



# THE CONTINENTAL SOLDIER

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## VOLUME XX OF THE SOLDIER!

Welcome to a new year of The Soldier! I know we're all ready to get into the season and I look forward to meeting more and more fellow reenactors this year. I was excited to hear about the upcoming events at The Continental Line's annual meeting in Pennsylvania. Speaking of the meeting, I've included several photos below.

As always, we welcome your submissions to include in our upcoming issues. I can be reached at either [editor@continentalline.org](mailto:editor@continentalline.org). I look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,

Matt Schickling  
Editor, The Continental Soldier



The Chairman addresses the Line.



The Southern Department Meeting.



The Northern Department Meeting.



The Mid-Atlantic Department Meeting.

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Greetings to all Continental Line members:

We have just finished up annual meeting held on February 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Sheraton Hotel in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. It was great to meet up with old friends and colleagues and to become acquainted with potential new members. As usual, the meetings and discussions were lively and I hope everyone had a chance to participate. We had over 150 people in attendance this year, one of the largest CL meetings we've had in awhile. This meeting brought into our treasury over \$2,700, of which \$1,000 will be going to support our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary party to be held at Mount Vernon. I would like to personally thank our newly elected Treasurer (Janie Ritchie) for doing such an excellent job with all the arrangements.

As a result of our discussions at the annual meeting, the Line voted to endorse two events this year. The first being in Bordentown, NJ on June 9-10 (<http://www.battleofbordentown.com/>). The 3rd PA Lights and the 43rd of Foot are co-sponsoring the event along with the Bordentown 325th Anniversary Committee. This event will be held on the grounds of the old estate of Joseph Bonaparte located along the Delaware River.

The second event will be to celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary on September 29–30 in Mount Vernon, VA. (<http://20th.continentalline.org/>). The encampment will consist of approximately 50 military units with up to 1200 Continental Line members participating. The weekend will include military demonstrations, including musket firing, artillery firing, tacticals, and living history scenarios. Special thanks to the First Virginia Regiment, especially the organizers Chip Gnam and Jim Garner.

In addition to the event sponsorships, the Line members also voted to amend Article III of our bylaws to address concerns about units introducing joint impressions that were not part of their primary impression. The bylaw now requires full members who want to add an additional branch of service impression will follow the procedure as an Applicant of that impression. For example an artillery unit wanting to start a rifle company will be required to work with a rifle company (that already has Line membership) for a minimum of one year.

As Chairman of the Continental Line, I also announced the formation of committees to address safety rules of the Line, British Brigade, and Brigade of the American Revolution. This is a result of a request made at a Liaison meeting held last December. The premise of the request was to try and formulate safety rules that all three organizations can agree upon. At this time, any "big-three" event, the sponsoring organization sets the safety rules, which all other participating organizations (and units) must follow. Currently the artillery committee has been formed with Frank Cecile from Lambs Artillery is Chair. The infantry committee is just starting and will be chaired by Eric Chetwyn from 2<sup>nd</sup> Mass. I am working to form the remaining branches (Light, Rifles, and Dragoons) in the near future; any volunteers would be greatly appreciated. The goals of these committees is to determine the feasibility of having one "set" of safety rules that will accommodate all three organizations. They will report back their findings to the CL Executive Board prior to our next annual meeting.

In addition to the formation of the safety rules committees, I am also going to try and reorganize the collection of paperwork from Applicant Members. Ninety (90) days prior to the annual meeting, the Adjutant (Sam Ricco) will send out notification to all Department heads as to the requirements for becoming a new applicant or applicant to full membership. This notification will include the requirement that "applicants to full membership" must have a representative from their unit at the annual meeting. If a representative is not present at the meeting, the unit will be dropped as an applicant to membership status and must reapply as a new applicant the following year. Thirty (30) days prior to the meeting, I am going to require that all Applicant Member have all the necessary paperwork such as history of the unit, insurance, and censuses to the Adjutant. If all the paperwork has not been received, their applicant status will not brought up to a vote.

Again I want to thank Matt for a job well done as editor of this newsletter. Any thoughts, ideas on potential articles or upcoming events, please submit them to him at [mschickling@hotmail.com](mailto:mschickling@hotmail.com). Any other questions or concerns, please contact your Department Coordinator or myself at [captuta@verizon.net](mailto:captuta@verizon.net). See you all in Bordentown.

Yours in the hobby,  
John Taber  
Continental Line Chairman

## ADJUTANT'S REPORT

Ladies & Gentlemen of the Line,

On the business side of the Continental Line, I am glad that the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual National Continental Line meeting was a success. I want to thank the members of the Continental Line for electing me to the position of Adjutant, again. This is my second and last two year term as Adjutant. I look forward to many new exciting events in the next two years and beyond. 2007 looks to be another great year for the organization. I am very excited by both Full Line events this year, working with the British Brigade at the Battle of Bordentown and the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party at Mt. Vernon. I do hope that the Bordentown event brings us back to putting on great events with the British Brigade and maybe even as Paul Loane suggested a trial, joint National meeting of both organizations over the winter.

On the digital side of the organization, the Continental Line Officer's Mess has a total of 79 participants as of March 2007. If you have not been sent two invitations, I do not have your 2007 insurance and census information in my hands. I have also sent many invitations to members of the Line that have not joined.

The website has been updated with all 2007 events. Additional upgrades/improvements suggestions to the website are always appreciated. Please feel free to let me know what you think of the web site at: [adjutant@continentalline.org](mailto:adjutant@continentalline.org)

Thank you,  
Sam Ricco  
Adjutant, The Continental Line, Inc.

