

REVIEW: The Greatest Hits of the Colonial Chronicle

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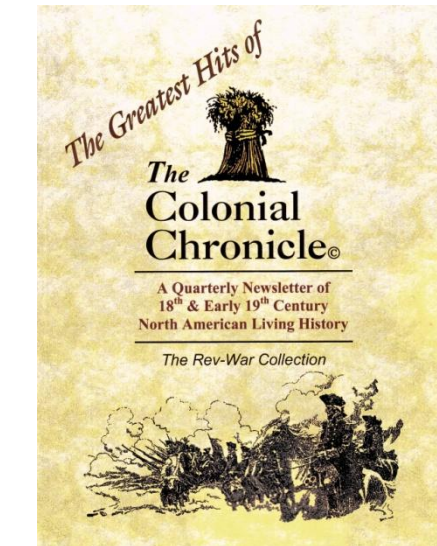
Brian Zawodniak

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I started reenacting in 1997. As a “newbie,” I looked pretty bad. I still cringe at pictures of myself from those years. Boy, it is not good. My haversack sat well below my waist. My first hat looked like something from a gift shop hocking cheaply-made goods targeting excitable children. I was, admittedly, a mess for sure. Appearances aside, I had much to learn about the myriad of details facing any AWI reenactor. Enter *The Colonial Chronicle*.

To me, it was chicken soup for the reenactor's soul. The editions I got a hold of would soon become well-worn and dog eared. It was an important piece of my research kit in my early years. What made *The Colonial Chronicle* special was that the contributors were reenactors, published authors, historians and museum curators. Those who wrote articles in *The Colonial Chronicle* were well-versed in the craft.

Of particular interest to me in *The Greatest Hits of The Colonial Chronicle* is the article on soft



hammers. At the time I read that particular piece, I was going through the same problem with my own musket. The articles on tailoring and hats never get old—my first years in the hobby saw me in loose smallclothes with that cheapo-quality hat on my noggin—and serve as a reminder of what all reenactors in the AWI need to strive for in terms of an authentic appearance. To be cliché, there is something for everyone in this book!

I am glad that Phil has decided to re-issue the best of the best in terms of

the articles that still have staying power and sound advice. Reading it sent me pleasantly down memory lane at times, as I remembered specific articles from my early days.

You would be wise to add *The Greatest Hits of The Colonial Chronicle* to your research kit. Sadly, those well-worn and dog-eared editions of mine are long gone. But the best of the best is a fitting and welcome substitute for me. It is jam packed with good soldierly advice, cultural insights, and thought-provoking pieces. There is something to be said for refreshing one's knowledge about the hobby whether you are a newbie or veteran. I enjoyed reading it, and I am sure that I will pull it out of the book case from time to time.

Weaver, Philip D. *The Greatest Hits of the Colonial Chronicle: A Quarterly Newsletter of 18th and Early 19th Century North American Living History, The Rev-War Collection*. Highland, NY: Colonial Consulting, 2016. ISBN: 978-0-9975803-0-3



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