



*A Detayled and Intimate Discourse on the
Illustrious History of the
Continental Line*

*Being a Witnessed and Utterly True Account of the
Foundation, Construction, and Enlargement, of the Line, from
its Humble Beginnings to its Present Grandeur, Including
divers Political and Economic Activities Pertaining Thereunto,
with Particular Attention Payed to the List of the Thirteen
Original Units and the Officers Of The Line, along with a
Compendium of other Related Tales and Information, for the
Enlightenment and Proper Instruction of its Members.*



In the beginning, Brad saw that the Colonials were without form and void, and that the Forces of Darkness were spread over the face of the earth.

And Brad said, "Let There Be Lights! . . . and infantry and guns . . . and Dragoons."

The year was 1987. The Hobby had survived the end of the Bicentennial, and although there were fewer reenactors, the ones that stayed in were very interested in keeping things going. A large group of reenactors had been invited to England, and had had a wonderful time assaulting Dover Castle, among other adventures.

Ken Siegal, at that time the Adjutant General of the British Brigade, had asked **Brad Chetwynd** to command the American side for this expedition. Brad had a marvelous time doing all that, and after this trip, he saw an opportunity. He felt that the Hobby should not just go on with little local units and small shows, as it had been doing, but that something grander should be built. He did *not* want to replace the BAR, which was then the research center of the Hobby; he just wanted to have an organization whose purpose was to hold two or three large-scale events each year, with good organization, on good sites, along with a proper military command structure: all the little units would be amalgamated into larger companies, commanded by a few well-trained officers.

After some discussion, this new organization was named **The Continental Line**.

And Brad said, "Let there be The Continental Line in the midst of the hobby, to separate the Colonials from the British." And it was so.

Brad called the First Annual Meeting of the Continental Line in January, 1988. At this meeting, they began by electing officers. Brad, of course, was the first Chairman of the Line. Needing help, he looked around, and said, "Hey, Jim. Can you write?" And thus, **Jim Hayden** of the 1st NH was elected Adjutant. **Joe Lessman**, of the First Continentals, was elected Treasurer.

The Line was divided into regions, and each region had a Coordinator. Joe was also the Mid-Atlantic Department Coordinator. The Northern Department Coordinator was **Dave Pelletier** of the 1st NH, and the Southern Department Coordinator was **Jim Garner**, of the First Virginia.

During the first few events of the Continental Line, we learned new things each weekend. At the Evesham, NJ, event, we learned the proper way to set up a Von Steuben camp (the officers' tents do *not* face the dining flys). At Brandywine, we learned that Brad was *not* a born horseman, as he was thrown from his horse in front of the entire army.

Brad decided that he didn't want to be "President for Life" of the Continental Line, so he limited his term to two years, setting the precedent. Jim and Joe were having so much fun that they kept their offices as Adjutant and Treasurer. Joe also became the Chairman (the bayonet that Brad held to his back had *nothing* to do with this). **Mike Thompson** of the 2nd Mass became the Northern Department Coordinator, and **Kevin Coyle**, First Continentals, became the Mid-Atlantic Coordinator.

The Line held an event in Camden, South Carolina, in November of 1989. This was the first Southern event, and also ended up being the first year of the Vermont Cow Hillside Walking Competition (yes, in Camden), demonstrating the ability to walk like a Vermont Cow. (For those of you who are not from Vermont, all the cows there have two legs shorter than the other two, so

they could walk around the very steep hills there.) For this competition, all that was needed was a hillside, some mugs of beer (all right, a *lot* of beer), and people crazy enough to walk on one knee. This competition was open to both men & women, and was held for a number of years.

Jim Garner was the Southern Department Coordinator until 1992, when he became Chairman. (Joe, deprived of being Chairman, decided to take the Mid-Atlantic Coordinator position again.) **Mike Bennett** of the 3rd Maryland became the Southern Department Coordinator.

An exciting event was held in Fort Plain, NY, in 1992, which included a street battle. Despite promises from the local officials, there was no police presence to control the car traffic for this battle, because all the police were in the local pipe band and were giving a concert on the common that day. To add to the confusion, Ken Siegal saw the police in their blue coats on the bandstand and had the British attack them, thinking they were the Colonials. The British were running all over the town in general, going through people's backyards and such. The Royal Irish fired off their cannon in the middle of the town, which blew out the window of a local bank and set all the alarms off.

