

**13th Annual Meeting of the Continental Line
Held at the Warrington Motor Lodge in Warrington, PA
on Saturday, 5th of February 2000
Minutes**

Welcome from Joe Lessman (1st Continental Reg't) & discussion of format of the meeting-utilizing delegates at tables instead of rows of chairs. Desired feedback on the format.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by the Chairman Tom Vogeley (1st NJ Reg't).

Statement of Adjustment on the agenda (see Appendix A- Agenda)

Jim Casco (Whitcomb's Rangers) took the floor to share a passage from Proverb's: "Without a vision, people will perish".

Roll call was called by the Adjutant Mark Magiera (Col. Knox's Artillery Reg't) with Fifty [50] Full Member Organizations & Four [4] Provisional Member Organizations Represented.

Motion to Accept the Minutes from The 1999 Annual Meeting, published in the Volume XII, Issue 1 of *The Continental Soldier*, made by Whitcomb's Rangers; 1st NH Reg't 2nd the Motion. The Minutes of the 1999 Annual Meeting accepted & unanimously approved.

Motion for the Board of The Continental Line, Inc. to purchase liability insurance for Members of the Board of Directors made by the 1st Continental Reg't; 2nd Motion made by 1st NH Reg't. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Chairman's Report

overview of the events of 1999 (Boone Homestead & Mt. Vernon)

General observations from the Chair:

- Encourage member units to continue training.
- Suggested that the Membership consider the formation of a Western Dept.
- Attendance at events, a special point was made that with the Sunday participation, unit commanders should discourage the early departure of participants.
- Concern about squabbling amongst member units & the problems that it causes. We are here to have fun, & respect the fact that at times we may have different opinions.

The floor was yielded to Kim Newell (1st NJ Reg't) where it was announced that the Continental line now has a web site www.continetalline.org. The site is being managed by Kim Newell & Keith Schenk (2nd NJ Reg't, Helm's Coy). Members of the CL were encouraged to send their web links (URL) so that the CL site can be updated. It was also encouraged to create a link to the CL web site from member unit web sites too.

Treasurers' report read by Mike Goode (3rd PA Reg't, Light Coy) (see appendix B).

- Income
- Contributions
- T-shirts
- Raffle
- Insurance
- Expenses
- Profit

Liaison Report unavailable. Andy Estabrooks (Saintonge) provided notes about topics discussed at a November meeting between Brad Chetwynd & Don Beale (British Brigade)

- BB looking for addition advanced guard & pickets at events
- Discussed disappointment of Neversink, NY & the low CL participation
- BAR, BB & CL meeting
 - felt at least 1 event each year between the Big 3 for the 225th.
 - Develop a set of joint guidelines for safety

Tom Vogeley elaborated the relationship between the NWTa & CL; & that the consensus is positive toward the NWTa. There are conflicts however, with the NWTa & the BAR & BB. It is their problem to work out.

Authenticity Report: none provided.

225th Report (see Appendix C)

- Job description of the 225th Coordinator envisioned by Tom Vogeley to SK
- Discussed History of what has transpired over the last 4 years.
 - 10th MA Powder Alarm
 - Capture of Ft. William
- 225th planning
 - Battle Road
 - NPS interpretation & education program
 - Ethnographic study of reenactors & NPS relationship authored by Kathy Stanton
 - NPS values & perceptions
 - performance, preservation & communications
- Big 3 Activities
- safety regulations
- insurance
- authenticity with a long discussion about women in the ranks. The only sticking point to joint sanctioning of events between the BAR & The Line is the BAR rule disallowing women to portray men in ranks.
- Possible Big 3 events in 2001- 2003
- Other 225th Activities

Medical Dept. report by Marjy Wienkop desires increased participation at the Field Hospital. The group has developed some special effects & makeup techniques which they want to utilize.

Chair made point of unit sovereignty with regards to a Host Units rights when running CL sanctioned events.

Greetings made by Ed Moderaki – Liaison Officer from the Brigade of the American Revolution

Greetings from Neil Sorenson – Liaison Officer from the British Brigade: Made a point of no sanctioned shows for 2000 as of yet.

