



THE CONTINENTAL SOLDIER

The newsletter of the Continental Line, Inc.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Any feedback from the Spring news letter or if you have anything you would like to have added to the newsletter, please e-mail them to me (erick.nason.ctr@jpra.jfcom.mil) and I will make sure it's added.

Erick Nason, 2nd South Carolina, Editor

FROM THE ORDERLY ROOM

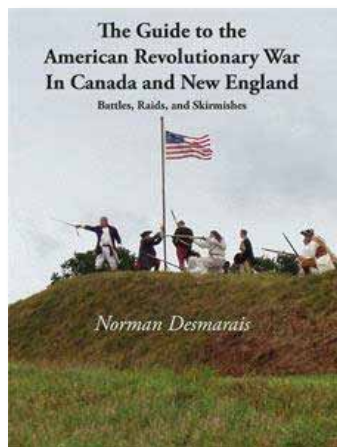
Norman Desmarais, Acquisitions Librarian at Providence College, has had his *The Guide to the American Revolutionary War in Canada and New England* published by Busca, Inc. Norman is also an active re-enactor with the 2nd Rhode Island Regiment and a member of the Brigade of the American Revolution (BAR). He is also editor-in-chief of the BAR's journal, *The Brigade Dispatch*.

The *Guide to the American Revolutionary War in Canada and New England* covers 403 battles, raids and skirmishes of the Revolutionary War, most of which do not get covered, even in the most detailed history books. It intends to provide comprehensive coverage of the confrontations of the American War for Independence and to serve as a guide to the sites.

Mark Hurwitz, Commander of the Brigade of the American Revolution, wrote the foreword.

The text identifies the location of the sites as best as can be determined, provides the historical background to understand what happened there, indicates what the visitor can expect to see and identifies any interpretive aids. It includes URLs for websites of various parks and tourist organizations. These URLs are correlated with various

battle sites and events. The many photographs have descriptive captions to identify details of historic buildings, monuments, battlefields, and equipment. The glossary provides definitions for some 18th-century military and historical terms. The book also has a bibliography and an index.



This is the first volume of a projected multi-volume series that aims to provide a comprehensive history of military actions of the War of American Independence. The most extensive published list of engagements totals 1,330. The author has compiled almost 3,000 and provides documentation in the ample footnotes. The appendices (alphabetical and chronological lists of engagements) as well as a complete bibliography and the color photos

are available at the publisher's website (<http://buscainc.com/html/guidetotheamericanrevolutionarywar.html>)

The book is available from the author (467 River Rd. Lincoln, RI 02865) (normd@providence.edu), from the publisher (<http://buscainc.com/html/guidetotheamericanrevolutionarywar.html>) or from Revolutionary Imprints (revolutionaryimprints.com).



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UP COMING EVENTS

Northern Department

June 5-6	Gelston Castle, Mohawk, NY
June 12	Little Farm, Newburyport, MA 1st New Hampshire
June 19-20	Battle of Monmouth, New Jersey British Brigade
June 19-20	Black Creek Village, Toronto, Canada
July 10-11	Battle of Wyoming, Moon Lake State Park
July 31-Aug 1	Fort George, Ontario, Canada-National Event, www.fortgeorge2010.org
Aug 7-8	Redcoat and Rebels, Sturbridge, MA (invitation only)
Aug 14-15	Fort Ontario, Niagara-on-the Lake, Ontario, Canada, (British Brigade)
Aug 28-29	Fort Taber Park, New Bedford, MA
Aug 27-29	Newtown, Elmira, NY
Sept 11-12	Fort Ticonderoga, Ticonderoga, NY
Sept 25-26	Philadelphia 1777 Campaign , Brandywine Sate Park, Wilmington, NY
Oct 2-3	Time Line, Lebanon, CT
Sept 8-10	Arnold's Expedition to Quebec, The Carry Ponds, Bingham, ME
Oct 15-17	Richardson Farm, Millis, MA Lexington Training Band
Nov 5-7	Putnam Park, CT
Sept 25-26	Philadelphia 1777 Campaign, Brandywine Sate Park, Wilmington, NY



THE BATTLE OF NEWTON

A REVOLUTIONARY WAR WEEKEND!

Greetings:

On August 27, 28, & 29, 2010, the Chemung Valley Living History Center will again sponsor their annual Revolutionary War Encampment and Battle at the Newtown Battlefield near Elmira, New York.

The program will include on Saturday, an interactive woods walk, an afternoon tactical, a tactical on Sunday and an open camp both days. For early arrivals on Friday, plans are incomplete, several possibilities are being explored for those interested. Further information will be available at a later date. Many of the hobbies best Sutleries along with several 18th century demonstrators will be in attendance, providing the event with an excellent shopping opportunity.

As usual, wood, water, and sanitary facilities will be provided along with showers and a very "royal" continental breakfast on Sunday. For Saturday night's jollification, dinner will be available and there are again plans for an 18th Century Tavern Night.

