

# NWTA Courier

P U B L I C A T I O N   O F  
T H E   N O R T H W E S T   T E R R I T O R Y   A L L I A N C E

## NWTA Scholarship

**The NWTA is pleased once again to announce that scholarships will be available for NWTA college students. Two awards in the amount of \$400 each will be available.**

- The application for the NWTA scholarship will be available on the NWTA web site as a pdf file or a Microsoft Word document for download. If you are unable to access or download this form, please email the Scholarship Committee Chair, Randy Hamper, at [randy.tm.hamper@gmail.com](mailto:randy.tm.hamper@gmail.com) or call 708-945-2649.
- Applicants will send completed application materials by mail (application, letters of recommendation, and essays) to the Committee Chair.
- All application materials must be **received** by the chair by July 30th to be considered for the scholarship. Late applications will not be accepted. Applications submitted to other committee members will not be accepted.
- Mail completed applications to

Attn: NWTA Scholarship  
Committee Chair  
748 South Morton Street  
Bloomington, IN 47403

or email to  
[randy.tm.hamper@gmail.com](mailto:randy.tm.hamper@gmail.com)

## Evaluation Criteria:

- Applicants will be evaluated by the committee members based upon the information provided in the application materials.
- Committee members will consider the following list of criteria, but they are free to take other factors presented in the application into consideration.
  - Academic performance and goals
  - NWTA involvement (as demonstrated through the essay portion of the application)
  - Volunteer and extracurricular activity outside of the NWTA

## Announcement Procedure:

- The Scholarship Committee Chair will notify the award winners by August 30<sup>th</sup> and award disbursement from the NWTA Treasurer will follow shortly thereafter.

*In this Issue:*

*Commander Elections*

*Fire Safety*

*Army Wives—the Remarriage Myth*

*And More!*

## Commander Elections: 2011

### ***Letter from the Current Commander:***

Dear NWTa Members,

It is once again time to elect a commander to run the organization. While I have truly enjoyed serving as you commander over the last year and a half, I do not have the time to devote to the organization that I had when I initially took the post. I worked with Thomas Langenfeld, Nominating Committee Chair, to search for a candidate; however no suitable candidate stepped forward. As your Commander, I was quite concerned as this situation has never occurred before. As a mother, however, my resolve to find a leader for the organization was even greater. It is very important to me that the NWTa stay strong so that my sons would be able to participate in the future. So, in the spirit of the motto of the 8th (King's) Regiment, *Nec Aspera Terrent* (difficulties do not deter us), ***I am announcing that I am again running for Commander.***

Steve Baule of the 55<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot has graciously volunteered to run as my *Deputy Commander*. Steve brings to this post numerous years of experience in the NWTa, a broad base of knowledge of military history, a passion for education and a demonstrated capacity for leadership. *My key staff officers have agreed to continue in their positions--* Adjutant Jane Whiteside, Paymaster Andrea Studzinski, Safety Officer Al Potyen and Insurance Officer Linnea Bass. I deeply appreciate all their efforts to keep things running smoothly during my husband's illness and my pregnancy. Their agreement to continue on was an important factor in my decision to run again.

I am proud, despite the difficulties, of what we have accomplished so far during my first term:

- Research: Successful return of the Symposia and School of the Soldier.

*Continued on next page*

Please be aware that, in order to vote in the election for commander a member must be "in good standing" at least 60 days prior to the election. This won't be an issue for anyone receiving a Courier—if you receive a Courier, you're a paid NWTa member. But—if anyone in your unit is not currently paid up, or you have new members, they need to pay dues by July 12; basically by Silver Lake, July 9-10.

New members (or members who have not yet paid) can work with the Adjutant to pay their dues.

*Ballots will be mailed to all current NWTa members. For your convenience, a ballot is also printed on page 4 of this publication.*

- Education: The first NWTa Scholarship was awarded and a Music Manual researched and written to help train the next generation of musicians.
- Publication: Field Guide was updated and is being actively distributed at events.
- Events: Host and Sponsor Guide was completed. Event development with the addition of new event at Mt. Prospect and the return of the event at Silver Lake.
- Administration: Long needed revisions to the Duty Manual and Standing Orders are nearing completion. The membership program is running smoothly and a new directory was printed.