Friend of Monmouth Battlefields -Rich Walling

discussed the June event with focus on Native American participation in the Battle of Monmouth. More information available on events: monmouthb@aol.com

Paul Loane (2nd PA Reg't) thank you for the attendance at Boone Homestead. Mentioned that 10 foot rule was abused with regards to participants.

Motion made by Tom Vogeley at 11:30 AM to Recess until Noon for Department Meetings. 2nd Motion by UTA. Motion Carried.

12:06 Point of Order called by the Secretary

Chairman brought meeting to order.

Northern Dept. Coordinator Report

Recap of 1999 Events

2000 events

- Van Alen House, Kinderhook, NY May 6 & 7 in NY open to ND units until March 15th, then open to outside units.
- School of Instruction Ft. Adams, Newport, RI, June 3 & 4
If British Participation can be arranged, a commemoration of Bunker Hill will occur on Sunday. Open to ND units, until participation is assessed from ND will determine if event is open to outside departments.
- Newtown in Elmira, NY August 26 & 27.

MIDATLANTIC DEPARTMENT

Events:

- MAD Weekend at Ft. Mifflin, PA. April 1st & 2nd
- Valley Forge, PA May 5, 6 & 7 Open to MA units only.
- Tactical possible in NJ September 16&17 (however, real loose)
- Germantown /Peter Wentz, PA October 6,7,8

SOUTHERN DEPARTMENT

- End View Plantation 1st VA/ 64th Foot Sept 30/Oct 1st (just outside of Williamsburg, VA) Opportunity to display in front of the NPS.
- Great Bridge, VA 7th VA host 225th celebration. December 9th & 10th

Dragoon Safety Proposal

- Chairman introduced history of why the proposal came about. 6 state safety rules.
- Bob Allegretto (Talmadges Troop) took floor & resolved motion to proposal to accept Dragoon safety guidelines as published in Volume XII, Issue 2 of the Continental Soldier. Knox's 2nd Motion.
- Discussion
 - Question of how it would be managed asked by 10th MA. Answer: Dragoons would manage it amongst member units.
 - 1st Cont. LD makes point of the test of Horse Competency.
 - 4th Dragoons had concerns about it but would like to see it implemented.
 - Eric Chandler wanted to make the point that this was news to his organization. Request that the comments be disseminated to the organization.
 - Sean Kelleher: Pointed out 2 issues
 - General Issue of Safety. (It asks to change our safety guidelines)
 - Establishes a safety position from an overview position.
- 2nd NH makes point that the guidelines can be used without a vote, dependant on willingness of an event Host to implement the guidelines. Makes a Motion to Table the Proposal. 6th PA, 2nd Motion to table, the motion carries.

Motion to recess for lunch until 2:15 PM made by Joe Lessman (1st Cont Reg't) & announcement of details of the meeting. 2nd Motion by Knox's. Passed Unanimously.

Meeting called back to order from recess by Chairman at 2:15 PM

Jim Hayden (1st NH Reg't) took the floor to read a letter from James Hayden to the Continental Line. (See Appendix D)

1st NH made Motion to accept the proposal of Unit Rights. 2nd Motion by 2nd NH.

- Chairman opened the floor to discussion of each item of Bill of Rights
- Debate ensued regarding the first item.
- With regards to Boone, 1st Cont. felt pressure by the CL Chairman on how Boone was run. For which Tom Voageley publicly apologized to Jim Gibson & the 1st Continental Regiment.
- 2nd NH Bob Balcius proposed the Continental Line have a Mission Statement. Do we need a formal Bill of Rights?
- Drummond Ball (9th VA Reg't) made a Motion to Table the Proposal until the next Annual Meeting in 2001. Paul Hutchins (2nd NJ Reg't, Helm's) 2nd Motion, motion carried unanimously.

Andy Estabrooks discussed the Event Planning Guidebook. Said that it was mainly an outline at this point & that the areas it is to cover needed to be written.