Further details and registration forms will be sent out in April.

Paul S. Perine, Event Chairman
psperine@aol.com | 607-583-7229
www.chemungvalley.org

REGISTER NOW FOR THE
'FIGHT AT RICHARDSON'S TAVERN'

OCTOBER 15-17, 2010
 MILLIS, MASSACHUSETTS

Greetings Re-Enactors,

On October 15-17, 2010, the Lexington Training Band ("LTB"), in conjunction with Colonel Bailey's 2nd Massachusetts Regiment and His Majesty's 10th Regiment of Foot, will be sponsoring "The Fight at Richardson's Tavern" in Millis, Massachusetts. The event has been sanctioned by the Northern Department of the Continental Line.

This event will take place at Oak Grove Farm in Millis, Massachusetts. Composed of approximately 150 acres of open fields, swamps, trails, cleared woods and period structures, the site is ideal for a Revolutionary War encampment. The battlefield alone is almost one half mile in length!

Millis is a very re-enactor friendly town and has hosted several Civil War encampments and battle re-enactments over the past decade. Once located along the post road, Richardson's Tavern served as an inn and tavern from 1720 through the early 1800s. It is believed the tavern hosted General Washington in 1775 as he rode north to assume command of the American army outside Boston and General Lafayette in 1820 when he returned to the United States. The town is located in Southeastern Massachusetts approximately fifteen (15) miles south of Framingham.

The event planners are already working hard to ensure this event is enjoyed by all participants. The weekend will be a "what if" scenario and will envision a British invasion of Southern Massachusetts following the Rhode Island Campaign of 1778.

Military activities will include two scripted battles, active piquet lines, patrols and skirmishes. More importantly, we are pleased to announce that the site owners have given us permission to construct one to three full size earthworks on the site. In order to maximize the use of the fortifications and the fields, the scripted battles will



include an extended artillery duel and a Bunker Hill style assault on the fortifications.

Activities planned by the ladies of our sponsoring units in conjunction with the "Ladies of Refined Taste" include:

- **Ladies Tea Children's Games & Drills**
- **Sewing Circle Scottish Style Country Dance**
- **Officers and their Ladies Social**

A wide variety of sutlers are being assembled by Mr. Roy Najecki to ensure your "shopping needs" are met and will be posted on the website.

In addition an 18th century style church service will be available for those who wish to partake after a night of revelry!

On behalf of the LTB, 2nd Massachusetts and 10th Regiment of Foot, we would ask you to consider registering your unit as soon as you can to attend this event. Rest assured, we will do everything in our power to not only ensure your needs are met, but that the "Fight at Richardson's Tavern" is a memorable experience.

For event information and registration go to www.millishistory.org

YMH&OS

Alex Cain, First Sergeant, Lexington Training Band

A GRAND ENCAMPMENT OF REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIERS

AUGUST 28-29

Fort Taber Historical Association, Inc.
PO BOX 40058
New Bedford, MA 02744

The Fort Taber Military Museum is pleased to invite your unit to participate in a weekend of Living History. A Grand Encampment of Revolutionary War Soldiers will commemorate the 1778 burning of the village of New Bedford.

The event is open to the Northern Dept. and is scheduled to take place August 28th and 29th, 2010. All the standard amenities will be provided. There is a snack shack and a swimming beach on site.

Directions to Fort Taber Park at Clark's Point in New Bedford, MA as follows:

From Boston take RT 128 South to RT 24 South to RT 140 South. Take RT 195 East to New Bedford (follow New Bedford below)

From Providence take RT 195 East to New Bedford.

Reaching New Bedford from 195 East, take RT 18 South to its end. Continue south (straight) for 1.5 miles to the end at Clark's Point. The Fort Taber Park entrance is at the eastern edge of the park marked with a large sign.

Host Units;

13th Continental Regiment
Al Soucey asoucey@aol.com

United Train of Artillery
John Taber captuta@verizon.net

Winston Stone
His Majesties Tenth Regiment of Foot

For more information about the fort or the museum:
www.forttaber.org/home.shtml



On the weekend of June 17-19 the community of Milford, NJ will be celebrating its centennial anniversary. In commemoration of that event the Milford Borough Historical Society, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, will be hosting a timeline encampment. The encampment will cover the 18th through 20th centuries and will involve static displays, living history activities, a parade, drills, and skirmishing.

In addition to the camp and parade, there will be a 19th century baseball game between two community teams, fireworks, family activities, block parties, a dance, speeches by politicians, and exhibits. The event is free of charge and an online registration form is located on the historical society's website at <http://www.milfordnjhistory.org/Centennial-Reenactment-Camp.html>.

Thank you,
Andrew P. Huzar
President
Milford Borough Historical Society

MT HARMON PLANTATION,

EARLEVILLE, MD » OCTOBER 23-24, 2010



Online registration and directions available at www.mountharmon.org



Mid Atlantic Sanctioned event

Hosted by the First New Jersey Regiment and the Royal Marines.