The Fort Plain event also became known as "Fort Rain" or "the Continental Line First Annual Mud Wrestling Match." It rained all weekend, and we had to cancel the Sunday battle. The Colonial camp turned into a mud pit, and everyone had a very bad time trying to get their cars out. (The British were camped on a lovely lawn, and were having no trouble at all.)

A new group showed up at this event – the 3rd NY, comprised of the garrison unit from Fort Stanwyx, commanded by Mitch Lee. Mitch presented the commanders with a hand-drawn map of the local area, on parchment, as he feared they were not familiar with the local terrain. On Sunday, his group was slated to perform guard duty. Since it was still pouring, the commanders decided to cancel the rest of the event and begin trying to dig their cars out. As they were in the marquis, someone came in and said, "Sirs, there is a group outside." It was Mitch and his guys, fully kitted out, who'd been waiting patiently for half an hour in the rain for their guard duty detail. The commanders returned a polite message that the event was cancelled. The request came back: "Well, can you at least come out and inspect us?" So Brad and Jim had to get fully kitted out and go out and inspect the group – in the rain. They decided that this group was either dedicated or crazy.

There were two events in 1993 – Bath, NY, and Rehoboth, MA. Bath turned out to be much further away than anyone expected; it was an extremely long trip for *everybody* (except the reenactors in Bath, of course). But the trip was longest for Jim Daniels and the guys from North Carolina, who came to this event. This was the first time the Southern boys came up North - they were always ragging on the Northern troops for not coming to Southern events, but they never came north of Pennsylvania, until this event.

1994 was notable for two things: 1st Quebec, and the incorporation of the line. Incorporating turned out to be a very good idea, but there were some heated arguments before that got done.

During the annual meeting, Jim Hayden stepped out for a moment, and when he came back, he found he was the Chairman of the Line. **Kurt Hague**, of the First Continentals, became the Mid-Atlantic Coordinator, and **Frank Chamberlain** of the 10th Mass became the Northern Department Coordinator. **Jim Daniels**, 6th North Carolina, was the Southern Coordinator.

Quebec was the first really large event the Continental Line did. There must have been a thousand troops there.

During the first battle on Saturday, Brad, who was commanding, was on horseback. The horse only spoke French, of course, so Brad had to learn French commands for the horse. He practiced with the horse for a couple of days before the event, and was doing all right. Then he ordered the artillery to start the Saturday battle with a cannon battery, and that was when the horse decided he wanted to be in Manitoba. At this point, Brad gave the horse to Bob Allegretto, and commanded on foot. This was Brad's second experience commanding from horseback - and his last.

Sunday, we had horizontal rain during the battle, beginning a grand Quebec tradition. For this battle, the Colonials were in the valley of the Plains of Abraham, and the British began at the top of the cliffs. Then the skies opened, and there was so much rain that nobody could fire. So the British fixed bayonets and charged down the cliffs, and captured the American colors. That ended *that* battle.

The 1995 meeting of the Line was very exciting. First, the kitchen at the Warrington hotel had burned down, so the entire hotel smelled of smoke. They couldn't cook there, so they had to cater a lunch for us, which was a change - for the first few years, we'd break for an hour and everybody would go out and get lunch, and then we'd all do a big dinner afterward, and show videos of the events of that year. This year, we switched to catering the lunch instead.

The meeting also ended early that year, because there was a heavy snowstorm and everyone needed to get home.

Kim Newell, at that time a member of the German regiment, was elected Adjutant, and **Sean Kelleher** of the 2nd and 10th Mass was the Northern Department Coordinator.

There were several Line events this year, including Boone Homestead, Monmouth (which was hot, of course), and Cherry Valley. You may remember Cherry Valley as The Event Of The Teflon Brits. There were a number of incidents, including the battle across the ravine; the British climbed down into that ravine and up again onto the battlefield, all the time under heavy fire, but nobody took a casualty. Evidently the British Brigade had some words with the Queen's Rangers after that event . . .

In 1996, we went to Gunston Hall for the Event of the Tick.

At North Andover that year, we did a surrender ceremony. Ian Bentley of the First Foot Guards was retiring as their commander, so Jim Hayden decided that to honor him, the Colonials would do a full surrender ceremony after losing the battle. (This took some doing, as we actually beat them in the battle; we finally had to just stop fighting and let the British win.)

