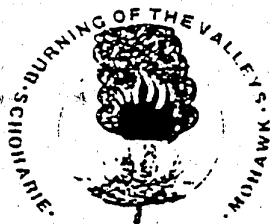


6th Mass.  
3rd NY  
2nd Cont. Artillery  
15th Albany  
3rd Tryon  
4th Tryon



1st Foot Guards  
47th Foot  
King's Royal Regt.  
Loyal Scots  
Royal Artillery  
Chrysler's Co.  
Claus' Rangers

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## "The Burning Issues"

Newsletter of the Burning of the Valleys Military Association

April 17, 1993

### Publisher's Comments

Greetings! Welcome to the first edition of the "Burning Issues", Newsletter of the Burning of the Valleys Military Association.

The editorial staff of the "Burning Issues" will strive for equal treatment of matters of interest to both our Congressional and Crown Delegations; we need your help to accomplish this goal by the submission of articles for publication. This issue features articles by Lt. Art Bush, Claus' Rangers, Capt. Jim Straite, 47th Foot, and Major Terry Glasier, 6th Mass..

The Staff of the "Burning Issues" presently includes the Publisher, John Osinski, and the Congressional Forces Editor, Steve Kruppenbacher; we hope to have a Crown forces Editor appointed before publication of our second edition. Getting an article published is easy, just submit it to your editor. We will help in formatting the article, and edit it as necessary to fit our available space. We do ask that you verify the facts discussed before you submit your article; remember the credit or controversy generated by the article goes with the by-line.

Submit any ads, events, or swap shop items to the Publisher.

Our goal is to have more material than we can possibly use for each edition. Please Help Us Out.

### Event Announcements

On April 30, the 15th Albany will be doing a living history demonstration at the Schalmont School (8:00am-3:00pm). Your help (Congressional and Crown) would be appreciated. 18th century demonstrations and crafts, tent camp, drill, and a brief skirmish is anticipated. If you are interested in working with school groups, contact Rick Sherman (518,295,8142) for more information.

Opening day for the Old Stone fort is Saturday, May 1 (10am-5pm). All troops are welcome. Opening

ceremonies will be followed by drills, etc, including taping of the BOMA manual of arms video.

On Saturday, May 30, Congressional troops are invited to a 215th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of Cobleskill. Sutlers and blanket traders are welcome at no charge. Contact Rick Sherman (518,295,8142).

On August 28 and 29, BOMA units are invited to a Military encampment at the Steuben Memorial Park, Remsen, New York. This is the site of the cabin and tomb of Baron Von Steuben, Drillmaster and Inspector General of the Continental Army. The event commemorates the 199th anniversary of Von Steuben's death. For more information, contact Steve Hines, RD#2, Box 243. Holland Patent, New York 13354 (315) 896,2177.

### Black Creek Pioneer Village

Black Creek Pioneer Village is located in the Toronto suburb of Downsview. The park like setting consists of a mid-19th Century restoration similar to Old Sturbridge Village. Perhaps more important, the BCPO is on the home turf of the King's Royal Regiment of New York. Father's Day weekend (June 19 and 20), BCPO turns back the clock to the 18th Century, and plays host to the KRRNY and Congressional troops.

Since this is one event where the KRRNY by itself can easily overwhelm the massed Congressional forces, the BOMA decided to support this event, to the extent possible, as a Congressional Brigade.

What can we expect at Black Creek? Most everyone who has gone will tell you a good time.

Last year, the scenario played out both days had the Congressional forces and their families representing residents of a Mohawk Valley town, with the KRRNY portraying the occupying forces. Although combat was limited to one pre-scheduled battle each day, there was continual interaction between the Crown and

Congressional forces as door to door searches were conducted in search of militia officers, proclamations were torn down, citizen groups dispersed, etc. Firewood, flint, steel, and tinder all became tools of the resistance.

