

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.

MAY, 2010

The renderings of this Instant include –

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

THE CAMP: Some discussion at the last meeting.

DUE DUES: Yup, it's that time – actually, past it.

RANGER MANUAL: Asking for a donation.

MANUAL FOR THE MOUTH: Meals at events – organized guidelines.

SITE SIGHTINGS: Doings at Ti (see Calendar), Crown Point, and #4.

RANGERS: Original Rangers showing off for Gates.

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

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

At the April meeting, we voted to support the following events:

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

We will be joined this year by Hopkin's Co., Warner's; and 4th Co., Herrick's, to begin work on the operations of the Vermont Brigade which will primarily involve the units working together as an advance corps at a couple events each year. In addition to the drilling and discussion, the fort has asked us to do a demo in the fort at Noon and a firing demo at 12:45 each day – the least we can do for the use of the site.

Fri. p.m. arrival is fine and the back gate will be left unlocked for us. Be sure to close it – but don't lock it – after you come through. We will be camping in the usual area and wood and fire plates are in their usual spots. The terlets outside the Log House will be open for us. This is also the weekend for the F&I War Seminar so expect some folks to talk to you with a bit more knowledge than usual. The fort also has a new director, Beth Hill – formerly at Ft. Dobbs in NC and, as I understand it, a Frog & Feather War reenactor--and she may be around for a brief moment or two. Let's give her a reason to like us, eh?

The fort opens at 9:30 a.m. so I would suggest we be ready to go by 9:00. I am assuming the new meal plan (see below) will be in effect for the weekend and we will need to set up wood and water calls.

12-13 Jun: Little Farm; Newbury, MA. (Northern Dept.)

19-20 Jun: Black Creek Pioneer Village; Toronto, Ontario.

9-11 Jul: Hubbardton. (LHA) Possible hike?

23-25 Jul: Mt. I. (LHA)

31 Jul-1 Aug: Ft. George; Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. (CL national event. Website at

<http://www.fortgeorge2010.org/>.)

7-8 Aug: Redcoats and Rebels; Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, MA.

21-22 Aug: Rabble in Arms; LCMM.

27-29 Aug: Newtown; Elmira, NY.

11-12 Sep: Ti.

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

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

8-10 Oct: Arnold Expedition to Quebec; Carry Ponds, Bingham, ME.

A trek along the original route.

15-17 Oct: Fight at Richardson’s Tavern; Millis, MA. (Northern Dept.)

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THE CAMP

We had some discussion at the recent meeting concerning our camp’s appearance. Folks agreed that it is looking pretty good of late and we want to make sure that continues. Some conversation took place about policing our area with a result that we decided to continue the practice of peer pressure and relying on folks to take care of their own messes and inappropriate items. Should something remain in view that shouldn’t, and it is not dealt with in a timely manner by the owner, then one of the officers will deal with it. Be aware that if it looks to be drinkable and contains alcohol, Steve will imbibe it and, if it’s edible, Jim will ed it.

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PERSONNEL

I had a “Duh!” moment last issue when I thanked Jim for coming down to my Mother’s services. Not that Jim didn’t come – he most certainly did – but I forgot to thank Mike and Ginny Repsher for being there as well. I guess I didn’t think of them ‘cause Joyce, Marissa, and I look on them as more like family.

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DUE DUES

Here ‘tis again – time for dues. Send your \$15 made out to the unit to Maria Beuerlein, 30 Abercrombie St., Ticonderoga, NY 12883. If you are interested in the BAR, send another \$25 made out to the unit (the unit will send one check) with a BAR membership form (available on the BAR website). Both amounts are due by 30 May.

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MANUAL

Yes, the *Ranger Manual* is now available and some already have theirs but I can’t find my list of those people so lemme know if you need one and you can pick it up at an event unless you live in some God-forsaken place like Texas, England, or Hawaii – those will be sent to you unless you announce intentions to visit this department.

At the April You-Nit meeting, the attendees decided to ask for a donation of \$10 when you get your new *Manual* to help defray the printing and binding costs.

There are a couple addendums that will be coming your way in a bit. One deals with the meals policy at events and the other is a section on clothing for children. The latter could come in handy for some on the occasional evening when our usual “stream of unconsciousness” conversations get rolling.