POC: Tom Vogeley, First New Jersey Regt.
TVoageley@Juno.com

Site of a CL/BB event in Sept. 2011

This gorgeous site is at the northern end of Maryland's Eastern Shore and is easily accessible from I-95 or from Rte 301 if coming up the Delmarva Peninsula.

Mount Harmon Plantation is the northern most colonial plantation open to the public in the region, and is a historic and scenic treasure. Surrounded by water on three sides, Mount Harmon's history is deeply connected with its waterfront location at the head of the Chesapeake Bay. Mount Harmon Plantation flourished in the 18th century as a tobacco plantation and port of trade in the evolving settlements of the upper Chesapeake. Mount Harmon is restored to its period of significance during the late 18th century and early 19th centuries, and provides visitors with a rare glimpse into the lifestyle and culture of a waterfront colonial plantation.

Mark your calendars for October 23 & 24 - Mount Harmon is hosting a full-scale Revolutionary War Re-enactment & Colonial Festival featuring over 200 re-enactors and an array of colonial craft vendors and activities for our members and the public to enjoy.

Each day will feature military skirmishes, tactical demonstrations and drills, colonial crafts, food vendors, and of course a full-fledged Revolutionary War Encampment of both British and "Rebels" (the good guys, continental and militia groups) will be at hand.

Southern units are encouraged to participate.

Mid-Atlantic Department

July 9-11	Raid on Wyoming, Moon Lake County Park
July 17-18	Stony Point, Stony Point, NY
July 31- Aug 1	Fort George, Niagara-on-the lake Ontario, Canada
Aug 28-29	Battle of Newtown, Elmira, NY
Sept 25-26	Brandywine Creek State Park Near Wilmington, Del.
Oct 2	Battle of Germantown, Philadelphia, PA
Oct 17	Fort Mercer, Red Bank, NJ
Oct 23-24	Mount Harmon Plantation, Earleville, Md.
Nov 6-7	Hope Lodge, Whitmarsh, PA
Nov 13-14	Fort Mifflin, Philadelphia, PA
Dec ?	Battles of Trenton, Trenton, NJ

THE BATTLE OF HUCK'S DEFEAT

HISTORIC BRATTONSVILLE, MCCONNELLS SC » JULY 10-11 2010



Historic Brattonsville is a 775-acre Revolutionary War living history site. Explore the Bratton Plantation, owned and lived on for three generations by the wealthy Bratton family. Experience a reenactment of the Battle of Huck's Defeat, which took place on the grounds of Brattonsville 225 years ago. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the site features more than 30 historic structures open to the public. These "house museums" chronicle the development of the Carolina Piedmont from the 1750s through the 1840s.

The battle of Williamson's Plantation, also called Huck's Defeat, took place within this small community. Captain Christian Huck, a Philadelphia Loyalist, came south as a part of Tarleton's legion. He commanded a cavalry unit of about 100 Loyalists¹ and was given marching orders to "push the rebels as far as you deem convenient."

On his list of "rebels" to "push," was Colonel William Bratton. Huck and his cavalry arrived at Bratton's home on July 11, 1780. After attempting to gain the captain's whereabouts from his wife Martha, Huck

set-up camp just west of Bratton's home at Williamson's Plantation.



Martha sent word to her husband's camp and at dawn

on July 12th, Colonels William Bratton, Andrew Neel, William Hill and Edward Lacey and a force of about 100 men surrounded Huck's camp and ambushed the waking Loyalists early in the morning at reveille. Huck attempted to rally his men but was killed almost immediately with a wound to the head. After the smoke cleared, only about two dozen of the Loyalists managed to escape the ambush. On the American side, there was only one Patriot death.

Along with the battles, historic Brattonsville normally provides a BBQ dinner on Saturday night, and a live band to help with the merriment of Saturday evening.

Address: 1444 Brattonsville Road
McConnells, SC 29726

www.chmuseums.org/brattonsville/

Southern Department

Jul 10-11	Battle of Huck's Defeat, Brattonsville, McConnells, SC
Aug 7-8	Battle of House in the Horseshoe, Alton House, NC
Oct 2-3	Walnut Grove Plantation, Roebuck SC
Oct 9-10	Prelude to Victory, Colonial Williamsburg, VA
Nov 6-7	Battle of Camden, Camden SC
Dec 4-5	Grand Illumination and British Night watch St. Augustine, FL

HOUSE IN THE HORSESHOE

SANFORD, NC » AUGUST 7-8, 2010



The House in the Horseshoe was then the home of Whig colonel Philip Alston. On the morning of July 29, 1781, while Alston and his band of revolutionaries were camped at the home, they were attacked by a larger unit of Tories, whose leader was the notorious David Fanning. During the ensuing skirmish, Fanning's forces attempted to light the house on fire by rolling against it a cart filled with burning straw. After several casualties on both sides, Alston surrendered. The house was left riddled with bullet holes, many of which can still be seen today.



