



THE BURNING ISSUES



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Volume 13 Issue 1 Official Newsletter of the Burning of the Valleys Military Association, Inc.

March 2005

From the Chair

Greetings!

1780 is here ...Its an IMPORTANT year for us, since it is the actions during the Fall of 1780 that gave the BVMA its name Lots of things are going to burn next year as we commemorate the 1780 campaign.

At our Board meeting in January, we agreed to sponsor or support several events.

There's the "School" at Fort Johnson on April 9.

May 14 and 15 we return to Mabee Farm. This is a sponsored event and will include an exercise on the coordination of artillery and foot troops... Please try to attend and participate in this; we are going to try out some demos that are intended to emphasize some of the more obvious concerns that some have apparently begun to take for granted, or ignore. Of course, the Saturday evening dance remains a "can't miss" affair.

June 18 and 19 we are at German Flatts for a supported event.

October 8 and 9 will be the old Stone Fort's contribution to the 225th Anniversary of Sir John Johnson's visit to the valleys. This is a sponsored event. It also will conflict with several other events in the Northeast, so we truly hope we can count on a great turnout from the BVMA rank and file.

Since we met in January, we have been asked to sponsor the Fort Klock/Stone Arabia event, to be held

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1780

"The Johnson-Brant Raid"

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Behind the Lines

As we head into a new season, there has been increased interest in civilian membership. Behind the Lines is growing, and we look to this season to see some interesting new civilian impressions at our events.

Over the fall and winter, and into the spring, there were (and will be) several programs of interest to our non-military members. Henry Cooke's men's clothing workshops, one of which was held in Johnstown, are always a great hit, and this year we also had a Gown Draping Workshop given by Carrie Midura at the Van Schaick mansion in Cohoes. The Women's Winter Weekend is always a favorite, and Jane Oakes gave a cooking seminar at Fort Klock with insight into Palatine & Mohawk Valley foods. Coming up in May, our own Laura Spickerman will be giving a Straw Hat workshop at Old Fort Johnson.

There is a lot of talent & knowledge in the reenactment community—take advantage of it when these workshops & seminars come up! And if you have suggestions for new ones, let your Behind the Lines representatives know—we would be happy to work with you to help set up a program in our area.

The School of the Reenactor, 2005

On a smaller scale than these full-day or two-day programs, we have the BVMA School of the Reenactor coming up on April 9th. The programs will likely be of a less formal nature; a lot of good ideas were tossed around on the BTL list—including basic construction of petticoats, shortgowns,

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From the Chair (*cont'd from p. 1*)

September 24 and 25th. This is a 225th event, focusing on the Mohawk Valley portion of Sir John's raid. That event was discussed by the Executive Board, and is listed as a sponsored event on our calendar, subject to ratification at our March meeting. We will discuss the event, and vote on its status March 19. There promises to be a strong turn out of Loyalists for this (hey... they get to do the burning), and we will need lots of American support to make this work.

As you can see, the fall campaign is going to be VERY busy, and we are going to have a lot of competition from other organizations. We really are going to need strong support from BVMA member units to pull our events off.... Please help!!!

We have modified our bylaws to 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. These should be posted in the files area of the BVMA Yahoo site. If you aren't a member of the Yahoo group, please sign on...

I look forward to seeing everyone soon... Remember, Its not January!... Start getting ready for 1780!!!!

J. Osinski

Behind the Lines (*cont'd from p. 1*)

caps, drop spindle, 18th century herbs, etiquette, your basic kit, etc. A lot of great ideas! If you have something to add, please bring it up—we'll be finalizing these details soon. And look for updates on the BVMA website.
— Kristin Gitler, BTL Delegate

Fabric Terms**from *The Beekman Mercantile Paper 1746 - 1799*
18th Century Trade Terms**

Note: Kate posted this to the BTL list a while back, and I thought some of our readers who are not on the list would be interested; these are just excerpts.
—KG

A LA MODE: thin, lightweight, glossy silk used for scarves and hoods
BAPTISTE: fine white linen of French or Flemish manufacture, much used for neckwear.
BROAD CLOTH: soft lustrous woolen with nap sheared close and pressed; also a fine, smooth surfaced cotton or silk.
BRUNSWICKS: twilled fabric made in Germany
BUCKRAM: coarse linen stiffened with gum or paste and used for linings.
CALICO: cotton imported from Calicut, India, generally imported in natural color.
CALLAMANCO: plain or patterned woolen of Flemish or English manufacture, sometimes part silk or goat hair.
CAMBRIC: fine, thin white linen made in Cambrai, Flanders; also an imitation made from closely woven cotton.

