

# MORNING REPORT

of Benjamin Whitcomb's Independent Corps of Rangers.

Being the ramblings of a Soldier who has smelled too much of Congress's Gunpowder  
and King George's Lackeys.

## APRIL, 2010

The renderings of this Instant include –

**CALENDAR: 24 Apr: Unit Meeting; Shrewsbury, VT.**

**PERSONNEL:** Some new addresses.

**CANADIAN INCURSION:** Some info on taking your firelock into Canada.

**VERMONT BRIGADE:** We have company for our opening weekend at Ti.

**CL:** New newsletters.

**READINGS & SEEINGS:** A couple of interesting things to peruse.

**RESEARCH:** A couple of odds 'n' ends bits 'n' pieces.

**RANGERS:** Notes on Eleazer Rosebrooks.

And MUCH, MUCH more! Well, at least much more.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2010

CL Northern Dept.

**8-9 May: Artillery School; Rebecca Nurse Homestead, Danvers, MA.** (United Train of Artillery)

A chance to learn how to work with artillery. Congressional units only.

**15-16 May: War in Schohary; Lansing Manor, Blenheim, NY.** (2<sup>d</sup> Albany & Corps of Select Marksmen)

**12-13 Jun: Little Farm; Newburyport, NH.** (1<sup>st</sup> NH)

**31 Jul-1 Aug: Ft. George; Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario.** (Cherry's Co. & Crop of Selected Marks)

CL national event. Website at <http://www.fortgeorge2010.org/>.

**15-17 Oct: Fight at Richardson's Tavern; Millis, MA.** (Danvers Alarm List)

CL National

**25-26 Sep: Philadelphia 1777 Campaign; Wilmington, DE.**

Details at <http://www.philadelphiacampaign.org>.

Other

**24 Apr: You-Nit Meeting; Monder's Mansion, Shrewsbury, VT.**

See below.

**22-25 Apr: Defense of San Juan; San Juan, Puerto Rico.**

**15-16 May: Colonial Plantation; Ridley Creek State Park, Media, PA.**

**21-23 May: Whitcomb's Rust-off and Vermont Brigade Training Weekend; Fort Ti.**

This is our annual opening weekend gathering at Ti but, this year, it is being expanded to include a bunch of other folks from other units. See note below.

**22 May: Battleroad Unlimited; Borderland Park, Easton, MA.**

Day of wargaming based on Lexington/Concord scenarios.

**29-30 May: Military Timeline; Plattsburgh, NY.**

**4-6 Jun: Mohawk Valley Maritime Heritage & Reenactment Weekend; Mohawk, NY.**  
**19-20 Jun: Battle of Monmouth; Monmouth, NJ.**  
 May be selected as a CL/BB national event.  
**19-20 Jun: Black Creek Pioneer Village; Toronto, Ontario.**  
**9-11 Jul: Hubbardton. (LHA) Possible hike?**  
**23-25 Jul: Mt. I. (LHA)**  
**6-8 Aug: Knox Mansion; Thomaston, ME. (LHA)**  
**7-8 Aug: Redcoats and Rebels; Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, MA.**  
**14-15 Aug: Ft. Ontario; Oswego, NY.**  
**13-15 Aug: Bennington Commemoration; Bennington, VT. (LHA)**  
**21-22 Aug: Rabble in Arms; LCMM.**  
**27-29 Aug: Newtown; Elmira, NY.**  
**11-12 Sep: Ti.**  
**18-19 Sep: Gelston Castle; near Herkimer, NY.**  
**2-3 Oct: Time Line; Lebanon, CT.**  
**2-3 Oct: Time Line; W. Dover, VT. (LHA)**  
**9-10 Oct: Ethan Allen Days; Bennington, VT. (LHA)**  
**8-10 Oct: Arnold Expedition to Quebec; Carry Ponds, Bingham, ME.**  
 A trek along the original route.  
**5-7 Nov: Putnam Park, CT.**  
**5-7 Nov: Whitmarsh Encampment; Hope Lodge, PA.**

**Next Year**

**?????: Gelston Castle.**  
 Looking to make it a large event.  
**mid-May: Freetown, NY.**  
 May become a Northern Dept. event.

