

11th Annual Continental Line Meeting

February 7, 1998 ¹⁹⁹⁸ 1998
Warrington, PA

Corporate meeting was called to order promptly at 10:00am, with Jim Hayden filling in for Kim Newell as secretary.

Following Kevin's welcome to the group, Jim read the roll. There were 41 units present, making 21 the simple majority and 27 units the 2/3 majority.

Treasurer's Report — Joe Lessman

Profit and Loss
January through December 1997

January - December 1997

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income	
4000 — Newsletter Advertising	57.50
4010 — Subscription Income	1638.75
4030 — Contributions Income	770.00
4170 — Program Fees	<u>3656.00</u>
Total Income	6122.25
Expense	
6380 — Insurance	1250.00
6500 — Newsletter Expense	1212.86
6670 — Program Expense	1835.00
6710 — Refunds	<u>60.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>4357.86</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>1764.39</u>
Net Income	<u>1764.39</u>

Jim Garner moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. It was seconded and passed.

The minutes from the 1997 meeting were also accepted unanimously.

Review of 1997 — Kevin Coyle

We had two good events, both well attended and well administrated. One of the only concerns throughout the year involved revamping the Continental Line bylaws.

Bylaws Discussion and Vote

At this point, Kevin turned the meeting over to Brad Chetwynd to discuss the changes. Bob Balcius (2nd NH) moved that we accept the new bylaws.

At this point (10:20am), Kim Newell arrived (with 175 copies of the safety standards).

One guiding force behind the creation of the new bylaws was making the process easier to both assimilate new members, as well as provide a procedure to drop member units as well.

George Radecsky (6th PA) noted that the bylaws insist on liability insurance but didn't quantify how much and thought that might be a problem. It was mentioned that there is an unwritten understanding that all units carry a \$1 million liability policy and that it would be up to the department coordinators and member units to encourage any new units to adopt this policy (so to speak).

Jim Hayden (1st NH) moved the question to implement the new bylaws. Paul Loane (2nd PA) seconded, and they were unanimously approved.

Safety

Kevin Coyle pointed out several incidents at Civil War events, as well as other events not associated with the Continental Line, in which accidents happened and re-enactors were hurt. As a result, he encouraged those in attendance to stress safety and review the safety rules of the Continental Line. He also re-emphasized the importance of each unit's Safety Officer, highlighting this person's importance on the field, as well as in keeping in accordance with our bylaws and safety regulations.

Kim Newell read the list of units that did not have a completed safety officer form on file and will continue to pester folks until she receives one from their unit.

It was also noted that units will not be allowed to field at Continental Line events if that form, indicating that at least one person in the unit is knowledgeable of the CL rules and responsible for the safety of their organization, has not been completed.

Jim Hayden said that he had noticed some problems with using specialized troops in the past and suggested that we stress education and practice at events to make sure that the overall battle scenarios are safe, effective, and authentic.

Kevin appointed Jim Garner, who originally drafted the safety regulations to head up a committee to review the safety standards.

Adjutant's Report -- Kim Newell

Kim apologized because one of the newsletter issues was missed. All one-year subscribers will receive another newsletter (to make four, as promised) and the two-year subscribers will get five more total newsletters, before additional subscription money would be due.

On the subject of newsletters, Kim encouraged everyone who contributes on a regular basis to make sure they do so in a timely manner and highly encouraged anyone else to share any specialty or particular interest through the newsletter.

The Line will finally be going on-line with a web site. I'm working with Keith Schenk of the 2nd NJ. We have the text prepared and some good ideas, but we need to secure a corner of cyberspace to put it. We will be strongly cautioning against walk-ons when we put up event information, any other concerns should be forwarded to Kim Newell. Also, any regiment with a website should e-mail the address to CLAdjutant@aol.com, so we can link it to the Line website.

Mark Magiera moved to accept the adjutant's report; Jim Garner seconded. It was unanimously approved.

Liaison Officer Report — Sean Kelleher

The position bounced around a little bit over the past year and will hopefully end up back in Brad Chetwynd's capable hands. However, our relationships with the other umbrella organizations have only grown stronger and more encouraging. The British Brigade voted to support all of the Continental Line shows and will be having an event in Kingston, NY the first weekend in October, which will also be a Northern Department Continental Line event. Also, actions within the Line made it such that several umbrella organizations (CL, BB, NWT, and BAR) will be attending Quebec as the first of hopefully several joint events.

Sean noted that the British Brigade would begin having closed camps at events this year. They'll be looking for passes and such as we've done in the past. To respect the British as well as project a good impression for the public, all Americans visiting the British camp during public hours should remove their regimentals or change into a civilian coat before meeting up with the pickets.

