

# Ye Olde Goate's Gazette

*Official Newsletter of 4th Company, Brigade of Guards*

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January, 2011

## **Living Archaeology?**

*By Ed Niven*

We refer to our hobby as "living history," but on reflection, I think, it has less to do with history than with archaeology. Archaeology can be defined as the study of past human societies through the artifacts they have left behind as well as evidence they have left behind of their existence in their environment. History, by contrast, is a genre of literature, and its study is focused on the critical examination of written texts, be they left by the great figures of the age or by a person of common origin. The study of history is properly a hybrid of literary criticism and the underlying factual information that supports the historical narrative.

The exercise of our hobby is clearly focused on the material culture of the age. The passion of most of our colleagues in the hobby is for material culture. The every day stuff of our practice is the production of the stuff eighteenth century people used and its use in environments as similar as we can create to the eighteenth century. We seek to recreate their experience through learning how they made and used their material possessions.

In recent years in the 4th Company, we have focused on improving our uniforms by locating, purchasing, and using materials that more accurately reproduce the material we think was used. We have done this with our regimental coats and trousers. Our uniform rules emphasize copying the materials, if not the fabrication techniques of the time. Our fellow reenactors try to outdo us by having more accurate shoes or tents.

One of the current trends in our hobby is an emphasis on more properly rendered eighteenth century tents, made from linen rather than cotton canvas, without tie closures on the doors, with wooden stakes only, and without prefabricated poles.

We strive to recapture not only the manufactured goods but also the mannerisms and the folkways of the time, which we do with less success than we do with the material goods. All we know of the human behavior is known from the volume of written records, both

military and civilian, official, and personal. Our emphasis, if explicitly material, is certainly factual in focus.

History is written from analyzing the factual record and seeking to find meaning in the information. We look for meaning both as individuals and as members of a variety of communities both political and not. The factual information is not in itself history. History is the written narrative that draws conclusion and enlightenment from the material culture and its residue.

Some members of our community do engage in the process of history, seeking to understand broadly the implications of what they learn about material culture. The most successful and respected practitioners of our hobby, though, seem to be those who stop short of history and focus on the quality of the goods they produce and/or use. The fact that this is true tells us something about our hobby, which I expect we will consider further in this space in the future.

## **Upcoming Events**

**February 20-Revolutionary War Day, Ft Ward Park, Arlington, VA**

**March 12-13-Reenactment of the Battle of Guilford Court House, Greensboro, NC**

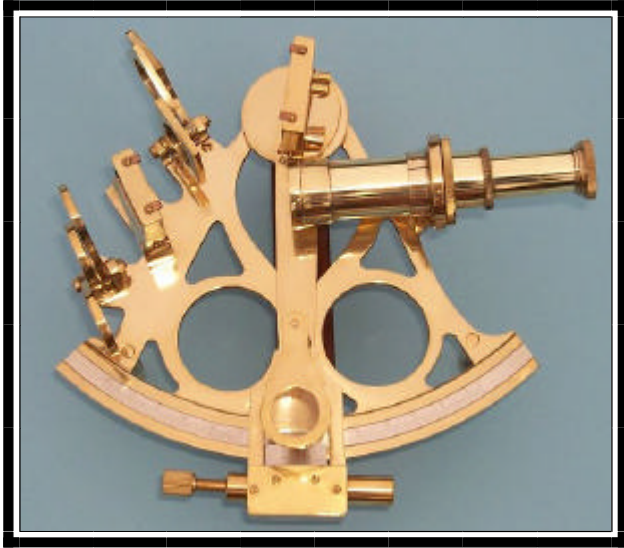
## **Gazette Staff**

Editors-Ed Niven, Rich Manzano  
Staff Correspondent-Bob Vogler  
This Month's Unwitting Accomplices-Don Hagist,  
Scott Smith, Dan Smith

# Company and Hobby News

## Now Available

I am pleased to announce that we are now offering a reproduction of the 1777 "Nautical Almanac and Astronomical Ephemeris." "Have a sextant or octant? You NEED this book in order to complete your kit and make sense of your readings. Your instrument is virtually worthless without it! Wish you had a sextant or octant? Have octant envy?



Impress your friends. Purchase this ephemeris and make your friends think you are a navigator of the land and sea. When asked about the location of your actual instrument, reply "that's a secret," "I lost it," "I loaned it to a friend," or the classic "yeah she's a model, but she goes to another school so there's no way you know her." Available from Patton Smith & Co. for \$22.00 plus tax and shipping.