## NORTHERN DEPARTMENT REPORT

I know that some folks out there have raved about the Yorktown event, but I guess I have to say that I saw some good things and some not so good things. I have to ask, why did we go through all the pre-event paperwork (unit & individual/vehicle registrations and two musket identification forms), when it was pretty much ignored at the event? Also, why were so many “inspections” on the schedule, when they were either late or didn’t happen? Finally, what about all those “rules” we received just prior to the event? Most of those rules were best left ignored. On the other hand, I have to credit Mark Nowacki (2<sup>nd</sup> Mass.) for his optimistic approach. As the New England Brigade Adjutant, he kept on saying, “I know things have changed, but just remember why you’re here.” I also have to say that the surrender ceremony was awesome. Who will ever forget all those Crown Forces muskets lying unattended in the rain? Now that was a class act. My thanks to all our fellow reenactors on both sides.

I want to thank everyone who attended the Northern Department meeting at the Springfield Armory. With 28 units represented, we’re on the right track. With your help, I’ve been able to update the contact information for each unit in the department. I still need to remind folks to keep their unit insurance updated. This year (after some changes at the annual meeting) the Northern Department will support the following events in 2007: Bordentown, Fort Ticonderoga, Saratoga and Mount Vernon (20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Continental Line). Between the Northern Department meeting and the annual meeting, we voted on the applicant status of the 4<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Regiment (sponsored by the 1<sup>st</sup> NH), the Royal Artillery Regt. Auxonne (sponsored by the United Train of Artillery), Campbell’s Co., Tryon County Militia (sponsored by 2<sup>nd</sup> Albany), Wright’s Company, Col. Seth Warner’s Regiment (sponsored by Whitcomb’s Rangers) and the Royal Artillery Regiment, Metz (sponsored by the UTA). The following units were accepted as full members at the annual meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> NY (sponsored by 1<sup>st</sup> NH), 4<sup>th</sup> NY (sponsored by 1<sup>st</sup> NY, McCrackens for the 3<sup>rd</sup> NY, Long Island, which could not make the meeting), 11<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts, Whites Company (sponsored by 1<sup>st</sup> NH) and Volontaires Etrangers de Lauzon (sponsored by Saintonge and the UTA). Two units, that were voted on in 2005 as applicants, were once again missing for a vote to full membership at the annual meeting. Those units are: Eames’ Rangers (sponsored by 10<sup>th</sup> MA) and Herrick’s Regiment (sponsored by Whitcombs Rangers). One unit, Crane’s Artillery (sponsored by the UTA) that was sponsored as an applicant unit in 2006 was not present at the annual meeting for a vote to full member status this year. If my count is right, we now have 42 full and applicant member units in the Northern Department of the Continental Line.

The situation of units voted on as applicants, but not showing up at an annual meeting to be voted on for full membership status, came up at the annual meeting. Being an applicant allows a unit to be invited to and participate at Continental Line shows, but without a vote to full member status, this practice was questioned by some. It raises the question as to: what is the difference between being an applicant and a full member of the Continental Line? It was proposed that an amendment be made to the Continental Line Bylaws to put a time limit on the applicant status.

Going back to the Northern Department meeting, we had discussions about unwanted members within our ranks. While we talked about the admission process for new members into units, in general, it was agreed that each unit should have a strong mission statement within their bylaws of what the unit stands for. With the mission statement, there should be an explanation of what inappropriate behavior is. That way, when it comes time to remove a member from a unit, the link between the mission statement and the behavior will make it obvious as to why that person needs to leave. While that discussion was intended to be about individuals, it also briefly touched upon unwanted units within our ranks. We also discussed individuals with disabilities in our ranks, and it was the consensus of those present that company commanders should be responsible for making appropriate accommodations to make everyone feel comfortable. In doing so, the amalgamated unit commander should be made aware of who in ranks may need additional assistance and that should include keeping a “trusted” someone with the disabled person to provide any assistance that may be needed. It was suggested that perhaps something should be written into the safety guidelines of the Continental Line to address the issue.

Respectfully submitted by:

Mark Richardson

Northern Department Coordinator

## NORTHERN DEPARTMENT REMEMBRANCE

Russ & Ginny Knower

I've been trying to write a remembrance of Russ Knower, but I've found that very difficult to do, because to know Russ, you also have to know Ginny. In fact in the world of Rev War reenactors, so long as the names Russ and Ginny are mentioned together in conversation, their last name just isn't necessary for further identification purposes. The person on the other side of the conversation knows instantly whom the reference is about.

As with many people in the Hobby, I knew who Russ and Ginny were before I knew Russ and Ginny. It was during the summer of 1975 when I was at my very first reenactment event, when someone pointed out to me the "older" man with the "younger" women. Keep in mind that all of us were 30 odd years younger then, but the reference intrigued me for whatever reason, and I took notice. At the time as we all moved from one bicentennial event to the other, Ginny's teenage daughter was also with them. After a few years, however, like so many of the younger generation, Ginny's daughter eventually found other interests and stopped coming to events. For Russ and Ginny, that just meant they had more time to spend with each other and with the rest of us.

By 1976, I think we actually knew who each other were, at least by face and enough to say hello to each other, and to carry on one of those I "know" who you are but not really type of conversations. To be on the safe side, these conversations usually take place with other people around. I remember conversations just like this with Russ and Ginny at a parade in Acton and at a Mass. Council of Minutemen safety meeting. It probably wasn't until 1977 or so when a mutual friend, Charlie Van Auken, actually introduced us, and Russ and Ginny became real people to me. I can remember something close to a rebellion in 1979 at the Savannah, Georgia event. While riding on a bus, Ginny was pretty well vexed at one of the commanding officers and had lots to say about what she wanted to do to him that wasn't very nice. While recognizing that Ginny had found a sympathetic ear in me, Russ, in his quite way, just made things simple by saying something like, "Yes, we do need to do something." While it didn't come to pass, I remember talking about tipping over a port-a-potty with the objectionable individual inside. What an image that conjures up! From that point on, Russ and Ginny were truly both friends of mine.

