1778 campaign, please mark your calendars for the last BTL meeting of 2003 on November 22 at 1 p.m. We will be electing our officers for 2004 at that meeting (if you are interested in running for an office, please contact me or Deanine Kowalski) as well as reviewing our activities for the past year and discussing plans for the upcoming season.

Come visit the BTL on Sutler's Row! Teresa Gage of Red Otter and Goodwife Laura Spickerman have graciously consented to allow the BTL to use their setup as the BTL "Headquarters" for the 2004 season. This arrangement will give the BTL a central gathering point at events one or both ladies are attending and will provide a foothold from which to grow in the future. We continue to work on developing a BTL point of contact appropriate for all BVMA events in the future; watch for updates!

Are you looking for a break from soldiering? Are you interested in working on a gentlemanly (or may be a servant, musician, or farmer) persona? Remember, the L in BTL doesn't stand for LADIES! All BVMA members wishing to portray a civilian interpretation are welcome to join the

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From the Deputy Chair *(cont'd)*

tion". Many of our sites are adjacent to residential areas. Many of our sites have neighbors that don't view our activities the same way we do. Unauthorized use of firelocks is not only annoying to participants, non-participants, and site-neighbors, but can literally jeopardize our future use of these sites. This is an issue we shouldn't have to deal with. Since these have been after hours incidents, we do not want the unauthorized use of firelocks to potentially be compounded by any after hours use of alcohol.

Our by-laws provide a remedy for such behavior in Article VIII, dealing with due process. To my knowledge, we have used it once; I am prepared to use it to deal with violations of Safety Item 16, particularly if there is alcohol involved. I'm sure there are those that may disagree with this decision but it is one that will hopefully help us avoid an embarrassing and/or unsafe incident.

If you do disagree, I remind you that officers are elected at the January meeting.

Speaking as a event organizer, as well as a BVMA officer, I can assure you that any violation of the after hours guidelines at an event I coordinate will be met with immediate expulsion from the event. This is an annoyance we don't need.

Many of us have also recently experienced the need for extreme vigilance toward fire safety. While the incident was not at a BVMA sponsored event, we can't take fire safety for granted. The need for filled fire buckets in both "fly" and tent lines, and fire extinguishers ought to be obvious. Everybody needs to be alert toward unsafe activities, and no one should be reluctant to intercede when there's an obvious problem that places us all at risk.

Perhaps it's time to formally institute a provost corps with members from both camps at our sponsored events to deal with safety related concerns. We can't merely stand back and assume someone else is going to deal with the problems.

Let's wrap up the 1778 Campaign on a high note. Yeah, there's a lot of Burning to be done in those Valleys before the current year is over. Lets make sure its not our camps that are burning.

See you at Herkimer Home and Schoharie!

> JLO

Behind the Lines *(cont'd)*

BTL for a weekend or a season! Ask any BTL officer for more information on programs and membership, and don't forget to check the BVMA website for upcoming events and the BTL List for civilian idea sharing!

The November BTL meeting will be held at my house at 5645 NYS Route 10 north of Palatine Bridge on Saturday, November 22 at 1:00 PM. All BTL members are invited to attend.

Sue-Ann E. Wheadon,
BTL Co-Chair

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From the Nominating Committee

The BVMA Nominating Committee is hard at work trying to come up with a slate of officers for 2004, to be elected at the annual Delegates' meeting in January. The positions are Chair, Deputy Chair, Executive Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer. The duties and responsibilities of each position are outlined in the Bylaws (available in the BVMA List Files). According to our bylaws, the Chair and Deputy Chair must come from opposing forces.

If you have suggestions for any of these positions (including yourself!), please contact the nominating committee at nominate@bvma.org.

The Nominating Committee

- Kevin Morrow
- Steve Crawford
- Jim Stevens
- Dave Wheadon
- Dean Barnes

Nasty Anachronisms

by Matt Nelson

As you refine your impression you will want to find ways of avoiding the anachronisms that undermine your authenticity. Habits like smoking cigarettes, use of non period eye wear, modern foods etc.