**Next Next Year**

**28-30 Sep: Austerlitz, NY. (McCracken's Co. & 64<sup>th</sup> Regt.)**  
 Will be at least a Northern Dept. event

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## YOU-NIT MEETING

**24 April: Monder Mansion; 826 Lincoln Hill Rd., Shrewsbury, VT.**

**Directions:** From US Rt. 7 and points west, south of Rutland take VT Rt. 103 south for 3 miles. After a couple miles, you'll cross some tracks and start up a hill with a passing lane. You aren't there yet. About a quarter-mile past where the passing lane ends, you should see a road that bears left (not a 90-degree turn--more like a 30-degree turn and I believe there is an orange junction sign with "Lincoln Hill" on it before the turn). Follow that road (they are civilized in this part of Shrewsbury so the road is paved and even has dividing lines). After about three-quarters of a mile, you'll see Mitchell Rd. on your left. Don't take it. Maybe a tenth of a mile past Mitchell Rd. you'll see a driveway on your right. Turn in there 'cause you've gone too far. Not really--you have arrived at the entrance to Monder Mansion. Hopefully, Jeff or Pam will put out a little signage to mark the driveway.

From the east--say, from I-91--head north on VT Rt. 103. You should eventually pass through East Wallingford (junction with VT Rt. 140) and Cuttingsville (a bit past railroad overpass). About 2.5 miles past Cuttingsville will be the turn onto Lincoln Hill Rd. If it's an easy turn for someone heading south, you can guess it'll be a bear for you heading north. As above, I believe there is a junction sign with the road name on it and there is also a "Dangerous Intersection" sign. The intersection is pretty easy to see if you're looking for it. For the rest of the trip, follow the above directions.

**Schedule:** We'll start at 1:00 p.m. and go over event invites and ways to improve. Beyond that, there ain't no schedule. If you can't/won't attend but have some thoughts on events or think you have something to contribute, let Jim know.

The day will feature a "shared meal" with lasagna and garlic bread provided by the Monders in their kindest manner (Kool-Aid and Jim Jones come to mind). It would be nice if attendees brought something to go

along with those items. I'd suggest you contact the Monders with your chompies of choice just so's we don't end up with a bunch of bowls of salad. BYOB.

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## PERSONNEL

Sherman has a new electron-mail address: [srlohnes@gmail.com](mailto:srlohnes@gmail.com).

In like manner, Bernie Noble has a new one – e-mail address, that is: [actr600@gmavt](mailto:actr600@gmavt).

Cheryl Muzzy's 102-year-old grandmother died and Cheryl has had to get an apartment 'cause the family is going to sell the house. She has decided to sell her reenacting clothing and games and anyone interested can reach her at PO Box 1535A, Rutland, VT 05702; 802-855-8491; or [beautifulwaterfalls2@hotmail.com](mailto:beautifulwaterfalls2@hotmail.com).

Thanks to Jim for making the trip down to Bellows Falls to attend my Mother's funeral. Something done not as part of "the call of duty" but, rather, for friendship.

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## CANADIAN INCURSION

Being that we always have an invite or two in Canada, I thought it convenient to include some note on taking your firelock into said country. The following regarding said arms comes from the Canadian Border Services Agency website:

*Antique firearms are not considered firearms for licensing and registration purposes. Antique firearms include: any firearms manufactured before 1898 that are not originally designed or redesigned to discharge rim-fire or centre-fire ammunition; long guns manufactured in 1898 or later that are reproductions of flintlock, wheel-lock, or matchlock firearms; and firearms that are classified as antique by regulations.*

That means our firelocks are NOT FIREARMS. When they ask you at the crossing if you have any firearms, you can answer "No" and be legal. As an added protection, the organizers of the Canadian events will be putting out official notices with said info that you can present to any agent who happens to give you a hard time about your firelock.

As for pistols, don't even think about bringing 'em into Canada. It ain't worth the hassle.

Black powder can be imported in containers up to 500 grams (1.1 pounds) with a maximum total quantity of 8 kilograms (17.6 pounds).

One other note to preclude a hassle, register your firelock with US Customs. Actually, this should be done with anything of value you take into Canada--cameras, 'puters, jewelry, etc.. It is proof that you had it when you left the US and won't have to pay duties on it as a purchase out of country. All you need to is take it to a Customs office anywhere anytime and fill out the form. Takes about 10 minutes and is good forever. One and done.