From the Treasurer

Present Active units as of March 18, 2005:

10th Coy 84th RHE
13th Albany Co. Militia
2nd Albany Co Militia
2nd Cont. Artillery
3rd Tryon Co. Militia
4th Tryon Co. Militia/Butler's Rangers - Ten Broeck Company
60th Royal American Regiment
Behind The Lines
Butler's Rangers- Frey Company
Claus' Rangers
Guild of Artisans, Artificers & Merchants
Tryon County Minutemen

April 1 is just around the corner.

It will be my pleasure to have additional units.

Teresa Gage

Publisher's Note:

As John has mentioned, an amendment to the bylaws has been made regarding membership and dues. For those of you who do not have access to the bylaws, the change reads as follows:

Unit dues must be paid by April 1st of each year. The Treasurer shall remove from the active rolls and insurance roster of the BVMA any unit that is in arrears after April 1st each year. Units inactive for one year or more will be automatically removed from the BVMA membership roster by the Treasurer. Subsequent reinstatement of an inactive unit may occur by a majority vote of the Executive Board.

We have to have a deadline for dues, otherwise bookkeeping for insurance purposes and for mailings becomes a nightmare, and we carry folks on our insurance who never attend BVMA events. So help the organization and those who give their time and effort to make it run smoothly and pay your dues on time! — KG

The Officers Marquee, or Some Advice to Young Officers



Lt Foppingfarce has been in his cups once again liberally sampling Madiera and laundresses, so he has not had the inclination, being more in a state of reclining, to write a column this issue. He suggested a liberal dose of a recent London publication of 1783, *Advice to Officers of the British Army*, printed by W. Richardson for G. Kearsly. He'd rather not bother to re-invent the wheel, besides he says that the simple Dutch inhabitants of these provincial valleys would appreciate the frugality of his column. So, here is another excerpt from the chapter on Young Officers:
Cheers~ Dean Barnes

If you belong to a mess, eat with it as seldom as possible, to let fools see you want neither money or credit. And when you do, in order to shew you are used to good living, find fault with every dish, that is set on the table, damn the wine, and throw the plates at the mess-mans head.

If the dinner is not served up immediately on your sitting down, draw circles with your fork on the table; cut the table cloth; and if you have pewter plates spin them on the point of your fork, or do some other mischief, to punish the fellow for making you wait.

On coming to the regiment, perhaps the major or adjutant will advise you to learn the manual, the salute, or other parts of the exercise; to which you may answer, that you do not wish to be drill-sergeant or corporal or that you purchased your commission, and did not come into the army to be made a machine of.

It is also needless for you to consult any treatises of military discipline, or the regulations for the army. Dry books of tactics are beneath the notice of a man of genius, and it is a known fact, that every British officer is inspired by a perfect knowledge of his duty, the moment he gets his commission; and if he were not, it would be sufficiently acquired in conversaciones at the main-guard or the grand sutlers. Thus a general officer, who had never before seen a days service beyond the limits of Blackheath or Wimbleton-common, being ordered abroad, lands in America or Germany, a factus imperator, by very different means than those of Lucullus. If you have a turn for reading, or find it necessary to kill in that manner the tedious hours in camp or garrison, let it be in such books as warm the imagination and inspire to military achievements, as, *The Woman of Pleasure*, *Crazy Tales*, *Rochesters Poems*; if you aim at solid instruction and useful knowledge, you must study *Lord Chesterfields Letters*, or *Truslers Politeness*; if you have a turn for natural philosophy, you may peruse Aristotles' Master-piece; and the *Trials for Adultery* will afford you a font of historical and legal information.

If there should be a soberly-disposed person or in other words, a fellow of no spirit, in the corps, you must not only bore him constantly at the mess, but you should make use of a kind of practical wit to torment him. Thus you

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Fabric Terms (cont'd from p. 2)

CHINTS: painted or stained calicoes from India, later a cotton cloth fast printed with designs in a number of colors, sometimes glazed

CLOCK: ornamental pattern in silk thread worked on the side of a stocking or other garment.

FUSTIANS: coarse cloth of cotton and flax, thick twilled cotton with short nap.

GROSGRAIN: (program) a coarse fabric of silk, of mohair and wool, or of these mixed with silk and often stiffened with gum; a particularly thick taffeta.

HOLLAND: a closely woven white linen used especially for shirts and bed linen.

LAWN: a kind of fine, thin linen of open texture.

MUFFETEE: a muffler worn around the neck or a worsted cuff worn on the wrist.

MUSLIN: a general name for the most delicately woven cotton fabrics, especially those used for ladies dresses, curtains, etc.

