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# THE HARD CHARGER

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## COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT - JANUARY 2017

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Greetings, HARD CHARGERS! We want to wish each of you and your families a joyous and happy holiday season! Thank you for your continued support for our 30th Field Artillery Association. We appreciate every one of you for the work you do in your communities and for the nation. We hope that 2017 will be a wonderful year for you and find each of you in good health and good spirits.

Being around a military installation during the holidays is never dull. Looking at my calendar, there were lots of activities after Veteran's Day. There were Post and Brigade Saint Barbara Balls, Christmas Tree lighting ceremonies, the USO Grand Opening, retirement ceremonies, unit Christmas parties, Toys for Kids Opening, Christmas concerts and the like. I hope that you spent some time with your family and supporting our soldiers and veterans.

I am not sure where 2016 went! It was a great sports year for this Ohio boy with Ohio State beating the Irish in the Fiesta Bowl, the Cavaliers bringing Cleveland their first championship since 1964, the Indians making the World Series, and Ohio State making the football playoffs after an exciting season.

But on a more serious note, this country just completed a divisive election. The President will have a tough job mending this country back together. Congress has already passed the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act, which increases military troop strength and active duty pay (1.5 to 2.1%). Now we'll see what the new President does.

The 30th FA had a wonderful 23rd annual reunion at Ft. Sill in June, thanks to a lot of folks, led by Dan Gillotti and Dan Mitchell. John Hoetker, the lead organizer for the 2017 reunion, has some great ideas for a wonderful gathering as described in the next several pages. Hopefully we may also have representatives from the 30th Royal Canadian Artillery joining our festivities.

We are also starting to plan for the 100th Anniversary of the 30th FA in 2018. The Board, Jon Fizzell, our honorary colonel, COL (Ret) Frank Siltman and others want to make the 2018 Reunion our best yet. Send us your ideas and we'll see if we can make it happen!

*Ted Janosko*

**DON'T FORGET TO**



**CHECK THE WEB SITE**

## Fort William Henry

### the Lesser Known of Lake George's Outposts

Although we are scheduled to visit Fort Ticonderoga during our Reunion, there is another reconstructed fort near Lake George which, during the critical years prior to the American Revolution, was a major player in the bloody rivalry between the French and the British for the control of North America. That was Fort William Henry, best known from the novel *The Last of the Mohicans*, by James Fenimore Cooper. This attraction may be well worth a visit during your free time, as it was an important battleground in the struggle for mastery on this continent between the two leading powers of the day - and why now we greet one another with a "good morning" instead of "bonjour."

Called the "Seven Years War" in Europe, the "French and Indian War" in the American colonies would decide which nation would control the destiny of the nascent new world. The Fort was constructed in 1755 by a far-sighted British officer and politician, Sir William Johnson. Control of the waterway, including Lake George, was critical to connecting New England to the remainder of the relatively undeveloped territory of what became New York and



Pennsylvania, as the British were later to learn to their dismay at Saratoga, and Fort William Henry was ideally suited to do so. Recognizing this, the French laid siege to the Fort in 1757. Defended by a British and colonial volunteer group of about 3,000 men, the Fort was designed to withstand attacks by local Indian tribes, but not however, 8,000 French forces, including 2,000 Indians, and supported by the Queen of Battles, the field artillery.

Following a brief siege, the British surrendered, and under the terms of the surrender, they were to be allowed to withdraw with the full honors of war. To make a horrific story short, however, the Indian allies of the French did not honor the terms, and massacred not only the wounded left in the Fort but also attacked the columns of troops, civilians, and camp followers that were headed south. While some French regulars attempted to control the native Americans, others did not, and as a result, a significant number of those who had surrendered fell victim to random scalping and further onslaught. Somewhat more than half of the garrison eventually reached safety, and of course the nature of the massacre only led to more bloody reprisals and actions during the course of the war.

Cooper, one of the first notable American novelists, created in the book his hero, Hawkeye, who avenges some of the worst atrocities of the battle of Fort William Henry, and whose career can be followed through the *Leatherstocking Tales*. But while Hawkeye is a fictional character, the saga of the Fort is real, and if you have the time to visit, it is well worth pondering what life on the American frontier was like (and worth) two and a half centuries ago.

What do you think of when you hear the word “Adirondack?”