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## VERMONT BRIGADE

For a brief period many years ago, there existed a grouping of Vermont units under the name of the Vermont Brigade. It never really took hold and faded into oblivion. Over the last year or so, a few of us from several units have kicked around the idea of forming together as a Vermont brigade for battle at some of the events where those units are all in attendance. The primary objective is to field an effective large force to counter the droves of Git ranger-types and savages. Presently, units included are Whitcomb's, Warner's Regt., Warner's Co. of Herrick's, and Lee's Co. On a decent weekend, that could amount to 40-50 muskets. If we all worked together, we could really be a dominant force. Individual units would retain their identity and command structure but the units would work much more closely together on the field than usual. For example, current thought is to use Whitcomb's and Lee's as point with Herrick's as immediate support and Warner's as the main body. The weekend of 21-22 May that normally would have been Whitcomb's first gathering of the year has been chosen to

serve as the first brigade weekend. As the time draws closer, a schedule will be put out but it will include some discussion sessions as well as field exercising.

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## CL

At the recent Line meeting, the board decided to attempt to re-vitalize the newsletter, *The Continental Soldier*. An editor has been found but the format and method(s) of distribution have yet to be determined.

In like manner, the Northern Dept. has decided to produce a quarterly newsletter. In like manner, an editor has stepped forward but we had a meeting a couple weeks ago to begin its development and, at least initially, it will go to unit commanders and contacts. It will be up to them to forward it to the members. In both rags, we will be looking for submissions including material from the ladies and, for the departmental one, membership news like births, marriages, etc. We are looking to have the first departmental one out in March.

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## READINGS & SEEINGS

Ian talked with a photographer at the last Sturbridge event and sent me a link to his website that also includes some short videos. Go to <http://santorophotos.smugmug.com/Other> and take a look for two collections of photos with the videos at the end of the second collection. The 8th video includes us engaging the King's Rangers.

There is an on-line magazine called *Common-Place* that covers our period and includes scholarly articles on an extremely wide variety of topics. It's free and can be read at <http://www.common-place.org/>.

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## RESEARCH

Here included are a couple bits and pieces of interesting material.

For a timeline history of the great killer, smallpox, visit <http://www.whatscookin.com/html/college-of-physicians-launches-smallpox-timeline/>.

*“... and he had got a Pair of country Boots to put on, which are Pieces of Cloth folded round the Leg and tied at the Knee and Ankle.”* [Thomas Anbury, *Travels though Interior Parts of America*, II, 53.]

In the questioning in Parliament of Earl of Balcarres about Saratoga:

Q. *Were not the riflemen, and other irregulars [that includes Whitcomb's], employed by the enemy at out-posts and on scouts, an overmatch for the Indian and provincial troops that were with the army at that time?*

A. *They were.* [John Burgoyne, *A State of the Expedition from Canada, as Laid Before the House of Commons*, 42]

In a sort or related item, Riedesel made an interesting comment about the shooting of Gordon in a letter to Duke Charles of Brunswick in which he wrote about how easily the enemy could sneak into the camps and it amazed him that, *the rebels could make this long march of forty leagues [120 miles] through deserts and dense woods, and carry, at the same time, rations for fifteen days on their backs.* [*Memoirs and Journals of Major General Riedesel During His Residence in America*, vol. 1, p. 244]

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## RANGERS

A couple things I found in *The Horatio Gates papers, 1726-1828*:

- 1) Gates to General Lincoln, 31 Aug.1777: *tomorrow at daylight Whitcomb & his Company shall March to Pitts Town to secure your advance to Camp.* [reel 5, image 355]
- B) George Measam to Gates, 3 Sept. 1777: *While I was closing this LetterI have received your order to Capt. Whitcomb for thirteen Blankets--They will be delivered.* [reel 5, image 435]

One of our latest recruits, Ian, has taken it upon himself to research Eleazer Rosebrooks. Why, you might ask? 'Cause they both have strong ties with the Lancaster, NH, area in the upper reaches of the Connecticut River valley. Over the last several months, Ian has been sending bits a pieces--actually, quite a few bits and pieces--of what he's been finding on Mr. Rosebrooks and I thought it time to share. We have quite a bit so it will be spread out over a couple issues of this rag.