The weather can be quite unpredictable, so dress accordingly. While 1991 saw temperatures near 90, with high humidity, 1992 brought highs in the 40's, and rain that appeared to some to have the appearance of snow.

If you can make the trip, by all means do so; you're not likely to be disappointed.

### Militia Shoot, May 8 and 9

The 2nd Annual Schoharie District Militia Competition will be held at the Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club, Middlefort Road, Middleburgh New York (off Route 30), on May 8 and 9, 1993. The club sits on the site of the historic Middle Fort. Camping is encouraged (primitive), with straw and firewood provided. Restroom facilities are provided in the clubhouse, and food will be available. The registration fee for all events is \$10.00, to help defray expenses.

The bulk of the competition will be scheduled for Saturday, with Sunday set aside for a "wrap up", blanket shoots, and other informal competition. Trap will be shot under the lights on Saturday evening if there is enough interest.

This is an event for reenactors of the French & Indian and Revolutionary War periods. While team events are emphasized (two man Ranger and four man Militia teams), individual participation is encouraged, and teams can be formed at the event. Clothing, equipment, and firearms must be correct for the 1750-1780 period.

Metallic silhouettes, paper, and primitive targets are used in this competition, most of which are fired from 50 yards or less. Although most events require a smoothbore musket, and preformed paper cartridges, there are matches permitting the use of a rifle. Fire striking and tomahawk events are part of the primitive match.

Last year, the 15th Albany's Dietz's Ranger Corp narrowly defeated Claus' Rangers, who have sworn to take their revenge.

for more information, and to register in advance, call John Osinski 518-827-5429 after 6:00pm. We need an accurate headcount by May 1 to purchase firewood and straw, neither of which is guaranteed without a pre-registration.

We hope to see you May 8.

### The Winter Scout of February 13 Lt. Art Bush, Claus' Rangers

On February 13, seven members of Johnson's Indian Department, along with four members of Little's N.Y. Provincials, embarked on a two day scout, 16 miles northwest of Sir William's home in Johnstown.

During this scout we met up with James Beck, and a party of two trappers who were wintering in the area of Caroga and Canada Lakes. After a brief meeting, it was determined that there had been no sight of French activity in the thirty mile area for many weeks due possibly to the three large snowstorms in the previous weeks.

In light of this fact we decided to lay over a couple of days with the trappers in their lean-to for a much needed rest. A second lean-to was erected for our use. We spent a comfortable night. The following morning we engaged in a friendly game of shooting at the mark. I think that this was instigated by some members of the Indian Department, who thought that the Provincials would be an easy mark. All that participated shot very well. They held their own against the Indian Department, who pride themselves on marksmanship.

Many ideas were traded among us in regard to better existing in this harsh winter environment. For some of us, we learned to make do with less, and still survive comfortably.

All returned safely to Johnstown, much better prepared for future scouts of our border country and with a better understanding of our capability to handle the hardships of the trail, be it Winter, Spring, Summer or Fall.

(NOTE: The Burning Issues will not compete with the "SPY" in covering Articles focusing on the era more closely associated with the Seven Years War; we will, however, publish from time to time articles submitted by our membership that are of general interest.)

### Insurance Tips for the Re-enactor

Capt. J. Straite, 47th Foot

Anybody, at any time and any place, can be sued. Being sued poses little problem to most people as long as the person has insurance coverage that will protect against the law suit.

A goodly share of re-enactors have a Homeowner's Policy. Others who don't own a house carry Renter's or Tenant Policies. In either situation, the re-enactor has liability protection against a law suit. However, an intentional or willful act of the re-enactor, causing death or injury, will place the re-enactor in "Deep Sh," since the policy will not respond.

"Insured means: you, your relatives, if residents of your household, persons under the age of 21 in your care or in the care of your resident relatives."

This is easy to read and understand and the re-enactor should easily know where he stands.