Anyway, I only relate this one story because that's what our Hobby is about, stories. Over the years, we tell them repeatedly from one campfire to the next. We remember and we laugh. We remember, and we feel good about where we've been together and where we are going together. Even in sadness, we know we are not alone. As we pass through this life, as reenactors, we know we have a family of friends around us all the time. Wherever Ginny is today, I know that the next time I see her; there will always be her smile, her laugh, a hug and a kiss on the cheek. Oh, she'll be stirring some pot of sarcastic humor, but that's just the way she is. Wherever Russ is today, I know that the next time I see him; there will be his hearty handshake, his never ending grin and his quite reassuring nature always trying to make piece, because that's just the way he is. From this life to the next, as reenactors, we know we already have a family of friends waiting for us on the other side, because that's just the way our lives are. Thank you Russ and Ginny for being part of my family of friends.

Mark Richardson - January 2007

## MID-ATLANTIC DEPARTMENT REPORT

First off my thanks to the M.A.D. unit members who supported me in being elected coordinator for the department. It is good to know that the membership is looking forward to working with me to continue making the M.A.D. a strong contributor to the goals of the Continental Line and of the hobby in general. Also, my thanks to past coordinator Pat Jordan.

The M.A.D. is looking toward another full season that hits the ground running in April and does not slow down until December with the Battle of Trenton. Whether it is an open invitation event or a Department / Line sanctioned show, there is always a lot going on and 2007 will be no exception. The M.A.D. has given support to a new event in Jerusalem Mills, Maryland with Tom Vogeley and the 1<sup>st</sup> New Jersey Regt. as Continental host unit. There is also interest being shown by several British Brigade units. This one has growth potential! Go to [www.jerusalemill.org/reenactment.html](http://www.jerusalemill.org/reenactment.html) for information or [tvogelej@juno.com](mailto:tvogelej@juno.com) The department also voted to back the return to Rock Ford Plantation in Lancaster Co. PA. The homestead of General Edward Hand was host to a joint C.L. / B.B. event in 1998 which was well received. Again, Tom Vogeley and the 1<sup>st</sup> New Jersey are working on the planning stage of this October show. Check out [www.rockfordplantation.org](http://www.rockfordplantation.org) for information on the site. (God how I love the Internet!)

Our key event for 2007 however is Bordentown, New Jersey, site of the 1997 C.L. / B.B. joint encampment. This is a fully sanctioned event of the Continental Line and The British Brigade. Carl Szathmary and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Pa. Light infantry Coy.' Has laid the groundwork along with Paul Loane and the 43<sup>rd</sup> Regt. To once again battle it out in the Jerseys. Major plans are in the works including a period camp kitchen, the possibility of an engineered redoubt and a Saturday evening dance. The City of Bordentown and our host at the old Estate of Joseph Bonaparte are fully behind this event to make it a success. The web site at [www.battleofbordentown.com](http://www.battleofbordentown.com) has all of the information including on line registration and a photo gallery of the 1997 battle. Remember, there is life after the number '225'! Dates and details for other shows and events in the department will be listed in future copies of the Soldier and on event web sites.

*Keep checking back with [www.continentalline.org](http://www.continentalline.org)*

Battle of Bound Brook – April 28,29 – 2007 (11<sup>th</sup> PA.) [www.battleofboundbrook.com](http://www.battleofboundbrook.com)  
Jerusalem Mills, MD. – May 5,6, - 2007 (1<sup>st</sup> New Jersey) [www.jerusalemill.org](http://www.jerusalemill.org)  
Bordentown NJ. – June 9,10 – 2007 (3<sup>rd</sup> PA. Light Coy.) [www.battleofbordentown.com](http://www.battleofbordentown.com)  
Battle of Monmouth, NJ. – June 23,24 – 2007 (contact [mdc@continentalline.org](mailto:mdc@continentalline.org))  
Rock Ford Plantation, PA. – Oct. 20,21 – 2007 (1<sup>st</sup> NJ.) [www.rockfordplantation.org](http://www.rockfordplantation.org)  
Details on the Philadelphia Campaign events to be posted in future issues.

Jim Stinson / Mid Atlantic Department Coordinator

## SOUTHERN DEPARTMENT REPORT

Greetings and Salutations!

The Southern Department kept busy during the waning months of 2006 and the first quarter of 2007. (We scoff at the vicissitudes of weather!) The last quarter of 2006 saw us at Williamsburg, Yorktown, the opening of the new museum/visitor centre at Mount Vernon, Camden and Great Bridge. And, although the 2007 season is in its early days, the Southern Department has been well represented at Cowpens, Fort Ward, Moores Creek Bridge, and Guilford Courthouse. In the coming months you will find Southern Department units at Ninety-Six, Cowan's Ford, Brattonsville, House in the Horseshoe, Mount Vernon, Camden, and Gunston Hall. The Southern Department will also support, en masse, the Continental Line event at Bordentown and several units will support the Mid-Atlantic event at Jerusalem Mill. Come out and support our Southern events!

This year I have asked the Southern Department to work on improving camp authenticity. To this end, we have initiated a dialog among our member units with a view toward improving our impression in this area. Many of our units are taking steps to eliminate excessive camp furniture, encourage the use of period-correct cooking utensils, and prohibit the use of modern tobacco products. The 2<sup>nd</sup> NC has set a good example in this area and I encourage you to have a look at their camp to see what they have achieved.