Adjutant will publish the Outline in the next issue of the Continental Soldier.

Review of the Events in 1999.

- Boone other than Horse.
- Paperwork, communication was a problem.
- Wood was a problem.
- Troop returns (the lateness of) was an issue.
- Kim Newell (1st NJ Reg't) pointed out that we are voting on events at a last minute. Where in the past we were voting a year prior.
- Mount Vernon
- Discussed need to get the information into the Host.

2000 Event presentation

- Monmouth- Paul Hutchins proposed an event in September. The site had not been secured, however, he wanted to gauge the memberships desire to participate if he were to get the event happening.
- British Brigade are proposing New Platz, NY in September
2nd NJ is developing the Event.
- Chairman asked Sean Kelleher to take the floor to discuss the event: Battle Road 2000 (a ND sanctioned event).
 - 1600 participants for Battle Road are registered.
 - Accurate return BY APRIL 1st
 - Detailed the schedule of the entire event.
- 6th PA 2003 May1,2,3 Valley Forge, PA Announcement

Unit Membership (The respected units mentioned on the agenda were asked to leave the room during debate & voting)

- Whitcomb's Rangers (sponsor) made a Motion, 6th MA Reg't: 2nd Motion, to vote 1st Ulster County Militia (Col. Snyder Reg't) to Full Membership. PASSED
- Coren's Artillery (sponsor) Presented Proctor's Artillery as an Applicant to the CL.
- 2nd NJ (sponsor) made a Motion, Pulaski's 2nd the motion, to vote Pawling's Levies d to Full Membership, PASSED
- PA State Reg't recommend that Cresap's Rifle's, remain as Applicant for 2000 season.
- 1st VA Reg't (sponsor) made a Motion, 1st NH Reg't: 2nd the Motion, to vote 9th VA Reg't to Full Membership. PASSED
- 1st VA Reg't (sponsor) made a Motion, 1st NH Reg't: 2nd the Motion, to vote Illinois Regiment to Full Membership. PASSED.
- 3rd PA Reg't (sponsor) made a Motion, 3rd NY Reg't Dewitt's: 2nd the Motion, to vote Gaskin's VA Battalion to Full Membership. PASSED.
- Fautleroy's Troop, 4th Dragoon's (sponsor) announced Plunkett's Troop, 4th Dragoon's remain as Applicant for 2000 season.
- Engineers' interpretation announced to the Organization. Offering to be utilized in the same capacity as the Medical Department.
- Name Change of Full Member: Mott's Artillery will be referred to as Mott's Artillery (2nd Detachment).

2001 Events

- White Plains, NY
- March on Trenton Barracks/ Princeton, NJ December 29th & 30th
- Charleston, SC in June 23rd & 24th
- Encampment in Washington D.C. July 4th

Chairman's Election

Northern Department Coordinator speaking for the Northern Department nominates Dwight Dixon as Chairman of the Continental Line, 2nd NJ 2nd the Motion. Passed Unanimously. Dwight proceeded to put on a Crown, which filled the room with laughter.

- Thanked Tom Vogeley for the work as Chairman over the last term.
- "The CL in my opinion are like dinner guests, a host unit invites members to come to dinner. you don't tell them how to cook the dinner. If your host asks for help with dinner, be a good guest & help."
- The smaller units are intimidated to run a large program. Let us produce the document, which will get the information out there so that the options are available to them. So we can decide if we are going to support them.
- Discussed the 225th & that It is already here.
- Chairman Elect re-appointed Brad Chetwynd as the Liaison Officer to the British Brigade.
- Chairman Elect re-appointed Sean Kelleher to the Committee: 225th Coordinator.

Mark Magiera then presented a gift to Tom Vogeley "A Devil of a Whipping: The Battle of Cowpens" by Lawrence Babits.

New Business

Mark Nowacki stepped up to reaffirm the 2nd MA Reg't support with a Donation to the Continental Line.

Bob Allegretto announced that the musket shortage still exists. Brought two for sale.