If returned to office, I will continue the work begun during this term. The core programs of the organization can receive attention, as the key administrative processes of the organization are now running smoothly. Our focus will be:

- Recruitment and leadership development,
- Publicity and communication of NWTa programs and projects,
- Fostering partnerships with potential sponsors and interested groups.

The biggest obstacles that will need to be overcome to achieve these goals are unit divisions and entrenched patterns of behavior. To be direct, *we will need to work together and do things differently to face our challenges as an organization.* The fact that event attendance is declining and no one was willing to step forward to run for commander are significant challenges.

One moment at the School of the Soldier this spring served as an inspiration on how this can be done. Mr. Baule instructed the men on the process of sizing the troop, and a few awkward minutes of shuffling later, the company was sized. This simple reorganization had a profound effect, however. The troops were mixed-- British and Congressional, veterans and newcomers. People were forced, by virtue of their height, to drill, work and eat with people they were not accustomed to working with. At each event since, I have noticed more of these special serendipitous moments and believe that they are the key to strengthening the organization.

I am proud of the show that we have put on this season. Each event has shown a spirit of partnership and cooperation that is encouraging. I look forward to seeing you at events the rest of the season--although I will probably have to spend most of the time keeping the boys out of the fire pits.

Angela Potter  
NWTa Commander

#### CANTIGNY SCHOOL DAY PRESENTERS

We will need volunteers for presenting on Thursday and Friday, Sept. 8 and 9, 2011. The time will be 8am for set up and 9:30 start until about 3pm on Thursday and only until noonish on Friday.

Any one who wishes to help out with this may contact Marilyn Hess and let her know what you would like to demonstrate and if you can do it for both days. : [historynoyuck@charter.net](mailto:historynoyuck@charter.net)  
608-868-7855

*Voting Member Name* \_\_\_\_\_

*Unit* \_\_\_\_\_

*Return Address* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Jane M. Whiteside  
N W T A Adjutant  
8417 Adbeth  
Woodridge, IL 60517*

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## ***N W T A Ballot for Commander September 2011***

One ballot per voting member: "Each individual N W T A member who has paid his/her dues (or had had them waived because of military service) and has remained a member in good standing for at least sixty days prior to the date of the election, is entitled to one vote in National Elections...." Article II.F. of the Bylaws.

[http://www.nwta.com/forms/NWTA\\_Const\\_&\\_Bylaws\\_Nov\\_2010.pdf](http://www.nwta.com/forms/NWTA_Const_&_Bylaws_Nov_2010.pdf)

Deadline: **Saturday, September 10, 2011, 10:00 a.m.** Mail to Jane Whiteside or deliver at Cantigny.

### ***Vote for one:***

\_\_\_\_\_ Angela Potter

\_\_\_\_\_ Write in \_\_\_\_\_  
Print name

Fold bottom up to dotted line and tape shut. In this way, voter preference will not be known to the ballot-counting personnel. Complete return address portion at top of page. Voting member name and unit must be legible. Fold top third to face out, tape shut and affix stamp. Or send multiple sealed ballots in one envelope.

## *Army Wives: The Remarriage Myth Dispelled*

By Don Hagist

Reprinted with permission from his blog, <http://redcoat76.blogspot.com> – check this website out for more interesting and well-researched pieces on the 18<sup>th</sup> century British soldier

A favorite topic of mine is wives of British soldiers. Information on these women who formed an integral part of the British army in America is sparse. While the names of soldiers can be readily obtained from muster rolls and other sources provide details of their ages, backgrounds and other attributes, just learning which men were married and the names of their wives is challenging. I've been able to pull together significant information about their role in the army, but learning about the individuals remains difficult.

