

Minutes of the 16th Annual Meeting of The Continental Line

Warrington Motor Inn, Warrington, Pennsylvania

February 1, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 10:00AM by Joseph Lessman, 1st Continental Regiment. Welcome and introductory remarks were made by Adjutant Mark Magiera, acting in place of Chairman Paul Hutchins, who was unable to attend.

A Moment of Inspiration was offered by Jim Casco of Whitcomb's Rangers, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

A motion was made by the 2nd NH Regiment to accept the agenda as proposed. Seconded by the 1st NH Regiment, passed unanimously.

Roll call: 47 members present, 22 members absent – 69 total, with 9 applicant units -- Whitcomb's Rangers requested that the roll be read in reverse alphabetical order next year.

Minutes: A motion was made by the 1st NH Regiment to accept last year's minutes as published in the Continental Soldier. Seconded by the 6th PA, -- passed unanimously.

Officer's Reports:

Chairman's Report: In the absence of Chairman Paul Hutchins, presentation of the Chairman's report was waived.

Adjutant's Report: Adjutant Mark Magiera reported that:

- Unit membership forms were sent out in December requesting status of organization, contact info, safety officer and proof of insurance. Insurance is still the only absolute requirement for membership in the Line.
- Future shows -- Efforts are being made to secure shows as far away as 2006 – stressed the importance of communications.
- Co-hosts – stressed need to try to announce shows at least a year ahead of time so that Line officers can assist with getting co-hosts
- Recommended timetable for full Line shows: Preliminary returns in unit hands by mid-fall for department meetings, final return by Jan 1st.

Treasurer's Report: -- Treasurer William Myers presented a written report (Attachment 1). The charge for 2002 web-site hosting is still outstanding, and will be included in the report for 3003. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report as given was made by the 2nd PA Regiment, seconded by the 6th MA Regiment. This passed unanimously

A motion was made by Mark Magiera to accept all reports as given – this passed unanimously without a second.

Department Coordinator's Reports:

Mid Atlantic Department: Coordinator George Radecsky -- Busy year planned with two events at Valley Forge plus Germantown. One problem noted -- same units running events each year. Need to have additional units step forward and offer to run events. Valley Forge March Out big event for this year – looking for strong Line support.

Northern Department: Coordinator Mitch Lee -- Great season. High point was Saratoga. Thanks to 1st NY, McCracken's Coy. for all its efforts in organizing this event. Crown Point was also a strong department show in 2002. This year, the ND has a number of applicant members looking to join – one from as far away as Washington State. Major events for 2003 include Cobleskill

and the Garrison Weekend at Strawberry Banke with the return of the drill competition for the Strawberry Banke Bowl.

Western Department: Coordinator Tom Edwards -- Department is facing some obstacles organizing larger scale events since many of its units don't like to travel. The size of the Saratoga show was an eye-opener for some units. Cost and availability of insurance is a big problem for many units in that area. Assistance in finding a resolution to the insurance problem could be a big help in making Western Department units more active.

Southern Department: Coordinator Jeff Lambert -- Reported on cold temperatures in North Carolina. Northern units evinced a distinct lack of sympathy. Southern Department doing well but has lost one unit (Gaskins) as a result of unavailability of insurance -- unit to stay active with BAR but not in the Line. War swings south after Monmouth & the Southern units will be looking for support from the other departments for upcoming southern events

Committee Reports:

Web Site: Keith Schenk -- Reported 152,583 hits since April 2002 with 2500 hits per month on average. A written report -- in color -- will appear in the next issue of the Continental Soldier.

Safety: Jim Garner -- Presented camp safety guideline proposal. (Attachment 2) Based on the British Brigade's camp safety guidelines. Jim expressed the Line's appreciation to the British Brigade for letting the Line use their guidelines. Jim stated that the British Brigade's guidelines were a very good document to start with, but that his committee has made additional improvements. Motion to accept the committee's report made by the 6th Pennsylvania, seconded by the 1st New Hampshire, passed unanimously. Proposal to be returned to units for review before being voted on at next year's annual meeting.