NANKEEN: a sturdy brownish-yellow cloth produced in Nanking; imitations of that cloth.

OSNABURG (osnabrig): a coarse heavy linen made originally in Osnaburg, Germany, and used most often for sacking and bagging.

PERSIAN: a thin soft silk used most often for linings

SATIN: a silk fabric with a glossy surface, imitations of that cloth.

SERGE: a woollen fabric, a durable twilled cloth of wool or silk and wool.

STUFF: any woven textile, but especially woollen cloths without a nap.

TABBY: a thick silk usually watered and stronger than taffeta

TAFFETA: a light thin silk of high luster used especially as a dress fabric.

TICK: a strong linen or cotton fabric woven in stripes and often in herringbone weave; it was used for upholstery and bedding.

VELVET: a silk fabric with a thick soft pile of short erect threads; sometimes a similar woollen cloth.

VELVETEEN: cotton imitation of velvet.

WORSTED: a woollen fabric made from well-twisted yarn spun of long staple wool combed to lay the fibers parallel; also the yarn of which such cloth was made.

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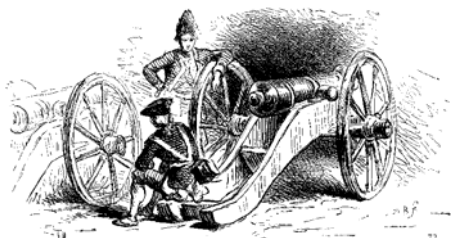
The Officer's Marquee (*cont'd*)

may force open his doors, break his windows, damage his furniture, and put wh---s in his bed; or in camp throw squibs and crackers into his tent at night, or loosen his tent cords in windy weather. Young gentlemen will never be at a loss for contrivances of this nature.

Be sure to stigmatize every officer who is attentive to his duty, with the appellation of Martinet ; and say he has been bitten by a mad adjutant. This will discourage others from knowing more than yourself, and thereby keep you upon and equality with them.

When ordered for duty, always grumble and question the roster. This will procure you the character of one that will not be imposed on. At a field day, be sure not to fall in before the regiment is told off and proved; and then come upon the parade, buttoning your gaiters, or putting on some part of your dress. Observe the same when for guard:- making 20 or 30 men wait, shew you are somebody.

Whenever, you mount guard, invite all your friends to the guard -room; and not only get drunk yourself, but make your company drunk also; and then sing, and make as much noise as possible. This will shew the world the difference between an officer and a private man; since the latter would be flea'd alive for the least irregularity upon duty.



The Private's Corner

Instructions to the Private



On Artillery

When on the battlefield the private is expected to know how to work with and assault artillery. This is, God forbid me, one time when it is most advisable to pay attention to most orders. Remember he who protects himself lives to fight another day.

When working with artillery it will either be in a battery behind you or as a battalion guns in the line. The battery is of little consequence except for the big noise. There is one exception guard thy self from being led in front of a loaded cannon by the officer. This shouldn't happen but alas officers are officers.

When working with a gun in the line do pay attention to orders **BUT PROTECT THY SELF** that is when the order comes to advance regardless of which officer even the one wearing the most gold thou shall not advance if the gun hasn't fired. To do so risks having thy hind end singed, which really hurts.

Secondly remember, the gun will tell you that it has fired not that it is going to fire so **PROTECT THY EARS** the gun officer is supposed to tell you they are about to fire but alas officers are officers.

Advancing on a cannon is the one thing officers love to do, particularly if they are wearing red. You need to understand that a cannon is a really big shotgun, capable of wiping out wide stretches of the line that you are standing in, yet the officer, particularly if he is wearing red, truly believes that a red coat stops cannon fire. Rangers and their like believe that laying on the ground offers protection.

Understand that when the officer has you assault a cannon that is operable that no matter what most of you are dead before you ever reach the cannon, ie cannon fodder. But alas the officer encrusted in his gold and silver can not be hit by even the largest of cannon.

Stepping out of persona for a moment —

Cannons are really DANGEROUS and can hurt you if you are not paying attention. NEVER NEVER NEVER advance on a loaded cannon regardless of the order given, and truly the officers I know won't give that order. And in the 18th century and even today, loaded with grape or canister, if you assault a cannon and it fires, you are either dead or really injured in which case the good doctor gets to cut on you (better you should be dead).

Officers, consider this in our battle scenarios.

Back to being Grumphard — die early on the battlefield, it saves cleaning your musket.