With this paucity of information, it is especially annoying when people propagate information that has no basis in actual research. One such 'nugget' is the notion that wives who became widows were required to remarry within days or they would be cast out of the army and left completely on their own where ever they happened to be. I've heard this repeated many times, but never seen it backed up by information from general orders, military texts, personal accounts, or any other first-hand information. Although it is true that women had to be married to soldiers in order to become part of the 'regimental community', it is contradictory to the spirit of community to suppose that widows would be cast out. Over time, direct information made the remarriage assertion less and less plausible - for example, orders directing that widows who wished to return to Great Britain would be provided passage on board transport ships - but the absence of supporting information does not directly prove that remarriage was a requirement or necessity.

It is pleasing, then, to have finally obtained specific information about several army wives whose husbands died and who then married other soldiers. Regimental muster rolls provide us with the dates that the men died. A collection of marriage licenses issued in New York City gives the date that the widows obtained license to remarry (presumably close to the date of the actual marriage). Just enough of these marriage licenses are specific about the regiments to which the men and women belonged to make it possible to associate the names of some of the women to men in the same regiments who had died. They are in Volume 46 of the New York Ge-

nealogical and Biographical Record (1915), available on Google Books.

The first example we found, about a year ago, was Hester Foster of the 22nd Regiment of Foot. Her husband William died as a serjeant on 14 October 1780 in New York after a career of at least 14 years in the army. On 18 December 1780 she obtained a license to marry a 31-year-old serjeant in the regiment, Henry Vennel. A decade later he became a rare man who obtained an officer's commission after rising through the ranks from a private soldier.

This example of a woman who remarried just two months after losing her husband was weak proof that women were not required to remarry immediately. Although two months is much longer than the 24 to 72 hours generally purported as the required time limit (depending upon who told the story) it is nonetheless a fast turnaround. More information was required to get a better sense of typical practice. That information has finally come together.

Noted author Brendan Morrissey recently worked extensively with the muster rolls of the 23rd Regiment of Foot. These rolls record the death of Thomas Percy on 31 May 1776 when the army was in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Over two years later a marriage license was obtained by Elenor Percy, widow in the 23rd Regiment, to marry a soldier named William Rider. Variations in spelling of surnames is quite common in muster rolls and related documents, and no other soldier in the 23rd had a name close enough to reasonably have been the husband of Elenor Percy. Sadly, her new husband died in June of 1780 and we have no additional information about her.

My own recent trip to the National Archives afforded the opportunity to piece together three more examples:

Daniel Rogers, a grenadier in the 38th Regiment, died on 19 August 1775 of wounds received at the battle of Bunker Hill. Catherine Rogers, widow of the same regiment, obtained a license to marry Thomas Mason of the 38th on 2 May 1777. Mason was still in the regiment in 1783, but a gap in the muster rolls makes his ultimate fate unknown.

Richard Twine of the 54th Regiment died on 21 August 1776. His wife Ann obtained a license exactly one year later to marry a soldier in the 45th Regiment, James Wiggins. He was drafted into the 5th Regiment of Foot in 1778 when the 45th was sent back to Great Britain and the 5th to the West Indies. A gap in the rolls of the 5th from late 1778 to the beginning of 1781 leaves his fate (and hers) unknown.

Thomas Proffit of the 7th (Royal Fusiliers) Regiment died on 17 April 1777. His wife Ann obtained a license on 6 February 1779 to marry serjeant John Lomix (or Lomax) of the

## *Fire! Preventing and Responding to our Biggest Camp Danger*

By Nancy Sorchy

Labor Day Weekend, September 4-5, 2010 was an event weekend for me that will not be forgotten. I am sharing this story in hope of bringing to the forefront the hazards of our hobby and how to protect yourself.

This Pioneer Village Event started out as any other colonial historical event; setting up camp on Friday afternoon, securing firewood and water, and preparing any demonstrations that will be presented to the public on Saturday and Sunday. In this particular event, I had chosen to be a refugee loyalist wanting to support the British as a cook or laundress. I came to their camp with wagon, canvas and what personal items I had taken from my home when I was run out due to my loyalty to the crown. The British camp welcomed me and looked forward to having someone cook for them.