A number of our friends in the Southern Department are currently deployed OCONUS. I know that they appreciate cards or letters, so please feel free to let them know you are thinking about them.

Herbert Puckett	Isaac Ragusa III	A1C Colin Carter
CSTC-A / DRD	FSC 508 <sup>th</sup> PIR STB	386 <sup>th</sup> ESFS/FP
APO AE 09356	FOB Gardez	APO AE 09855
	APO AE 09354	

Please do not put any rank on mail sent to either Bert or Ragu, or make specific references to their current locations.

One administrative note: Please remember to forward me a copy of the cover sheet on your unit insurance when you renew the policy!

Your most humble, but only slightly obedient servant,

**Anne Henninger**

Southern Department Coordinator



## WHY WHAT WE DO IS IMPORTANT

BRUCE BATTEN  
FIRST NEW HAMPSHIRE REGIMENT  
UNITED TRAIN OF ARTILLERY

I am a teacher. Despite all the controversy about why Johnny can't read, I'll even admit to being a public school teacher. I teach in an inner city middle school where there are twenty three different languages being spoken and one third of the students come from atypical home situations. I'm also a reenactor. I use my activities as a reenactor as a tool to help teach American history to my students.

It is important to teach history because it is a fantastic story, it is a great drama. A drama full of heroes. We all love stories, especially stories about heroes. However, when most young persons are asked to name whom their heroes are they usually reply with the names of professional athletes or "Hip Hop" music stars. Rarely do they reply with the names of heroes from American history.

Can we blame people for not seeing the great people of our past as heroes? Given the age we live in, probably not. Peter Gibbon, a research associate at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, writing for the *Los Angeles Times*, feels that we live in an age where it is fashionable to deny greatness and drag down heroes. Right now in America no one appears untarnished or deserving of respect. During this information age, where nothing is secret, can anyone be above reproach?

It was not always this way though. Gibbon feels that the ideology of heroism was intact until the early part of this century. The idea of heroism permeated homes, schools, farms, churches and places of work. Heroism was found in novels, newspapers, sermons, on buildings, in advertising, on statues, and in the names given to children. Persons such as Harry S. Truman, Andrew Carnegie, Theodore Roosevelt, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Stonewall Jackson, Abraham Lincoln, and Harriet Beecher Stowe were all shaped by the idea of heroism.

Did these people think that their heroes were perfect? Thomas Jefferson was the president who had a slave mistress, George Washington had a temper, Robert E. Lee was cold, Abraham Lincoln was passive, Albert Einstein mistreated his wife, John F. Kennedy frolicked in the White House pool, Lyndon B. Johnson was a bully and Richard Nixon covered up. Gibbon feels that people before us understood that heroes weren't perfect. They understood, "that heroes instruct us in greatness, remind us of our better selves, and that without heroes the past loses meaning."

It is important to tell the stories of the heroes of history. We need to tell the stories of the heroes who have made us what we are as Americans. People should be able to admire, copy and look to great people who can be examples of decent life. We all should remember that Thomas Jefferson wrote the words, "all men are created equal", that George Washington won the Revolution and shaped the presidency, that Robert E. Lee hated war, that Abraham Lincoln saved the Union and did not want to punish the South, that John F. Kennedy resolved the Cuban Missile Crisis, that Lyndon B. Johnson helped get civil rights legislation passed, and that Richard Nixon opened relations with China.

In a time when so many people have feelings of hopelessness, where all the news seems bad and the name of the game is to feel good through immediate gratification, the stories of history's heroes, their sacrifice and perseverance, can show all of us that we do have hope. History's heroes can be examples to people who need to know that problems can be solved and obstacles overcome. Every time we as reenactors visit a school, talk to a spectator in camp or take to the field we are celebrating the heroes of the past. Our activities teach the valuable lessons of our heroes. Through our interpretations we are helping the past to not lose meaning. Maybe our examples will help some school child or spectator to walk away from an event with a better appreciation of the past and a belief that the future can be better.

# A CONTEMPORARY COMPARISON BETWEEN GENERAL BURGoyNE'S LOSS OF AN ENTIRE ARMY IN 1777 AND GENERAL CORNWALLIS' LOSS OF AN ENTIRE ARMY IN 1781

SEAN KELLEHER

## INTRODUCTION

Less than a month after General Cornwallis surrendered his troops in Yorktown, writer Abbe Robin documented his thoughts in this letter that was later published in *New travels through North-America* : in a series of letters, exhibiting, the history of the victorious campaign of the allied armies ... Philadelphia, 1783. It should be noted that the Author, Abbe Robin was not an unbiased source. Robin was a Chaplain with the French Army under Rochambeau.

YORK, NOVEMBER 14, 1781

The American war, the success of which has appeared so dubious, offers to our view two events, almost unparalleled in any war that history has recorded in her annals: I mean two entire armies made prisoners, who nevertheless were under the direction of Generals of the first note and ability. It now remains to ask, which of the two has discovered the deepest talents, and most activity, or experienced the greatest obstacles, and committed the most mistakes.

Being myself a witness to the efforts of one army, and surrounded by person who had a share in reducing the other, having also in my hand some exact and faithful accounts of that affair, I will venture a few reflections.

Editor's Note – the letter was edited due to space. Subjects edited included Character of General Burgoyne – Accounts of his unfortunate expedition in 1777 – Magnanimity of Sir Guy Carleton – A considerable body of Indians join Burgoyne – He makes a speech to them – Ticonderoga abandon by the Americans.

