



# THE BURNING ISSUES



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Volume 12 Issue 3 Official Newsletter of the Burning of the Valleys Military Association, Inc. September 2004

## From the Chair

### Greetings!

Hard to believe, but the 1779 campaign is rapidly drawing to a close ... Almost before it began.... We are down to Kingston in October, and Ft. Stanwix in November, so take these remaining opportunities to support our friends.

This was an easy year, but even so, attendance at sponsored and supported events could have been better. Next year is "THE" BVMA year... 1780... and things promise to be VERY busy come fall. For whatever reason, we are going to have a lot of competition from other organizations for event dates, so we are going to need strong support from BVMA member units to pull our events off.... Please help!!

Although I posted this to the yahoo list, our thanks go out to Sal Tarantino for his donation of \$150 to the BVMA treasury, for our help with the Norwalk event. Thanks Sal, and thanks to those from Ten Broecks, the 84<sup>th</sup>, the 21<sup>st</sup>, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Albany, the Tryon Minutemen, the 13<sup>th</sup> Albany, and Ulster, and the 6<sup>th</sup> Conn. who made the trip.... If I missed anybody, apologies extended in advance.

In the last Burning Issues I suggested that we may want to look at our by-laws, and simplify the procedure for removing from our rolls groups that have expressed no interest in continuing with us, or who have consciously not met the requirements for continuing membership. We have 11 units still on our books in that category. We are not the same group we were when founded, having become incor-  
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# 1779

## "The Sullivan-Clinton Campaign"

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## Behind the Lines

### Mark Your Calendars!

Behind the Lines will hold its last official meeting of the 2004 campaign on **Saturday, November 6, 2004 at 1:00 p.m. at Old Fort Johnson in Fort Johnson, NY.** All BVMA members interested in civilian activities and programs are invited to attend. We will be electing our officers and delegates for 2005 and will begin planning for the upcoming season, including dates for quarterly Behind the Lines meetings, the General Membership Meeting in March, the 2005 School of the Re-enactor in April, 5-year cycle events for the year 1780 (with 225<sup>th</sup> events sprinkled in), as well as opportunities for programs and presentations throughout the year.

I encourage you to mark your calendars for the first Saturday in November and plan to attend this important meeting. To be successful, Behind the Lines needs **your input and support**; we can't provide the kind of programs and experiences you want from re-enacting in the BVMA if you don't participate in the planning process. I invite you to discover there can be more to re-enacting than just going to events. Please contact Deanine Kowalski or me by October 22 so we can plan for refreshments and seating accordingly.



### Support Behind the Lines Youth Programs

Encouraging our young people to participate and grow in re-enacting is an important goal of Behind the Lines  
*(continued on p. 2)*

**From the Chair** *(cont'd)*

porated and insured. We need a simplified procedure to drop non-participants from our ranks, and a bylaw amendment to address this issue will be circulated before the end of the year to be considered at the January meeting.

We all are aware that the dues went up this year, to cover insurance costs. The policy that was written required coverage, and a per-capita fee on ALL BVMA participants... including minors under the age of 16, from which we currently do not require either membership or dues. We actually drew down the treasury to cover the insurance this year, because we ended up paying for individuals who do not have to pay dues... Dues and insurance are going to be an issue requiring additional discussion in the near future. Insurance costs continue to escalate at double digit rates, and some organizations have seen their policy cancelled because they use "weapons" ... muskets and knives... in a word... UGH!!!!

Last year we adopted a thorough set of safety procedures. I suggest everyone look them over, and if there are suggestions for improvement, that they be offered before the January delegates meeting. I have asked Dave Morgan to specifically look at the artillery procedures, with particular focus toward "emergency" procedures. NO... this is not in response to any incidents at BVMA sponsored events, but myself, and others saw some things at other events this summer that prompted more than a few questions/concerns.

One last item to consider.... The annual meeting in March was more a social gathering, and less a business meeting. To those who attended, it was a great success, and a fun time. Start giving some thought to next years meeting, and whether or not we want continue in this fashion...

Til next time....