The event will have the Patriots defending the house against the determined assault by Fanning's Loyalist Militia.

www.nchistoricsites.org/horsesho/horsesho.htm

EVENTS OF INTEREST

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

Warner Hall in Gloucester County Virginia (site of the Battle of the Hook) hosted the 7th Virginia to a day of battles (and evening of dancing) during the Memorial Day weekend. The owners of the site offered the possibility of hosting a modest sized event (in the range of 200 reenactors) next year. Their offer provides the Southern department with an opportunity to hold a regional event next Memorial Day weekend. The question is, besides the 7th Virginia, are there other Southern department units interested in returning to Warner Hall for an event next May.

LOGISTICS AND THE CONTINENTAL ARMY

by Joe Wagner

Logistics: “. . . the branch of military science dealing with the procurement, maintenance, and movement of equipment, supplies, and personnel.”

PART ONE – THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL

The Continental winter camp at Valley Forge in 1777-78 is the stuff of legend. A pitiable, cold, starving army in rags perseveres through all hardship to emerge in the spring ready to fight and win. Skeptics will point out that it really wasn't all that tough a winter from a meteorological point of view; the succeeding winter at Morristown, NJ was far more intense. But for the men who were there, it was a time of real hardship. More than the cold, the lack of clothing, food, fuel, and every necessity of life were made more bitter by the knowledge that the British were only a few miles away in the warmth and comfort of their late capitol, Philadelphia. Why the logistical failure at Valley Forge – why the inability of the Continentals to support themselves in the field?

With this article we start a four-part series in Dispatches on logistics of the Continental Army - - the planning and execution necessary to support an American army in

the field. It will give you information for your reenactment and interpretation of that world of 250 years ago. Easy enough to call up the militia, appoint the generals and colonels, and plan a campaign. But who brings the ammo and the flints? Where are the tents and kitchen gear? Who collects the food? Where are the wagons and carts to carry everything? Where do the horses and oxen come from to pull the wagons – and who feeds those? How does an army stay in one place for months and not suck dry the surrounding countryside? Or how does it move twenty miles, or two hundred, and expect to find everything it needs along the way and at the other end? And how did a collection of colonies with no experience or logistics structure instantaneously create the people and processes necessary to do all of these things and a million more?

The coming installments on Logistics are:

- Part I. The Quartermaster General
- Part II. Transport and Forage
- Part III. Subsistence and Clothing
- Part IV. Ordinance

THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL

It's to the credit of the Continental Congress that within weeks of the April 1775 deployment of an American militia army at Boston, they authorized creation of the necessary staff offices to provide for the Army's needs. Even before Washington arrived to take command, in June and July 1775 Congress authorized appointment of a Quartermaster General (actually with the rank of Colonel), and a Commissary General of Stores and Provisions. They later added a Hospital Department, Commissary of Military Stores (Ordinance), and a Clothier General. It was left to the new Commander the task of actually filling these positions, and those of other specialists who would

work under them. We'll begin in this issue with what the Continental Congress and the army began with – the first essential ingredients of army logistics – a Quartermaster General (QMG).

Washington filled this most important logistical position in August 1775 with appointment of Major Thomas Mifflin, a 31-year-old Philadelphia merchant then serving as one of his aides. Mifflin's tenure represents the first of three QMG phases in the history of the Continental Army.

THE MIFFLIN ERA: AUGUST 1775 – OCTOBER 1777

Exactly what did a QMG do? The definition in the 18th century was essentially that of Chief of Staff, responsible for almost every aspect of the army's existence. The following list is indicative of the job as Mifflin developed it in 1775. Later QMGs split the duties into lesser departments and subordinate offices. But in the beginning, when the army was stationary and closely grouped around Boston, Mifflin oversaw everything

The scope of the QMG included gathering intelligence on enemy movements and plans; planning troop marches and deployments; distribution of movement and supply orders; opening and repair of roads; provision for water transport – bridges or boats; laying out of the camp and its defenses; the procurement of camp equipment, tents, lumber, etc; provision of firewood; procurement of horses, oxen, pack animals, and their forage; provision and maintenance of transport wagons, carts, packing cases and leather gear; and over all, providing the commander with a staff director to coordinate any and all other activities.

It's important here to note the several large areas of responsibility not under his jurisdiction. One was Ordinance. Duties of the QMG applied only to supporting the needs of the troops of the line. The QMG did not play in the business of artillery, munitions, and related services. That job was under the control of the Commissary of Military Stores, who would report to the Chief of Artillery. We'll discuss him in Part IV of this series. Another piece missing from the QMG's pie was personnel management. He did not take care of the individual troops in terms of enlistments, promotions, pay, discipline, etc. That role belonged to the Adjutant General.