SARRC: Sons of the American Revolution Reenacting Committee: Jim Garner, Vince Hawkins -- This committee has met several times over the past year. SAR National board enthusiastic about cooperation. Pamphlet prepared to help coordinate units with local SAR chapters for mutual support and event sponsorship. Pamphlet has been submitted to CL board and department coordinators for review. SAR would like access to our membership list by area/zip code, and permission to make this list available to its local chapters. Motion to release the roster made by the Pennsylvania State Regiment, seconded by 24th Connecticut. Some discussion ensued over the purpose of this proposal. Explained as a source of common support for programs and events. Concern expressed over poor appearance & quality of SAR color guards who may want to participate in our events. Response was that again we have the chance to lead by example to improve their standards. SAR is also a potential source of event funding, etc. Question called. Motion carried unanimously.

Event Guideline Handbook: Kim Newell -- Developing into an anthology of ideas -- about 100 pages already. Still missing sections on Lights, rifles & French troops. Need security, permits and traffic control. Should be ready by Valley Forge. Email ideas to hifromkim@aol.com

British Brigade Liaison: Brad Chetwynd: Relationship with the British Brigade has made many of the events we've done over the last few years possible. Relationship with Brigade of the American Revolution has also blossomed, allowing us to do "Big 3" events of a size not seen since the Bicentennial celebration. Saratoga is an example of this -- biggest show since Yorktown, but units of better quality. Recognized Paul Ackermann, immediate past commander of the BAR, and Paul Loane attending as the representative of the British Brigade.

Motion to accept reports of committees made by the 10th Massachusetts Regiment, seconded by the 2nd Massachusetts Regiment. Passed unanimously.

2002 Event Reports

Crown Point: Brad Chetwynd – This was the second consecutive year for this event, and 2002 was much better than 2001. Worked hard on preparation, with result that the site was far better prepared to support us. Great site but tough to get to. Appreciation expressed to those who made the effort to attend. Saturday battle – Brits stepped off an hour early, damp weather contributed to fog of war, but we managed to extricate ourselves with honor. Thanks to 1st NY McCracken's for hosting the Saturday tavern. Sunday was drier, but we were supposed to lose. Did so, but took the British guns in the process. Good event, but no plans to return in near future.

Saratoga: Tim Raymond, Scott Padeni -- Great show, Thanks to CL for support. Costs were a matter of concern –nearly \$15,000 in the red on Saturday morning. 1st NY on site starting on Tuesday. Registration went smoothly. Saturday went well. Thanks to Terry Glasier, Bob Balcius, and Paul Ackermann for their assistance. Sunday “truly magical”. Rain held off until end. Monday morning cleanup was easy – no mess. Scott Padeni expressed “big thanks” to Tim Raymond for being the driving force behind the event. Thanks for everyone who helped. Used more than 3000 registration forms – not sure of exact numbers. Thanks for help with water situation after the semi with the water supply rolled over. Tim Raymond offered to share numbers for help with planning logistics for similar large events in future. Thanks to Mitch Lee and Eric Chetwynd for organizing the military element. Spectators: approx. 6000 on Saturday and 12,000 on Sunday.

Mitch Lee mentioned the fact that he felt the need to put together a Provost corps. of real NY state policemen, and, unfortunately, needed their services. Many minor incidents. Large numbers of participants lead to the same problems found in any community of this size. Recommend that this be considered for future events of this size.

Video –24th Connecticut asked if a video will be available. Tim Raymond answered that he felt he had been somewhat misled by the film makers on site during the weekend – Discovery Channel – still following to find out how the footage will be used. Will keep Line informed as to outcome.

Mark Magiera thanked the BAR, NWT&A & BVMA for assisting and participating in the event. Question from the floor: What, if anything, can the Line do to help with the bills? Per Tim Raymond, there are a couple of bills still outstanding, but 1st NY believes that it can cover any remaining costs. T-shirts are still available through Rogers Island Visitor's Center and the Fort Edward Web site.

Mid Atlantic Department Shows: George Radecky commented on dealing with the National Park Service. Getting a bit “jaded” dealing with them – NPS makes promises but comes through on few of them. Communications a problem. Corporate sponsors have helped with infrastructure, but park staff is living with a time of uncertainty. George recommended caution when setting up events in National Parks to make sure the NPS meets its commitments.

Brad Chetwynd reminded everyone that while the NPS is a government agency, it is primarily a collection of parks and staffs, and each one is different. Minuteman NHP has been very cooperative and has worked to make Battle Road better every year.

1st PA – commented on NPS rules regarding opposed firing. Stated that the oblique firing used at 1st Saratoga worked very well. George Radecky commented that parks in his area have already reacted negatively to this method.