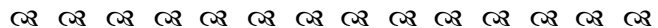
**News from Behind the Lines** *(cont'd)*

programs. Behind the Lines offers two programs especially for BVMA children and young people.

The **Behind the Lines Youth Awards** are designed to recognize and celebrate the efforts of BVMA members 16 years old and under. The program's goal is encourage our children, from preschoolers to high schoolers, to focus on a particular re-enacting experience and record that experience to share with others in as simple or complex a manner as desired by the participant. Entry forms for 2004 projects and ideas/help for projects are available through Behind the Lines officers. All 2004 entries must be submitted to the Behind the Lines Co-Chairs **before** the January Delegates' meeting for review, so there's still plenty of time to encourage **your youngster** to create an event photo collage, or write a story about a period person, place or event, or embroider a sampler, or make a knife, or whatever interests him or her and **make an entry!**

The **Caner Paul Brown Scholarship Fund** is available to all BVMA members 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. Application forms are available through Behind the Lines officers and must be submitted for review before funds may be approved for disbursement. Scholarship monies 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 Behind the Lines.

Please remind your unit and family members that these very under-utilized programs are available for our children. Our young people are the future of the BVMA; the Behind the Lines Youth Awards and Caner Paul Brown Scholarship Fund were created to help secure that future. Contact any Behind the Lines officer for entry/application forms or questions about either program.



**Margarite Syfert-Hines Memorial Award**

The Margarite Syfert-Hines Memorial Award, or the MS-H Award for short, was established to celebrate the legacy of an exceptional civilian interpreter by recognizing the contributions of one particular civilian re-enactor each year. It showcases the best and brightest efforts of Behind the Lines members over 17 years old through three particular qualities, sharing, knowledge, and enthusiasm for the hobby. This person is selected from nominations made by her/his civilians re-enactor peers (and if 2003 was any indication, it will be another difficult choice in 2004) and will be awarded at the 2005 General Membership meeting in March.

*(continued on p. 5)*

## The Officers Marquee, or Some Advice to Young Officers



Lt Foppingfarce has been in his cups and has not had time or inclination to write a column this issue. Luckily, a recent London publication of 1783, has come to my attention. It is curiously of a similar wit as well as title of this column..It is *Advice to Officers of the British Army*, and printed by W.Richardson for G.Kearsly. ( D. Barnes ).

Here is an excerpt from the chapter on Young Officers:

Those who are unacquainted with the service may perhaps imagine, that this chapter is addressed to subalterns only- but a little knowledge of the present state of the British forces will soon convince them, that it comprehends not only the greatest part of the captains, but also many of the field officers, of the army.

The first article we shall consider is your dress; a taste in which is the most distinguishing mark of a military genius, and the principal characteristic of a good officer.

Ever since the days of Ancient Pistol, we find, that a large and broad rimmed beaver has been peculiar to heroes. A hat of this kind worn over your right eye, with two large dangling tassels, and a proportionate cockade and feathers, will give you an air of courage and martial gallantry.

The fashion of your cloaths must depend on that ordered in the corps; that is to say, must be in direct opposition to it: for it would shew a deplorable poverty of genius, if you had not some ideas of your own in dress.

Your cross belt should be broad, with a huge blade pendant to which you may add a dirk and a bayonet in order to give you the more tremendous appearance.

Thus equipped you sally forth, with your colours, or chitterlin, advanced; and I think it will be best in walking through the streets, particularly if they are narrow, to carry your sword in your right hand. For besides its having a handsome and military appearance, the pommel of the sword will serve to open you a free passage, by shoving it into the gust of every one who will not give way. He must be a bold man who will venture to oppose you; as by your dress he cannot in reason expect the least quarter. We are told that the Janissaries never wear their swords but upon duty; A practice more becoming Turks than Christians.

When you go to London, to see friends in the country, or to any other part where your regiment is not known, immediately mount two epaulets, and pass yourself for a grenadier officer.

Never wear your uniform in quarters, when you can avoid it. A green or a brown coat shews you have other cloaths beside your regimentals, and likewise that you have courage to disobey a standing order. If you have not an entire suit, at least mount a pair of black breeches, a round hat, or something unregimental and unmilitary.