[http://www.pattonsmith.com/index.php?option=com\\_rokquickcart&view=rokquickcart&Itemid=8](http://www.pattonsmith.com/index.php?option=com_rokquickcart&view=rokquickcart&Itemid=8)

The Nautical Almanac and Astronomical Ephemeris for the year 1777. (Published by the order of the Commissioners of Longitude. London: William Richardson. Royal Observatory, Greenwich.) Published annually from 1766 to 1957, this is the book that aided navigators in interpreting the data obtained from instruments like quadrants, octants, and sextants in order to successfully navigate by observations of celestial objects. This is a reproduction of the original 1777 edition of the almanac. Soft-bound with off-white laid paper stitched together with linen thread (the originals from this period were bound in calfskin). 200+ pages.

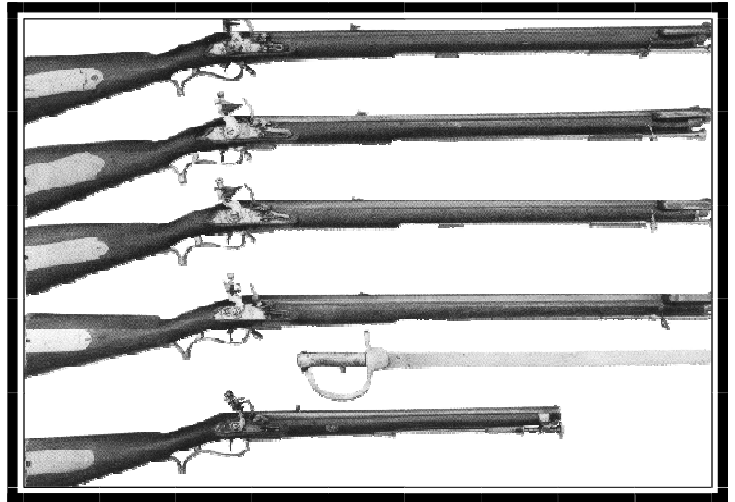
Scott Smith  
Lynchburg, VA

## An Inquiry

My name is Dan Smith. I am an archaeologist with the Jamestown Rediscovery project at Historic Jamestowne on Jamestown Island, Virginia, USA. The director of archaeology here, Dr. William Kelso, found an inscription on the stock of a rifle recovered from an 18th-century well, and he believes it is a reference to a French colonel who fought on the side of the Americans during the American Revolutionary War. Dr. Kelso has asked me to find any available information about the colonel, but none can be found in the sources I've checked. The only information we have is the inscription "Col Verliac" on a piece of brass from the rifle. If anyone on the RevList has any information that would be helpful, or can suggest possible sources of information, it would be much appreciated.

Thank you,

Dan Smith  
Field Archaeologist  
Jamestown Rediscovery  
Historic Jamestowne



# British Army History

## Cornwallis & His “Little Corps”

By Bob Vogler

In a letter to Lord George Germain from Lord Cornwallis dated 23 April 1781- Wilmington, NC:

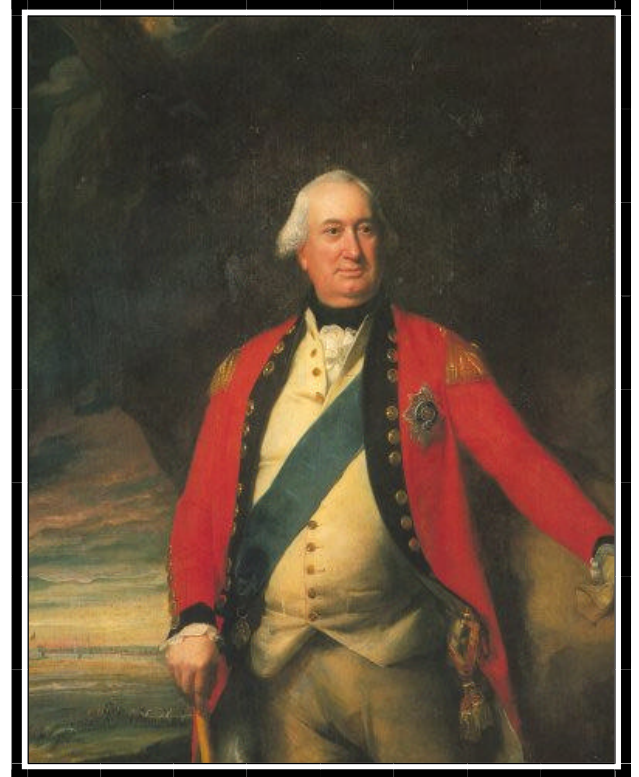
*“... ..I apprehend a possibility of the utmost hazard to this little corps, with the chance of a benefit in the attempt: for if we are so unlucky as to suffer a severe blow in South Carolina, the spirit of revolt in that province would become very general, and the numerous rebels in this province be encouraged to be more than ever active and violent. This might enable General Greene to hem me in among the great rivers, and by cutting off our subsistence, render our arms useless;... I have, therefore, under to many embarrassing circumstances, ... resolved to take advantage of General Greene’s having left the back part of Virginia open, and march immediately into that province, to attempt a junction with General Phillips. I have more readily decided upon this measure, because if General Greene fails in the object of his march, his retreat will relieve South Carolina; and my force being very insufficient for offensive operations in this province, may be employed usefully in Virginia, in conjunction with the corps under the command of General Phillips.”*