Also, the British Brigade runs their own tavern (a different approach than the Pig). Their dues pay for the alcohol, and it's not an open invitation.

Authenticity Report — Joe Lessman

Joe reiterated that the goals of the authenticity committee were to act as a point of reference, with at least one male and female from each department serving as a source to help answer questions about the period and our impressions. He also suggested that the responsibility of authenticity be largely held by the individual unit commanders. He suggested that we've become lax; we look good, but we carry too much camp equipment. Any tents with inauthentic gear (camp chests, sleeping bags, etc.) should be kept shut during the day or the gear could even be carried back to the car. Cars should also be kept out of the camp; park it once for the weekend.

Jim Garner moved that we continue the authenticity committee. Mitch Lee (3rd NY-DeWitt's) moved to accept the report. Both were approved.

B.A.R. (Brigade of the American Revolution) Liaison Report — Ed Moderacki

Ed sent greetings from the BAR and noted that the organization was looking forward to the event at Quebec. He also noted that this would hopefully set the pattern for working together more in the future.

British Brigade Liaison Report — Drew Smith

Everything looks good.

Introductions/Comments from Other Guests

Rich Walling, Monmouth: He sends his greetings and gave us an update on new property acquisitions (including an uninterrupted viewshed of 3 miles, 300 acres from AT&T, and a good rapport with a developer to save Greene's road and the sightline from the park). They also purchased "Squirreltown," a rural black community from the 18th century that they're hoping to interpret. He then mentioned that the annual battle of Monmouth would be held June 27 and 28. Some rumors were mentioned about accidents at the park and potential closings. However, Rich assured us that the event would take place and offered to put anyone on the mailing list.

Here's where it gets weird...

Then John Mills, from the Princeton Battlefield site, got up and announced that the state of New Jersey would be running the Monmouth event, not the Rich Walling and the Friends of Monmouth, and that we would all wait for a new invite to the event.

Upcoming events for the 1998 season:

Rock Ford Plantation, May 15-17, 1998 — Gary Myers, German Regiment

There's room for 2000 or more re-enactors on a 1600-acre site just south of Lancaster, PA. The varied terrain's only intrusion is a radio tower (which, after Joe's treatise on authenticity, it was decided that we simply cover it with a blanket). Both the German Regiment and the site have put two years and some significant cash behind the project to ensure the regular immenties of wood, water, straw, and portajohns, as well as some interesting and unique 18th Century diversions for soldiers, families, civilians, and the public alike. For those wishing to stay in a hotel, the Willow Valley hotel has donated a lot to the event and will be offering discounts to re-enactors.

The officer chain will be headed by Jim McGahey (sp) on the British side and Tom Vogeley on the American side.

The battles will be fast and furious, covering a lot of ground over an extended period of time and giving everyone something to do. Anyone willing to volunteer to be a picket along the visitor lines would be helpful.

Gary noted that hospitality is the German Regiment's forte and suggested that folks arrive on the 14th or 15th to take advantage of everything the event has to offer as well as to discourage cars in camp on Saturday morning. Folks are welcome to stay from Thursday at noon through Monday at noon.

Paul Hutchins added that folks should have their safety officers registered by then and suggested that the German Regiment take a strict stand on requiring that each unit have one. He also recommended establishing a safety officer for each event.

Quebec, August 14-17, 1998 — Brad Chetwynd, 2nd Mass. Regt.

This event is being hosted by the 2nd Mass. and the Queens Rangers under the auspices of Parcs Canada. We will be swapping camp areas with the British, so we will be able to set up a Steuben camp (however, we lose the flushies).

We will also be using this event as a mechanism for working with other umbrella organizations; we invited the BB, the BAR, and the NWTA, and they have all accepted. Both armies should therefore be larger than they were in 1994. This will allow us to start rubbing elbows in preparation for the 225th. We followed the campaign trail for the Bicentennial, and we need to work together to make sure that all of the events are open to everyone in the future.

The event runs Friday through Sunday and features a "Victory March" through the Old City on Saturday. The field will be open beginning Thursday for camping.

Parc Canada will be providing wood, hay, water, a medical presence, and protection for the camp during the battles and such. The public is also very excited, and the town is very accepting of re-enactors and their tourist dollars. Showers are available nearby in the armory, and modern camping will be located in that area, as well.