Smoking is certainly a well documented period habit yet the use of cigarettes dates to the late 19th century. Many times an excellent impression is destroyed simply by the casual lighting up of a cigarette.

There are other options however! Try smoking a clay pipe, chewing tobacco, or snuff. Any of these can satisfy your desire for nicotine. If you don't like the taste of pipe tobacco you can replace it with roll your own cigarette tobacco, the effect is the same and the taste will be more to your liking. All of these are period uses and they will add greatly to the depth of your character. Try them out!

For those who need corrective eyewear there really is no excuse to wear those modern glasses. Just for fun go to the next re-enactment and see how many people spend on their muskets, clothes etc. and then try to wear their modern glasses. It doesn't look good. Period style frames are available from Townsend and you can have your prescription lenses put in. It is simple and painless, and you will look MUCH better for the effort. Remember to stick to round lenses, other shapes generally did not come into use until after our time period.

Beards — for those of us who represent British soldiers, beards are a no-no, this is a non-negotiable item. 3 days of stubble would be all that is acceptable. If you have more, try to go find a place to shave.

Shoes- Stop hiding the modern combat boots, chukkas, work boots and dress shoes under gaiters. Spend the money and get a pair of period shoes. These things are like glasses - they stick out! You've spent good money on making a quality kit—why fall short and ruin it by wearing modern shoes? This is another non negotiable item- there is no reason for

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The Private's Corner

Instructions to the Private



The private soldier, in eternal battle with the officer, will from time to time find himself off duty, with free time on his hands.

After following orders all day long, attempting to determine the officer's left from his right, standing in the sun while the officer relaxes in the shade, cleaning, digging, performing the manual of arms, standing guard and in general being taken away from those things you'd rather do, a cold drink at the tavern is a welcome relief.

The private soldier must remember that others, including women and children, reside in the camp and are trying to sleep. Our camp is often the guest in a community.

It is a poor guest and a pitiful private soldier that becomes a drunken, boisterous, loud mouthed rogue. Indeed he should be held in violation of the military code of conduct, tried by the officers and justly expelled from the camp. In this respect privates and officers should be treated equally.

I have seen many officers maintain their sober state while enjoying a drink. Fellow private - you should do no less.

If you can't remain a civilian at your home please do not force upon us or the community your roguish behavior

Grumphard
private soldier



Nasty Anachronisms (*cont'd. from p. 3*)

it, suck it up and buy some 1758 Ligoniers.

Hair— here is an interesting item, in the campaigns in the 1750s troops often were ordered to shear their hair and wear it no more than 2 fingers width long, yet long hair still prevailed with some troops. The choice is up to you- just avoid hairstyles that are obviously modern, same goes for modern hair colors. Don't laugh—this type of warning is necessary- I have seen people re-enact who had punk hair in green and purple.

Food — Get away from the modern foods, the Gatorade, the soda, the beer, the thanksgiving style dinners, period meals are easy to make, inexpensive and highly palatable, stick to the basic issue items and with a few added forage or private purchase foods you can have a great meal that's authentic too. Skip the beer and bring rum, it tastes good, does the same thing PLUS it takes up less room! Just for reminders the weekly ration generally was:

Seven pounds of Bread or Flour (usually wheat flour)

Seven pounds of Beef or four pounds of Pork

Six ounces of Butter

Three pints of Peas (dried)

One half pound of Rice or Oatmeal

If you strive to eliminate the anachronisms in your kit you'll find that you can live as they did in the 1750's - 1780's and you will learn more about their daily lives. As you improve you'll also perform a greater service to the public by showing them what a soldier's life really was like back then. If you really want a pizza and a Coke have it on Sunday night when you get home, perhaps you'll appreciate them more after a weekend immersed in the 18th century!

Matt Nelson

BVMA Provost Corps

Effective immediately, please be advised that the British and American command staffs have jointly formed a BVMA Provost Corps, that will serve at all BVMA sponsored events. The British Provost Marshal is Erwin Splittgerber; the American Provost Marshal is Kevin Morrow. They are each delegated the full authority of their respective commands to address all safety issues in camp. Splitly and Kevin will be looking for help, and we expect everyone to cooperate with them.