Observations of the passage:

1. Cornwallis was afraid that Greene would hem him in among the great rivers of the Carolinas and cut off his subsistence and render his army useless. His solution was to march to Virginia and to link up with Phillips. Of course, Cornwallis marched to Virginia only to be hemmed in among the great rivers of Virginia, cut off from subsistence, and his army rendered useless by Washington and Rochambeau rather than by Greene.
2. Several times in his letters to Clinton and Germain after the battle of Guilford Courthouse, Cornwallis referred to his command as his “little corps” or some other similar description. He also recognized that his command was “insufficient for offensive operations” and needed to be combined with the forces of Phillips to give him the necessary strength to continue his operations in the southern provinces.
3. Cornwallis seems to recognize what Member of Parliament Fox stated after the battle of Guilford Courthouse, “Another such Victory will ruin the British Army.”

Historian Bart Reynolds responded to the above statements and analysis writing that Greene was waging a campaign of attrition in which he could lose every major engagement and still bleed Cornwallis to death. It

is a good strategy for a relatively weak but indigenous military force under the circumstances. Initially Cornwallis had an advantage in that he had a relatively well trained professional army with a high percentage of battle hardened veterans. However, his manpower resources were finite and the degree of Loyalist support that he had hoped for never materialized. His casualty losses could not be replaced without a junction without the forces commanded by General Phillips.



Reynolds further states the British strategy in the south seems to have been based upon faulty intelligence and wishful thinking. The key to its success lay in engendering massive support from southern Loyalists in order to secure both additional manpower and logistical resources. The Americans were very successful in eliminating or intimidating the loyalist leadership and while there may have been sufficient loyalist manpower available it was never able to coalesce into any organization large enough to be useful in offsetting the losses suffered by Cornwallis. Logistically the British Army had always been heavily dependent upon the Royal navy for resupply. By moving his army inland through the Carolinas, Cornwallis lost that essential support which placed a severe strain on his ability to adequately feed, clothe, and rearm his troops. His repeated orders against marauding are indicative of the breakdown of his logistical system.

# 18th Century History

## An Inquiry Concerning Humour

By Don Hagist

While trolling through a British newspaper looking for deserter ads, I stopped to read this anecdote. This sort of thing is fairly common in the newspapers, and most of them aren't particularly funny but usually I at least understand the effort at humor. But this one has me stumped:

*Bon Mot.* A day or two after General Burgoyne arrived, a large party being at dinner, the conversation turned upon the propriety, or impropriety, of his taking his seat in Parliament, previous to a court of inquiry: "Poh, poh, (says a gentleman of the party) independent of his borough here, he has a right to take his seat in the House." "How will you make that out?" said the company, "because (says the other) he's returned by America." *Cumbria Packet*, 9 June 1778

I understand what they're talking about, but what's the joke?

## Carolina Militia Arms

By Bob Vogler

Since 2001, "The American Rifleman" has published eight articles on the firearms of the AWI. I sorted through them, while waiting for Saint Nicholas last night, & could not find a definitive answer to your question. But, "American-Made Muskets in the Revolutionary War" (Oct. 2003) by George C. Neumann may provide some general answers.