Crossing the border with muskets: This was a pretty elaborate discussion, probably the largest of the day. Basically, it's a concern over property. You should stop at the customs office to register your valuables (and the musket qualifies), so that you won't have a problem getting back into the country with them. Most border points will have a posting of the event and will be aware that re-enactors will be heading into the country carrying guns. It is also recommended

that anyone driving get a Canadian card from your agent. Also, no horses (animals) or pistols will be permitted.

Michael Thompson will be the Brigade Major for Quebec, and Sean Kelleher will be Quartermaster.

Paul Hutchins noted that he will be trying to get buses for the Mid-Atlantic region at approximately \$80/each. The Southern Department will also be arranging a bus.

Early unit registration for Quebec is imperative, and the deadline is March 15.

It was noted that anyone who needed to check out by noon had 15 minutes. Can you believe we've gotten through this much and haven't even had lunch yet?!?

Staunton, VA, October 17-18, 1998 — Jim Garner, First VA Regt.

Pronounced "Stanton," this site is about 1 and 1/2 hours south of Maryland off of Route 81. The site has hosted several events in the past, allows all 18th Century weaponry, and can hold 1000-1500 troops. Jeff Lambert has the information and was not able to make the meeting. However, everyone will get information in the mail shortly.

The First VA (host of the event) didn't think it was fair to hold the Line to the Leesburg commitment with the change in location and such.

Valley Forge, May 3, 1998 — Guest, Bill Troppman, Valley Forge Park

Bill announced an open invitation to French Alliance Day at Valley Forge Park on May 3. It's the 220th of the original celebration where the troops showed off their drill in 1778.

Proposed 1999 Events:

Mount Vernon, October 16-17, 1999 — Jim Garner

This event at George Washington's home will probably be "Yorktown Weekend." More information will follow. Bob Balcius moved that we tentatively accept this event. Jim Hayden seconded. It was approved.

Ross Common, Wingap, PA, originally Oct. 16-17 — George Radecky, 6th PA

Located on Sullivan's Trail, this site has a sponsor who's putting a lot of money into the event. They'll try to get it moved, however the area is best in the fall, especially with the changes colors of the leaves.

Bordentown Repeat, 2000 or 2001 — Drew Smith, BB Liaison

Drew noted that the town was very happy with the last event and will support another in the future.

Department Reports:

Southern Department Report — Jim Garner

The Southern Department has subdivided into two working units, the Carolina Department and the Chesapeake Department to allow for better communication and logistics, however they will continue to brigade as one at the Line events and will try to support Quebec. Jim thanked the Northern and Mid-Atlantic Department support over the last year in making the Southern Department feel a valued part of the Line. Jim will also continue as Department Coordinator.

Mid-Atlantic Department Report — Paul Hutchins

Paul noted that we have been making great strides in working together at events: amalgamating units and taking the Northern Department's lead for organizing the camp. The Mid-Atlantic Department will be hosting a School of the Soldier at Boone Homestead on April 24-26. Paul expects lots of support from the department for Rock Ford and Quebec, as well as Staunton and is encouraging all units to begin working on their early war militia impression as the 225th approaches. In closing, he thanked everyone for their support and hard work at Bordentown.

Northern Department Report — Sean Kelleher

Sean began by thanking everyone for a great job at Delta Lake. There are a couple of events in the works for the Northern Department, notably sanctioning Battle Road as a Northern Department Event for April 18 as a building block for the 225th. The Garrison Weekend, sponsored by the 10th Mass., will be held June 6-7, 1998, and they are hoping to bring the Strawberry Banke cup back North after the surprising upset by the 2nd NJ. On October 3 & 4, the Northern Department will be helping the entire British Brigade burn Kingston, NY. The British Brigade will be fully supporting this event, so the Northern Department can use any additional reinforcements available for the weekend.

12:30pm — Lunch Break

Can you believe that we were cranking through the agenda quick enough not to have a working lunch? Read on; it gets even better...

2:00pm-ish — Meeting Resumes

Discussion and Vote of New Units:

8th Mass. (sponsored by the 3rd New York, DeWitt's) — Mitch Lee

Mitch mentioned that this unit is headed up by Rob Bothwell, who used to be with the 9th Mass. The group has 16 guys, counting hats and music. They do a 1776-77 impression and have been working on their uniform and kit with Henry Cooke. They amalgamate very nicely. Mitch also noted that Rob was a wargamer, drinks a lot, and is cute.

Mitch moved that they be accepted; Jim Hayden seconded. They were unanimously approved.

Glover's Marblehead Regt., 14th Mass. (sponsored by 2nd Mass.)

— Eric Chetwynd

Glover's is a local unit that has been around for a while. They regularly field 12 muskets and are working on a mid-war impression. They both amalgamate and sing well.