In the morning, the wind that had started the day before was still roaring with no signs of letting up. I had to set up my tarp a number of times through the late night. In the middle of the night I decided that it would be best to use the space made by the tarp being secured to the wagon and

staked to the ground rather than trying to use the saplings I had with me. It did prove to be the right choice because on Saturday night, I used the saplings and was not as warm. The wind continued to howl while trying to make some food in the morning. Having the fire on the ground [ed note: recall that at Pioneer Village, we use plates and bricks to create a fire pit rather than digging one] made it difficult to keep the heat where the pots were hanging. Using Gridirons and logs to place the pots low to the ground was the only way to get enough heat to the pots to make porridge and fry some bacon. The morning was uneventful

In the afternoon, the soldiers had activities that took them away from camp. Christine and I were busying ourselves with starting the preparations for the meal the soldiers expected upon their return. The wind continued to howl and we were getting us to it. Because of the continued high wind, we also tried to shield the fire area to keep the heat contained. We continued to have trouble creating enough heat while being mindful of not creating a large fire that could easily get out of hand due to the windy conditions. We watched as every so often an ember would be carried away and then die out. Because of the wind and fire, Chris made sure we had a bucket of water that was near the fire area that was specifically for a fire emergency.

During a swirl of wind greater than usual, I suddenly noticed flames rising above my right shoulder. At this time, I was facing the fire area and was on the opposite side of this area from Chris. I walked to the other side because I knew this could be really bad and calmly told Chris that I was on fire. Then I turned so she could see what was going on. Whatever was going on, it was on my back. She immediately told me to drop and roll. All the while it was running through my mind that this was going to really hurt. I had assumed that my clothes were being consumed with these flames and I just hadn't felt it yet. The bucket of water, that Christine had made sure was close by, was used to extinguish the smoldering parts of cloth that did not die out after rolling. We both sat on the ground, quietly, in our own personal thoughts, to realize what just happened and how fortunate I was that she was here with me.

I share this story because it could happen to you. Anyone of us who work with fire, at any of the reenactment events that we participate in, run the risk of having an ember landing on you, and without you noticing, develop into a fire that consumes your clothing. I want to also share additional detail related to the above event because it is a very important part of why I will continue to do events, cook with fire and participate in furthering the understanding of history through activity.

Upon examination of my clothing, I learned some valuable lessons. Most of you, at this event, saw my cotton gown as I walked through the village. I had no other clothing with me and I was not willing to walk through the village with just my petticoats and stays. Anyone who saw the gown

### *Army Wives, continued*

same regiment. He died on 28 July 1782, leaving Ann once again a widow.

Among the marriage licenses are several others that can be traced in this way when we have an opportunity to work with the muster rolls of more regiments. For now, we have these four examples of women who were widowed and then remarried a year or more later, where the marriage license information explicitly refers to them as widows belonging to their regiments. A fifth woman married within only two months. We have yet to find an example of a woman remarrying within days of losing her husband. This doesn't mean it didn't happen, but it certainly proves that it was not a requirement.

Besides putting to rest the remarriage myth, the marriage licenses open up a new mystery. Among the women named as affiliated with British regiments are four who are not called widows but 'spinsters.' My first supposition was that these women were daughters of soldiers in the regiment, but we have not been able to correlate their names with any men on the muster rolls. It may be necessary to track down the original marriage license information to fully understand this nomenclature and determine who these women actually were.

commented on how horrible the burns were and how lucky I was. The gown had a large hole of two feet wide and nearly three feet long. There was an additional hole the size of a large soft ball as well. The burn area reached within three inches of my waist and eight inches above the bottom edge of the skirt. I have since cut six inches off the bottom, cut and sewed the stripes together and have patched the gown and I may wear it again under certain conditions. The linen petticoat directly under this burn area had twenty four small holes, none bigger than a half penny. I also had a wool petticoat under the linen petticoat and it has no burn markings of any kind.