Picking up the story after the 2nd Battle of Saratoga (editors note end)

The English General [Burgoyne] was now informed, that the enemy had dispatched forward a considerable body, to surround him entirely.

This, he took every measure in his power to prevent, and upon the night of the ninth of October, began to march, leaving his sick and wounded to provide for themselves; but the care General Gates took of these has been since gratefully acknowledged by the English themselves.

A heavy rain, that lasted the whole night, rendered their progress very slow; and at break of day her perceived the Americans posted and fortified on the heights around him. He then took a resolution to march towards Fort Edward, but his road cutters being repulsed, and the opposite shore of the river lined with enemies, he concluded to call a council of war; upon considering the matter, they saw no other probable way of reaching this Fort than by a night march, and the soldiers carrying their provisions on their backs. But while they were preparing to execute this forlorn purpose, they learnt that the enemy had taken sufficient precautions to prevent the execution of their design.

Nothing could have been more wretched-nothing more deplorable than the condition of this army. Worn down by a long series of severe duty, marches and actions; forsaken by the Indians in the needful moment, weakened by desertion, dejected and discouraged by the timidity of the Canadians and provincial troops, their regular corps reduced by repeated losses, to the number of only three thousand five hundred, their bravest officers killed, the rest forced to be continually under arms, harassed day and night, by an enemy that seemed to grow out of the ground on every side,

having lost all hope of relief, and but three days provisions left, their last resource was to make the best terms they could with the enemy. The General, willing however, in an affair that regarded the future well-being of every individual in the army, to have their unanimous voice, as far as possible, called a council of war, inviting not only the generals and staff-officers, but all commanding captains; these universally gave it as their opinion, that the army could not do otherwise than treat with General Gates; and the English have since done the latter the justice to declare, that, considering the ground on which he stood, he showed not the least mark of insolence or arrogance.

The substance of the principal articles was, that the army should march out of their camp with the honours of war, and their artillery, to an appointed place, where they should pile their arms: that a passage should be granted them from Boston to Europe, upon conditions of their not serving in America during the present war. – They reckoned their loss from the sixth of July, to the capitulation, inclusive, to amount to near ten thousand men.

The great fault of Burgoyne, and what prepared the way to all his misfortunes, was his march to Fort Edward; if he had returned to Ticonderoga, and proceeded to Fort George, he would doubtless have avoided these disaster, but as has been observed, he feared that a retrograde movement would slacken the ardor of his troops, and give the Americans time to recover from their surprise. A General is always blamable when he ventures far into unexplored countries; but Burgoyne, who had seen the Americans fly, on all sides, at his approach, notwithstanding their superiority in number, and those vast fortifications which both nature and man rendered impregnable, could he believe that these very men would afterwards fail to show themselves, surround him on every side, and fight him in the open field.

The shame of re-iterated defeats, the immediate calamities they felt and greater still to be expected, the dread of Indian cruelty and indiscriminate plunder; all these considerations must have wrought wonderfully on the minds of the Americans to have produced so sudden and universal a change; let it be remembered, however, that the very elements assisted in the reductions of Burgoyne; the heavy rains threw continual obstacles in his way, particularly in the affair of Bennington, where, by delaying the march of Colonel Breyman, General Starke had an opportunity of attacking and defeating Colonel Baum, before the other's arrival; the Indians, likewise, forsook him at the very time when they could be of use to him; his expected reinforcements never joined him; and Clinton, who then commanded at New York, and might with the greatest ease have failed in force up the North River, was too flow in making the diversion. All that genius, activity and courage could suggest was put into practice by Burgoyne; his marches were judicious, his positions advantageous, and his skirmishes obstinate; But the Americans, reanimated by hope, and emboldened by despair, became every day more numerous active and warlike.

As to Lord Cornwallis, he had to contend with enemies better disciplined and longer inured to war, but he had the advantage of Burgoyne in long experience in America in a more exact knowledge of the country, in being better supplied with provisions and ammunition and not having to struggle with such severe weather and impassable tracts of wilderness. He had also the most perfect confidence of his troops and was become so formidable to the enemy, that General Washington was thought to be the only man that could, as such, be placed in competition with him, Burgoyne had constantly to do with enemies who were either strongly entrenched or infinitely more numerous than his own troops. Cornwallis, on the contrary, at the head of an army of at least eight thousand choice troops, and always superior to his dispersed enemies, yet strange as it may seem, did not think proper to attack the Marquis de la Fayette, who never had more at any time than two thousand, nor to hinder the landing of three thousand men under the orders of M. de Saint Simon, to prevent them from joining the Marquis. If he had marched down upon them at their first landing he would have found a body of men totally ignorant of the country they were in, their arms and ammunition yet on board the vessels, and not a single intrenchment (entrenchment) thrown up: superior to them still, after their junction with the Marquis, and threatened with the approach of the armies of General Washington and Count Rochambeau ought he not to have hastened, by forced marches, to attack and disperse them, that he might afterwards have it in his power to make head against the other.

*CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE*

But if, after the instructions of Clinton, and his promises of speedily relieving him, he nevertheless thought it improper to hazard any attack, how advantageous forever it might promise to be, he ought at least to have done all in his power to retard and prolong the siege; for whatever might have been the relief promised by Clinton, contrary winds might have delayed its arrival, and a few days gained would have been of the greatest importance to him. He likewise knew that Count de Grasse had declared that he could not remain but a short time in the bay; so that, retarding his departure, would have been deranging his plans, and consequently hindering him from serving his country elsewhere. The season being, also pretty well advanced, the autumnal rains must have made the siege very fatiguing to our troops, and perhaps have occasioned contagious distempers among them, in a country where the air and water are less wholesome than more northward.