New Business:

Vote of Sponsored Applicants to Full Member:

Savage's Detachment, 2nd Continental Artillery: Sponsored by Knox's Artillery. Motion to move to full membership by Knox's. Seconded by United Train of Artillery.

Comments:

2nd Albany spoke in favor of Savage's – NPS trained, top notch on field

Proctors Artillery – under their command at Saratoga, very good unit, cooperative

6th Connecticut – recently supported for membership in BVMA as safe unit

Coren's Artillery – good camp at Saratoga, minimal equipment, good interpretation, safe on field

Dearborn's Coy of 1st Newmarket Militia: co-sponsored by 1st & 2nd New Hampshire. Motion to move to full membership by 1st New Hampshire. Seconded by 2nd New Hampshire.

Comments:

2nd NH spoke in favor Good quality unit doing early war militia.

1st Continentals inquired as to numbers – per 1NH, usually field 10-12

Whitcomb's – query regarding prior 1st NH hesitation. 1st NH responded that its questions had been answered prior to Dept. Mtg.

Vote: Dearborn's: passed unanimously

Savage's: passed unanimously

Elections:

Motion from George Radecky to re-nominate current Adjutant and Treasurer. Multiple seconds. 2nd New Jersey moved to close nominations, seconded by Savage's.

Vote: Treasurer: Bill Myers – almost unanimous.

Adjutant: Mark Magiera: almost unanimous

(The officers' respective units voted against them – not a serious challenge – no roll call required)

Introduction of Applicant Units:

Outwater Militia – sponsored by Erskine's Militia – has fielded with Erskine's for several years.

Tew's Coy, Col Angel's Regiment (2nd RI) – sponsored by 2nd Mass: split off of existing unit, wants to expand affiliations

PA State Navy -- sponsored by 11th Pennsylvania,

Organizations desiring sponsorship:

Craig's Artillery – formerly part of Motts, commander Rex Hughes, looking to be invited to events but do not have a sponsor. Rebuilding their gun and researching their equipment.

Inquiry from Von Heer's if unit had to be sponsored or invited by like unit. Answer: by-laws advise it but do not require it.

PA State Navy raised question re sponsorship: expressed concerns about the fact that they do a naval impression & have difficulty participating as infantry. Discussion. Trevitt's marines – would like to support them in finding a way to demonstrate their capabilities. Saintonge: same. Need to work with event planners to help foster participation of units like this.

Brad Chetwynd introduced Leo Brennan to speak on behalf of Company of Fifers and Drummers who invited the Line to use the Company's function facilities located in Iverson CT. While the Company of Fifers and Drummers is a group of traditional musicians and not re-enactors per se, they would like to work more closely with the Line.

Motion to adjourn for lunch: 12:10PM

Reconvened: 1:25PM

Change of Unit Name:

Erskine's Militia presented its reasons for changing its name to Heard's Brigade of the New Jersey Militia

Rehoboth Minutemen presented reasons for changing from Walker's Regiment to 13th Continentals ('76-'77)

2003 Events

June 21-22 March Out from Valley Forge: respond to georgeredecsky@msn.com

June 27-28 Monmouth – 2nd NJ sponsor -- no French or late war light infantry. BAR running the sutlers, with a hard-core sutler camp. Web site: Monmouth225th.com

Department Meetings 1:50PM to 2:20PM

Department Meeting Summaries:

Southern Dept: Looking to the shift of the war to the south in '79. 2nd South is working on Savannah in 2004. Peque in 2005. 2nd South Carolina working on Cowpens in 1/2006, 2nd North Carolina on Guilford Court House in 3/2006, Jeff Lambert & Chip Gnam working on Yorktown for 10/2006

Western Dept: Planning for Clark's Park (Peque) being run by Illinois Regiment in 2005 in conjunction with Southern Dept.

Mid Atlantic: Hosting the Battle of Crooked Billet 5/17-18/2003, Valley Forge commemoration of the French Alliance 5/3-4/2003, Valley Forge March Out 6/21-22/2003

Northern Dept: Planning events on 5/31, 6/01/03 at Cobleskill NY, 6/7-8/03 Garrison Weekend at Strawberry Banke, Portsmouth NH, 8/30-31/03 Battle of Rhode Island, Portsmouth RI. 2004: Quebec July 31 & Aug 1.