I am & remain,  
Dean B Foppingfarce,

Leftenant

## Pop Goes the Weasel / Cornwallis Country Dance

Today a popular childrens' nursery song, this song was originally an English contra dance. During the Revolution, some unknown person thought that Cornwallis' campaign in the Carolinas & Virginia was rather like a contra dance and set these words to the tune. While doing research on this song, I also found that the same verses were also sung to the tune of Yankee Doodle. It seems to work either way.

### *Cornwallis Country Dance*

Cornwallis led a country dance,  
The like was never seen, sir,  
Much retrograde and much advance,  
And all with General Greene, sir.

Greene, in the South, then danc'd a set,  
And got a mighty name, sir,  
Cornwallis jugg'd with young Fayette,  
But suffer'd in his fame, sir.

Quoth he, my guards are weary grown  
With footing country dances,  
They never at St. James's shone,  
At capers, kicks or dances.

His music soon forgets to play  
His feet can no more move, sir,  
And all his bands now curse the day,  
They jigg'd to our shore, sir.

Now tories all, what can ye say?  
Come - is this not a griper,  
That while your hopes are danc'd away,  
'Tis you must pay the piper.

Source: Deemer, Pam, *In Good Old Colony Times - Popular Tunes of Colonial America & the Revolutionary War*, Atlanta, 1998;

*What's for Supper? By Dean Barnes*

Excerpts from: *The complete English cook; or, the art of cookery made plain and easy : ... With the order of a bill of fare, for each month, ... By A. Braidley.* London, 1786

*The Order of a Modern Bill of Fare for each Month, in the manner the dishes are to be placed upon the Table.*

SEPTEMBERFirst Course.

Dish of Fish		
Chickens		Veal Collops
Pigeon Pye	Gravy Soup	Almond Trout
Harri co of Mutton		Ham
	Roast Beef	

Second Course

	Wild Fowls	
Peas		Ragou'd Lobsters
Sweetbreads	Fruit	Fry'd Piths
Crawfish		Fry'd Artichokes
	Partridges	

OCTOBERFirst Course

	Cod and Oyster Sauce	
Jugged Hare		Small Puddings
French Patty	Almond Soup	Fillet of Beef, larded and roasted
Chickens		Torrent de Veau
	Toungue and Udder	

Second Course

	Pheasant	
Stewed Pears		Mushrooms
Roast Lobsters	Jellies	Oyster Loaves
White Fricasse		Pippins
	Turkey	

NOVEMBERFirst Course

Dish of Fish		
Veal Cutlets	Ox Palates	
Boiled Turkey & Soup	Vermicelli	Leg of Lamb & Spinage
	Oyster Sauce	
Beef Collops	Harri co	
	Chine of Pork	

Second Course

	Woodcocks	
Sheep Rumps		Croean
Oyster Patty	Fruit	Ragou'd Lobsters
Blancmange		Lamb's Ears
	Hare	

DECEMBERFirst Course

	Cod's Head	
Chickens		Fricandau of Veal
Pudding	Stewed Beef	Calves Feet Pye
Fillet of Pork		Tongue
	With Sharp Sauce	
	Chine of Lamb	

Second Course

	Wild Fowls	
Lambs Fry		Sturgeon
Gallantine Jellies		Savory Cake
Brawns		Mushrooms
	Partridges	

*To Make a Gravy Soup*

Cut a pound of mutton, a pound of veal, and a pound of beef into little pieces; put it into seven quarts of water, with an old fowl beat to pieces, an onion, a carrot, some white pepper and salt, a bunch of sweet herbs, two blades of mace, a few cloves, some celery, cabbage, endive, turnips, and lettuce. Let it stew over a fire until half is wasted away, then strain it off for use.

*To Make a Calves Foot Pye*

First set four calf's feet in a sauce pan with three quarts of water, and three or four quarts of water, and three or four blades of mace; let them boil softly until there is about a pint and a half, then take our your feet, strain the liquor, and make a goot crust; cover your dish, stew half a pound of currants clean washed and picked over, and half a pound of raisins stoned; lay on the rest of the meat, skim the liquor, sweeten to your palate, and put in half a pint of white wine; pour it into the dish, put on your lid, and bake for an hour and a half.