Larry Gorecki spoke up on an issue of safety with regards to walk ons i.e. Rifleman. Brandywine there was a problem & also at Boone Homestead. As far as how to address this, it is difficult to produce an absolute. A proposal of a ID card for rifleman. It is a serious problem that is a concern of PA State Reg't.

The issue was discussed with varying ideas on how to deal without an immediate solution.

Raffle

Motion was made to adjourn the Annual Meeting at 5:15 PM by 1st NH, 2nd Motion made by Danvers Alarm List. Motion carried unanimously.

Appendix A- AGENDA
13th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
CONTINENTAL LINE
FEB 5, 2000

- 9:00 AM Registration opens
- 10:00 AM Call to Order
-- Welcome-Chairman
-- House Keeping and Unit Roll Call – Adjutant
-- Acceptance of the 1999 Meeting Minutes
- 10:15 AM First Session
-- Chairman's report
-- Adjutant's report
-- Treasurer s Report
-- Liaison Officer's Report
-- Authenticity Committee Report
-- 225th Coordinator Report
-- CL Web page
-- Medical Dept Report
-- BAR and BB Representatives Comments
-- Comments from other guests
- 11:15 AM Department Meetings
- 11:45 AM Dept. Coordinators Reports
-- Announcements of Dept. Shows
- 12:15 PM Dragoon Safety Regulations
-- Presentation of new Dragoon Safety Regs.
-- Vote on Dragoon Safety Regs.
- 12:45 PM Adjourn First Session
- 12:45 PM Lunch
- 2 15 PM Second Session
- 2:15 PM Letter from Jim Hayden, 1st New Hampshire
- Reading of letter followed by discussion
- 2:45 PM Event Planning Guidebook
- 3:00 PM Review of 1999 Events
- 3:15 PM 2000 Event Presentations
-- Monmouth
- 3:25 PM Battle Road other 225th events
- 3:45 PM New Units - Discussion and Votes
1st Ulster, Proctor's Arty, Pawling's Levies, Cresap's Rifles,
Illinois Regt, 9th VA, Gaskin's Va Bn, 4th Cont. LD Plunkett's
Troop, Engineers
- 4:15 PM Election of New Chairman and Appointment of Liaison Officer
- 4:30 PM Remarks by Outgoing and Incoming Chairmen
- 4:45 PM New Business/ Announcements from the Floor, etc
- 5:00 PM Meeting Adjourns

Appendix B- Treasurer's Report

CONTINENTAL LINE ACCOUNTS
1999

**4010-
SUBSCRIPTIONS
INCOME**

Date	Memo	Amount	Balance
3/10/99	6th Pa	\$30.00	\$30.00
22-Apr	Knox's Art	\$15.00	\$45.00
5-May	T. O'Connor	\$30.00	\$75.00
7-May	R. Grimsley	\$15.00	\$90.00
7-May	J. Vilven	\$15.00	\$105.00
5-Jun	C. Hershberger	\$15.00	\$120.00
5-Jun	W. Brunt	\$30.00	\$150.00
5-Jun	P. Fleming	\$30.00	\$180.00
1-Jul	R. Stoyale	\$15.00	\$195.00
1-Jul	M. Smith	\$15.00	\$210.00
1-Jul	D. Meyers	\$30.00	\$240.00
1-Jul	D.Mssier	\$15.00	\$255.00
30-Jul	J. Mills	\$30.00	\$285.00
18-Aug	W. Mcintyre	\$15.00	\$300.00
5-Oct	C. Hershberger	\$30.00	\$330.00
25-May	R. Manley	\$15.00	\$315.00

**4030-
Contributions
Income**

Date	Memo	Amount	Balance
VARIOUS	Subscription	\$130.00	\$130.00
15-Apr	Cherry's Co.	\$100.00	\$230.00
5/25/00	1st Cont	\$50.00	\$280.00
30-Nov	1st Cont	\$50.00	\$330.00
24-Sep	Various from Knox's Acct.	\$345.00	\$675.00