Now there will be re-enactors that don't fall into the above categories for living arrangements. In this case a simple and inexpensive Comprehensive Personal Liability Policy can be purchased. The definition of insured is the same as above. The big difference is that the above policy covers house and personal property and liability under Sec. 11, whereas the CPL only affords the Section 11 coverage.

The re-enactor may also wish to insure his uniform and equipment from just about all risk except rust, wear and tear, inherent vice and vermin. The cost is modest for a personal articles floater attached to your policy. While it won't replace your uniform or equipment, it will give the re-enactor the money to help replace the items.

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### Equipment & Accoutrements

Cpl. John Osinski 15th Albany

An essential piece of equipment for every re-enactor is the flash guard. Unfortunately, many of the brass models available don't stand up to prolonged use with blank cartridges, let alone withstand the pressures generated firing live rounds.

After a long search to find a flash guard that would work on the Silver lock, which has an internal headed

frizzen screw, I came across the firm of "Michael Lea & Daughtier, Gunsmiths", of 2109 Summit Street, Columbus Ohio, 43291 (413) 291-4757.

Lea sells heavy duty STEEL flash guards for \$3.50, as well as assemblies to fit them to the Silver lock (\$7.95), and the Tulle lock (\$8.95). He guarantees them to withstand the pressures generated from five rounds charged with 120 grains of powder. I've purchased this guard and installed it on a .54 cal. rifle; it works flawlessly with charges up to 110 grains of 3F.

If you are tired of straightening or replacing your flash guards, give the Lea model a try. Lea also offers a line of accoutrements.

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### BONA HISTORY, Cobleskill

Each edition of "the Burning Issues" will strive to include an historical account of a major action involving parent regiments of our member units, preferably from both the Crown and Congressional points of view. Our first offering is Major Glasier's account of the events of May 30, 1778, in the Schoharie District settlement of Cobleskill. 1778 will prove to be a difficult year for Major Glasier, and he is already preparing an account of Cherry Valley for our next edition. Your editorial staff humbly suggests that some enterprising agent of the Crown consider the preparation of a Crown account of the events at Cherry Valley, perhaps delving into the human side of Walter Butler?

### "Cobleskill", May 30, 1778

Major Terry Glasier, 6th Mass.

On or about April 20, 1778, Captain William Patrick was ordered to Schoharie by General John Stark, Commander of the Northern Department. His instructions from General Stark were:

"Sir, You will keep continual scouting parties in the adjacent country to where you are posted, to discover the motions and movements of our internal enemies. If any of them should be found under arms, aiding, assisting, or holding correspondence with our enemies, you will forthwith detect them (if in your power), and with their crimes send them to me or to the commanding officer at this place. You will do the utmost in your power to find out if any British officers should come to that country,

as it is highly probable they will do, because they have there so many friends; and let no pains be spared in detecting them, making report of your proceedings, from time to time, to me or the commanding officer at this place. Putting greta trust in your vigilance, valor and good conduct, ..."[1]

"This place" referred to headquarters at Albany. Captain Patrick and his men were a detachment of Alden's Massachusetts Continental Regiment, the remainder of which was part of the Albany garrison. It was a well manned company for that time, numbering about forty. However, it was not Patrick's Company, at least five other companies were represented in the detachment. Two of the men are listed as deserters but also on command at Schoharj, which raises the possibility that in part the company was a punishment detachment. There were many other candidates for exile to the frontier among the Continentals in Albany. The Massachusetts regiments were repeatedly referred to as the least disciplined troops garrisoning Albany in the Winter and Spring of 1777, 1778. The experience of one Albany citizen illustrates well how out of hand the Continentals could get. "Being an inhabitant of this city, in low circumstances, with a large family, by occupation a cartman: did for the support of himself and his family, hire a house & spot of ground on the Hill in the Southwest part of this City, where he had with much labour & pain, manured, sown & planted a Considerable quantity of roots & vegetables &c. of which he could have some to spare to a necessitous Neighbor. That when the late Victorious Army return'd from subduing Genl. Burgoine & his army, they were encamped at and in the neighborhood of your Petitioner, that the Effects of your Petitioner as per enclosed account & much more, was entirely destroy'd by said Troops";[2] His list includes 17 fowls, 500 cabbages, and an acre of potatoes.