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MANUAL FOR THE MOUTH

As mentioned above, we now have a meals policy in something of a formal format. Among many other things, it says that Saturday’s nooning (lunch, for the unknowing) and dinner will cost you \$10 for the two unless you’re a child (physically, not mentally – or a child who eats like an adult; i.e. Dashiell) in which case it’s \$5. For other meals, your on your own, son but folks often bring breakfasty kinds of things to share in the mornings. Most times, there are sufficient goodies for Sunday food and, in that instance, you get more for your money but don’t plan on it happening. When you bring some goodies to share – food for meals, not evening potables – be sure to

let Maria, Sharon, Pam, and anyone else cooking what you brung so they can plan for its use. I'm leaving the other contents of the policy for the official addendum.

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SITE SIGHTINGS

I've already mentioned the new director at Ti. Here're a couple other happenings. Many years ago, some of us formed a friends group for the Crown Point State Historic Site but, after a few years, it faded into oblivion. This past winter, a group of folks decided to revitalize the organization and, indeed, it is now taking off. This being the 100th anniversary of the site, there are high hopes of organizing some high-quality relevant activities. There have been a couple meetings, officers have been selected, a basic dues structure has been developed, and there is even the beginnings of a newsletter. John Freilich (Bridport, VT) is pres., Jeff Kauffman, Sr., (Addison, VT) is v-pres., James Ross (Middlebury, VT – yes, our frequent target) is secretary, and Eileen Klymn (Claremont, NH) is treas. Membership levels are \$10 student, senior (62+), and veteran; \$15 individual; \$25 household; and \$50 business. Joinees should make a check out to "Friends of Crown Point St. Hist. Site" and send it to Eileen at 26 Kenyon St., Claremont, NY 03743. Next meeting will be at the site at 10:00 a.m., Sat., 15 May and all are invited.

You might also be interested to know that #4 has a new board of directors and they are working vigorously to put that site back in operation. It might also interest you to know that Nick Westbrook (of Ti fame) is now on the board which bodes well for the site. Nick has been a strong proponent of reenactors and the board also features an active reenactor, Jeff Kibbe, whom some of you may remember fell in with us at the Saratoga event some time back. Jeff is also a member of Olive Branch Lodge #64, the Masonic lodge in Chester, VT, and that lodge is heavily involved in revitalizing the site. Talks about the involvement of the Masonic lodge in Charlestown are also in progress. Maybe they want to turn it into a stone fort – nah. Beyond just an interest in preserving a valuable historic site, the Masons have a direct historic connection with Charlestown, NH. In 1781, the first Masonic Lodge in Vermont received its charter there (many of the NH towns in the Connecticut River valley joined the Republic of Vermont for a short span). I hope all goes well with their efforts. Some of the best events I can remember happened at #4 – particularly the Line event there some years back.

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RANGERS

One of the original Rangers by the name of Jonathan Sanders transferred from Samuel Young's Co., Bedel's Regt. (Whitcomb's old co.), to Aldrich's Co. in Whitcomb's in February, 1777, and served until 1780 as a serjeant when he hired a replacement. In a supporting letter for another Ranger's – John Martin – pension application, Sanders comments,

I remember that a short time before Genl. Burgoyne was taken Genl. Gates sent me to go and find out the Situation of the enemy and Said I might take one man with me any man I Chos and I took said John Martin with me and made the Discovery the Genl wanted but the Indians Discovered us but we Discovered them first and run in the Wood, til we came to a steep ledge and we Jumped Down the ledge and hid under a Rock and the Indians Could not find us and we made a safe return to Genl Gates.

While perusing the *Gates' Papers* the other day, I came across the following in a letter from Gates to General Benjamin Lincoln dated 15 Sept.:

Report of a Scout on which you may depend. The reconnoitering party of two Men which I sent out in the Morning got so near to Saratoga, as to discover a considerable of an Encampment up Fish Creek, by one Jon^a. James, 3 Miles from the Mills, but being surprised with a Party of twelve Men, they retired to the main Body undiscovered.

Do not assume this little scout involved moving a few hundred yards towards the enemy. It involved moving 9 or 10 miles, one way, through country that, for all Sanders and Martin knew, could be swarming with Burgoyne's Indians. Still, I guess that must have seemed like nothing compared to going 100 miles into Canada.

Anyways, a week earlier, the American army under Gates had moved from Half Moon to Stillwater and, just a couple days earlier, to Bemis Heights and did not know just where the Brits had set camp and what Burgoyne planned to do. Based on what Sanders and Martin reported, Gates determined that Burgoyne's full force had crossed the Hudson and, therefore, planned to push on to Albany. Interesting that out of his whole army, Gates chose a couple of Whitcomb's Rangers to go out on a critical scout.

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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.