



Revolutionary War Weekend

See how people lived in the 18th century in our area. Join the **Third Ulster Militia** for a *Revolutionary War Weekend*. Included will be an encampment with activities showing camp life, drills, and cooking. Participants will be dressed in period clothing of the Revolutionary era. Learn about the history of the unit. This event will take place at **Lippman Park**, on June 4th and 5th, from **10 AM to 4 PM** on both days. For more information, contact Russ Murphy at **647-8656**.

Ellenville High School freshman Cameron Green and friends participated in a Revolutionary War era campout on May 14th. The Accord Historical Society hosted the event, which was set up behind the museum in Accord. On display were numerous authentic, replica, and homemade Revolutionary War artifacts. In addition, the campers showed how to light a fire using flint and straw, then cooked several examples of Colonial foods for visitors to sample. Cameron even gave a demonstration on how to fire a Revolutionary war musket (*photo above*).

The Third Ulster Militia

Regimental History

The **Third Regiment of Ulster County Militia** has its beginnings in the old "Regiments of Foot" that served to defend and protect the interests of local citizens. At the time of the American War for Independence, the **Third Ulster** was one of many units raised out of the citizens of Ulster County. Initially, the **Third** was commanded by Colonel Levi Pawling. However, when Col. Pawling was appointed as Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, in January 1778, John Cantine became the Commander.

During the Revolution, Regimental Headquarters was established at Marbletown with the powder magazine located at the Andries DeWitt house. Later, the unit established a fort in what is now Napanoch just off the **Rondout Creek** where it crosses **Rte. 55**.

The unit's main purpose was not only to provide defense, but also to supply intelligence regarding enemy positions and movements. Col. Cantine: "The troops stationed at these Posts are constantly to Keep out patrolling Parties and Scouts, those at Shandeken to go out as far Northward as the Albany County line (Palenville), and

Westward to Paghkatacken (Arkville)." A big territory. The information gathered by the **Third** was valuable to the revolutionary cause, as Gen. Washington wrote to Gov. Clinton: "I am glad to the measure the state has taken in raising a thousand men, and your expectation that the number would soon be completed. I hope the intelligence from Col. Cantine will not materially retard the progress of a business, on which the general security of the frontier so much depends."

The **Third Ulster**, like many Militia units of the day, was made up of neighbors, family, and friends. If one looks at the unit roster of the time, several members of the same family will appear. Col. Cantine had several of his nephews as members of the regiment. These relationships helped to keep the unit strong and to fulfill its most important mission.

Today's Third

Today, the **Third Ulster** has a different mission: 'To honor the memory of the original unit and to educate the public about life during this most interesting period of our country's history.' Like the **Third** of old, we are neighbors, family, and most of all, friends. We work together to educate the public by participating in activities to raise the public's interest in the history of Ulster County, the State of New York, and our country. (*photo below of Third Ulster Militiaman Ron Rifenburg, of Hurley, pictured at the Poughkeepsie Children's Day*)

About Membership

Our unit is comprised, not only of men, but also of women and children who portray inhabitants of Ulster County during the period spanning the French and Indian War and the Revolutionary War. Some are soldiers

