

The History of Outwater's Company of Militia

Captain John Outwater's Company of the Bergen County Militia Regiment was one of twenty-five companies raised by Act of the New Jersey Assembly in 1776. However, due to the demoralizing retreat of the Continental Army across New Jersey after the Fall of New York and the surrounding American positions, the Company did not actually form until early 1777.

When the Company was assembled in Hackensack, the Company elected its Company Officers: John Outwater, Captain; Adam Boyd, Lieutenant, and Abraham Allen, Ensign. Outwater's Company was one of about ten companies in the Bergen County Militia Regiment, commanded by Colonel Theunis Dey.

The Company was composed of Jersey Dutch farmers and tradesmen who attempted to protect their property from British foraging parties. Because of the proximity to the British in New York City and the large Tory or Loyalist population, Bergen County was dangerous for those in rebellion. Unlike other militia, it was often unsafe for these men to return to their homes. Because of this, the men of the Outwater's Company were often on constant duty, much different from the "minute men" of New England.

The group of approximately thirty men concentrated on interdicting Loyalist trade with the British in New York. Goods were often sent down the Hackensack River and the goods and prisoners would be seized by Outwater's men. The Justice of the Peace would then award the goods to the captors.

In December 1780, the State legislature commissioned the company First Company of Bergen County, New Jersey State Troops. State

Troops were considered a cut above militia; the comparative stability of their long-term enlistment allowed them to be assigned more important and intensive duties.

Revolutionary War Re-enacting

Re-enacting breathes life into the past and Outwater's Company is the perfect outlet for any history/military history buff. The unit receives invitations from events all over the Northeast at a variety of historical sites. From 225 year old homes and forts to original



battlefields, you'll get to experience the past in a unique way. Imagine standing on an actual battlefield site and being surrounded by hundreds of people in period clothing with gray smoke from the artillery and musket fire rolling over the field. You'll feel like you are there in the past! Most of our events are in the NJ, NY, Pa area but we also go to some farther away.

Outwater's Company does not only provide this opportunity for those who wish to portray a soldier. Because of our affiliation with the Brigade of the American Revolution (BAR) and the civilian aspect of being a militia, there is something for women and children too,

which is great for those with families. Women can explore the impact of the Revolution on the lives of women by portraying a campfollower, women who followed the armies to be with their husbands or as individuals trying to make some money as a merchant, laundress, or nurse for the army. There are often activities for children where they learn what life in 18th Century was like. Boys are encouraged to take to the field playing the drum or the fife which make commands heard above the gunfire. Men who are more interested in civilian life can be involved in portraying a craftsmen or professional. Family participation is easily worked into our efforts to authentically portray life in the 18th Century.

New members are helped every step of the way in getting started. There is an abundance of resources available from the other members to get you involved and settled in as soon as possible. New comers have one year to get the basics together, with the help of the unit. Outwater's Company has been incorporated since 1979 and the unit carries its own insurance. Also, members receive publications from the **BAR: The Courier**, a monthly newsletter with event information; **The Express**, a quarterly magazine recapping the years events with photographs and articles; **The Dispatch**, a scholarly journal with research and interesting information on a variety of topics.

Join the Ranks

Outwater's Company is always looking for new recruits! If you are interested in joining us, please contact:

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Outwater's Militia in the *Brigade of the American Revolution*

Outwater's Militia is a member unit of the Brigade Of the American Revolution. The Brigade is a non-profit international association composed of over 150 separate units dedicated to recreating the life and times of the American Revolution, 1775-1783. It represents elements of all the armies then involved-Continental, Militia, British, German, French, Spanish and Native American forces, plus civilian men women and children.

In the Brigade, there is no compromise with authenticity. All clothing and equipment are historically correct as they can be within reason. Safety is another top priority. Every effort possible is taken to ensure a safe and enjoyable time.

Since 1962 the Brigade has been recreating a broad spectrum of the Revolution. It's activities range from 'working' 18th Century encampments, tactics and maneuvers, firelock shooting matches, and craft displays, thus presenting a well-rounded scene of military and civilian life. There are also lectures and seminars offered regularly by experts from several fields of the 18th Century study.

Outwater's Company of Militia Is also a member of the Continental Line.

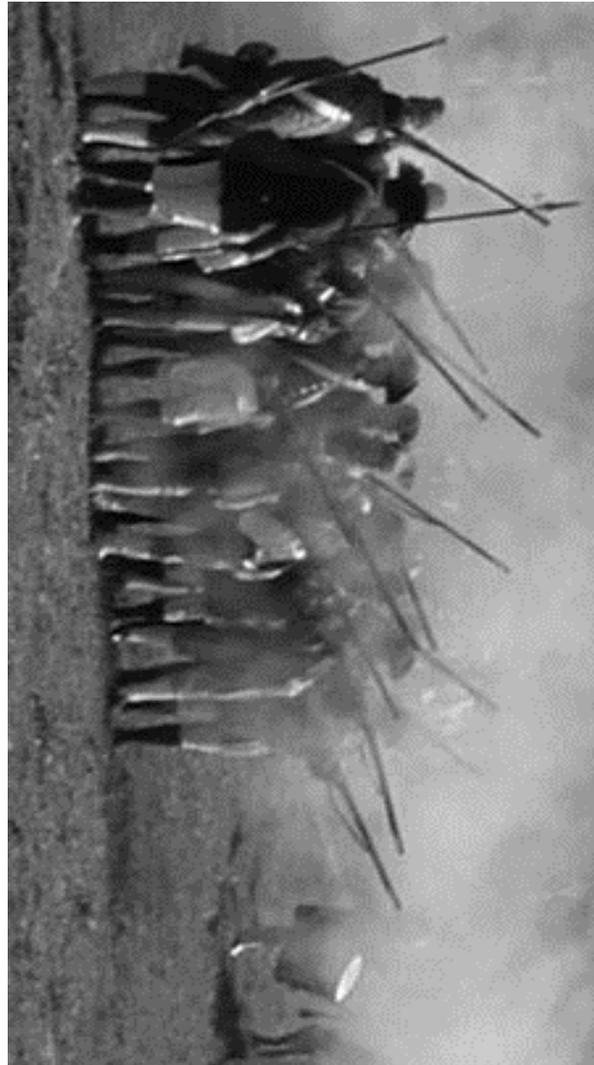
Contact Us

Our web site is at:

www.outwatersmilitia.com

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Captain Outwater's Company of Militia Bergen County, New Jersey



**A Living History Organization
dedicated to portraying
the lives of the men and women
of the American Revolution.**



**Member Unit of the
Brigade of the American Revolution
and of the Continental Line**