The surrender ceremony turned out to be unexpectedly moving. At the beginning, people didn't take it seriously, and were planning on doing all kinds of silly things, but it took on a life of its own, and everybody got caught up in it. The King's Rangers were going to do a right about-face and not look at us, but they couldn't do it - they had to watch. The Americans were allowed to keep their colors, but they had to be cased as they marched off, and all the American soldiers had to club their muskets. Soldiers were upset; some were crying. It was a very powerful ceremony, and caught everyone by surprise.

1997 was The Year Of The Proposals. Over the past few years, as the Continental Line grew, more and more units joined, and more and more people had proposals on more and more bylaws to be passed to govern those units. In '97, there were 14 proposals before the Line, including the "Nap Time" Proposal. This caused a backlash, and an editorial to get back to the core of what we were about – a loose confederation of units that get together to shoot at the British. The Line decided that we don't want to build a complete body of law that we have to enforce. Instead, we redefined our direction, and chartered a committee to rewrite the bylaws to be simpler.

The Bordentown event was the first time we tried building a full camp kitchen, dug by hand. In addition to great battles there, the music was the best at any event, then or since. Kim Newell was in charge of the musicians for this event; her troupe did evening concerts and marched on the field, and just sounded marvelous all weekend. Normally, it is possible to stay in bed through reveille; however, at Bordentown, there were so many drums, that as the musicians went by, you were bounced right out of your tent; everybody was on time for the morning drills, for a change.

At Delta Lake, the highlight of the event was The Talent Competition. As anyone who was there knows, reenactors have some peculiar talents. Mark Turdo of the 2nd Jerseys (Helm's Coy) impressed the crowd by juggling bayonets, but the hands-down winner was Three Moons Over Delta Lake.

In 1998, **Tom Vogeley** of the 1st New Jersey Regt became the Chairman of the Line, complete with his lace hanky.

The first Line event that year was Rockford Plantation. It was *hot*, and everything was uphill. It was interesting that as the army marched out – uphill - for the battle, and then during the – uphill - battle itself, it was all the young guys that were dropping out due to the heat, and the old soldiers who pounded on through. This was because the young sprigs had been up drinking all night, whereas the "old guys" *knew* how hot it was going to be, and spent the night drinking Gatorade and water.

The battle was followed by the dip in the "Scum River," where the men decided to hold a "Wet Shirt Competition" as they went swimming in the river. Despite their best attempts to get the ladies to have a "Wet Shift Competition," the ladies declined, due to the level of scum in the river.

The first "Big Three" event between the Continental Line, the BAR, and the British Brigade was 2nd Quebec. Parks Canada's final official tally was 130,000 spectators for the weekend, and we had turned out 2500 reenactors. Since the last time we had been there, the rain in Quebec had turned from horizontal to vertical, but we still got a huge thunderstorm Saturday night. The event overall was spectacular, though, and everyone had a great time.

1999 was the first year we went to Mount Vernon for the garrison weekend. The Continental Line created T-shirts with a picture of Mt. Vernon that said "I Slept Here."

Mount Vernon has a lot of history behind it, and sometimes that history can be very close. Late Friday night, Brad was all alone, standing guard duty at the base of the carriage road, about a mile from the camp, when he realized that he was not, in fact, alone – there were other presences standing guard duty with him. On Saturday, Jim Hayden marched the colors of three units down to Washington's tomb for a ceremonial presentation. They posted the colors in front of the tomb, and the soldiers got ready to present their arms, as is proper. Jim began the command: "PRESENT . . ." But before he could get another word out, the command echoed back out of the

tomb: “*Present . . .*” He couldn’t speak for a moment after that, and the troops presented arms in silence.

The French finally managed to infiltrate The Line when **Dwight Dixon** of Regiment SaintOnge was elected Chairman in 2000. **Andy Estabrooks**, also of SaintOnge, was the Northern Department Coordinator (consolidating French control of the North), and **Jeff Lambert** of the First Virginia was the Southern Department Coordinator. **Mark Magiera** of Knox’s Artillery was the Adjutant, and **Mike Goode** of the 3rd PA Light Infantry was Treasurer.

The 225th Celebration of the American Revolution began with Battle Road 2000. This event drew reenactors from all over the *world*, including British from England and California, as well as Allies from all the eastern states. The National Guard provided deuce-and-a-halves to transport the troops, and were very cheerful about boosting us up into the trucks. One female reenactor said later, “It’s a good thing that there are women in the National Guard now, or I never would have been able to get into that truck.” (The modern army generally doesn’t go on maneuvers in long skirts and stays.) The Guardsmen also had a very good time watching the battles.

