

HISTORY

Captain John Outwater's Company of Bergen County Militia was one of the 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 men elected their Company Commanders: John Outwater as Captain; Adam Boyd, Lieutenant, and Abraham Allen, Ensign. Outwater's Company one of several 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 "minutemen" of New England.

The group of approximately twenty men concentrated on interdicting Loyalists 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 unit was commissioned, "*First Company, Bergen County State Troops*", by the New Jersey legislature. State Troops were a cut above the militia. Salaries were paid and the comparative stability of their long-term enlistment made it useful for more important and intensive duties.



OUTWATER'S MILITIA, INC.

Join the Ranks!

Outwater's Militia, Inc.
welcomes new recruits. If you
are interested in joining
please contact:

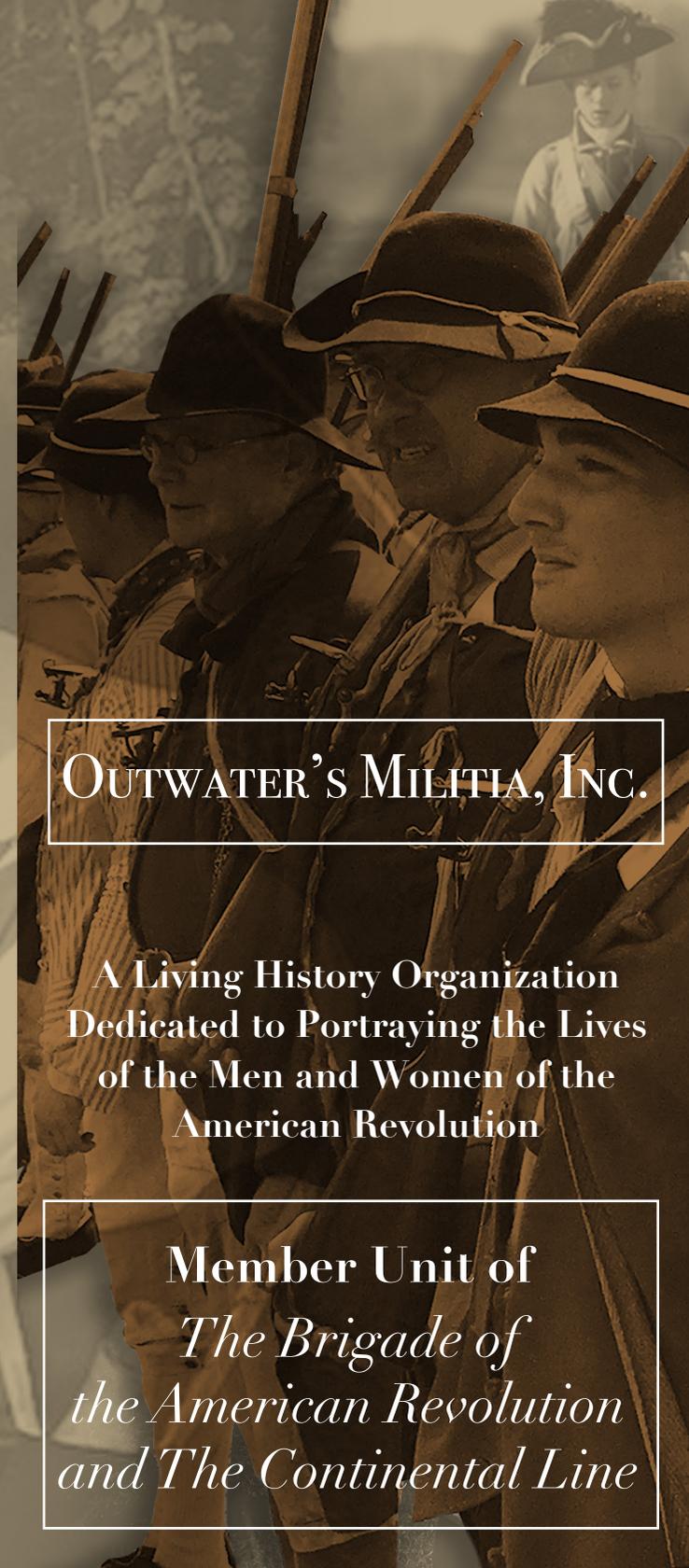
Commander@outwatersmilitia.com

RELIVE THE PAST AND
FOLLOW US AT:

 @Captain John Outwater's Company of Militia

www.OutwatersMilitia.com

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



RELIVING THE PAST

Re-enacting breathes life into the past and Outwater's Militia is the perfect outlet for any history buff. We receive invitations for events up and down the east coast from a variety of historical sites and preserves from two hundred year old forts to original battlefields, you will experience the past in a unique way. Imagine standing on an actual battlefield site surrounded by hundreds of re-enactors. Smoke from cannon and musket fire roll across the field and you hear the command, "prime and load!" Witnessing history like this, up front and personal, makes what you have read and talked about much more meaningful. Experience this and see what the actual people saw and felt along with your friends in Outwater's Militia.

Militia was different from its counterpart - General George Washington's Continental Army. For one, the militia was composed of civilians, not professional soldiers with uniforms and strict military discipline. Militia wore civilian clothes and were somewhat part-time soldiers, spending time between defending their local towns and counties, and carrying out their trades or farming. Authority over the militia came via the state, by the governor, not from Congress or General Washington. Militia were local. Whole families were involved, and their story needs to be heard. This is why our unit encourages participation by women, children, craftsmen and professionals, in addition to soldiers at arms. There is a role for all to play.

New members are helped every step of the way. We have been around for over forty years and know how to avoid the sometimes costly mistakes in obtaining clothing and gear. We are all Revolutionary War buffs and enjoy sharing our knowledge and excitement for the hobby. We are careful that what we portray is historically accurate, and there are a lot of resources available that help us. Importantly, we know what is fun and like to have a good time. What makes us different from some other units, is the lack of many membership meetings. After our annual meeting, where officers and events for the coming year are chosen, there is rarely another meeting. If something comes up which requires a meeting, it is usually discussed via email, or a discussion occurs at an event upon notice to all. We find that this results in a friendlier, more relaxed atmosphere among our members. After all, it's the weekend, and we want to have a good time.

Outwater's Militia was formed and incorporated as a non-profit corporation in 1979. It recognized by the IRS as a charitable 501(c) 3 organization. The unit carries it's own liability insurance, and has a stellar rating for safety and knowledge.



UNIT AFFILIATIONS

Outwater's Militia belongs to two umbrella organizations: the Brigade of the American Revolution (BAR) and the Continental Line. Many Revolutionary War re-enactment units belong to one or both of these organizations, Crown forces included. Many of the quality re-enactments are run by them. In addition, those members who individually join the BAR receive three publications: *The Courier*, a monthly newsletter with event information; *The Express*, a quarterly magazine recapping events with photographs and articles; and *The Dispatch*, a scholarly journal with research and interesting information on a variety of 18th century topics. By being a member of both of these organizations, Outwater's Militia increases its opportunities for members. We have become known in both organizations for our solid portrayal of the common militia soldier in the American Revolution.