*"The immediate American needs had to be satisfied quickly by obtaining existing guns. The provincials proceeded to raid local arsenals, confiscate loyalist guns, purchase civilian arms, seize British supplies, acquire cast-off or surplus firearms from Europe through independent agents and repair or cannibalize damaged pieces." "Efforts were also implemented to make use of the limited production capabilities within the Colonies. An estimated 2,500 to 3,000 gunsmiths were available, of which perhaps two-thirds favored the American cause." "The existing provincial gunsmiths included a number of craftsmen, but the need for volume soon overrode artistry as their primary objective. The most time-consuming work was making locks and barrels. Even before hostilities began, it was usually more cost effective for the makers to import those two components in bulk and make the remaining parts locally. This new flood of used parts changed most gun production to mixed assembly & repair. The author has found as many as five countries represented on a single American musket." "Although the typical American made long arms favored the familiar British Brown Bess Land Pattern during the early war years, they shifted toward French designs and components as foreign aid expanded and France's serviceable muskets re-equipped most of the*

*Continental Line. The transition came slowly however, for the maintenance and repair of arms returned from active field use added to the gunsmiths' burdens." "To cope with these continuing demands, the individual states and the Congress began to establish larger and more centralized storage/repair facilities. By 1778, there were six Continental arsenals.. In 1780, Congress created the Philadelphia Supply Agencies which included the French Factory, The Continental Armory, and related parts suppliers as major sources centered in that city. Congress had enough inventory to sell surplus arms to the states which, in turn had expanded their own capacities. Virginia founded a State Gun Factory in Fredericksburg (1775), but most of the states resorted to encouraging private gun makers in favorable locations, such as Pennsylvania's Lancaster County, Connecticut's Goshen and Virginia's Rappahannock Forge. The rebels' most complete manufacturing resources were in Pennsylvania, which had important iron furnaces; but much of this capacity was focused on civilian long rifles. "Out of the more than 30,000 long arms used by the American line troops during the War for Independence, probably in excess of 80,000 were the products of American's scattered gunsmiths using mixed components.." The July 2010 issue of "The American Rifleman"- "Marksmanship in 1775: Myth or Reality?" by Alexander Rose, notes: "Yet the antiquity of the militiamen's pieces should not obscure their lethality. These were working, effective, and well-maintained arms. In an era when guns were expensive and difficult to make it was common for even regular soldiers to use hand-me-downs..." "It is undoubtedly true that not all the Americans were 'dead shots', but a significant number were highly proficient shooters by the standards of the time." "American shooting, however, somewhat overcame disadvantages (of the musket) by dint of long experience, a lot of practice, and personal knowledge of a gun's idiosyncrasies." Sergeant Roger Lamb of the Royal Welch Fusiliers judged that 'the generality of the Americans were good marksmen; the whole of their previous military knowledge had been derived from hunting, and the ordinary amusements of sportsmen. The dexterity which by long habit they had acquired hitting beasts, birds, and marks, was fatally applied.' "It is not the gun that matters, we should remember, but the man behind it, and the American militias were packed with veterans blooded in the French & Indian War and boasting plenty of firefights" with hostile Indians. In sum, southern militia did not have to have long rifles at King's Mountain, at Cowpens, or with Marion along the Pee Dee River, to be lethal. A musket with a deadly range of 100 yards, could get the job done, if the man aiming the firearm was an experienced shot*

# 18th Century History

## War in the West

By Bob Vogler

*"Histories of the Revolutionary War often tend to concentrate on the warfare along the Atlantic seaboard and ignore the serious threat that was present in the West. While the British Army was threatening the political integrity of the American colonies, the Indian tribes on the western frontier, in response to continued encroachments, were threatening the territorial integrity of the western regions of the American settlements... the Indian tribes proved to be a formidable and deadly foe." (Morrison, p. 13)*

*"In 1776 when the hostilities with England erupted into open warfare, the colonies hoped that the Indians would remain neutral. The mere fact of the Indian presence in the West, the memory of past Indian raids and the knowledge that similar attacks could occur at any time, prevented the colonists from paying full attention to defeating the British. (Morrison, p. 13)*

In the South, John Stuart, Alexander Cameron, and Henry Stuart, were the British Superintendents of Indian Affairs and they discovered the Indian's resentment toward the American's encroachment upon their lands.