The distance between York and Williamsburg is twelve miles, and this whole interval is covered with very thick woods; it would certainly have been an easy matter then, for Cornwallis to have made lines of abatis throughout this forest, and have stopped up the roads from post to post; three thousand slaves at least, which he had taken from the planters, would have rendered this mode of defense still more practicable- all our military connoisseurs have given it as their opinion that a few detachments and some field pieces, might have retarded the combined army at least a month in its approaches to the works at York, and probably would have destroyed us a great number of men. The lands adjoining the town were covered with Indian corn, and by taking it away or burning it, he would have obliged the assailants to get food for their horses at a greater distance, and by that means delayed the transportation of the artillery, which was landed several miles from the camp.

Cornwallis thus shut up in York, with artillery badly enough served, and his works disadvantageously constructed, had it not in his power to sally out upon us without risking too much, while the besiegers had time to prepare to receive him, and event to cut off his retreat: being thus incapacitated from acting offensively, he could no way extricate himself but by some desperate attempt.

If he had known how to profit by circumstances, the relief promised by Clinton might have saved him, or at least made a great diversion in his favour. The English squadron, consisting of twenty-seven or twenty-eight ships of the line, with four thousand land forces on board, appeared before the capes on the 26th of October, that is to say, seven days after the surrender. Count de Grasse's fleet, being thirty six ships of the line, was then at anchor within the Horse-Shoe, a sand bank, over which vessels of war cannot pass, except through a narrow channel on the east side; the squadron from getting under way and consequently could not have hindered Clinton from effecting a landing for his troops. I cannot say whether it was a fear of bad weather that inclined the County to make choice of this place, but his over great precaution was, I am sure, an obstacle to his pursuit of the English, the wind being favorable enough, had the fleet been in any other place.

May we now ask which of the two English Generals has manifested the best conduct? For my part I am of the opinion, Burgoyne have succeeded better in defending York, and that Cornwallis could not have done more in the wilderness adjacent to Saratoga.

## MARION AND THE LATER YEARS

ERICK NASON

One of the problems with most people today is that they believe the War for American Independence ended with the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. This was far from the truth. In fact, the number of British, German and Loyalist forces which surrendered at Yorktown was small if compared to other British forces in the colonies. There were still some 30,000 British soldiers stationed in and around New York City with General Clinton. The fighting did not end with Cornwallis' surrender; it was one event amongst many other engagements. After Cornwallis won his pyrrhic victory at Guilford Courthouse and marched to Virginia, Greene and partisan leaders like Marion were still busy conducting military operations in the Carolinas.

On December 30<sup>th</sup>, 1780 Francis Marion was promoted by Governor Rutledge to Brigadier General due to "his rare abilities. As a Continental officer he had rallied, inspired, and lead the militia to victory after victory. He was a sound strategist, a keen tactician and a savage fighter. He was a stern disciplinarian, observing and demanding the highest standards of military efficiency. And yet he was kind, humane, and thoroughly sympathetic to his suffering, ill-equipped followers." Marion set about forming his brigade, appointing Colonel Hugh Ervin, the senior militia officer as his second-in-command. Captain Milton was selected as his aide, Captains Ogier and Elliott as his junior aides. Elliot would be responsible for Marion's

correspondences with the governor and General Greene. Colonel Peter Horry retained command of the cavalry and Lieutenant Colonel Hugh Horry assumed command of the infantry regiment due to Colonel McDonald being a prisoner on parole. Due to a lack of ammunition, parts of the infantry were converted to cavalry, local blacksmiths forging broad swords.

The Southern Army was keeping the British forces in the Carolinas so tied up that they would be no factor in the up coming siege at Yorktown. Marion supporting Greene conducted numerous sieges against British outposts and forts, slowly driving the British to Charleston. General Washington had instructed Greene to keep the British from leaving South Carolina. Along with smaller raids and ambushes, Marion and his men conducted more and more conventional-style of warfare. Loyalists were marching in groups of 400 to 500 men, ravaging the area south of the City of Charleston. Greene asked Marion to help Colonel Harden, one of Marion's old partisans. Marion's men engaged a combined British, German, Provincial and Loyalist force under Lieutenant Colonel von Borck at Parker's Ferry. Marion's men lost 1 killed and 3 wounded, to approximately 125 killed and 80 wounded of the British force.

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, Greene with Marion attacked the British camp at the Battle of Eutaw Springs. Greene was not winning the battles, but his strategy was destroying the British. They had abandoned Camden, Ninety-Six and lost Fort Watson. Greene had found Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Stewart's camp and was planning to attack when Marion arrived at his camp. This surprised Greene, for he did not realize Marion was that close by. In the opening engagement, Greene was able to push the British out of their camp, Marion and his brigade in the first line. Green commented that Marion's men "would have graced the veterans of the great king of Prussia."



"The Partisan Swamp Fox" © by Bryant White from his 2007 calendar which can be purchased from his website at [www.whitehistoricart.com](http://www.whitehistoricart.com)

## MARION AND THE LATER YEARS, *CONTINUED*

Marion's men ran out of ammunition and had to withdraw, which they did in good order. However, the British were able to organize a counter-attack and drove Greene from the field. While Stewart claimed victory, it was a Pyrrhic victory like Cornwallis'. Stewart's army was destroyed, the Battle of Eutaw Springs was considered the most bloodiest of the southern battles.

Due to the losses suffered by Marion, Greene attached a contingent of 600 "over the mountain" militiamen from Colonels Shelby and Sevier. Marion sent Mahan with some of the Shelby's illustrious riflemen to attack the British redoubt at Wappetaw. The British saw the force approaching and abandoned their post. On November 10<sup>th</sup>, Marion received news of Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown. Marion organized a victory ball and invited the ladies. He was celebrating not only because of the surrender, but what the surrender meant. Men freed up to be sent south to reinforce them and their campaign against the British in South Carolina.