**4090
Raffle/T shirt
Income**

Date	Memo	Amount	Balance
22-Apr	T shirts	\$715.00	\$715.00
25-May		\$1940.00	\$2655.00

Total Income \$3570

**6500
Newsletter
Expense**

Date	Memo	Amount	Balance
24-Sept.	To Knox's Artillery	\$587.69	\$587.69

**6700 Misc.
Expenses**

Date	Memo	Amount	Balance
3/12/99	D&N Sporting Goods	\$500.00	\$500.00
22-Mar	D&N Sporting Goods	\$355.00	\$855.00
18-Sep	Main Line Insurance	\$1,250.00	\$2,105.00
Total Expenses		\$2692.69	

Balance

Feb 1999		\$4661.06
Income 1999		\$3570.00
Expenses 1999	\$2692.69	
Profit		\$877.31
Total Account		\$5538.37

Appendix C- 225th Coordinator Committee

Presented at the Annual Meeting of the CL

The role of the 225th Coordinator

- ? identify holes in 225th schedule and get a member unit to sponsor events.
- ? develop long range plan.
- ? clearing house for info on 225th.
- ? with liaison officer, coordinate with other umbrellas.
- ? resource to units planning events.

4 Years Ago

1997 - We just started to talk about 225th. Bob Sullivan mentioned at the annual meeting and Sean Kelleher and Geoff Campbell proposed the 225th of Battle Road. There is a little glimmer of light and a concern about a big fizzle.

Today

? Battle Road 2000

? Catalyst to other 225th event planning

? Schedule identified for 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003

What started as a little glimmer is now Lighting Freedom's Flame – The American Revolution 225th.

Events started last year

? 10th Mass - Powder Alarm

? Capture of Fort William and Mary – Newmarket, NH

National Park Service

Rev War Coordinating Committee - Sept & Dec 1998

Purpose: use the 225th to enhance public understanding of the various meanings and enduring legacy of the Revolution.

Goals:

- ? Id partners and establish long-lasting beneficial relationships
- ? raise public profile, expand research base, enhance comm.
- ? Public awareness and resource preservation

Interpretation and Education

Rev War At a Glance brochure

? Rotating exhibit

? publication clarifying NPS policy on re-enactments and living history programs and underlying philosophy

? symposium in Boston

? Rev War in Mall - July 4, 2001

Communications

? More websites, internal communication

? 225th anniversary logo - Medallions and Stamp Cancellation

Research

? Ethnographic study of re-enactor groups

Resource Protection

? Rev War/ War of 1812 - Battlefield Protection Program

Ethnographic Study

Study on the Relationship Between the NPS and Reenactors

? Role of Reenactors at the National Parks

? Values and Perceptions

Minutes Cont.

- ? Performance, Preservation, and Communication
- ? Reenactor Organizations
- ? Case Studies - Battle Road, King's Mountain, Saratoga

Role of Reenactors at the National Parks

VIP

Members of the Public

Traditional Users of the Park

Origins and history of reenactor culture

"civil religion"

Values and Perceptions

The battle over battles

Safety

Differing systems of values

Values in performance

NPS interpretations and policies

Actual vs. assumed differences

Performance, Preservation, and Communication

Performance - "authenticity"

Preservation - "bigger is better"

Communication - clear and consistent / improvisational

Values in performance

Reenactor Organizations

Case Studies

The Big 3

Developing a working relationship between Brigade of the American Revolution, British Brigade, and Continental Line

Joint meeting of Don Beale (BB), Brad Chetwynd (CL), Andy Estabrooks (CL), Paul Ackermann (BAR), and Peter Schaaphok (BAR) on the evening of Nov. 13 moderated by Sean Kelleher (CL).

Safety Regulations:

It was agreed to codify the safety regulations of all three organizations into one document of a superior standard which adopts the toughest standard in each possible issue of concern. In the case that there is no corresponding issue in another document, the single issue of concern shall be adopted. A committee will be formed consisting of one representative from each organization to assemble this codified document.