Both men listed as deserters yet On Command at Schoharj were of Day's Company. Private Samuel Fall survived May 30, and was among the lucky that escaped. Private Jonas was wounded, but escaped.

Also uncertain is where the Company was based. From contemporary accounts both the Lower fort and the Middle fort fit into the distances described. The Lower fort is the best candidate, given the known disinclination to the Whig cause by many in the region; Captain Patrick would have taken care to secure his line of communication with Albany. This was most easily accomplished at the Lower fort. The Lower fort was

also a more substantial fort, containing the fortified Stone Church.

On the morning of Saturday, May 30, 1778, the Company marched from its base about nine miles to the home of George Warner, where they rendezvoused with the local militia. They numbered about fifteen men under Captain Brown, all members of the 15th Albany Militia Regiment. The two companies were there a short time when about two dozen marauders fired on them from the edge of the bush. Captain Brown is reported to have been reluctant to pursue, fearing that the attackers were being offered as bait. Captain Patrick was for action and ordered a pursuit. The Indians were hotly pursued. The chase continued over a mile. The forty five to fifty valley defenders were drawn to a three hundred yard long, four foot high ridge in the forest, which formed a natural breastwork. There the remainder of the raiders under Joseph Brant waited. The Indians and Tories numbered near three hundred. The pursuit and fight in the woods was fierce. After the war there was a black who claimed to have served under Brant then, who reported that twenty five Indians were killed during the action, with seven men wounded, then expiring on their trek back to Canada.

The fighting was fierce, but short. Patrick attempted to order a bayonet charge to break the Indian line, but was killed as he tried. Two soldiers rushed up to get him off the field, but were also struck down. Captain Brown, seeing that they were badly outnumbered, ordered a timely retreat.

The chase was on. The fight til then had been fought bush style, from tree to tree. The retreat became a rout. It was over the ground that minutes before the Americans had seasoned with fallen Indians. Both sides now sped over that mile.

As the Americans streamed past Warner's house, three Continental soldiers and two Militiamen took cover there, and provided cover for the others. The inmates of the house drew the bulk of the pursuers to subdue the house. The house was set on fire, and the defenders that were still alive attempted to get out. One was killed going through a window. When the corpses were buried later it was surmised that one Continental had been captured alive, then tortured. That body was found a distance from the house. His abdomen had been slit open, and his entrails were wrapped around a nearby tree. A wad of paper Continental notes was stuffed on the corpse, mocking the Congress' inflated currency.

Those that interred the others noted that they "were butchered in the most inhuman manner." [3]

Several had been captured and escaped the carnage. It is said that Lt. Maynard survived because he had inadvertently made the Mason's Sign to Joseph Brant when he was about to be dispatched. Total dead was twenty two, six militia, the rest Continentals. There were also five or six wounded, Militia and Continental.

There were complaints of poor militia support after the action. The militia there fought, as proved by having half their force killed or wounded. General Stark had strong words, "such a set of postrooms is not to be found on the face of the earth. When their all is at stake, they choose to see it destroyed than to hazard any thing in its defence. ... a party of Continental troops, who were stationed at Schoharie, ... being informed that a party of the enemy were advancing to destroy it, marched out, but could not induce the militia to follow them, except seven or eight; and in a short time were engaged with a party of the enemy, in which action the captain, and the lieutenant, and fifteen men were killed, while the militia coldly looked on, but did not go to their assistance. Such is their conduct; and when I applied to them for a guard for their State prisoners, they told me there were so many Tories among them that they could not be depended upon." [4] Stark's scorn is best directed to the militia that didn't march from Patrick's base fort, and those who failed to turn out at Cobleskill. The dead bear mute testimony to the Patriot cause by their sacrifice; Captain Brown certainly didn't shirk as he was there to take command when Captain Patrick fell. If there were shirkers among the fifteen militia at the Warner house, they number no more than five or six.

for the men of Alden's Regiment, it would be a grim harbinger of the coming November.