Last weekend in August 2004 Newtown

New Business from the Floor

- Rich Walling – Road to Monmouth Heritage Campaign. Walk across NJ the week before Monmouth. Brochure available.
- Joseph Ruckman, 1st VA – Made a motion to amend Guidelines for Black powder safety. Specific wording of the motion not provided. Intent is to rewrite subparagraph 9 regarding the handling of powder horns in the loading of rifles – seconded by 3d NY Dewitt's. Discussion: Motion by 6th PA to table the motion for one year and publish the proposed change in the Continental Soldier for additional review and discussion. Motion carried.
- Larry Gorecki, PA State Regiment (rifle co). March 29 & 30 Riflemen's Barracks Weekend at Fort Frederick. All Line rifle units invited. Looking for one or two light companies to attend as well. Object is to improve operation of rifle units in the field, and their coordination with light companies. Full use of barracks. Can accommodate up to 75 people. Topics: Rifle company tactics, use of lights with rifles, clothing, kit, safety issues. Live

shoot on Sunday. Also – has been offered the site used by the Eastern Rendezvous in Lancaster PA for potential future event.

- Margie Weinkop – Medical Dept of CL – Thanks to McCracken’s Company for allowing setup of hospital at Saratoga in a way that was historically correct and accessible to the public. One of the best medical impressions yet.
- Chuck Wallace – 4th SC Regiment. Mentioned two more battles in the South: Battle of Camden in Aug. 2005, also Siege of ’96 in May of 2006.
- Tom Thurber – Trevitt’s Marines. Wishes to sponsor the PA Navy along w/ Lamb’s Artillery. Lamb’s to sponsor artillery portion, Marines the infantry.
- Jeff Smith -- 24th Connecticut – Announced the Battle of Wyoming PA July 19-20 2003. No British Brigade support yet. Just received permission to use land. Set piece (Battle of Wyoming) on Saturday – War game on Sunday. More info to follow.
- Request from the sutlers to see if the Line would allow sutlers to set up at the meeting. Mark Magiera commented that it was a distraction at last year’s meeting, so he opposed it for this year, but it is at the Chairman’s discretion.
- Recognized Paul Ackermann from BAR & thanked him for attending the meeting. Paul announced that Todd Braisted is new commander of BAR.

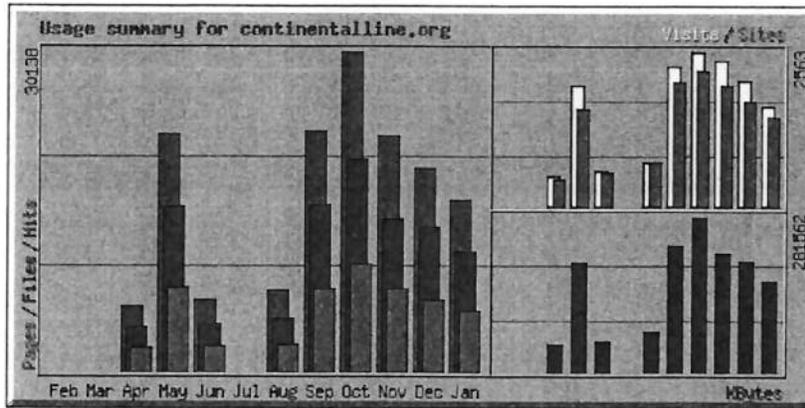
Motion to adjourn made by the 10th Massachusetts Regiment, seconded by the 6th Massachusetts Regiment. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:57PM

Respectfully submitted,

Frank W. Chamberlain

10th Mass. Regiment.

**www.continentalline.org Website Statistics by month for period
4/2002 – 1/2003**



| Summary by Month | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------|-------|-------|--------|----------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
| Month | Daily Avg | | | | Monthly Totals | | | | | |
| | Hits | Pages | Files | Visits | Sites | Pages | Files | Visits | Pages | Hits |
| Jan 2003 | 766 | 537 | 263 | 78 | 1472 | 160924 | 1657 | 5536 | 11281 | 16097 |
| Dec 2002 | 615 | 437 | 214 | 66 | 1743 | 199173 | 2075 | 6652 | 13562 | 19084 |
| Nov 2002 | 738 | 478 | 256 | 80 | 2008 | 213514 | 2410 | 7686 | 14360 | 22144 |
| Oct 2002 | 972 | 644 | 323 | 82 | 2225 | 281562 | 2563 | 10020 | 19984 | 30138 |
| Sep 2002 | 755 | 520 | 254 | 76 | 2044 | 227509 | 2306 | 7629 | 15604 | 22667 |
| Aug 2002 | 286 | 186 | 96 | 27 | 714 | 69029 | 714 | 2503 | 4849 | 7445 |
| Jun 2002 | 663 | 443 | 232 | 59 | 562 | 54191 | 590 | 2325 | 4431 | 6631 |
| May 2002 | 719 | 502 | 250 | 64 | 1611 | 195562 | 1988 | 7767 | 15573 | 22314 |
| Apr 2002 | 866 | 574 | 317 | 74 | 458 | 47501 | 518 | 2222 | 4022 | 6063 |