## 10 Years of Toys and Games

I was accompanied by my four young children, Jeremy 11, Sarah 10, Misti 8 and Darcy 7, when we attended our first Old Stone Fort event in the early 90's. We were green, eager and having tons of fun learning about reenacting and how each of us would fill our new roles. Jeremy was a drummer and fifer, Sarah a fifer, and Misti and Darcy were just looking for fun. The schoolhouse on the main street at the Fort was a natural place for us to gather... there were a couple trundling hoops, a couple pair of stilts, a buzzer, and some other sundry toys. It seemed right that I should acquire a few toys and find some other entertainment for my own children so that we might have similar distractions at other events.

Influenced by new and dear friends; odd and curious, educated and zealous; we learned about many amusements. Tinker Cross showed us lead soldiers, toy dishes and clay marbles, dolls and a myriad of other 'tsoigs' (Alan says that's 'small things' in German... our 'toys'). Savages in paint taught us 'deer toes'. Mike Selesse brought me a cow bladder to play football with. Together the kids and I looked in books, at libraries and picked the brains of the Johnson Hall staff, Wade, Bonnie and Wanda for period toys and games. Rick Sherman introduced us to Cat and Mouse (thank you very much!) and Townsend, Coopermans and the odd crafts person at events continued to add to our collections.

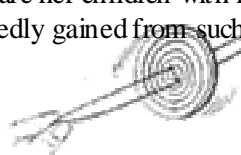
Invitations to school programs to feature toys and games from the 18th century encouraged us to look for more, find the best we could, and make our own toys. Meanwhile, Jeremy fided, Sarah rode Wolfgang in the Cavalry, Misti decided school activities would get more time than reenactments, and Darcy found all sorts of things to occupy her time, including the Dancing Goat Coffeehaus. This left me to share the toys and games we had acquired with other children and the public. Schools and sites began to invite me to share formally and I ended up at fascinating and interesting events and sites all over New York, Vermont, and out to Long Island.

I met curious children, active families and history buffs who were immensely interested in the toys and games. Scout troops invited us to demonstrate and share our toys. One troop copied as many toys as they could and invited me back to enjoy seeing them share their new collection with the whole community at their field days.

Over time, my children have grown up and made their own way in this hobby and in their lives, but I continue to learn, collect and share 18th Century Toys and Games with whomever is interested. I have met, and still meet, lifetime friends through this venue, have learned about the amusements and pastimes of our 18th century ancestors, enjoyed trouncing many in Cat and Mouse and have many interesting stories to tell about where these toys and games have taken me.

One person has had a continuous influence on me in this odd corner of reenacting. Denise Rudolph has consistently encouraged me and helped me find and use the interest I had and has continued to help me, share her children with me, fill in for me, and is one of the lifetime friends unexpectedly gained from such an unusual pastime.

*Shari Crawford*



## Behind the Lines (cont'd)

To nominate someone for the MS-H Award, simply describe how the person has demonstrated the three defining qualities during the past year giving specific examples. Nomination forms are available from any Behind the Lines officer and will be accepted for review until the Delegates' meeting in January. Have you been watching your fellow civilian re-enactors this season? Maybe someone has been watching you . . .

Sue-Ann Wheadon  
Behind the Lines Co-chair



## Marriage Banns



Will Armstrong & Brooke Howell took their wedding vows at the 225th Newtown Battlefield Commemorative event the weekend of August 28th-29th.

The BVMA wishes to congratulate them & wish them happiness & prosperity!

### **Pall Mall, Exercise for All**

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At Mabee Farm this year, I had the opportunity to introduce Pall Mall to the re-enactment community. The children enjoyed it and they were a pleasure to watch play the game. However, I wish to introduce the game to the adults, and encourage adults to participate, as it really wasn't just a game for children. It was a game that spanned age and class, and was particularly a popular form of exercise for the gentry.