1. Stark, Caleb ed, Memoir and Official Correspondence of General John Stark; Concord: Pub G. Parker Lyon 1860 p 142,3.
2. Clinton Papers, Vol II, p 825,6
3. Clinton Papers, Vol II, p 413.
4. Stark Papers; Stark, Caleb, ed p 172.

BVNA Event Schedule

May 1 , Opening Day, Old Stone fort; contact Rick Sherman.

May 8/9 , 2nd Annual Schoharie District Militia Competition (live fire), at the Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club, sponsored by the 15th Albany; contact John Osinski.

May 30 , 215th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of Cobleskill. Contact Rick Sherman.

June 19/20 , Black Creek Pioneer Village, BVNA SUPPORTED EVENT (Congressional); contact Rick Sherman.

July 17/18 , Brahanville Grist Mill, sponsored by the 15th Albany; contact Rick Sherman.

August 7/8 , Schuylerville, BVNA SPONSORED EVENT; contact Terry Glasier.

August 28/29 , Von Steuben Memorial Military Encampment, Remsen, NY. Contact Steve Hines.

September 25/26 , Militia Competition, (live fire) sponsored by Clause's Rangers at the Caroga Fish & Game Club; contact Art Bush.

October 9/10 , Old Stone fort Days, BVNA SPONSORED EVENT; contact Rick Sherman.

October 16/17 , 215th Anniversary, Cherry Valley Massacre, BVNA SPONSORED EVENT; contact Gary Thompson

BVNA SPONSORED Events are "major" events sanctioned and organized by BVNA member units.

BVNA SUPPORTED events are major events sanctioned and sponsored by organizations not directly affiliated with the BVNA, which the Board has agreed to support.

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BVNA Sources, Sutlers, & Craftsmen

Coopering , Artillery Buckets, canteens, other wooden buckets, butter churns, etc. \$3 Catalog, refundable with order. S. G. Jones, RR2 Box 24A, Evans Road, Remsen NY 13438

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Basketry , Traditional straw, willow, ash splint baskets, and covered bottles. \$3.50 Catalog, refundable with

order. S. G. Jones, RR2 Box 24A, Evans Road, Rensselaer, NY 13438.

Handbook for the Management of 18th Century Volunteers and Militia in North America. Stephen Hines with Marguerite Hines. For new recruits and some not so new. How to survive and what to expect on those big event week ends. \$6.00

from the hearth of fort Stanwix, by Marguerite Hines, "Mrs. Savage." Recipes for 18th Century dishes in authentic style used for years by soldiers and their wives at the fort.

Contact Stephen Hines, RD 2, Box 243, Holland Patent, NY 13354.

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Mohawk Bead Work by Listening Woman - fine bead work for our hunting bags, straps, clothing, moccasins, jewelry, etc. Prices vary according to the intricacy of the work. 10% discount to BVNA members. Contact Judi Sherman, P.O. Box 395, Schoharie, NY 12157 (518) 295-8142.  
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Brunnen Dorf Seamstres & Tailor - We stand ready to provide men, women and children with their common clothing necessities. Prices contingent on material used, as well as amount and intricacy of needlework. 10% discount to BVNA members. Contact Rick Sherman, P.O. Box 395, Schoharie, NY 12157 (518) 295-8142

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BVNA Members Swap Shop

Sorry folks! But we can't list what we don't receive.  
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To submit an Article for "Burning Issues", contact:

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P.O. Box 788  
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(518) 827-5429

A Crown Editor will be named in the near future.  
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