Certainly one of the best-known symbols of the region hosting our next reunion is the Adirondack chair. With arms wide enough for a Guinness (or some lesser beverage) and a seat angle that would ease the sorest back, the chair has graced many a yard throughout the nation. Created by a summer visitor to the area 113 years ago, an entrepreneur named Harry Bunnell took the design, patented it, and produced the chair until 1930. Simple in design and great on comfort, the chair is now constructed not only of wood but of polymers and other hard plastics. While it has been modified over the years from the original eleven flat board design, it remains a fixture in this country. The two large green models that were in our back yard in Dayton, Ohio, remain in my mind as one of the best remembered recollections of my childhood - so sit back, relax and enjoy the world as it goes by!

*the Editor*

use or copy this form to pay your dues

For those members who enroll as active members on a yearly basis, please complete this form and send it in with check as indicated. You can also take this opportunity to enroll as a lifetime member and end the annoyance of having to do this every year!

First name \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_ Last name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ W/M \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\$15.00 check enclosed for 2017 dues ( )

or \$99.00 check enclosed for lifetime membership ( )

Contribution (\$) enclosed to assist with Association expenses

Mail form and check to: Jim Harris, 30th FAR Association Membership  
212 Brittain Court, Brentwood, TN 37027

**30th Field Artillery Regiment's 24th Annual Reunion  
19 to 23 June 2017**

**Lake George, NY**

**Registration Form**

The Queensbury Hotel  
80 Ridge Street  
Glens Falls, NY 12801  
855-516-1090 or 518-792-1121

NAME(S) and TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

(Name all attending. This is how your name will appear on your name tag. Include T-Shirt size for each. Add additional sheet if necessary.)

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

I am with the 30th FA, USA \_\_\_\_\_ 30th FA, RCA \_\_\_\_\_ (Please check one)

I will contact The Queensbury at the number(s) above before 1 May 2017 to make my room reservations and identify myself as an attendee of the 30th Field Artillery Reunion. The room rate is \$99.00 per night (includes complimentary breakfast): Single Queen, Two Double beds or King. You may arrive a day early or stay one day following the reunion at the discounted rate.

I am enclosing a check payable to the "30th FAR Association" for the following expenses:

(In US dollars please)

Registration Fee of \$20.00 per family (not required if only attending the banquet) \_\_\_\_\_

Bus tour of Lake George area, Fort Ticonderoga, and Prospect Mountain.  
\$25.00 per person - lunch at Ft. Ticonderoga is not included in the price. \_\_\_\_\_

Cruise on the *Luc du San Sacrement*; \$18.00 per person \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet: Chicken Cordon Bleu, Salmon En Croute, or Marinated London Broil  
\$25.00 per person \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution to aiding a less fortunate Hard Charger to attend the reunion \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your check and the completed registration form to Jim Harris, 212 Brittain Court, Brentwood, TN (USA) 37027

## 30th FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION REUNION

19 to 23 JUNE 2017

The Queensbury Hotel                      855-516-1090 or 518-792-1121

[www.thequeensburyhotel.com](http://www.thequeensburyhotel.com)

Although the Hotel is located in Glens Falls, it is only a 10 minute drive to Lake George and all of its attractions. If you are driving north, take exit 18 from interstate 87, the Adirondack Northway. Take a right on Main Street - when the road forks stay right on Hudson Ave. At the traffic circle take the third exit to Ridge St. Go two blocks and the hotel is on the left. The Hotel's amenities include free wifi, indoor pool, two restaurants and more. The room rate is \$99.00 per night with a complimentary breakfast. Your room choices are 1) single queen; 2) two double beds; and 3) a king bed.

**Monday, 19 June:** Welcome and Sign In. A Welcome packet will be provided courtesy of the Warren County Tourism Department. The hospitality room is located in the hotel and will be well stocked and open. Stop in and enjoy a Guinness or even a lesser beverage, meet with your fellow Hard Chargers and greet our Canadian counterparts. Review the ever expanding volumes of our regiment's proud history, see our Quartermaster and get outfitted with neat Hard Charger stuff for this historic expedition!

**Tuesday, 20 June:** Fort Ticonderoga and Prospect Mountain bus tour - lunch at the Fort and supper are on your own. The Fort has a restaurant. Departure time will be posted in the hospitality room. The hospitality room will be open throughout the day.