Insurance:

At BAR invitational events BAR insurance is in effect for all BAR members. At BAR sanctioned events BAR insurance is in effect for all BAR members participating under the sanctioning control of the BAR. At non-BAR invitational/sanctioned events there shall be no BAR insurance in effect.

"For the BAR to sanction an event it must have control over the event, the event may not conflict with another BAR function, and at least one BAR Board Officer must be present." (Bylaws) The key issue in the BAR's sanctioning of an event is the ability of the BAR to have final control over the actions of and circumstances involving its members. This level of control will be the single most important criteria evaluated in order to determine if sanctioning can be permitted. The decision to sanction an event will be made by the majority vote of the BAR National Board of Directors.

Authenticity:

It was agreed that the authenticity standards of the BAR shall be in effect for all BAR members at all BAR invitational events. At events sanctioned by the BAR all BAR members attending the event under BAR sanctioning will abide by BAR authenticity standards.

Non-BAR participants at BAR invitational events are expected to adhere to the authenticity standards of their respective organizations. These authenticity standards include the issue of women participating as men.

Big 3 Events

- 1776/2001 - Pound Ridge Reservation/Battle of White Plains (BAR)
- Trenton (?)
- 1777/2002 - Hudson Valley - Fort Montgomery
- Philadelphia Campaign
- 1778/2003 - Valley Forge
- Monmouth

Other 225 Activities

Trails to celebrate American Revolution

By NANCY CACIOPPO

COPYRIGHT 190 The Journal News. All rights reserved.

Publication date: 1/2/190

"Lighting Freedom's Flame" will be the rallying cry over the next eight years as historians from New England and the Mid-Atlantic states plan the 225th anniversary celebration of the American Revolution.

Linking them will be 600 miles of historic trails traveled by the Continental Army of George Washington and the French Army of Count de Rochambeau on their way to ultimate victory over British forces under the command of Maj. Gen. Charles Cornwallis in Yorktown, Va., in 1781.

Almost 50 local historians and representatives from New York, New Jersey and Connecticut met recently at Washington's headquarters at the Hasbrouck House in Newburgh, where they discussed plans to showcase the Washington-Rochambeau route.

Other 225 Events

- 2000 - BAR Grand Encampment at Fort Ticonderoga
- Bunker Hill - ND/CL
- 2002 - Independent Group (with a lot of LHA support) is looking at doing a campaign
- Mount Independence, Hubbardton, Fort Anne, Bennington
- Saratoga as an interpretive event.

Appendix D- Letter from Jim Hayden to the Continental Line

To: The Unit Commanders and/or Contact Person, Northern Department, Continental Line

From: Jim Hayden, Commander, 1st New Hampshire Regiment

Note: if you are getting this, it is because your e-mail address was listed as the contact for your unit on the recent CL mailing list. If you are not the commander and/or contact, please forward. Thanks.

First of all, let me bring you greetings from the 1st NH. I trust you all had a joyous holiday season and survived the Y2K Fiasco. I must apologize for the lateness of this letter. My original intent had been to have you receive this at or before the ND meeting in November, however as most of you know, I had a slight problem in the fall, requiring a hospital stay and so far two months worth of recuperation. I thank all of you for your thoughts, prayers, cards and notes. I am now well on the way to regaining my health and will be on the field again this season.

Most of you received a very long e-mail from me a few months ago raising some of my concerns with the current state of the Line and it's future, so this will be a bit of a rehashing - for that I apologize, but I ask your patience. I have had long discussions with Tom Vogely, Mark Magiera, Andy Estabrooks and others about this. They all understand my concerns and know that I am planning to bring this before the Line. This is not intended as a slam against ANYONE in the CL, but rather is intended to better the workings of the Line.

I have been asked by many to present my concerns to the CL at the annual meeting in Warrington, PA next month. I further was asked to present it to the ND membership in advance so that any other representatives of units, or others may have the chance to cosponsor my proposals, which appear at the end of this letter. Here then is the text of the letter to the entire membership of the Line which will be presented at the Line meeting.