Pall Mall is the English name for the game Paille Maille, roughly translated ball and mallet. Although sports historians are not sure exactly when the sport started, it is definitely centuries old and has many different versions. Versions of ball and mallet games are found in England as far back as the 15th century. In 1568, the game showed up in Scotland. It eventually evolved into golf there. In the 17th century, the game Pall Mall was introduced to London society. Hence the name of the street "The Mall." "The Mall" was a court 1,000 yards long. The version of Pall Mall played here consisted of a wicket and peg at the end of this long court. The player who whacked his ball down the court and through the wicket and into in peg in the fewest strokes one the game. In the 18th century, another version of Pall Mall appeared in the Dutch world. This game is named Kolf and only has a 22 yard court. It is apparently played more like the Scottish Pall Mall.

The Pall Mall played in Scotland which historians believe evolved into golf looks like a rather large and unorganized game of croquet. In fact, historians say that Pall Mall, although so similar to croquet, is actually not croquet's ancestor. Croquet is apparently from an Irish game called Crooky which was invented in the 1830's. However, it is unsure if Crooky is just another version of Pall Mall. Back in Scotland, Pall Mall was played over a large area, perhaps much like the size of a golf course. Wickets were set up anywhere and could be moved each game. Eventually, they became set holes in a golf course and one would have to change courses, rather than wicketsto get a different game. The Dutch Kolf was a smaller version of this, and looks deceptively like croquet.

As an added side note, "pell mell" is the slang term for the Pall Mall games. Perhaps this is because the wickets are set up "pell mell" style. Although, unless you're of low class and crass behavior, please do not call it "pell mell." In the 18th century, this was considered rather uneducated at best and vulgar at worst.

These rules for Pall Mall are from 1717 (paraphrased):

The object of the game is to pass your ball through the six wickets in correct color order, hit the midway stake and return in reverse order through the wickets and hit the end stake. The first person to do so is the winner.

Six wickets, each of one color are given to the six players. The six players then go out in the playing field and set the wickets up wherever they please. The order of wickets and order of players who set the wickets goes as follows: Blue, Red, Black, Yellow, Green, Orange.

When a ball is passed through the correct wicket or hits the midway stake in the correct order, the player gets a bonus hit. If the player passes through the wrong wicket, there is no penalty, but it doesn't count. If an opponent strikes another's ball through the correct wicket, it counts, but there is no bonus for the other's ball. If an opponent hits another's ball with their own, they can either take a bonus hit, or whack their opponent out of play croquet-style.

If a ball is in an unplayable spot, it can be moved one mallet head away to be struck. If a ball rolls out of bounds, it may be placed at the boundary where it crossed. (In the 18th century, natural boundaries are most commonly used, but a court can be staked out.)

The smaller court version will be the one I will most often set up at events, as not many places have a golf course sized plot to play on. I do encourage ladies and gentlemen of all ages to play. It is simple enough for children as young as 7 to play, but challenging enough for adults. The hardest part of the whole game is one has to memorize the color order in forward and reverse. If you have or know of a vintage wooden croquet set, preferably complete, please let me know. I could use a few.

- - Kateri Scott

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## It's not a hobby - it's a way of life!

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*(Publ. note: I received this in an email from Toni Lasher, which was sent to her by her friend Karleen - Who knows the original source(s)? - and I've inserted a few of my own... — KG)*