**Wednesday, 21 June:** We will be taking a cruise on the *Luc du San Sacrement*. The cruise on Lake George is about two hours. Boarding time and location will be posted in the hospitality room. The vessel has a snack bar. Meals today are on your own. There will be ample time before and after the cruise to see the sights of Lake George Village. We will car pool to this activity. The hospitality room will be open.

**Thursday, 22 June:** The General Membership meeting and the Memorial Service for our Fallen will both be held in the morning in the hospitality room. Times will be posted. A trip to the Lake George Outlets is planned for the ladies during the meeting. Lunch and the rest of the day are yours to enjoy. Our Banquet will be held in the evening in the hotel, followed by the World Famous Auction in the hospitality room. The wearing of your uniform at the Banquet is encouraged but not mandatory. **Don't forget to bring an item or items for the Auction!**

**Friday, 23 June:** Time to say our farewells to old and new friends and head home to prepare for our glorious regiment's one hundredth anniversary in 2018 at Fort Sill!

Any Hard Charger needing assistance in attending may contact the Reunion Coordinator, John Hoetker, in confidence at (518) 377-9420 or at [nywfia@aol.com](mailto:nywfia@aol.com)

## YOUR QUARTERMASTER'S TWO BITS

I hope that all you Hard Chargers had a Merry Christmas and are enjoying a Happy New Year with your families everywhere!

QM UPDATE: The idea of adding hoodies to our on-line store has been put to rest. Just not enough of a response to justify spending the Association's funds. When the time comes that we order new red or pink shirts, I will see about taking orders then for those who wanted one.

A DIFFERENT TYPE OF THANKSGIVING STORY: My grandmother, Bessie Mae Blackwell, lived in Ozark, Alabama, and that is where we spent Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays in my younger years. For Thanksgiving in 1959, for some long-lost reason, grandmother had a live turkey. Since it was the first major holiday after granddad had died, grandmother hired a lady to help her, two days a week, with household chores. The lady had a teenage daughter who also helped from time to time. Grandmother on Thanksgiving Eve afternoon had gone shopping, and she had left instructions on how to prepare the live turkey so it would be ready for roasting on Thursday morning. The instructions stated: Start the fire to boil the water (Grandmother had a large metal pot for outside use); dip the bird in the boiling water, and as they loosen, pluck all the feathers. Unknown to us, grandmother's helper was running late and she had sent her daughter to start the process. When we got back to grandmother's house, we saw a half-naked turkey with its remaining feathers turning red with blood, running for freedom. Right behind the turkey was the teenage girl. She had been ripped apart by the turkey. Grandmother had forgotten to add the second step, "While waiting for the water to boil, kill the turkey." The young lady had been dipping a very live turkey in boiling water and was trying to pluck it. My dad shot the turkey while the teenager went to the emergency room. While sore for a long time, the youngster survived! And yes, we finished plucking the turkey, roasted it on Thursday morning, and ate it with all the trimmings for Thanksgiving dinner!

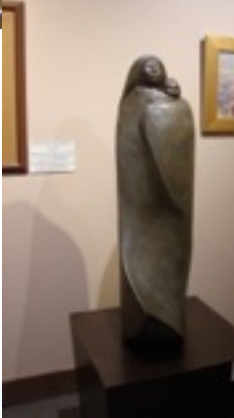
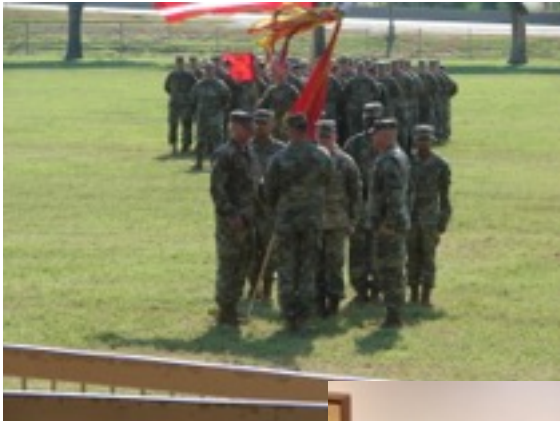
That's your Quartermaster's two bits, and worth every dime that you spent on it!



**Charles "Comma" Causey OUT!**



2016 Memories



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Next Issue - April 2017

Deadline for submissions - March 31, 2017

[jdynes5@comcast.net](mailto:jdynes5@comcast.net) or address above