These appointments are on an interim basis for the balance of the current year. We expect to formalize the responsibilities of the Provost Corp before the January Director's meeting.

Paul Supley,
BVMA Chairman (British Commander)
John Osinski,
BVMA Deputy Chair (American Commander)

Useful Tips from *The Servants Directory, Improved...&etc.*, By H. Glass, Dublin, J. Potts 1762

To take all Sorts of Spots or Stains out of Linen

Hold the linen where the spot is, round a silver or stone mug containing boiling water; cut a lemon in four, and rub the spot well with it; this will take it out entirely. Or when it happens in the middle of summer, and the sun is very hot, soap the spots on both sides, and hang it in the sun till bone-dry and they will come out; but mind that you soap the linen all over; and it will make it white; or rubbed well with the juice of sorrel, will take out the spots; making the juice hot, and dipping the Linen where the spot is, will take it out; or salt and vinegar will do, rubbing it well, and squeezing it out; or take sharp vinegar in a tin, or earthen pipkin, boil it, and as it is over the fire, dip in the spot and nip it out; if not, dip it in again till it is perfectly out; then rub it well with soap, dry it by the fire or sun, and wash it out...

From The Merchant's Magazine or Trades-Man's Treasury

by E Hatton, Philomercat.

3rd edition 1699 page 10

Submitted by Theresa Gage

Table 10 Of Long-Measure

3 Barley-Corns.....	1 Inch.
12 Inches	1 Foot.
3 Foot or 16 Nails...	1 Yard.
45 Inches	1 Ell English.
27 Inches	1 Ell Flemish.
2 Yards	1 Fathom.
5 Yards and 1/2	1 Poll or Perch.
40 Perches	1 Furlong.
8 Furlongs.....	1 Engl. Mile

In a Mile, are

190080	Barley-Corns.
64460	Inches.
5280	Feet.
1760	Yards.
320	Polls or Perches.
8	Furlongs

Images from the Season...



Rum Rations (Mabee Farm)



A Busy Tea (Cobleskill)



Advancing on the Camp (Cobleskill)



Planning Strategy (Ft. Klock)



*Selling Flowers
Who could resist? (Ft. Klock)*



Keeping out of harm's way (Fort Klock)

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*Fort Klock photos - Steve Crawford
Other photos - Kristin Gitler*

BTL Youth Awards

The **BTL Youth Awards** are open to all BVMA members of record 16 years and under. This annual awards program is designed to recognize and highlight the special efforts of our young re-enactors to participate in various activities that enlarge their 18th century experience and record their participation in a meaningful way. These activities may include, but are definitely not limited to, an “apprenticeship” to an adult BVMA member; research on a particular topic documented in an essay, video, or artwork; or the use of an 18th craft or art to create a garment, household item, or military equipment. There really isn’t any limit on the activity; it just has to be applicable to 18th century re-enacting. The documentation method of the activity is also unlimited. Be creative; use any medium to record your project, but be prepared to tell what you got out of your experience! All participants will be honored and will display their projects at the Annual General Membership Meeting in March.

The **Caner Paul Brown Scholarship Fund** was established to honor the memory of a BVMA member, Paul Brown, who shared his time, energy, and knowledge with young people through school programs and event interpretation. This Scholarship Fund is available to all BVMA members of record 18 years and under to assist in covering the cost of registration or admission fees, transportation, materials, and supplies costs for educational programs such as history camps, museum tours, symposiums, or workshops. Scholarships are awarded on a first come, first served basis until the fund is depleted for the year. Donations are greatly appreciated and may be directed to any officer of the BTL.

The BTL urges adult re-enactors to encourage children in their units and families to participate in these programs; the future of living history and the BVMA itself depend on it! Applications and more information on both programs are available on the BVMA website in the Annual Awards sections or from any officer of the BTL.

Sue-Ann E. Wheadon, BTL Co-Chair

2004 BVMA School

Just a reminder to be thinking about the 2004 BVMA School. Since it usually occurs early in the season, there is less planning time and we need to start thinking about it over the winter. So be thinking about either what you can teach and/or what you’d like to learn, and have some suggestions ready when we start discussing it early next year. Suggestions for the format of the School and the location will be welcomed—talk to your delegates! The School will have both civilian and military classes, so there should be something of interest to everyone! Watch upcoming newsletters or the website or lists for more information...