Fort Klock, 1780*Submitted by James F. Morrison*

Palatine this 17th of March 1780

Dear Sir

I just received general Orders from his Excellency the Governor, where in I am directed to Keep guards at the sever-
all Forts and Posts, particularly at Sacondago, and to continue the same till further orders.. Request therefore you will
order a Party to Sacondago to keep a guard there and scouting parties. I shall not prescribe to you the Number but leave
it to your own Judgement. Should you deem it necessary and practicable to Keep a guard at Johnstown you will do it.
As for Provision you must make Shiftkill [?]

I shall get Directions from Coll Van Schaick, to whom I have made Application. The 15th Instant Capt Keyser with
his two Sons and two others are taken prisoner, one other killed and the Captains House burnt. There is a Report that
another party of a hundred of the Enemy is out an other course; you will order your Battallion to keep in readiness for a
Minutes Warning Remain

Sir

your Obedient humble Servant

Jacob Klock Coll

To Coll Vissher

P.S. you will make a proper
regulation to have the parties you
Keep out, occassionally releived

*Copy of Intelligence Brought from the Colonies by one Mr. Oneil the April 1780
A Copy of which sent to Lieut Colonel Bolton and the Originals to Sir John Johnson*

Source: *The General Frederick Haldimand Papers*, Secret Service No. 21842, British Museum, England.

Apl 5, 1780

I Recd Yours Yesterday Containing the Joyfull News of your men Killing five of the Enemie which was a manfull
action. I just had an oportunity to Acquaint the Governor of News which I did with the particulars of it.

I suppose you have heard of the Enemies being at Remesnyders Bush the Same day they were at Sauchandago they
have Taken Ninteen of our people prisoners we have pursued them about Five & Twenty Miles we woud have not Re-
turned till we had them only for want of Snowshoes.

They have Burnt a mill there

I am Sir Your Huml

Servt-

Jacob Klock

To Coll Frederic Vissher
at Cognowagne
Public Service

Source: *The General Frederick Haldimand Papers*, Secret Service No. 21842, British Museum, England.

BVMA Safety Guidelines—an Important Amendment

At the Delegates' meeting in March the safety guidelines were amended to require a unit representative to be present at the safety meeting at the reenactment in order to field as follows:

“Any units wishing to participate in a skirmish or battle, are required to have a person representing their unit who will be overseeing their unit's men in the field attend the daily meeting (whether called an Officer or Safety meeting). Failure to attend will result in not being able to participate in the skirmish or battle.”

Trades: The Signboard of Old London*Submitted by Teresa Gage*

This season I challenge and encourage each of us to fill out our re-enactment activities and present a richer picture of 18c life. The next most common question after what do I wear is who am I (a chicken and egg question.) Below is a list of trades that was gleaned from signs in London. True, maybe not all the trades may have been active here but that is not to say it could have been what you had been before you arrived in the colonies. This is a rich source of trades and activities and is clearly dated for the 18c because in 1760 the street number system was established in London. In order to remove the clutter of the signs, an edict was made to remove them. This is the list of trades and services that pre-date the sign removal activity in London. Do you know what they all did?

Anvil Makers	Cork Cutters	Locksmiths	Silversmiths
Apothecaries	Costumiers	Lorimers	Slop Sellers
Asses' Milk(supplier of)	Cuppers	Mangle Makers	Smiths
Baths And Shampooers	Curriers	Measures Makers	Snuffmen
Bell Founders	Cutlers & Razor Makers	Mercers	Spatterdash Makers
Bell Hangers	Distillers	Milliners	Spur Makers
Bellows Makers	Drapers	Millwrights	Stationers
Bit & Stirrup Makers	Dyers	Musical Instrument Makers	Staymakers
Blue Makers	Engine Makers	Musicians	Surgical & Dental Operators
Book Binders	Engravers	Nurserymen & Seedsmen	Surgical Instrument Makers
Booksellers	Fan Makers	Oilmen	Sword Cutlers
Boot And Shoemakers	Feather Bed Makers (Feather Men)	Opticians	Tailors
Braziers	Fishmongers	Painters	Tallow Chandlers
Breeches Makers	Fishing Tackle Makers	Paper Stainers	Tea Mean
Brush And Basket Makers	Fruiterers	Patent Medicine Venders	Tent, Twine & Rope Makers
Button Makers	Furriers	Pastry Cooks	Thread Makers
Cabinet Makers	Gardeners	Pencil Makers	Tin Men
Cap Makers	Glass Makers	Peruke Makers	Tobacconists
Carpenters	Glaziers	Pewterers	Tool Makers
Carvers & Gilders	Glovers	Pin Makers	Toy Men
Chain Makers	Gold Beaters	Pinkers & Cutters	Trunk Makers
Cheese Mongers	Gold Lacemen	Pipe Makers	Truss Makers
Chemists	Goldsmiths & Silver Smiths	Playing Card Makers	Turners
Chimney Sweeps & Nightmen	Grocers	Printers	Undertakers
China Men	Gunsmiths	Print Sellers	Upholsterers
Clock & Watchmakers	Haberdashers	Robe Makers	Wallpapers
Clogg Makers	Hairsellers	Saddlers	Watchmakers
Clothiers	Hatters	Sailors & Boatmen	Wax & Tallow Chandlers
Coachmakers	Hosiers	Scale Makers	Weavers