At Newtown that year, not having learned our lesson, we had another Talent Competition. The 2nd Mass gave a spirited presentation of the song “The Baker and the Devil,” but the competition was won by the British, with The Sock Puppets. (“I am George Washington! I eat babies!!!”)

In 2001, there were sufficient units in the West to form the Western Department. (Prior to that, they were lumped in with the Southern Unit.) **Tom Edwards** of the 10th Virginia Regiment was the first (and so far, the only) Western Department Coordinator.

Bill Myers of Coren’s Artillery was Treasurer, and **John Tabor** of the United Train of Artillery became the Northern Department Coordinator.

To reciprocate for their invitation to Quebec in 1998, the BAR invited the Continental Line to be a co-sponsor of the White Plains event. At this event, we learned two things: One was how our forefathers must have felt at Valley Forge and Morristown – it was *cold*. We all wore as much wool as we owned, and were still cold.

The second thing we learned was to bring lots of powder on our morning patrols. The Fourth Middlesex and the Lexington Training Band went out on patrol Sunday morning, and encountered a larger British patrol, who immediately began firing. Sensing trouble, the Allies sent back to their camp for reinforcements, who soon arrived, and joined the battle. Then the *Brits* sent for reinforcements, and things escalated from there. In the end, this “morning patrol” involved the entire army on both sides, including the artillery. The British, in fact, used up so much powder in the “morning patrol” that they didn’t have enough for the official afternoon battle, and had to ration carefully.

Continuing the theme of cold events and working with the BAR, in the final days of the year, we accompanied the BAR units to stage an early-morning skirmish for the 225th anniversary of the attack on Trenton; we gained a frozen victory and a new appreciation for our modern central heating.

In 2002, **Paul Hutchins** of the 2nd Jerseys (Helm’s Coy) was the Chairman of the Line. Having also fled the country, he conducted this meeting *in absentia* from his exile in Lithuania. **Mitch Lee** of the 3rd NY was the Northern Department coordinator, and **George Radecky** of the 6th Pennsylvania was the Mid-Atlantic Coordinator.

That year at Crown Point, we encountered an itinerant peddler, by the name of William Wallace. As an enterprising merchant, he was quite willing to buy items from and sell items to both sides; he also stole people's equipment. He was apprehended by the Natives; they brought him to the nearest Continental Line officer, who happened to be Mitch Lee. Mitch began reviewing the evidence, and discovered to his dismay that many of the stolen goods were his!

We topped off the year by attending the largest event of the 225th (up to that point): Saratoga. The First New York (McCracken's) did an excellent job and put on a wonderful event, despite overcoming a myriad of problems, including equestrian issues. (They had obviously been taking lessons from the Brad Chetwynd School of Horsemanship.)

At the 225th event at Monmouth in 2003, the event organizers succeeded beautifully in recreating the historically accurate conditions of heat and humidity. Having *learned* from history, however, the organizers had provided stashes of cold water near every battle, so that no soldiers were lost to the heat this time.

In 2004, the command of the Line rotated to the South, and Jeff Lambert became the Chairman. **Bob Balcius** of the 2nd NH became the Northern Department Coordinator, and **Herb Puckett** of the 2nd South Carolina was the Southern Department coordinator.

This was the Year of Rain. It rained again at Quebec – of course – just as we started the parade through the town with all the troops. Everybody got completely soaked, and the Saturday afternoon battle was cancelled, so the Allied troops seized the opportunity to have a much longer party. It did dry out Sunday, and we were able to have the battle that day.

The focus of the war was changing to the south; the other large event was Savannah, where it also poured rain for most of the weekend. Friday night, since it *was* pouring rain, Paul Hutchins offered the 2nd NJ van to take everyone into town for dinner. We must have crammed fifty people into that van; it was like a subway at rush hour. The rest of the Savannah event can be summed up as follows: ants, armadillos, and alligators. And rain. Did we mention rain?

In 2005, the Line received a progress report from Marjy Wienkop of the Medical Department. The field hospital had been established, and she had recruited a number of members; they would be available for use at future events. She also requested additional funding for smallpox shots; they had turned out to be excessively popular with the troops, due to the fact that a tot of rum was included.