When Congress authorized a QMG for the main army at Boston, it also shortly established a policy to designate deputy QMGs to serve in expected geographical depart-



ments (northern, central, and southern) and assistant QMGs to serve with any other armies fielded besides the main forces under Washington. As things developed, the QMG structure included deputies appointed for a northern department (New England and Canada), and the states of the southern department (Virginia, Carolinas, Georgia). Other assistant QMGs were established with specific forces, such as Gates' northern army and Greene's southern army, when those came into existence. Later, each army brigade would designate a QMG to provide for the battalions of

that unit. Needless to say, the potential for overlapping and disconnected exercise of responsibilities was inevitable, since there were both geographic and unit - based QMGs working in the same locations to service the same forces.

At Boston, Mifflin set up three field offices to provide logistics services to the army. Since the army was in static positions, many of the functions related to troop movement were not required, yet. To provide QM support to the 17,000-man army, Mifflin's immediate organization was staffed by a total of 28 officers, enlisted men, and civilians. We can understand their tasks by reading their titles. These included clerks of accounts, camp equipment clerks, (fire) woodsmen, lumberyard supervisors, smiths, armorers, nailers, carpenters, wagon masters, and barrack masters. In addition, Mifflin utilized various merchants in the area of Boston to serve as his purchasing agents for every kind of good needed. They received a commission of 2% for everything delivered to the army. While this staff organized and managed the logistical support efforts, there were obviously innumerable workers among the troops and hired civilians who aided in accomplishing the many tasks of supply.

As the war moved from Boston to New York, and then to the Jerseys, Mifflin and his staff moved with them. He briefly was nominated for a field command, to be replaced by Stephen Moylan – a shipping merchant. But he had done such a good job that members of Congress and Washington himself prevailed upon Mifflin to stay

with the QMG assignment. During 1776 – 77 Philadelphia became the center of Mifflin's efforts to collect and distribute supplies and equipment to the army. It also became the focus of his efforts to further develop his organization. He lobbied Congress, and with Washington's support, it enacted legislation for several new offices reporting to the QMG. Congress created the Forage and Wagon departments, and authorized Mifflin to select a Deputy and other assistants to lead the subordinate offices. From the end of 1776, Mifflin spent little actual time in the field with the army. He appointed his Deputy, Col. Henry Lutterloh, as the commanding officer in the field for the QM organization.

No complete organizational plan or unit return for the QMG survives from this period, but fragmentary evidence shows a fairly well developed operation for supporting Continental forces, both with the main army and elsewhere. The concept was to develop a widespread web of purchasing agents responsible for obtaining supplies from across the colonies, particularly in the better-developed and prosperous areas, such as the counties just west of Philadelphia. These supplies and equipment would be transported by the QM department via roads or water to the operating location(s) of the army, or to any other designated point, such as the selected location of the coming winter's camp. Of course, a flow of supplies required a continuing flow of funds from Congress or the colonies. Mifflin maintained a small office with a Colonel and four assistants in Philadelphia, to deal with Congress, handle correspondence with the field, and to coordinate supply collections and deliveries in the capital. There were deputy QMG offices in Albany (Northern Department), Boston (Eastern Department), Fishkill, NY (Washington's army), and Williamsburg, VA (Southern Department). Also, assistant deputies QMGs were located in areas where Mifflin had established supply sources, mostly in the counties around Philadelphia. These included Easton, Reading, Carlisle, and Lancaster, plus Wilmington, DE.

Mifflin had created a pipeline process whereby funds from Congress were sent to the QMG agents around the colonies, who bought supplies and equipment from local merchants and artificers, and then had them transported

to the QMG organization at the army's current or future location. The geographically located QMGs and the subordinate agents would work at either end of the process, serving as supply sources for materials and products originating in their own areas, and then forwarding them to the needed location. If the army was to be in their area of responsibility, they would serve as the receiving agent to accept the supplies flowing from more distant locations.

The financing for this system came directly from Congress. While they might get by with not paying the troops for months or years, the delivery of food, tents, and transport required the funds necessary for immediate payment. The patriotism of most merchants and traders of the colonies did not extend to bankrupting themselves to supply the army's needs. In the beginning, funding and in-kind supplies provided by the colonies to Congress did a reasonable job of meeting the needs of the army, and Mifflin did a creditable job of supplying the army through the campaign of 1777. We will see what he and his successors accomplished in more detail in the next three parts of this series.

But Mifflin was not an enthusiastic QMG. He had always wanted a field command (and a Generalship), and had never felt dedicated to the task of supply manager. With the British capture of Philadelphia in the fall of 1777, Congress fled to York, PA, and Mifflin, his organization disrupted, fled to Reading Pennsylvania. There he was overtaken by a deep depression. He pleaded with Congressional friends to allow him to quit the job of QMG and gain a field command. Thus began the events that would make the winter of 1777-78 at Valley Forge among the darkest hours for the American army.

Mifflin told Congress he was resigning as QMG, field command or no. In November 1777, Congress accepted his resignation, but asked Mifflin to continue in service until a successor was appointed. Washington was informed of this development, and the Deputy QMG, Lutterlow, was to continue to provide support in the field. But Mifflin refused to continue as acting QMG. He completely abandoned his post, telling Congress, but not informing Washington or Colonel Lutterlow.