(ATTACHMENT #1)

The Continental Line Inc.
ACCOUNTS 2002

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|----------------|
| Subscription income | - | 1150.00 |
| Contributions income* | - | 1170.00 |
| Meeting 2001 | - | <u>4253.00</u> |
| Total income | | 6573.00 |

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|----------------|
| Soldier expense | - | 1134.70 |
| Clerical/mailings | - | 113.55 |
| Meeting 2001 | - | 2920.00 |
| Insurance expense | - | 910.00 |
| Domain registration - 5 years | - | <u>74.75</u> |
| Total expense | | 5153.00 |

| | | |
|----------------------|---|----------------|
| Gain 2002 | - | 1420.00 |
| Balance forward | - | <u>5441.19</u> |
| Total account | | 6861.19 |

*Contributions

| | |
|--|----------------|
| 2 nd Pa. | 200.00 |
| 2 nd Mass. | 200.00 |
| 3 rd Pa. | 200.00 |
| 2 nd NJ | 100.00 |
| 6 TH Pa | 250.00 |
| W. Sterling Wall (2 nd Mass/Santalge) | 20.00 |
| Jim & Ann Stinson (Proctor's Art.) | 100.00 |
| 6 th Pa/MAD** | <u>100.00</u> |
| Total | 1170.00 |

**Donation on behalf on MidAtlantic Dept. Units from WITF Television.

Respectively submitted at the annual meeting February 1, 2003 by the Treasurer William L. Myers Jr.

(ATTACHMENT #2)
PROPOSED
CONTINENTAL LINE CAMP SAFETY

Camp Kitchens:

The camp kitchen areas shall be separate from the company and officer streets. At least ten (10) yards will separate the boundaries of the kitchen and remainder of the camp. Firepits shall be dug only in the designated kitchen area and only where indicated by the Quartermaster Officer. Fires may be built only in these pits. An area five (5) feet around each firepit will be clear of all combustibles. A fire must never be placed closer than twenty (20) feet from any tent (the only exceptions being kitchen flies). The Quartermaster Officer may increase the necessary area to be cleared depending on weather and ground dryness. Members of the public should be kept at least ten (10) yards from any firepit. If a rope barrier is not provided, you can create your own barrier between your fire and the public by using a table, bench, firewood, cooking equipment or anything else at hand that creates a physical or, at least, psychological barrier. Although fires may be used as gathering and social areas after meal times, they should be no larger than is necessary for cooking. Kitchen area storage supply tents may not be used for sleeping quarters. No soldier carrying powder will be allowed within the boundaries of the camp kitchen area (this includes cartridges in cartridge boxes).

Kitchen Fire Safety:

An adult must attend every fire. A full water bucket (designated as the "fire bucket"), a wool blanket and a shovel must be kept at each fire. The fire bucket water is to be used exclusively for extinguishing fires. Children may not start or tend fires (fetching wood is permitted). A second adult should be in camp in case of an emergency. Those working with open fires should wear tightly woven garments of wool or linen since these fibers are less likely to flare up or burn vigorously. Fire pits shall be completely dowsed and filled in at the conclusion of an event returning them to their original state. Turf should be stored face down to keep it moist for return to its original location. Fires are not toys or playgrounds, therefore, children are never to run through or play in any location where fires are present (a major cause of child mortality in the 18th century was death from burns).

Personal Fire Emergencies:

In the event of clothing fire, use the 'Stop, Drop and Roll' technique, as advocated by fire safety authorities. If someone near you catches fire, help them to "Stop, Drop and Roll", and smother their clothing with a wool blanket. Send a third party to summon medical assistance. Burn injury victims may go into shock from fluid loss. Some symptoms of shock to look for are confusion, feeling lightheaded or faint, loss of consciousness, weak and rapid pulse, shallow and rapid breathing, enlarged pupils, cool moist skin, pale color or weakness and trembling. Burn injury victims exhibiting symptoms of shock should be kept warm and shaded from the sun, be made to lie down and elevate their feet. DO NOT handle the burned areas or attempt further treatment unless you are an EMT, nurse or physician (who is both qualified and aware of the potential liability).