At the Surrender of Charleston, it rained heavily again during the Saturday battle, although it dried out after that. The Second Virginia Regiment had dug a number of camp kitchens, which the troops did their best to use. When properly constructed, these camp kitchens are extremely economical with fuel; for some groups, however, it turned into a fuel-intensive learning experience. (Camp kitchens also make excellent hip-baths in the rain, and the cooking experience gets even more fuel-intensive after that.)

And finally, at Whitpain, it poured - continuing the rain theme; but the Line had a good time anyway.

In 2006, we hauled out the big guns and made **John Tabor** the Chairman of the Line. **Sam Ricco** of Proctor's Artillery was Adjutant; **Mark Richardson** of the First NH was the Northern

Department coordinator, **Pat Jordan** of the 3rd PA was the Mid-Atlantic Coordinator, and **Anne Henninger** of the First Maryland was the Southern Department Coordinator.

Many Southern events reenact The Battle of Cowpens. That year, we finally got to do the Battle of Cowpens *at* Cowpens.

And finally, everybody who was now or had ever been a RevWar reenactor went to Yorktown, and many who weren't, tried to. (There were tales of reenactors of *other* periods who called Continental Line officers, saying "I've got a gun – can someone loan me a full kit so I can go to Yorktown for the weekend?")

The sight of the French and the American Light Infantry doing a full-out charge across the field drove the British right out of Redoubts 9 & 10. The twilight firing (Ambercrombie's Sortie) was the most spectacular view of the massed line firing since Dover Castle. The National Park employees all worked extremely hard, and spoke with awe and pleasure of walking the camp at night (after their shifts), and how real it was. They all enjoyed seeing their park come alive, *as it was meant to be*.

Janie Ritchie of the First NH and the UTA, took over for Brad as the Treasurer of the Line in 2007.

At Bordentown this year, the battles were exhausting, as the troops on both sides had to march down roads, through the woods, up hills, over streams, through the camp kitchens (greatly annoying the ladies who were trying to prepare dinner there), and finally, onto the battlefield. Each day's battle ended with a spectacular bayonet charge; on Saturday, the British charged and all Died Gloriously, and on Sunday, it was the Allied Armies' turn. The ladies all took full advantage of the shopping at a well-stocked merchants' row; on Sunday, not even another Morning Patrol right behind the merchants (which once again, got out of hand) slowed them down.

So now, after that small beginning with 13 units in 1987, we find ourselves on His Excellency's fine plantation at Mount Vernon, 72 units strong, celebrating 20 years of camaraderie, friendship, and learning.

Charter Units of the Continental Line

- 1st NH Regt
- 2nd MA Regt
- Mott's Artillery
- 3rd Continental Artillery
- 1st Continental Regt
- The German Regt
- 2nd PA Regt
- 6th PA Regt
- 3rd MD Regt
- Wayne's LI (MD Coy)
- 6th NC Regt
- 1st VA Regt
- Daniel Morgan's Riflemen
- 2nd NH Regiment, Chase's LI
- Lamb's Artillery

Northern Department Units as of October 2007:

Continental units

- First Continental Light Dragoons
- Second Regiment Light Dragoons, Tallmadge's Troop
- Thirteenth Continental Regiment
- Savage's Detachment, Second Continental Artillery
- Whitcomb's Rangers

Representing the colony of New Hampshire

- First New Hampshire Regiment
- Second New Hampshire Regiment, Cherry's Company
- Third New Hampshire Regiment

Representing the colony of Massachusetts

- Second Massachusetts Regiment
- Sixth Massachusetts Regiment
- Ninth Massachusetts Regiment
- Tenth Massachusetts Regiment, Light Infantry Company
- Eleventh Massachusetts Regiment, White's Company - New Unit
- Fourteenth Massachusetts Regiment (Glover's Marblehead Regiment)
- Col. Knox's Artillery Regiment
- Danver's Alarm List Company
- The Lexington Training Band

Representing the colony of Rhode Island

- Capt. Tew's Company of Col. Angell's Regt (2nd RIR)
- United Train of Artillery

Representing the colony of Connecticut

- Fifth Connecticut Regiment
- Sixth Connecticut Regiment

Representing the colony of New York

- First New York Regiment, Graham's Light Infantry Company
- First New York Regiment, McCrackens Company - 1777
- First Ulster County Militia, (Col. Snyder Reg't)
- Second New York Regiment - New Unit
- Third New York, Long Island Company
- Fourth New York Regiment - New Unit
- Fifth New York Regiment
- Second Regiment, Albany County Militia
- Selin's Rifle Company