Eleazer Rosebrooks, a 29-year-old enlisted out of NH's 12<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Militia from and for Lancaster, NH, on 8 November 1776 for the duration and spent his time as a sergeant. According to a couple of the Rangers, many missions had Rosebrooks as the leader so it would seem Whitcomb trusted him.

From *The History of Coos County*, we have the following:

*Captain Eleazer Rosebrook, a pioneer from Grafton, Mass, where he was born in 1747, with his wife, Hannah Hanes, a native of Brimfield, and one daughter, came into the upper Coos as far as Lancaster, where they stopped temporarily, until Mr. Rosebrook should find a place to settle. They moved into the woods up the Connecticut River to Monadnock, now Colebrook, nearly thirty miles from any inhabitant, with no guide to his cabin excepting blazed trees. During the War of the Revolution, in 1778, he moved to Guildhall, Vt., in order to have his family in the neighborhood of settlements while he was absent performing military duty on the frontier - not in the regular army, but in the more hazardous and arduous service of scout and ranger. Mrs. Rosebrook was a courageous woman. The Indians were troublesome at times (after having made free use of "fire-water"), yet when visited by them in her husband's absence, she drove them all from the house, except one squaw who was unable to move, and she dragged her out. Mr. Rosebrook resided in Guildhall fourteen years, was one of the most active and useful citizens, and took a prominent part in the town affairs. In 1792 he sold his beautiful Connecticut river farm, and in the winter went into the wilderness to Nash and Sawyer's Location. Here he soon built a large two-story house, at the base of what was known as the "Giant's Grave," occupying nearly the same site as the Fabyan House, and in 1803 opened the first house for summer visitors in the White Mountains. He was a man of great energy and enterprise; he erected a saw and grist-mill, large barns, stables and sheds. Just as he had got his estate in good condition, and was about to enjoy the comforts acquired by his laborious life, a cancer broke out on his lip, and after patiently bearing his intense suffering for a few years, he died, September 27, 1817.*

And, from *A History of Guildhall, VT*, comes this:

*Capt. Rosebrook was one of the early settlers, locating in 1778, and first resided on the meadow of the John P. Dennison farm, and afterwards lived on what has since been known as the James Perkins farm. During the latter part of the Revolutionary War, he was a scout and ranger. At one time he, with a party, went into Canada on a reconnoitering expedition; but they were suspected of being spies, and upon learning this fact they at once vacated. They were closely followed and obliged to resort to means to deceive their pursuers. Coming to a stream near the head waters of the Connecticut, they built a brisk fire, and then extinguished it with water, then stepped into the stream and followed it for a mile or so, and by so doing left no traces by which the Canadians could follow them, also making it appear as though they had been gone some time. The enemy concluded upon reaching this spot that it was useless to continue the chase and so returned. "Capt. Eleazer Rosebrook made the first settlement at the site of Fabyan House in 1792. He opened there in 1803 the first house for summer visitors ever kept in the White Mountains. His son-in-law, Abel Crawford, long known as the "Patriarch of the Mountains," settled at Bemis Station in 1793. The latter's son, Ethan Allen Crawford, the most famous of the mountain pioneers, took Rosebrook's house in 1817. In 1819 he opened the first foot-path up Mount Washington. His brother, Thomas J. Crawford, opened the first bridlepath to the summit in 1840, and his father, then 75 years old rode the first horse that ever climbed the mountain."*

Ian has also located the graves of Eliezer and Hannah near Bretton Woods, NH, and has forwarded photos of 'em. Eliezer's has the following verse on it:

When I lie buried deep in dust  
My flesh shall be thy care  
These withring limbs with these I trust  
To raise them strong and fair

Hannah's features:

Blessed are the dead who die in  
the Lord for they rest from their  
labours and their works do follow.

A few other folks have done some research on original Rangers. If you're interested in a particular man or just in doing some research, lemme know and I'll help you get started.

Michael Barbieri  
662 Creek Rd.  
Wallingford, Republic  
of Vermont 05773



*Benjamin Whitcomb's Independent  
Corps of Rangers*

A non-profit corporation established in 1975 to re-create the life  
style of the Rangers in the War of Independence, 1776-1781.