Please look at the material selections you have made for your clothing as you are participating in these events. If you intend on being near fire, please consider the following historically accurate choices in clothing. My wool clothing smolders but has never flamed. Petticoats that are made of tropical weight wool and linen will have less willingness to burn unless you are in direct flame. Then nothing will help. I have had other incidents of cloth burning and I can tell you in all cases, linen and wool do not flame up. Embers landing on them will cause the linen to smolder as well as the wool and you will get a red glow but if attended to,

will not flame up. The burn cloth will not melt onto your skin unlike blends that have manmade fibers. The petticoat I wore in September is a testament to this statement. In wind, the petticoat had numerous embers landing on it and none of them burned a hole beyond the size of a halfpenny. I will show anyone who wishes to see this petticoat what I mean. Next to the petticoat, I will show anyone who wants to see the gown and how large the burn area was. The gown was made of cotton. Please do not wear cotton if you expect to be cooking over a fire and especially if it is windy. Your clothing that is worn underneath needs to be linen, please do not wear cotton. The shift needs to be linen. The stays should be linen or a flame retardant material. Please do not wear fiber blends unless they are natural fibers (wool, linen, cotton). Manmade fiber blends with natural fibers are cheaper in price but is your life or body worth disfigurement or death?

Lastly, I wore my hair up in a bun under a linen cap. If I had had my hair uncovered and down, I have no way of knowing, today, how much damage would have occurred once I had seen flames over my right shoulder. The women of this time period wore the clothing and the head coverings for very specific reasons that protected them from fire, heat and cold. Why they couldn't have buttons is something I haven't figured out, but that is another story.

## Notions, Goods, Wares & Furniture For The Colonial Home



**Print: Prayer  
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# Battle on the Ridge Highland, Indiana August 20 & 21

Dean's Company of the Continental Marines invites you to the  
Battle on the Ridge!

## Amenities :

- Catered dinner provided Saturday night
- Flush toilets and sinks with real live running water.
- NEW this year: Sunday Morning Seminars: Join us for hour-long sessions! Two topics (one each military or men's interest and civilian or women's interests) to be announced.

## Registration by Unit, Please!

Email to:  
continentalmarines@gmail.com  
Or mail to:  
748 South Morton Street  
Bloomington, IN 47403

## Please specify:

#Adults  
#Children (under 12)  
#Straw Bales Needed  
Estimated Tentage—wedges,  
walls, marquees, and flies.

Include Unit Name,  
Contact Person, and  
Contact Information



I-80 94 to Kennedy Avenue Exit. Take Kennedy South to Highway Avenue. East on Highway Avenue to Main Square, approx. one block.

Questions? Concerns? Email [continentalmarines@gmail.com](mailto:continentalmarines@gmail.com) or call Rowenna at 708-945-8129.  
We're excited to host all of you as you present what is always a great educational program for the people of Highland!

# Vermilion Valley Encampment 2011

Forest Glen County Preserve  
at the Pioneer Homestead

October  
1 & 2

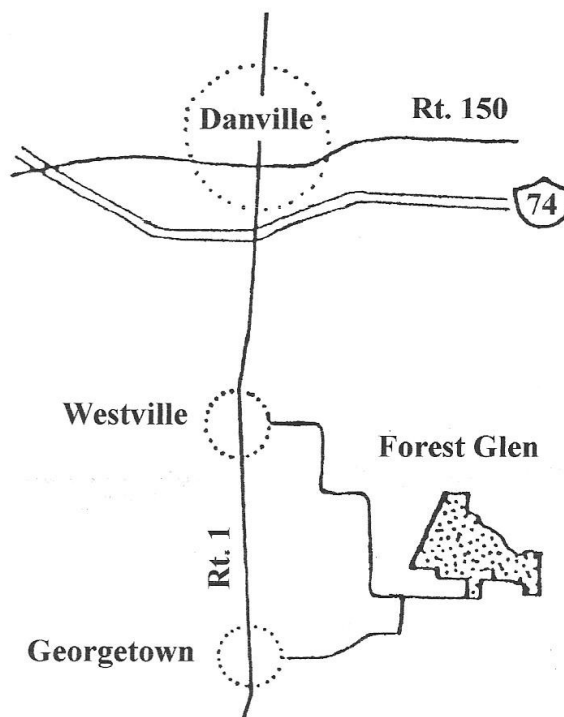
Directions From The North, East, or West  
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[illegible][illegible]