Tent Fire Safety:

Lit candles are NOT permitted in a soldier's or wedge tent unless the tent is free of straw or the candle is securely mounted in an enclosed metal lantern that has a door with a fastening mechanism.

Tent Fire Emergencies:

In the event of a tent fire, raise the cry of "Fire, Fire!" to summon aid while determining if anyone is in the burning tent. Collapse a tent a few tents away from the one on fire to slow the fire's progress if the fire seems likely to spread down a row of tents. Knock out the upright poles to collapse a tent quickly. Collapse more than one tent if needed.

Artillery Park:

Artillery ammunition shall be kept in fireproof containers, under constant guard in the Artillery Park. No person other than an artillery unit member shall be allowed within 10 yards of an artillery ammunition storage or loading area. No firepits shall be allowed within 40 yards of an Artillery Park.

Individual Ammunition:

Individual cartridge pouches, or infantry Unit ammunition containers, shall never be left unattended unless under the supervision of a designated Unit sentry. Loose powder is forbidden in the camp. Cartridges should be loaded prior to the event at "home" and in an area where one has full control of the environment, plenty of time, few distractions and less chance for errors. Cartridge loading is not allowed at the event location. If, for some reason, an exception for cartridge loading occurs at an event, a selected and secured location for loading will be designated by the Event Commander, in consultation with the Quartermaster Officer. The Event Commander or a designee from his staff will supervise all cartridge loading should this situation arise. Only persons authorized to handle weapons as part of their role shall load cartridges or carry ammunition. Pan flashing may be permitted only if done under the supervision of a Commissioned or Noncommissioned Officer. Test firing or training firing shall only be done in a selected and secured location designated by the Event Commander, in consultation with the Quartermaster Officer. Weapons shall not be discharged inside the camp. Loaded weapons shall not be carried inside the camp by anyone, including Sentries. The sole exception to this policy shall be when the camp itself is intentionally included as a part of the tactical demonstration scenario and such scenario has been prearranged with the Event Commander. Sentries posted outside the camp may carry loaded weapons at the discretion of the Event Commander. Individuals shall not be allowed to carry loaded cartridge boxes and/or loaded powder horns while smoking cigarettes, cigars or pipes or while in the possession of a lit candle.

Live cartridges:

Live cartridges will not be exposed to any member of the public. Any cartridge being displayed for interpretive purposes must be a 'dummy' filled with sand or other inert powder substitute.

Edged Weapons:

No fixed bayonets or unsheathed swords shall be carried in camp. The sole exception to this rule shall be Sentries who may carry fixed bayonets. Polearms shall only be carried in a vertical position while in the camp.

Tomahawk Throwing:

Tomahawks, knives, hatchets, axes, or other weapons may be thrown within the boundaries of the camp ONLY for sport or competition and ONLY when permitted at the event. If permitted, the Event Commander, in consultation with the Quartermaster Officer, shall select a location with a clear background for such sport or competition. No members of the public will be allowed within 30 yards of any these activities.

Children:

Minor children (less than 18 years old) are the sole responsibility of parents or their legal guardians. In the absence of either a parent or legal guardian, the Commanding Officer of the Unit to which the minor child belongs shall be considered to be in loco parentis both factually and legally, i.e. responsible for said child, most especially minor age soldiers. Young children shall not be allowed to use knives or sharp instruments in the kitchen or working area without direct adult supervision. Children should dress authentically while in camp and act accordingly, showing consideration for others. Children may not be permitted to run wild through the camp or harass other unit members. Adult members of the Continental Line are not responsible for baby-sitting other people's children nor should they have to be bothered by them. Adult members should, however, show some patience and understanding that children are simply children. Any conflicts regarding children, or their behavior in the camps, should be addressed first to the child's parent. If no resolution can be reached with the parent/legal guardian, or in the absence of a parent or legal guardian, the matter should be brought before the Commanding Officer of the Unit to which the child belongs.

Animals:

Animals are the sole responsibility of their owners. This includes dogs, horses and any other animals that may be brought to an event. Dogs shall be leashed at all times. Horses shall be securely tethered or corralled in the Horse Park when not being ridden or led by their riders. Only persons involved in horse events may enter the Horse Park. At no time shall members of the public be allowed inside the Horse Park.