Eric moved that they be accepted; Jim Hayden seconded. They were unanimously approved.

United Train of Artillery (sponsored by Knox's Artillery and 1st NH)

— Mark Magiera

They hosted last year's Northern Department Garrison Weekend and wear the funny shark hats from the 1775-1776 period. They are very safe and have three guns, including Paul's brass gun.

Mark moved that they be accepted; Dwight Dixon seconded. They were unanimously approved.

Walker's Regiment, formerly Rehoboth Minutemen (sponsored by 1st NH)

— Jim Hayden

They are doing the impression of Walker's Regiment, established April 23, 1775. The original unit served through 1775 as Continental Army and were later designated as 13th Continental.

They usually field 10-12 guns and have about 15 on the books.

Jim moved that they be accepted; Dwight Dixon seconded. They were unanimously approved.

5th PA (sponsored by Wayne's Lights) — John DiCarlo

Any of the past indiscretions have been cleared up. They amalgamate well and have a good impression.

John moved that they be accepted; Sean Kelleher seconded. They were unanimously approved.

11th PA (sponsored by Trevitt's Marines) — Tim Thurber

Tim noted that they use and practice the same drill as the rest of us and stress safety. They have many young members, 18-20 years old. The marines hadn't heard any problems throughout the year and suggested that they move on. Paul Hutchins added that they've been working on drill and attitude, and will be working on their uniforms as well. The department and other units should keep a helpful eye on them, and he also suggested that they should be approved.

Tim moved we accept them. Jim Garner seconded. They were approved.

2nd New Jersey, Lawrie's Company — Paul Hutchins

Paul announced that Helm's would be willing to sponsor Lawrie's, but they haven't received enough information (proof of insurance, a solid impression, bylaws) to suggest that the unit move on. They're a work in progress and should continue an affiliation with the Line and possibly be considered for full membership in the future.

4th Continental Light Dragoon's, Fauntleroy's Company (sponsored by Sheldon's Horse) — Sal Tarantino

They've been working diligently on drill and have a great camp. They have several fully equipped horses and good horsemanship. They have 26+ members, with 15-20 men at shows. Paul Hutchins added that their uniform is fantastic and equipment was good; the sticky point was a possible troublesome member. Sal and Bob Allegretto both noted that Glen Garwood really is in charge of the regiment and are confident that they have their act together.

A concern was brought up that the lights and rifles had to rush through them at Bordentown, because they hadn't been as aggressive as they could have been in pushing the British. Bob noted that he would rather they were less aggressive than more aggressive as a new unit. It was mentioned that we can work with them on that sort of thing. Brad also commented that any problems with an individual should be dealt with on a one-on-one basis and that we should make sure that we don't punish a whole unit based on one person.

Sal moved that we accept them; Paul Hutchins seconded. They were unanimously approved.

4th Continental Light Dragoons, Craig's Troop (sponsored by 2nd Continental Light Dragoon's, Tallmadge's Company) — Bob Allegretto

Craig's has been active with the Continental Line for the last four years. They are based in Western Pennsylvania but have managed to make at least one event each year. They are a church organization. Bob is working with them to see at least one officer in full kit and he'll work on their clothing. It was noted that they were in full kit during the rain out at Yorktown this past year, where they did narrated drill demonstrations for the public.

Bob moved that they be accepted. Jim Hayden seconded. They were unanimously approved.

Erskine's Militia — Paul Hutchins

Paul had talked to Mike Aluzzo and suggested that he look for a sponsor at Bordentown.

Mike Goode moved to table the vote on them. Jim Garner seconded.

Doughty's Artillery (sponsored by Mott's Artillery) — Chuck McGatha

This unit has done everything that he has asked them to do and is working on improving their kit. He has also talked to their commander about his temper. Sean Kelleher added that the concerns he had brought up last year have been cleared up, and the Northern Department supports their advancement. However, there was a concern that there is possibly an underage member on the

crew; Mark Magiera confirmed that this was no longer case. Chuck also responded that he had been in contact with the commander on that issue.

Chuck moved that they be accepted. Sean seconded. They were unanimously approved.

Maryland Militia (sponsored by the First Virginia) — Jim Garner

They do Steuben drill and have a really good militia impression. They have 10-12 muskets and look forward to the prospect of working with other militia units.

Jim Garner moved that they be accepted. Dwight Dixon seconded. They were unanimously approved.