Establishment of a Photo Safety Committee

Greetings:

In recent weeks we have seen some discussion on the BVMA list about safety issues related photography at BVMA sponsored events. No one is suggesting that photography not be allowed. The issue is that when on the field we should have some basic safety guideline and procedures in place, so that is done safely. The reality is that some of these folks apparently don't really understand that our firelocks and ordinance are real and that even blanks can really hurt them.

Bud Miner has offered to head up a photography safety/regulation committee, and as deputy chair, I've taken him up on his offer. He is going to be looking for opinions and ideas from the membership via the BVMA list/website. I expect he'll also be looking for other members as well. We have already heard from Will Coffey, so I know there is interest out there.

I'd like to see this effort develop recommendations that might be reviewed by the safety Committee, and taken up at the Directors' and Annual meetings next winter.

Lets give Bud a hand, eh?

JLO

Who am I?

Submitted by Theresa Gage

Often the wonder of historical re-enactment is to understand daily life and activity of life here during the 18c. From Heritage Books, Inc via CD, this piece included "Brief biographies of every man who served in the 3rd English-Waldeck Regiment".

These were actual persons serving 1776, here in North America. From the bios, I listed the skills/trades in a spreadsheet. Some I knew, some are new to me and some have yet to be explored. Here is the listing:

Waldeck Soldiers of the American Revolutionary War

Compiled by Bruce E. Burgoyne

Times Listed	Trade Listed
1	Apothecary by trade
1	artist and planner
2	Baker by trade
1	Blacksmith by trade
1	Bookbinder by trade
1	Brickmaker by trade
4	Butcher by trade
2	Cabinet maker by trade
2	Carpenter by trade
1	Cartwright by trade
1	Chimney sweep by trade
4	Cloth maker by trade
1	confectioner (father)
1	Cooper by trade
2	farmer (father)
1	Furrier by trade
1	Goldsmith by trade
2	granary Supervisor (father)
2	grenadier (father)
3	Hat maker by trade
2	Herdsman
1	high bailiff and court advisor (father)
1	host of an inn
3	Hunter by trade
1	laborer
1	lathe operator
1	lawyer (father)
15	Linen weaver by trade
3	locksmith by trade
5	Mason by trade
1	Master Carpenter (father)

From the Publisher

As a very busy season draws to a close, we look forward to a somewhat quieter season next year coming into 1779. Once again, I need to make a plea for articles, especially to those of interest to the military-minded. As you spend your winter repairing your gear & catching up on your neglected housework, consider sharing your knowledge with the rest of us. Whether it's historical research, how-to, or any other topic of interest, please consider submitting articles for the newsletter next year. They don't have to be long—I always have need for short "fillers". Topics (both military & non-military) can include battles, biographical sketches, agriculture, social or cultural issues, weaponry, tactics, industry, art... well, you get the point. And don't wait until the next submission deadline—if you have something ready, go ahead and send it—we'll save it for the upcoming issues.

For those of you who have been contributing—Thank You!

- Kristin Gitler, Publisher

NEXT ISSUE SUBMISSION DEADLINE

The next full issue will be published in March, 2004. Please submit articles, ideas, questions, etc. at any time or by March 1st for the next issue.

— Kristin

To submit an Article for *The Burning Issues*, contact:

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The BVMA Online

New this year were the Online Event Registrations. From the feedback that I've had, they were a success, so keep that in mind for any events you are coordinating next year. Also, In the last newsletter, I had promised to put the newsletters online in HTML format, but never quite got to it. I think a more realistic goal is to just put selected articles up on the site instead of the whole newsletter. Also this year we have added to our Sutler's list, so check that out if you haven't already.

After recently browsing through the Member Units links, I found that many of them were broken—Units: send me your updated links!

Suggestions & input for the website are always welcome! You can send them to webmaster@bvma.org.

- Kristin Gitler, Webmistress



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