The British attempted to reinforce and defend the position at Fair Lawn Plantation. Marion decided to attack for the British seemed confused and unorganized. Marion sent Mahan and 200 riflemen once more. Along the way, they found another British post and attempted to lure the cavalry into a fight. The British did not take the bait, but followed close behind when Maham moved on. When Maham arrived at Fair Lawn, he observed the British fort to be too strong to attack. With the British cavalry approaching, Maham attacked one of the out buildings which were the hospital which quickly surrendered. Maham captured 300 stands of arms and other stores. 150 medical and invalids were captured and paroled. The hospital was burned in view of the British and Maham withdrew.

With the British presence diminishing in South Carolina, the Colonials decided to take back Charlestown and began a siege of the city. By January 1782, the city was surrounded by partisans, militia and regular soldiers. General Alexander Leslie was in command of the British forces in the city. To protect the city, he had several outposts constructed which were supported by armed galleys. British Major Brereton put soldiers on Videau's Bridge on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1782 to protect the crossing. Colonel Richardson of Marion's brigade attacked the British. The British were able to fire a volley that killed 22 partisans and disrupted the attack. The British chased after the disorganized partisans and a six-mile running battle ensued.

Not all was well within Marion's ranks. Colonel Horry and Maham did not like each other. Maham was an independent Continental cavalry officer and would not take orders from Horry. Though Marion was a Continental officer, he had been elected to the South Carolina General Assembly as a senator. While he was away at the assembly in Jacksonboro, Horry was left in command. Maham would follow on Greene's orders, not Horry's. On the advice of Marion, Horry moved the brigade to Wambaw Creek near the Santee. Loyalist Colonel Benjamin Thompson heard of the brigade's move and the break down between Horry and Maham. He decided to assemble all of the cavalry in Charlestown and attack the brigade near Durant's plantation. The attack faltered as the rickety bridge which the Loyalist was riding across collapsed.

After hearing of the attack, Marion left the general assembly and returned to his men. On February 25<sup>th</sup>, 1782 Thompson's infantry was moving with their captured booty of cattle. This was a deception, for Thompson was moving with his cavalry and mounted infantry to attack Marion again. He believed Marion would have returned to his camp after his last attack. Both were surprised when their cavalry ran into each other and furiously attacked one another. Thompson quickly recovered and attacked while Marion rallied his men a half mile away. Marion had lost most of their arms and horses. Following the battle, Marion's regiment only numbered 60 and Horry's command was decimated. Marion reverted to partisan tactics and faded into the woods. Thompson's raid allowed the British to freely forage from February to April.

On March 15<sup>th</sup>, 1782 Marion's men attacked a group of Loyalists near Middleton Plantation which killed three and captured one. Marion continued to send out patrols to check on the British intentions as the war wound down. During a patrol in August 1782, Captain Capers of Horry's cavalry ran into twenty-six black dragoons led by two black officers, Captain March and Lieutenant Mingo. After defeating the dragoons, Capers was able to free three neighbors who had been prisoners. General Leslie sent another foraging party towards Monck's Corner under Major Fraser for meat to supply the hospital. Marion learned of this patrol and organized an ad hoc force to go after them. Marion organized an ambush for Fraser near Wadboo River. As the British came within thirty yards, Marion's men gave a cheer and fired a volley. Unfortunately the horse with Marion's ammunition wagon bolted at the sound of gunfire. Fraser kept looking for an advantage, but Marion had emplaced his ambush well. Unfortunately, his men ran out of ammunition and Marion was forced to fall back.

This was Marion's last official fight. Marion was asked to strike against another foraging party; however Marion guarded the British as they looked for food. Marion stated, "My brigade is composed of citizens, enough of whose blood has already been shed. If ordered to attack, I shall obey; but with my consent, not another life shall be lost on the eve of their departure." Nineteen months after Lincoln surrendered Charleston and Marion began his life as a partisan, General Leslie evacuated Charleston. He had agreed not to destroy the city if the Patriots allowed his men to depart in safety. It was the 14<sup>th</sup> of December 1782; the war itself would end officially six months later.

Francis Marion married his first cousin Mary Ester Videau on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 1786. Marion remained a little in politics, being a delegate to South Carolina's Constitution Convention. After seeing South Carolina joining the union, Marion withdrew from political life. Marion still remained the soldier, devoting his attention to the militia. He retained the command of his brigade, and attended musters, advised the new officers, trained them, until the reorganization in 1794. Marion finally accepted retirement and settled down to be a normal citizen. However, Marion had one last battle. The years of campaigning, days and nights in the swamps, were now having their effects on his health. Comrades came and paid their respects. Peter Horry stopped one evening at the two old war horses stayed up recalling exploits of their campaigns. Francis Marion soon answered a new call to assemble on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 1795 when he passed away. His family buried him in the family plot on Gabriel's Plantation on Belle Isle.

## LETTER FROM THE ARCHIVES OF MARYLAND ONLINE, VOLUME 21, PAGES 129-130

Sir

As I have a mind to Establish My Legion upon a Solid Condition, I Don't think there is a Better Expedient for that purpose, then to associate all my people together, and to Detach often a Couple Dozens of them at Sundry times for to Go to Sea.