Units Leaving the Line Due to Inactivity:

Eric Chetwynd moved that we drop the **25th Continental Regiment**. Jim Garner moved to drop **Daniel Morgan's Rifle Company** and **Bland's Virginia Horse**. It was also noted that the **3rd Continental Artillery** had become defunct as a result of a merger with the **United Train of Artillery**. Jim Hayden seconded the whole lot of them as being dropped from the membership list. This was unanimously approved.

Unit Transfers:

Pulaski's Legion is transferring from the Mid-Atlantic Department to the Northern Department.

Chairman Election:

Jim Garner noted that, in accordance with tradition, it was the Southern Department's turn to provide a Chairman. With full support from the department, his nominee was Tom Vogeley, a Southerner who happens to be in a Mid-Atlantic unit. No other nominations were presented. Jim Hayden moved that nominations be closed; Paul Hutchins seconded it, and it was approved.

Jim Garner moved that we accept Tom Vogeley as the new Chairman; Jim Hayden seconded it. He was unanimously elected.

Appointment of a Liaison Officer:

Tom nominated Brad Chetwynd. This was seconded by Dave Howarth, and Brad was unanimously approved. Brad said he was okay with the idea, if we all promised to send gifts to his wife, Barbara.

Tom's Acceptance Speech:

After thanking Kevin and the other Chairmen before him for making his job easier, Tom gave us his ideas about the Line and its future. He noted that he was not looking to change things, but simply build on what we already have in place, including bigger and better large-scale events, "loose administratively, tight tactically" organizational structure, and working toward our common vision. With this in mind, he had six points:

1. All goals need to be focusing on the upcoming 225th.
2. All units and departments should feel valued and be an active part of the organization.
3. We need to work together with and learn from the other umbrella organizations.
4. We need to form the Army, including guard duty and paperwork, pushing the standard.
5. The Line should establish yearly officer and NCO training.
6. We need to improve authenticity and the burden of that lies with each commander.

Kevin's Parting Words:

Over the last couple years, the units of the Line have started to work together well. To the newer units, you can only expect that the Line is going to get bigger and better. He thanked everyone for their help, especially those on the Board, noting that the Board's occasional chats on the Internet have saved a lot of time and money and help to get things accomplished more quickly. He looks forward to seeing where the Line is heading.

New Business/Announcements:

Lost Spontoon: Drummond Ball (7th VA) told a chilling tale of leaving a spontoon on top of the car when loading after the Yorktown event, and not realizing that he hadn't put it in the car until he was several miles down the road. If anyone hears about the lost spontoon, please contact Drummond.

Civil War Safety Plea: Mark Magiera (Knox's Artillery) noted that there have been a number of cannon accidents in the past year at Civil War events. He asked that everyone plead with the Civil War organizations to crack down on safety, because their carelessness is affecting our hobby.

Proper Fitting Bayonets: Bob Allegretto (2nd Continental Light Dragoon's, Tallmadge's) asked that everyone make sure that the lugs on the muskets match the lugs on their bayonets (bottom to bottom or top to top). Otherwise, they won't fit properly and can be a safety hazard.

Medical Alliance: Marji Weinkop (6th MD) is establishing a Medical Corps to share information and research about this aspect of the hobby.

2nd New Hampshire Celebrates Ten Years: Bob Balcus noted that the 2nd NH just celebrated their 10th season, and he wanted to publicly acknowledge their mentors: Brad Chetwynd, Michael Thompson, Dave Wilson, and Henry Cooke.

Taking Hits: Chuck Eby (Pennsylvania State Regiment) suggested that, in order to be more authentic, we should have more casualties on the field.

Acknowledging the Dead on the Battlefield: Jim Garner suggested that the field music play something to honor the original soldiers that would also serve as the call for the "dead to rise." Kim Newell noted that we were starting to play "Rosline Castle," which was also termed as the "Dead March" at the time, and added that it might be a nice touch if the guys mourned muskets as well during the piece.

Site Guy Adds His Two Cents: John Mills from Princeton noted that, from the site standpoint, he would suggest more policing on the field and said that, at the end of the weekend, they often find empty powder cans in camp. These are things that lead to more rules. If anyone sees something questionable that another unit is doing, talk to that unit so site administrators don't have to create legislation to avoid it.

Let Everyone Play: Larry Gorecki (Pennsylvania State Regiment) noted that the special units, like the rifles, are not always used to the best of their ability and are often completely overlooked. He requested that event organizers make sure that they have scenarios that include all of the troops.

New Commanders:

German Regiment — Brian Good
10th Mass. — Frank Chamberlain

3:30ish George Radecsky (6th PA) moved that we adjourn the meeting. Dwight Dixon (Regt. de Saintonge) seconded. It was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,


Kim Newell, Adjutant