*"In the West there was considerable Loyalist and neutralist sentiment. In one of the Revolution's many ironies, the leadership of the independence movement in the South was drawn from the very tidewater elite that had opposed the Regulators (of North Carolina), and consequently many backcountry populists tended toward Loyalism. Communities, churches, even families were torn by partisan division... There was a distinct lack of enthusiasm concerning the American Cause." (Faragher p. 142)*

*"... following the defeat of a North Carolina Loyalist army by patriot forces at the battle of Moore's Creek Bridge in February 1776, many Crown supporters, as well as others who simply wished to steer clear of conflict, moved west. Whigs and revolutionaries in Kentucky found this migration alarming. Immediate measures needed to be taken, proclaimed the Harrodsburg (current KY) Committee of Safety, to prevent 'this immense and fertile country' from becoming 'an asylum to those whose principles are inimical to American Liberty.'" (Faragher p. 142)*

Many settlers "would fight to defend the security and interests of their own community during the Revolution. They aligned with neither ideological camp, a neutrality that became increasingly difficult to maintain as the conflict sharpened and grew bitter. (Faragher p. 143)

*"... in the West, the Revolution continued the conflict between settlers and Indians for control of the Ohio Valley. That struggle had begun with Dunmore's War in 1774 and did not reach its concluding phase in Kentucky until the defeat of Indian forces at the Battle of Fallen Timbers twenty years later. Over this period at least two thousand Americans and Indians in countless hundreds lost their lives in what was the bloodiest phase of the three century campaign for the conquest of North America. From 1775 to 1782, 860 Kentuckians met a violent death, the greatest loss relative to population suffered by any section of the country during the Revolution. While in the thirteen coastal colonies there were about ten war related deaths for every 1000 persons, in Kentucky there were better than seventy." (Faragher pp.143-144)*

*"In a passage from the Declaration of Independence intended to appeal directly to western settlers, Thomas Jefferson argued that the British had 'endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.' To be sure, the Indians of the Ohio country were a formidable threat to the western settlers... In June 1776, the British were urging restraint on their western Indian allies. It was the Indians themselves, with reasons of their own, who chose war against the Kentuckians. Fearful that American independence would mean the loss of their Ohio homes, many warriors clamored for battle. (Faragher pp. 144-145)*

*"American military leaders believed that it would take a massive attack against British-Indian centers like Detroit to end the threat in the West, but, lacking the resources and manpower to implement such a strategy, for the most part the western settlers fought a defense war." (Faragher p.145)*

*"Impressed by the (Indian) raids, the British now made the decision to engage the Indians in a strategy designed to demoralize the American settlements on the border. Lieutenant Governor Henry Hamilton in Detroit was directed to employ them 'in making a Diversion and exciting an alarm upon the frontiers of Virginia and Pennsylvania.' He sent scores of small parties into Kentucky and directed several large campaigns against Wheeling on the Ohio, forcing the Continental forces stationed at Fort Pitt onto the defensive. Because of the bounty the British paid Indians for scalps and prisoners, Hamilton became known as the 'hair buyer.' Had it not been for the outrage of Americans over these payments, Hamilton's offer of full pardon and grants of land to any who came over to the British might have been more attractive." (Faragher p.151)*

*"The survival of the trans-Appalachian settlements in the Revolution was due chiefly to Lieutenant Colonel George*

# 18th Century History

*Rogers Clark's campaign against the British and Indians in the Ohio and Mississippi valleys beginning in 1776. Persuading Virginia's governor Patrick Henry about the necessity of protecting Virginia's western land, he was directed to march his 500 Virginia militiamen into to Virginia's Northwest Territory. In 1779 with four companies of frontiersmen which he had enlisted in the western settlements of Virginia, current Tennessee, and current Kentucky, Clark captured the British Forts at Kaskaskia (Illinois) and Vincennes (Indiana), thus neutralizing the British military power in the region." (Rouse p. 114)*

*"To cap the victory, the frontiersmen captured Lieutenant Governor Henry Hamilton. After returning him to Virginia via the Wilderness Road, a distance of 840 miles, they imprisoned him in the goal at Williamsburg. (Rouse p. 114)*

In July 1777, Virginia's Governor Patrick Henry commissioned Major Joseph Martin as the agent and Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Commonwealth of Virginia. As the war progressed, Martin's role as Indian agent became increasingly related to the military situation. (Morrison, pp 18 & 22)