I have several prospect to Execute that project, the first, is to assure of my self of my Soldiers, By the advantage they'll perceive in the said Society, and as Every one of them Shall have a Share according to the money they'll Lay to the mass in the attempt, that I want to make, I Don't Doubt But this will Engage them to Serve with Great deal more Zeal for the public Cause: for that purpose I want to purchase a Vessel, I understood, here Lays a Brigantine which is to be sold By orders of your Excellency. I then Do Send Mr. Baldesqui Bearer of this Letter, to Deal with the persons appointed for that matter, I hope Sir you will be Kind Enough to Befriend me in this project which I am Certain will Become most usefull for the unitate State. I will tell you more about my prospect. I do forsee that the Britons will necessarily be obliged one day, or other to Evacuate this Continent, at that time the marines will Surely be more useful then the Land troops; my Soldiers must then be instructed, Soon, and be Like the Roman troops which were obliged to make their Service Every where.

The Vessel that I intend to have fitted, shall at present be fitted out Like a privateer, But Calculated for to Carry a Great many things Necessary for the want of my Legion, which the Congress don't Chuse to Supply it with, Considering the Great Expenses that would occur upon the Number of my Soldiers,

If I am Lucky Enough to succeed in this first Expedition, I intend with the Benefit of it, to have a frigate Built, and then after, I'll try to do some thing Better. I am most persuaded that my Good intentions for your Contry will interest your Goodness for me

I am with Respect

Sir

Your most humble and  
Very humble Servant  
C Pulaski Gn

Baltimore June the 10<sup>th</sup> 1778



## A LETTER FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON TO MARYLAND GOV. THOMAS SIM LEE, SEPTEMBER 3, 1781

NOTE: A SIMILAR LETTER WAS ALSO SENT TO GOVERNOR LIVINGSTON OF NEW JERSEY, GOVERNOR RODNEY OF DELAWARE

Philadelphia, 3 September 1781

Sir,

I have the honor to inform your Excellency that the operations of the present campaign are tending very seriously to the Southward, and that a large detachment of the American Army with the whole of the French Troops are now on their march for Virginia. As the article of supplies for the Army, which will be collected in that quarter and which will probably be large, will be a matter of the most importance in our operations. I cannot omit to address your Excellency on that subject.

Mr. Morris the Financer having been kind enough to give me a copy of a letter which he has written on this subject to the several states requesting in the most earnest manner the several quotas of specific supplies called for by Congress. It is needless for me to trouble your Excellency any further than to enforce in the warmest tones the application of Mr. Morris which I now take the liberty to do and to intreat your Excellency that it may meet with all that effectual attention which the importance of the matter requires and the urgent importunity of Mr. Morris can expect or wish.

I will only add that as I am fully persuaded your Excellency will anticipate the fatal consequences to the general interest of the mater, which must arise from a failure in our operation as you will fully accord with me in sentiment that a reflection on the cause of failure should it be the one in which I have my strongest fear. The article of supplies will not fail to fill us with the deepest regret, when we consider that the bountiful hand of Heaven is holding out to us a plenty of every article and the only cause of want must be placed to the account of our want of exertions to collect them.

Your Excellency will be pleased to give me the earliest and most decided information, how far I may rely on your state for the supplies requested and expected from it. Since on that and the like information from other states, I must ground my judgment of the practicability of carrying into execution the operation I have concerted. It will be to little purpose, other than to create an endless and unnecessary expence, to pursue my intentions further than the aid we can promise ourselves, without fail, to receive from the states, will give us the fairest prospect to proceed

I have the honor to be

G. Washington

P.S. to Gov. Lee

Since writing the foregoing, I have been honored with your favour of in answer to mine of you Sir, I am exceedingly pleased with the decision of your Resolutions. It gives me the happiest presage of the most effectual support from you.

I am svt.

G. Washington

## A LETTER FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON TO THE HONORABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE EASTERN SHORE OF MARYLAND

A circular letter sent to each of Nicholas Thomas, Esq., Richard Barnaby, Esq.,  
Col. James Hindman, James Lloyd Chamberlain, Robert Goldsborough, Esq.,  
John Braceo, Esq. and Christopher Birthead, Esq.,  
all residents of the Eastern shore of Maryland

Head of Elk September 7, 1781

Sir

I have the pleasure to announce to you the arrival of the Fleet of his most Christian Majesty in Chesapeak consisting of twenty Eight ships of the line and a number of smaller vessels of war that they brought a large and have already thrown on shore a very considerable body of troops. The fleet from Rhode Island is hourly expected to join them. These are events interesting indeed to America and ought to be improved, for we may not again expect such a concurrence of circumstances as are now combined and give the most rational hopes, if the country are not wanting to themselves that the British force now in Virginia will fall into our hands.

I have therefore to solicit in the most pressing manner your aid and influence with the people of your County that they immediately send to Baltimore all their craft and vessels of different kinds in order to transport the troops down the Bay. The time it will take to march them by land is more than can be spared. So that on the single circumstance of having Vessels or not may depend on the success or failure of the present expedition, which though calculated for the general good, must operate, if successful more particularly to the interest of this State and the State of Virginia.

I am &c.

G. Washington



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400 Front Street  
Marion, MA 02738

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## **A LETTER FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON TO MARYLAND GOV. THOMAS SIM LEE, JULY 10, 1781**

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry, 10 July 1781

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's favor of the 29<sup>th</sup> of June. It's with very great satisfaction I observed the proceedings of the General Assembly of your state which you have been pleased to communicate to me the sections of the State of Maryland have heretofore been very laudable – I am exceeding glad to see the same spirit is still prevailing.

For my own part I have not a doubt but that, if all the states were to exert themselves with that spirit of vigor, which might reasonably be expected at this favorable period, they might not only drive from the Continent the Remains of the British Force now among us, but obtain themselves a security of their independence with the enjoyment of peace.