It would take Congress four months to select the next QMG, and in the interim, there was no one in charge of the supply process that should have been preparing for the winter camp of 1777-78. For several months, as far as can be determined now, Washington thought Mifflin was still working to prepare the winter camp. By the time Washington and Lutterlow found out that Mifflin was gone, it was too late. Lutterlow, in the field with Washington, did not have Mifflin's contacts or access to funds to prepare a supply buildup at the winter camp.

Washington had no one to turn to for coordination of purchases, collection, and transport from distant points to his winter quarters. Congress, and most of its staff, were scattered around western Pennsylvania. The result – when the army moved in to the Valley Forge encampment, there were no supplies, no transport, no forage for animals, and no planning or arrangements of any kind for logistical needs in the months ahead. It was not until March 1778 that a committee from Congress, visiting the camp, and appalled at conditions, begged General Nathaniel Greene to accept the post of QMG. Greene, a brilliant field commander, took the job for only one reason. Washington joined Congress in begging him to assume the post, and Greene accepted out of his personal loyalty and devotion to Washington. And so a second unwilling officer is drafted as QMG.

THE GREENE ERA: MARCH 1778 – AUGUST 1780

Major General Nathaniel Green assumed his duties in March 1778. Member of a prosperous manufacturing family from Rhode Island, he was knowledgeable in the needs of funding, purchasing, and other supply concepts. He immediately renewed and expanded the staff and operating concepts of Mifflin. Unlike Mifflin, Greene stayed with Washington in the field. He established a quartermaster representative with each brigade of the army, and selected a staff of his own consisting of a deputy,



a wagon master, a commissary general, and auditor of accounts, and various clerks. He assigned one of his immediate assistants, Charles Petit, to establish an office in Philadelphia once the city was liberated, and assigned another, John Cox, as his traveling agent for purchases and inspector of stores. He did not change the concept of assistant QMGs in the geographic departments, nor the use of deputies serving as agents for procurement in the counties of Pennsylvania and other areas. In fact, the organization grew to such size that Congress and Greene's critics soon accused him of creating an empire. If there was one thing Greene could do, it was build the bureaucracy!

The reports to Congress of these excesses provide the kind of interesting details that otherwise would not be available for us two hundred plus years later. In Philadelphia alone, Greene had a deputy, John Mitchell, who employed a bookkeeper, a cashkeeper, several messengers and clerks, three porters, an assistant for boats, who in turn employed the masters, mates, and complete crews for three schooners, a wagon master general and six wagon masters, a superintendent of wood and boards, superintendent of barracks, superintendent of stables, plus 25 or so other employees such as wheelwrights, hostlers, and conductors. (We find out what a conductor does in Part II.) Greene also grew the organization at the state level. Along with the department QMGs, he developed deputies and assistants in the various states, each with their own staffs numbering, on average, about 30 to 40 individuals. By 1780, the grand total, as best

we can determine now, amounted to the QMG (Green), two assistant QMGs, 28 deputy QMGs, 109 assistant deputy QMGs, and a total staff in all departments and functions of over 3,000. This, at a time when the army, on average, numbered 10,000, and never exceeded about 24,000. It's only fair to understand that this quantity of staff was spread over the entire geographic area of the country, and their job was to gather the products and resources of the colonies and get them to the armies wherever

needed. Nonetheless, it appears a lot of empire building was going on.

At a time when the QMG was growing, its ability to provide for the army was rapidly diminished, through no fault of its own. Although supplying the army's needs for the campaign of 1778 was accomplished, and Washington was satisfied with Greene's performance, the financial situation for Congress was reaching a crisis. Having run out of funds backed by hard currency, the Congress and the states were beginning to rely exclusively on paper specie, backed only by the promises of the government. The inevitable result was hyperinflation and the finances of the QMG were soon "not worth a Continental".

"The cloud thickens, and the prospects are daily growing darker. There is now no hope of cash. The agents are loaded with heavy debts, and perplexed with half-finished contracts, and the people clamorous of their pay, refusing to proceed in the public business unless their present demands are discharged. The constant run of expenses, incident to the department, presses hard for further credit, or immediate supplies of money. To extend one is impossible; to obtain the other, we have not the least prospect. I see nothing, therefore, but a general check, if not an absolute stop, to the progress of every branch of business in the whole department. It is folly to expect that this expensive department can be long supported on credit."

Letter: Greene to Washington, December 1780

The combination of bloated staff combined with the ballooning budget requirements, brought unwelcome attention from Congress to Greene and his operations. He had successfully completed logistical support for the campaign of 1779. But Congressional investigation of the size of his staff, accusations of excessive commissions being earned by his agents, and the financial crisis caused by the worthless currency and credit of the colonies, brought an end for Greene as the QMG. Congress addressed both of the perceived problems – staff size and financial failure. They told Greene to reduce his staff and change the way his agents were paid. To reduce the costs of the department, they also took away two of the major QM responsibilities – provision of forage,

and provision of transport. These were handed over to the individual colonies, to be apportioned among them based on the forces located within their territory. With this wholesale destruction of his organization, Greene did what Congress fully expected – he resigned August 5th, 1780. Fortunately, there was no major campaign by the main army in the summer of 1780, and the departure of Greene, with a two month delay until his replacement arrived, did not cause Washington a hardship.