To the Member Units of the Continental Line, Greetings:

As you all know, I am often referred to as one of the "founding Fathers" of the Continental Line. I served as the first Adjutant for 5 years, as Chairman for 2, and on the Board another 2 as Past Chairman. During that time I have been witness to GREAT growth and change. When we started, representatives of 13 units met and decided we wanted to continue a camaraderie that began with the England Trip in 1987. At that time, it was decided that the strength of the organization rested in the sovereignty and cooperation of the individual units, rather than in a strong central organization. Furthermore, it was decided that units would host, organize and plan events. The events would then be presented to the membership for their consideration and support. Believe it or not, our #1 concern at the time was to be given equal treatment in the planning of events with the British Brigade. We merely wanted to be treated as an equal partner and also wanted to be able to field a good opposition for them. I'm sure this seems funny at this point in our history.

Over the years we have seen this organization grow in wonderful ways. We ARE a very strong organization in terms of our abilities on the field of battle. We have also begun to explore areas to make our experiences and those of the spectators more educational and rewarding. These explorations have come as a result of individual and group research, trial and, yes, even errors. Some have worked, others have been less successful, but all have aided us in our goal - the portrayal of Washington's Army.

We obviously have certain logistical needs as reenactors at an event. These mostly concern the need of straw, water, wood, and latrines, along with a good location. These basic needs were covered many years ago by the 1st Virginia. This check list was published several times, and I believe is still available as a starting place for potential event hosts.

The "administration" of the army is a bit more open however. There are almost always several ways to portray the army correctly. For example, several years ago I published an article on the use of guards in the Army and a suggested adaptation of that for our events. My paper was taken strictly from Von Steuben's manual. A few years later, my distinguished friend, Eric Chetwynd also published an article on the use of guards. He had also used Steuben, along with several other period sources and manuals, yielding a different idea on the use of guards. Both were and are correct and were both offered as mere suggestions to commanders and their staffs as to how we could better portray this aspect of the army.

There will always be differences of opinion as to what should or shouldn't be done, or even as to what we, as individuals or units enjoy doing. As you can see from the above example, there are also different ways of doing the same thing. It has, however, always been up to the host unit or units and the event command staff as to what will actually happen at an event and how it will happen. While we have tried several different methods of administrating the army at events, many have now latched onto the "North Andover Model", a method which I'm proud to say my command staff of Eric Chetwynd, Sean Kelleher, Rob Bothwell, Andy Estabrooks and others all contributed to. This method was based on our own research and laid over foundation documents originally presented at the 1st Line Meeting in 1988 by Dave Wilson and Mike Thompson of the 2nd MA. Mike and Dave's documents had been accepted by the fledgling Line as a SUGGESTED method of organizing and administering the army. Note that it was a suggestion not a requirement.

A few years ago, the Line was faced with numerous proposals which we would have had to wade through during the meeting. At that time, my good and great friend, Brad Chetwynd read a heartfelt letter lamenting the then current state of the line and the number of proposals that were before us. He urged us to return to a time of trusting in host units and command staffs for the success, policing and general running of events. Based on his letter, the proposals were withdrawn and we recommitted ourselves to not overregulating ourselves. We also commissioned a stripped down set of bylaws to written, replacing the original bylaws which were written based on needed corporate rules coupled with all the proposals that had previously come before the line and been approved.

This was done, and we have had harmonious meetings since, often congratulating ourselves on the speed with which we finished. We no longer passed rules regulating how we did things. Most of us thought that we were again relying on host units, event commanders and their staffs to determine how events would be run - for better or worse.

Unfortunately, over the last few months or so I have become concerned that the central organization of the Line is becoming more powerful than the individual units and the departments. I feel that this is evidenced by the fact that the host units of this last year's 2 full CL shows were TOLD how their events would be administered. We never discussed this and/or voted on this - IT IS WRONG.

I am concerned also that some individuals and units are beginning to feel that they know best how to administer the hobby (not just the CL), and they are telling everyone so. In fact, in some cases they are stating that they represent the CL as a whole. I am concerned that we are seeing many units feeling somewhat alienated, like they no longer have a say in what is being done within the line. I must admit that I too have begun to feel this way, as I know many of you in this room, and some choosing not to attend, also feel.