French units

- Regiment Bourbonnais
- Regiment de Saintonge
- Volontaires Étrangers de Lauzun - New Unit

Mid-Atlantic Department Units:

Continental units

- First Continental Regiment of Foot
- Second Continental Light Dragoons, Sheldon's Troop
- Fourth Continental Light Dragoons, Fauntleroy's Troop
- Continental Marines, Trevitt's Company

Representing the colony of Maryland

- Maryland Company, Wayne's Light Infantry Corps

Representing the colony of Pennsylvania

- First Pennsylvania Regiment
- Second Pennsylvania Regiment
- Third Pennsylvania, Light Company
- Fifth Pennsylvania Regiment
- Sixth Pennsylvania Regiment
- Eleventh Pennsylvania Regiment
- German Regiment
- Pennsylvania State Regiment
- Pennsylvania State Navy
- Coren's Independent Artillery
- Proctor's Pennsylvania Artillery Company

Representing the colony of New Jersey

- First New Jersey Regiment
- Second New Jersey, Helms' Company
- Bergen County Militia
- New Jersey Militia, Heard's Brigade
- Captain John Outwater's Company of Militia

Representing the colony of New York

- Doughty's Artillery
- Lamb's Artillery
- Mott's Artillery Company (2nd Detachment)

Representing the colony of Connecticut

- 24th Connecticut Militia Regiment

Representing the colony of Rhode Island

- 1st Rhode Island Regiment - New Unit

Other Units

- Augusta County Militia
- Col. Albert Pawling's Independent Corp of Levies
- Von Heer's Provost Corps

Southern Department Units:

Representing the colony of South Carolina

- Second South Carolina Regiment

Representing the colony of North Carolina

- Second North Carolina Regiment
- Sixth North Carolina Regiment
- Kingsbury's Independent Artillery / Locke's Militia

Representing the colony of Virginia

- First Virginia Regiment
- Seventh Virginia Regiment

Representing the colony of Maryland

- First Maryland Regiment
- Third Maryland Regiment
- Sixth Maryland Regiment

Western Department Units:

Representing the colony of Virginia

- Ninth Virginia Regiment
- Tenth Virginia Regiment

The Continental Line

(sung, of course, to the tune of “Barrett’s Privateers” by Stan Rogers)

Oh, the year was 1987
(How I wish I was in England now!)
A letter was sent from the King’s men
To the raggedy crew we were back then
Well, we’ll show them!

**I was told we’d beat the British at their game
We’d fire our guns, stake our claim
Now we all march and camp, live in the time
We’re in the Continental Line.**

Oh, Bradford Chetwynd sent the call
(How I wish I was in Concord now!)
For soldiers, lights and artillery who
Would make the Continental crew
We’ll have them all!

[chorus]

We all drove down and met near a bar
(How I wish I was in Warrington!)
We argued and talked and discussed all day
But we’d forged the Line when we came away
We’ve got it now!

[chorus]

And now the events began to grow
(We were all at Saratoga now)
It was muddy and wet for the rank and file
But that redoubt charge made it all worthwhile
We swept the field.

[chorus]

We crossed the Delaware Christmas Eve
(How I wish I was at Trenton now)
Glovers lads took us over that day
Rowin’ like madmen all the way
So raise your oar.

[chorus]

We drilled all winter and sewed our clothes.
(How I wish I was in Monmouth now)
Three thousand troops now took the field
Equally matched and neither yields
We'll beat them soon.

**I was told we'd beat the British at their game
We'd fire our guns, stake our claim
Now we all march and camp, live in the time
We're in the Continental Line.**

We dashed down South to lift the siege
(How I wish I weren't in Charleston now)
Our 16-pounders made an awful din
But alas – it was THEIR day to win
Well, damn them all.

[chorus]

We brought the militia out to fight
(How I wish I was in Cowpens now)
We drove for hours to sleep on the ground
In the pouring rain, bugs all around.
Well, dammit all.

[chorus]

At length we came to the end of the war
(How I wish I was in Yorktown now)
The French and Americans stood their ground
And the British laid their muskets down
So vive le Roi

[chorus]

So here we are in our 20th year
(And we all are at Mt. Vernon now)
We still are faithful to the call
Washington would be proud of us all.
So shout Huzzah!

**I was told we'd beat the British at their game
We'd fire our guns, stake our claim
Now we're all soldiers in the grand design
We are the Continental Line!**