THE PICKERING ERA: OCTOBER 1780 – JULY 1785

Colonel Timothy Pickering was a lawyer and politician from Massachusetts, who was serving as the Adjutant General, and also as a member of the Continental Congress's Board of War. He was one of those very critical of Greene's management of the QMG, and he was also not enthusiastic to find himself placed in the same position, facing the same problems. But he began with acceptance of the political climate, which called for downsizing and frugality. He reduced the number of deputies and assistants, for example combining the Pennsylvania organization's 7 or 8 assistants down to a single deputy.



Pickering found the conduct of Quartermaster business handicapped by the lack of credit and the effects of a depreciated currency. Fully aware of these difficulties at the time of his appointment, he proposed the use of "specie certificates," which called for payment in specie at a given date for all articles or services purchased on credit. In effect, he sought credit from suppliers, but credit which could be circulated. If payment was delayed, such certificates were to bear an interest rate of 6 per cent a year until paid. Congress authorized their use; thereby enabling Pickering to obtain a few more supplies than would otherwise have been possible.

Often Pickering would have to fall back on a last and most desperate measure to supply the army – an impressment warrant. Whenever the need for supplies or material reached a critical point, and the finances were lacking, the QMG would go to Washington and request a warrant for the impressment – seizure – of the needed items from the surrounding countryside. This tactic was employed more and more often as the war continued, and the finances of the Congress and colonies became more desperate. Throughout the war, however, Pickering continued to be so plagued by the lack of funds that he wrote Congress: “If any other man can, without money, carry on the extensive business of this department, I wish most sincerely he would take my place. I confess myself incapable of doing it.”

Harassed by lack of funds and scarcity of supplies, Pickering nevertheless, in consultation with Washington and acting in the double capacity of consulting member of the Board of War and Quartermaster General of the Army, achieved one of the greatest logistical accomplishments of the war. He provided for the successful transportation, mostly by water, of the entire American and

French force from the Hudson in New York to the James River in Virginia for the siege of Yorktown and the capture of Cornwallis. We’ll learn more of this feat in the next installment of this series - “Transport and Forage”.

After Yorktown, Pickering continued to serve for the remainder of the war. For the most part, he was concerned with affecting various economies in the Quartermaster’s Department and attempting to settle his accounts as quickly as possible. He wrote Robert Morris that “until I accepted this cursed office, though necessity compelled me to live frugally, yet I had the satisfaction of keeping nearly clear of private debts,” that he was now much indebted. He wanted nothing more than a quick settlement of accounts and an opportunity to return to private life, where he might set about repairing the fortunes of his family. This settlement dragged on for many months after the war had ended, and Pickering did not relinquish his post until the Quartermaster’s Department was abolished on July 25, 1785.

Stay tuned for the next installment – Part II – Transport and Forage

CL MAIN EVENTS:

Fort George, Niagara-on-the lake, Ontario Canada.

July 31-August 1st.

www.fortgeorge2010.org/

Event Registration

A registration form will be posted soon to register for the event and must be received by July 30, 2010. Registering units must be members in good standing of either the British Brigade or Continental Line with proof of liability insurance coverage on record. Those with horses must submit proof of a current Coggins test with their registration for all horses brought to the event.

Onsite Registration

Registration will begin at 2PM Friday through 1AM, and reopen at 6AM Saturday morning through 10AM. Late arrivals will be asked to carry their belongings into the camps as a courtesy to those already set up and in anticipation of visitors arriving. Exceptions will be made for emergencies.

After Action Reports: None

Notes from the Northern Department

None Received

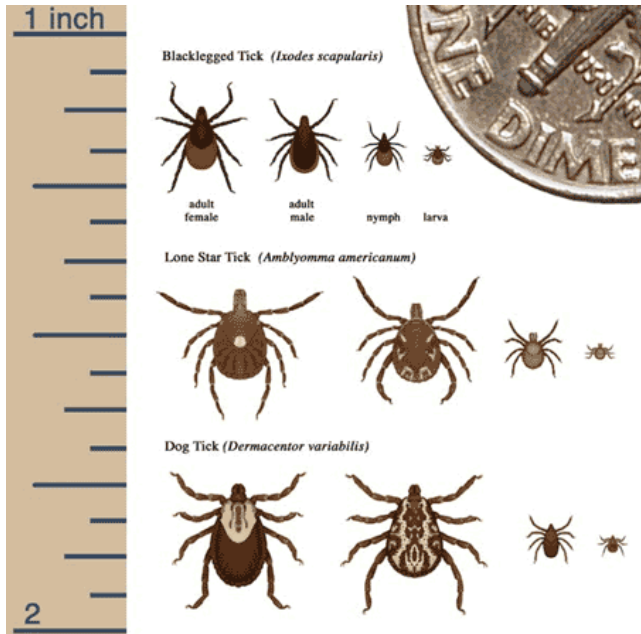
Notes from the Mid-Atlantic Department

None Received

Notes from the Southern Department

None Received

SAFETY NEWS: TICK SAFETY



The really warm part of reenacting season has arrived. Now is the time to prepare for everyone’s favorite concern in the hobby, ticks. As we head out to enjoy our hobby, the warm spring weather is also bringing out the pests that could hamper our hobby enjoyment.