*"The military campaigns of 1778 and 1779 took place in Georgia and South Carolina but their effects were felt in backcountry North Carolina, and in subsequent and final years of the war civil violence completely engulfed the Yadkin (River region of NC). ... there was growing support for the patriot cause and increasing hostility to Loyalism. The North Carolina Tories 'had to run off because they were so hated' one man concluded. A person 'could hardly get along the road for them.' Some who 'emigrated' decided that despite the Indian terrors in the West, their families would be safer in Kentucky than in North Carolina." (Faragher pp. 202-203)*

The Indian war continued and even quickened in 1779. "There was brutality on both sides." (Faragher p. 210) The settlements at Boonesborough, Nashborough, and Watauga as well as others all came under Indian attack at one time or another and involved such American legends as Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Boone.

*"The season of war in 1779 ended with a devastating Indian attack on an American convoy on the Ohio loaded with supplies sent from New Orleans. Forty Americans died, others were captured, and the supplies plundered or destroyed... A combined British and Indian army moved into Kentucky and forced the surrender of two stations, carrying away more than 300 prisoners. ... I don't believe we have more than two Families really Rebels,' reported the British commanding officer, who thought they would 'faithfully defend the*

*country that affords them protection. 'American officials reached similar conclusions. 'Should the Enemy approach the frontier and offer protection,' an American officer wrote from Fort Pitt, 'half the Inhabitants would join them.'" (Faragher pp. 209-210)*

When Major Patrick Ferguson aroused the ire of the "Overmountain Men" in 1780, "a large number of men were pulled from the frontier to confront him as he maneuvered near the North Carolina/South Carolina border. Western settlements were under constant danger of attack. Therefore, while the King's Mountain campaign was in progress, Indian agent Major Joseph Martin had the task of keeping the Cherokee nation peaceful while so many of the 'Overmountain Men' were away from the frontier. He succeeded in holding the Indians from attack for enough time to allow the defeat of Ferguson at King's Mountain." (Morrison p. 22)

Clark in the last years of the war continued to try to counter the renewed waves of Tory-Indian raids against the frontier settlements. A consequence of the Indians wiping out the forty man supply party, Lieutenant Colonel Clark retaliated by leading 1,000 Kentucky riflemen into Shawnee country to destroy villages, He led other punitive expeditions which touched off new rounds of Tory-Indian vengeance. One of the last operations of the war was Clark's expedition against the Indians at Chilli-cothe on 10 November 1782. (Boatner pp. 1193-1194)

*"The United States and Great Britain signed preliminary articles of peace on November 3, 1782. When the Indians got word of the armistice in December they were 'thunder struck,' according to a British officer. The conclusion of the Revolution did not resolve the conflict between the Indians and the Americans over control of the Ohio Valley. (Faragher p. 209)*

The final resolution would have to wait until 1794 and the Battle of Fallen Timbers and the triumph of General "Mad Anthony Wayne.

## Sources:

*Daniel Boone: The Life & Legend of an American Pioneer* by John Mack Faragher

*Encyclopedia of the American Revolution* by Mark M. Boatner, III

*George Rogers Clark and the Winning of the Old Northwest* by Robert C. Alberts

*Joseph Martin and the Southern Frontier* by Denise Pratt Morrison

6 *The Great Wagon Road: From Philadelphia to the South* by Parke Rouse Ir

## **Calendar of Events**

The Guards will not participate in every event listed here. Individual Guardsmen are, however, encouraged to support nearby small-scale events that are not on 4th Company's official calendar and brigade with other Crown units. More details will be posted on future events as they become available. Watch your email and future editions of the Gazette for details and discussions about attendance..

### **2011**

#### **January**

**January 15-16-Commemoration of the Battle of Cowpens**, Living History Event, Cowpens Battlefield NHP, Chesnee, SC

#### **February**

**February 20-Revolutionary War Day**, Ft Ward Park, Arlington, VA

**February 26-27-Old Salem**, Living History Event, Winston-Salem, NC

#### **March**

**March 12-13-Reenactment of the Battle of Guilford Court House**, Tannenbaum and Country Parks, Greensboro, NC

#### **June**

**Date TBA-Under the Redcoat**, Colonial Williamsburg, Williamsburg, VA

#### **July**

**July 16-17-Reenactment of the Battle of Huck's Defeat**-Historic Brattonsville, Brattonsville, SC