

## **SECOND VIRGINIA REGIMENT OF THE CONTINENTAL LINE**

(The name of the unit in its present revised version, 2017)

Prior to the regiment forming in 1972, some of its earliest members belonged to various historical organizations, groups and a rifle range with historical interests including:

- **The 104th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment** of the Union Army of the American Civil War
- **The North-South Skirmishers Association**
- **The Civil War Roundtable** – which met in the Grand Army of the Republic Room of the old Chicago Public Library at the southwest corner of Michigan Avenue and Randolph Street in downtown Chicago. This organization began in 1940 by Ralph Newman who owned the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop on the near north side of Chicago and a number of other interested people.
- **The Company of Military Historians, Midwest Chapter**
- Additionally, there were also enthusiastic collectors of military memorabilia and table war-game competitors.

The Second Virginia Regiment was originally conceived as a Light Infantry force because of a detachment being assigned to General Anthony Wayne's Light Infantry Corps that successfully stormed the fort at Stony Point on the west side of the Hudson River south of West Point, New York on the night of July 15-16, 1779.

**THE REGIMENT FOUNDERS:** Who had been Civil War reenactors of the 104th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment during that war's Centennial events and thereafter were:

Bob Walters	Betty Walters, camp follower
George Androne	
Vic Mejias	Fran Mejias, camp follower
Paul Rickert	Aden Rickert, child of the regiment
Randy Swanson	Kathy Swanson, camp follower
J. Perkins	

Note: Al Aimone was never a member of the 2nd, he had moved to New York to work at the West Point Library. He joined a BAR Hessian Regiment and with him and William Wigham the BAR Pattern masters effort provided the 2nd with much valuable information and patterns to correctly portray the 2nd in the time period that we chose relating to the uniform and history of the original 2nd Va. Regiment, Continental Line.

**THE CHARTER MEMBERS:** Within a very short time later, the other members who joined the regiment:

Bob Gramberg
Bill Sullivan
Parker Lienhart, Drummer
Mike Barksdale
Ward Smidl

### **MEMBERS DURING 1974:**

"Dirty Eddie?"	
Jim Nawrocki	Darlene Nawrocki, camp follower

### **MEMBERS DURING 1975:**

David Jahntz	Mary Alice Jahntz, camp follower
Herb Albert	Eleanor Albert, camp follower

Ken Attaway	Sharon Attaway, camp follower
Dan Attaway	Child of the regiment
Brian Attaway	Child of the regiment
Ken Attaway Jr.	Child of the regiment
Jim Gott	Doris Gott, camp follower
Jim Lynch	Ruth Lynch, camp follower
John Tracy	Wilma Tracy, camp follower
Don Bucke	Jean Bucke, camp follower
Andrew Bucke	Ensign

**MEMBERS AS OF 1976:**

Bob Cosentino	(Cosentino's wife?), camp follower
Mike Matula	Patty Matula, camp follower
Tom Smedron	
Ludwig Skog III	
Ludwig Skog Jr.	
Daniel "Tiny" Emmett	
Gary Enger	

The July 4, 1976 Philadelphia Bicentennial Parade was attended by marchers Vic Mejias, Jim Lynch, John Tracy, David Jahntz and Bob Cosentino who represented the State of Virginia. Vic Mejias flew back to attend the Western Springs, Illinois event. J. Perkins marched in the 1976 St. Charles, Illinois Bicentennial Parade.

**MEMBERS AFTER 1976:** (A very incomplete list and probably not in the correct order - David)

Victor A. Mejias?  
Linda Mejias?  
Sandy Johnson  
Lee Beckermann  
Patti Lee Beckermann  
Lynn Beckermann  
Julie Rad  
Art Christoferson  
Scott Christoferson  
Rick Warren  
Becky Warren  
(Two Warren sons and Becky's daughter)  
Lucy Smedron  
Michael Sawyer  
Cyndi Sawyer  
Jamie Sawyer      Child of the regiment  
Ryan Sawyer      Child of the regiment  
Matt Sawyer?      Child of the regiment  
(A fourth Sawyer child)  
Patti Lee Perkins (now married to J. Perkins)  
John Hewitt  
Susan Hewitt (Barker after John's death and a second marriage)  
Kent Hewitt      Child of the regiment  
Kris Hewitt      Child of the regiment

Michael Tracy  
 Carol Tracy  
 Alan Potyen  
 Marilyn Potyen  
 Mark Potyen  
 Lynn Potyen (now married to Mark Potyen)  
 Steve Nelson  
 Steve Carlson  
 Jane Carlson  
 Rachel Carlson      Child of the regiment  
 Laura Carlson      Child of the regiment  
 Grant Carlson      Child of the regiment  
 John Breslin  
 Elizabeth "Liz" Breslin  
 Matt Breslin  
 Nicole Breslin Turk   Child of the regiment, and now a member of the regiment  
 Suzan Shipyor  
 Erik Potyen           Child of the regiment, and now a member of the regiment  
 Rachel Potyen        Child of the regiment  
 Alex Potyen          Child of the regiment  
 Amy Cawley  
 Allen Ockerlander  
 Robert Ball  
 Derek Baars  
 Mary Kraft Baars  
 Bill Bahr

**COMMANDERS OF THE REGIMENT:** (I am unsure of the order and years served - David)

Bob Gramberg (1972)  
 Bill Sullivan (1973 plus served as NWTa Deputy Commander)  
 Vic Mejias (1974-1977 plus was one of the Founders of the NWTa in 1974)  
 Jim Lynch (1978-?)  
 Ken Attaway (1978-?)  
 J. Perkins (years? plus served as NWTa Commander for 4 years)  
 David Jahntz (years? plus served as NWTa Judge Advocate General for 6 years)  
 J. Perkins (years?)  
 Alan Potyen (years? plus served as NWTa Provost Marshal for ? years)

**David Jahntz's recollection of his entry into the regiment:**

A military collector and storeowner on the far north side of Chicago named "**Dirty Eddie**" told **Jim Nawrocki** about the regiment and Jim and Darlene joined in late 1974. Very early in 1975, Jim convinced **David Jahntz** and **Mary Jahntz** to visit (as audience) the Tippecanoe National Battlefield living history event (with 1812 and Civil War regiments in attendance) on Memorial Day weekend in 1975. After shooting five rolls of film at that event, David was urged to attend the 200th anniversary of the "Battle of Bunker Hill" event at Madison Heights, Michigan (BAR) in the middle of June. By the mid-summer Moraine Valley Community College event (NWTa) in Palos Hills, Illinois David and Mary had joined the regiment, the Brigade of the American Revolution and the North West Territory Alliance.