We know that besides being uncomfortable, ticks also can spread disease, most commonly known diseases are Lyme Disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, and Southern Tick Associated Rash to name a few. An ounce of prevention can keep you from becoming one of the statistics.

Some species and some life stages of ticks are so small that they can be difficult to see, but all hungrily look for animals and people to bite. Depending on the species, you can find ticks in various environments, often in or near wooded areas. You may come into contact with ticks when walking through infested areas or by brushing up against infested vegetation (such as leaf litter or shrubs). Ticks also feed on mammals and birds, which play a role in maintaining ticks and the pathogens they carry.

Protect Yourself from Tick Bites:

Know where to expect ticks. Ticks live in moist and humid environments, particularly in or near wooded or grassy areas. You may come into contact with ticks during outdoor activities around your home or when walking through vegetation such as leaf litter or shrubs. Always walk in the center of trails, in order to avoid ticks.

Use a repellent with DEET (on skin or clothing) **or permethrin** (on clothing) and wear long sleeves, long pants and socks. Products containing permethrin can be used to treat boots, clothing and camping gear which can remain protective through several washings. Repellents containing 20% or more DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide) can be applied to the skin, and they can protect up to several hours. **Always follow product instructions!** Parents should apply this product to their children, avoiding the hands, eyes, and mouth.

Wear light-colored clothing, which allows you to see ticks crawling on your clothing.

Tuck your pant legs into your socks so that ticks cannot crawl up inside of your pant legs. Some ticks can crawl down into shoes and are small enough to crawl through most socks. When traveling in areas with lone star ticks (which are associated with Southern tick-associated rash illness, ehrlichiosis, and possibly Rocky Mountain spotted fever) you should examine your feet and ankles to ensure that ticks are not attached.

Perform Daily Tick Checks

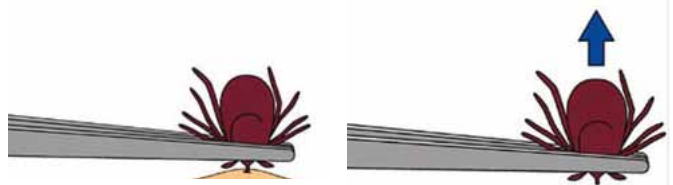
Check your body for ticks after being outdoors, even in your own yard. Conduct a body check upon return from potentially tick-infested areas by searching your entire body for ticks. Use a hand-held or full-length mirror to view all parts of your body and remove any tick you find. Check these parts of your body and your child's body for ticks:

- *Under the arms*
- *Inside belly button*
- *Under the arms*
- *Between the legs*
- *In and around the ears*
- *Back of the knees*
- *In and around the hair*
- *Around the waist*

Check your children for ticks, especially in the hair, when returning from potentially tick-infested areas. See the list above for the places on your child's body to check for ticks. Remove any tick you find on your child's body

To Remove Attached Ticks:

1. Use fine-tipped tweezers or notched tick extractor, and protect your fingers with a tissue, paper towel, or latex gloves (see figure). Persons should avoid removing ticks with bare hands.
2. Grasp the tick as close to the skin surface as possible and pull upward with steady, even pressure. Do not twist or jerk the tick; this may cause the mouthparts to break off and remain in the skin. (If this happens, remove mouthparts with tweezers. Consult your health care provider if illness occurs.)
3. After removing the tick, thoroughly disinfect the bite site and wash your hands with soap and water.



4. Do not squeeze, crush, or puncture the body of the tick because its fluids may contain infectious organisms. Skin accidentally exposed to tick fluids can be disinfected with iodine scrub, rubbing alcohol, or water containing detergents.
5. Save the tick for identification in case you become ill. This may help your doctor make an accurate diagnosis. Place the tick in a sealable plastic bag and put it in your freezer. Write the date of the bite on a piece of paper with a pencil and place it in the bag.

Folklore Remedies Don't Work!

Folklore remedies, such as the use of petroleum jelly or hot matches, do little to encourage a tick to detach from skin. In fact, they may make matters worse by irritating the tick and stimulating it to release additional saliva or regurgitate gut contents, increasing the chances of transmitting the pathogen. These methods of tick removal should be avoided
(Source: CDC)



The Continental Soldier Newsletter

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