### **YOU KNOW YOU'RE A REENACTOR WHEN:**

- You pack for an event three weeks before you leave
  - You put on your reenacting garb before the reenactment officially starts
  - You dread the off-season when there's nothing to do but look at your uniform and wish you were fighting
  - You are ready to go to a battle RIGHT NOW and nobody else wants to
  - You try to save your Captain and he tells you to go away
  - You enjoy the smell of gun powder in the morning
  - Sleeping outside in the rain and mud is your idea of a fun Saturday night
  - You can identify a regiment by the curses [singing] heard from their camp
  - You can spot 100% wool at 30 yards
  - You have ever spent over 300 dollars on clothes that went out of style over 200 years ago
  - You've ever fondled your musket lovingly
  - Your dinner guests see one of your uniforms and exclaim "Are you in a theatre production?"
  - Your neighbor's dog is barking due to the high frequency pitch of the fifes playing in your back yard
  - The local police stop by because your neighbor complained about men running around your back yard with guns
  - You travel over 2000 miles to sleep in tent at a historic site
  - Used your rifle-musket to kill something to eat
  - Name and have slept with your rifle-musket
  - Put on your reenactor clothes just to look at yourself in the mirror
  - You drive by some open land and think "What a great place for a reenactment!"
  - For Men: You wonder how a lady would look in a 1770's period dress
  - For Ladies: You see a man and wonder how he would look in knee breeches and diced hose (nice calves!)
  - You know by heart the lines to ANY Monty Python skit
  - You've worn wool when the temperature tops 100 degrees Fahrenheit, repeatedly
  - You and your spouse are in direct competition over who gets to wear more plumes
  - You've been hit by cap fragments, pulled off ticks, been infested by chiggers, gotten poison ivy, and still look forward to camping out every time
  - There are a couple of cannon balls on your stairs [a cannon in your den]
  - Your house needs a coat of paint (and a serious cleaning!)
  - There are two or three (or four) muskets stacked in the parlor corner
  - There are half-completed sewing projects decorating the parlor furniture
  - You've made a career decision based on its impact on your weekends
  - You've purchased a vehicle based on how well it accommodates your kit (and tent poles) and gets into and out of fields
  - Your neighbors talk about how your house smells of rotten eggs on Mondays
  - No one will attend a war movie/historical costume drama with you
  - Your reenacting wardrobe is more valuable than your business attire
  - Your \$20,000 car sits out in the weather so your \$200 tent can stay in the garage
  - You spend more on a pair of reenacting shoes than on your "dress" shoes
  - You earn a good salary but are always broke
  - You never enter a fabric store without a pack of matches
  - Your kids can correct their history teachers
  - You fly strange flags
  - Your freezer is full of candles (makes 'em burn longer - really!)
  - You're on PETA's hit list (We love animals - we eat 'em, we wear 'em!)
  - You have more closet space devoted to uniforms than "real" clothes
  - In the middle of summer, you dread wearing a short sleeved shirt in your air conditioned office, but you can't wait to get to the next event, where you can dress in a long sleeved shirt, with a vest, wool coat, hat, and carry around 40 or 50 pounds of bulky gear on your back, while firing your musket, then relaxing next to your cook fire
  - Road kill is something to be stopped and inspected for it's usefulness (quills, fur, food?)
  - You win Halloween costume competitions - hands down
  - You have ever replayed A&E's "The Revolutionary War" 25 times in a row just to get a glimpse of your foot in the left-hand corner of the screen
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**From the Publisher**

**Calling all Military Historians!**

I have to repeat again that I NEED military articles! This newsletter is fast becoming a civilian newsletter as I do not get much input of a military nature. I know many of you have done a lot of research and have a lot to share. Articles do not have to be long—there is room for short “tid-bit” pieces as well as full articles. PLEASE CONTRIBUTE!

**Editors?**

As we near the end of the season and start looking towards next year, I will need volunteers for Crown and Congressional editors. Traditionally, they are responsible for soliciting and collecting articles for their respective sides of history. If you are interested, please let me know.

**Sutlers?**

You’ve all spent a lot of time researching your personae—how about sharing some trade information with us? Articles relating to trade in 18th century America would be interesting to all of us.

**PLEASE CONTRIBUTE!**

— Kristin Gitler, Publisher

**NEXT ISSUE SUBMISSION DEADLINE**

The next issue will be published in December, 2004, and will be mostly a business issue. Submit items for this issue by December 1. Please submit articles for the March 2005 issue at any time or by March 1st, 2005.

— Kristin

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

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**The BVMA Online - [www.bvma.org](http://www.bvma.org)**

Don’t forget to check the web site for the latest news and information, always linked from the home page. This will be especially important as we post information relating to the Delegates’ and Membership meetings.

And if you haven’t joined already, don’t forget our members-only lists:  
BVMA: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bvma/> (Moderator - Dean Barnes)  
BTL: [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/btl\\_bvma/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/btl_bvma/) (Moderator - Kate Scott)

I always welcome your ideas and input for the website—it should be your source for information & resources! — *KG, Webmistress*



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