(Continued on p. 7)

2005 Schedule

- March 19 BVMA Annual Membership Meeting (BVMA Sponsored)**
- April 3 Herkimer Home Sugaring Off
- April 9 BVMA School of the Reenactor, Old Fort Johnson (BVMA Sponsored)**
- April 30 Old Fort Johnson F&I
- May 14-15 Mabee Farm Encampment - Rotterdam Junction, NY (BVMA Sponsored)**
- May 20-22 Fort Ticonderoga F&I War College
- May 28-29 Fort Stanwix F&I
- June 11-12 Johnson Hall Market Fair
- June 18-19 German Flatts (BVMA Supported)**
- June 18-19 Black Creek Village, Toronto, Canada (NBE)
- June 25-26 Fort Ticonderoga F&I
- July 2-4 Fort Niagara F&I
- July 9-10 Hubbardton, VT (LHA)
- July 9-10 Upper Canada Village, Canada (NBE)
- July 23-24 Old Fort Johnson Colonial Days
- Aug 13-14 Fort Ontario Rev War
- Aug 13-14 Crown Point F&I
- Aug 14 General Herkimer's Funeral, Herkimer Home
- Aug 20-21 Adolphustown, Canada
- Sept 10-11 Fort Ticonderoga Rev War
- Sept 17 Fort Brewerton Timeline
- Sept 24-25 Fort Klock/Stone Arabia 225th (BVMA Sponsored * pending Board ratification)**
- Oct 8-9 Old Stone Fort, Schoharie (BVMA Sponsored)**
- Nov 12-13 Ft. Stanwix Harvest Dinner**

Trades: The Signboard of Old London (cont'd from p. 6)

Coalmen	Instrument Makers	Sculptors & Masons	Whalebone Dealers
Coffin Plate Makers	Ironmongers	Scientific Instrument Makers	Wine & Spirit Merchants
Colour Men	Italian Warehousemen	Shampooers	Wire Workers
Comb Makers	Leather Sellers	Shoemakers	Woolcombers
Confectioners	Libraries Circulating	Sign Painters	Woolen Drapers
Coopers	Linendrapers	Silk Weavers	Writing Masters
Sir Ambrose Heal. <i>The Signboard of Old London Shops</i> . Benjamin Blom Inc Publishers NY 1972			

From the Publisher

Thanks to everyone who submitted articles and suggestions—if I didn't use them in this issue, watch for them in future issues. Submissions for the newsletter don't have to be whole articles—they can be an interesting term or definition that you've come across, a short excerpt from a journal or book you've read, book reviews, an interesting clothing construction technique you learned, or any other small item of interest. Also of interest, and we haven't seen them in a long time—unit histories, or even an article about one battle or raid that your unit participated in.

Some of you have had problems downloading the newsletters from the website; if they have pictures in them, they can be rather large. I am now using a newer version of Acrobat to create the pdfs—this will allow me to compress them to smaller sizes, but also requires you to have a newer version of the Acrobat Reader. There is a link to download the latest Reader on the newsletters page on the website. And, as always, if you prefer a mailed copy, please make a notation when you submit your dues, or let me or Teresa know (in writing, or we won't remember!).

— Kristin Gitler, Publisher

**To submit an Article for
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NEXT ISSUE SUBMISSION DEADLINE

The next issue will be published in June, 2005. Please submit articles, ideas, questions, etc. at any time or by June 6th for the next issue.
— Kristin

The BVMA Online - www.bvma.org

The Mabee Farm event information and registration forms are now available on the website, linked from the Schedule page. Also, in the next day or two, the Schoharie information and registration forms, as well as information for the Johnson Hall event will be available. Please note that I will post information, downloadable forms and links for any events; for BVMA sponsored or supported events I can create an electronic registration if you so desire. Just mail or email (preferred) me the information, and I will get it on the site as soon as I am able, usually within a few days of receipt.

Don't forget to check the web site for the latest news and information, always linked from the home page. 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/ (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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