# Making Up : Taking your Feminine Persona Up a Notch

By Rowenna Hamper

*You've got a gorgeous new gown, perfectly fitted stays, and your accessories are spot-on authentic—and complement your ensemble. Yet, something still isn't right...*

All too often, we forget that our modern beauty routines are vastly different than an eighteenth-century lady's would have been—and our hair or makeup betrays us as modern people dressed up in funny clothes, rather than picturesque recreations of the past. I would never tell a lady to stop wearing cosmetics—I don't! Nor do suggest the fat-based pomade and powder route (I'm all for authenticity, but some things can be taken too far). Rather, find ways to incorporate modern cosmetic aids without the telltale signs of a trip to CVS.

**Foundation, concealer, powder:** Well, the point with these is to make it look like you aren't wearing them, isn't it? So go ahead and even out your skin, cover the dark circles induced by a late night setting up camp, spackle something on a breakout. If, of course, you can manage these tasks better than I without the aid of a bathroom mirror.

**Blush:** Cheek stains and blushes, especially reddish tones, mimic those used during the period. But stay away from iridescent or shimmery products, which have a distinctly modern look.

**Eyeliner, eyeshadow, mascara:** With mascara, again, the ideal is when you look like you're not wearing makeup, right? So go ahead and play up your lashes subtly (if your mascara is too thick, yielding an obvious made-up look, try swiping it off on a tissue first for a more natural look). Eyeliner is usually a different story—some women can cop that “smudged between the lashes” look with no one being the wiser, but most of the time it looks obvious. If you can see your eyeliner line, either tone it way down or skip it altogether. Cleopatra may have sported kohl, but we can't find any evidence that eighteenth-century ladies did the same. And since the point of eyeshadow is to be seen, leave it at home. There's really no way to make it look eighteenth-century. Try a smudge of concealer on your lids to brighten your eyes instead.

**Lipstick, gloss:** A subtle stain or lightly applied lipstick can either appear completely natural or approximate the carmined lips of the period, so utilize these—but sparingly. Shiny glosses, sparkles, and bright colors have no place in camp.

**Hair:** Layers, sideswept bangs, all the trimmings of a fabulous modern haircut really have no place gracing your eighteenth century ensemble. Hair should be worn up, ideally—check out prints of working-class people to get an idea of how they dressed their hair. The easiest way—pop it into a ponytail, wind and pin, and top with an opaque cap. Stubborn bangs and layers can benefit from bobby pins or a fabric headband worn under the cap (you can also try stitching a comb to the inside of your cap to keep unruly wisps in place and help secure your cap). If it's too short to “dress” just smooth your cap over it. Ornament your look with ribbons tied around your cap if you like.

## Cantigny 2011

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O for Pat & Allison  
Davis's wedding

25th Anniversary of  
the Cantigny event

50th Anniversary of  
Bill & Marilyn Hess

As you can see we have a lot to celebrate and it will be done in style.

Cantigny is giving us a luau dinner of roast pig and the trimmings for Saturday evening.

We will have music, cakes, and drinks.

We would like you to join in the fun by dressing in your best Hawaiian dress.

Bring your flamingos, torches and anything else you can think of to liven it up.

More Later!

Love,  
Pat, Allison, Cantigny, Bill and  
Marilyn

## LOST AND FOUND

At Vincennes a spectator found a silver plated spoon with a large round bowl like a soup spoon. Very much worn.

Contact Marilyn Hess  
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historynoyuck@charter.net

PUBLICATION OF  
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REMINDER

THE NWTACOURIER EMAIL ADDRESS IS NOW  
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The old nwtacourier@yahoo.com email is now defunct. If you  
have sent submissions or inquiries to that email address, please  
resend. You can now send all messages, articles, event fliers, and  
photos to :

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*Please: electronic submissions only.  
If this is not possible, please contact me.*