What has lead to this? Unfortunately, in an effort to not bring up "laws", etc. which were discussed and voted on, we are now subject to rules or procedures which are decreed with no discussion or consent. Gentlemen and ladies of the Line, we must return to the "One for all and all for one" ideals that were in place from day one of our organization. We must believe that WE are smarter than ME or YOU. To that end, I feel that some things must change.

First of all, we must return to the idea that everything involving "policy" of the CL must be DISCUSSED in open meetings rather than being decided on by an administrative decree. This process must involve everyone's VALID opinions, even if this means a departure from today's faced paced nonconfrontational meetings.

Second, we must continue to EDUCATE not dictate when it comes to events and procedures that we, as a body want to see in place.

Third, we must return the strength of the CL to the units. Actually, I believe that through the first two, Discuss and Educate, the third will naturally follow.

So, that sounds easy doesn't it? Well, I find myself in an interesting dilemma. We can discuss and vote on this - making more rules, or we can present a statement of understanding to be attached to the bylaws as a sort of "Bill of Rights". That then is what I choose to do. Again, I understand that this is a Catch-22 situation, and that even these will be seen by some as more rules and bureaucracy...well, we may need to add some "rules" to avoid being ruled by decree. I urge you all to bear with me and listen to what's being said before formulating your opinion.

Here then is my proposed Bill of Rights for CL units:

1. It is the intent of the CL is to have a strong base of individual units, all with unique strengths and weaknesses.
2. Any procedures which are warranted by any parties within the CL to be important enough to be made working or operational procedures of the Line MUST be proposed, discussed and voted on by the membership at a regular (annual) membership meeting.
3. I propose that all other SUGGESTED procedures (not necessarily discussed and/or voted on) be:
 - a) Published in the Continental Soldier.
 - b) Be included in a manual of suggested event procedures to be created as a work in progress by the CL and made available to all member units.
4. All meetings of the CL Board of Directors should be opened to the membership, except when voted to enter executive session. Executive Sessions should only be conducted when discussing potentially sensitive and/or slanderous matters, such as preliminary disciplinary hearings, etc. and should only have the Board members, witnesses and the involved parties in attendance. However a report of all Board meetings and their conclusions must be given to the membership, and entered into the minutes at the next regular annual meeting of the CL.

5. Any unit may propose an event for consideration by the Line. Although a unit should work through it's department coordinator, or any other special coordinator approved by the Line, this is not mandatory prior to presentation at the CL meeting.
6. It is the duty of the membership to ask any questions of the potential hosts regarding the logistics, administration, schedule, etc. of an event and then to decide on their unit's participation. In other words, the host unit and command staff for the event will be responsible to the membership for the event, rather than the CL being responsible for administering the event.
7. The Continental Line does not sponsor, sanction, run, administer, etc. ANY event, other than the Annual Meeting. Host units handle this responsibility, along with any involved sponsoring groups. The Individual units vote to attend or not.
8. The appointment of individuals to any committee, position, etc. by the Chairman, Board Member or Department Coordinator must be agreed to by a simple majority vote of the membership of the line attending an annual meeting. In the case of an appointment by a coordinator, a majority vote by the membership of that department at an annual meeting must be conducted. Each appointment must be renewed each year by the above method.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Hayden, Captain Commanding
1st NH Regt.

Well, that's it. I'm sure that there are more things we can discuss, but I feel these will assure the sovereignty of individual units as they pertain to the operations of the CL. If you feel motivated to sign on to the Proposed Bill of Rights as a cosponsor, I urge you to contact me prior to the Annual Meeting in one of the 3 following ways.

- 1) e-mail me at: Capt1nhregt@aol.com or Nh1regt@aol.com
- 2) Call me at: (978) 975-3685
- 3) Snail Mail me at: Jim Hayden
5 East River Pl.
Methuen, MA 01844

Thank you for your time and effort in reading this and thinking about it.