



# Ye Olde Goate's Gazette

Official Newsletter of 4th Company, Brigade of Guards

November, 2007

## Guards! A Word from the Captain :



November is here, and although the weather would not so indicate, it is time for 4<sup>th</sup> Company to settle into winter quarters and prepare for the 2008 campaign. The active season finished on a high note, with a successful, if soggy, return to Tryon Palace and a fighting retreat from Williamsburg (commanded personally by our own Field Marshal Lord Callaham) certain to go down in the annals of history as one of the great martial feats of all time. At Tryon, hundreds of North Carolina's home schooled children were given accurate information about 18<sup>th</sup> Century soldiering, while Colonial Williamsburg visitors were left wondering how a ragtag horde of colonial bumpkins and a few Frenchmen ever got the better of King George's fearsome redcoats.

Now is the time to get to work repairing kit worn down and damaged by heavy campaigning, there is not time enough after the holidays to do a proper job before we say farewell to the comforts of garrison life and return to active service. For Guardsmen, the only acceptable standard is perfection. Those failing to meet the standard will be left to the tender mercies of Serjeant Manzano and the corporals.

Speaking of drill, we need to get together during the winter months to keep our tactical edge over the opposition. I will leave it in the capable hands of the noncommissioned leadership to arrange, but winter drills have been effective in the past and we will continue the tradition this year.

Lastly, please put the dates for potential 2008 events on your calendars now. We had a good 2007, and there were many great experiences, but our numbers in the field at many major events were distressingly small. Let's commit to making 4<sup>th</sup> Company a forceful presence in 2008.

Yr. Most Humble & Obt. Servant, & etc,

*Geoff*

## 4<sup>th</sup> Company to Adopt Kochan & Phillips Wool

The votes are in and The Great Wool Debate has ended. The membership has decided (overwhelmingly) to begin using madder red wool from Kochan & Phillips for all future regimental coats. Veteran Guardsmen who wish to replace aging coats or to upgrade their impression are encouraged, *but not required*, to do the same. All existing scarlet red coats are "grandfathered in" until they become unserviceable, at which time they are to be replaced with coats made from madder red wool. The leadership once again extends its thanks to all members of the unit for their prompt voting and a well-reasoned discussion of the pro and cons of this change. With the change to a more authentically produced wool in a now documented color, 4<sup>th</sup> Company continues in its tradition of excellence and authenticity. We are in the midst of working out the finances and logistics for a bulk purchase of the new wool. An additional round of thanks is due to the Guardsmen who have agreed to pre-purchase their yardage, which substantially diminishes the impact this order will have on the unit's treasury. More details about this will be sent out as they become available, stay tuned. If you have any questions, please direct them to Sjt. Manzano.

## Upcoming Events for the 4th Company:

### **December 14: Fifer Cole's 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday Celebration**

Mark your calendars one and all. The Guards will be celebrating this most auspicious occasion in style. Final details are still in the works, but expect details soon. This event will also coincide with a visit to the DC area from long-lost Guardsman Berger, so start scanning eBay auctions for spare livers now.

# After Action Reports

## Tryon Palace Home School Day

Deb, Jack, Heather and I arrived Friday afternoon, considerably later than we had originally planned due to a trailer mishap on the way (a WHEEL coming completely off the dang thing!). After transferring all the stuff into a new rental trailer, in the rain, we made it in time to get the keys and set up the tents on dry ground. We immediately found that we were going to need to obtain some more firebrick/pavers in order to have the proper cooking hearth as we've had in the past.

Through Friday evening and into Saturday morning, Captain and Mrs. Sheffer, Sjt Manzano, Guardsman Flash and family, Guardsman Lloyd, PGP, and the 'Beeks arrived and settled into quarters. Home School Saturday began with rain, which caused the whole schedule to go goofy. Clearly, we couldn't drill or do static outside displays in the rain – which was pretty hard at times. The original "Plan B" was to move PGP's Soldier Life display into the Stable – and to use some of the open space in the Stable breezeway for School of the Soldier demonstrations, but a Naval group had been set up in there. So we moved Ted's display to the covered walkway next to the Palace, adjacent to some similar items that the Palace docents had available for the kids to handle. It worked well there, though it kind of left Ted high and dry for a large part of the day. Plenty of sturdy Guardsmen came and went to add colour but it meant a lot of time on his feet for Ted. He clearly was the "hardest working Guardsman" of the event.

Fifer Jack tried to get together some musick demonstrations. The first got truncated when, as he got started in one of the breezeway areas, the rain slacked off and the Palace staff started up some kids' games on the front green. That, naturally, drew the crowd, so Jack went back to simply looking gorgeous in his 1<sup>st</sup> Guards musician coat and helping out around camp and in the drills! At one of the other musick demonstrations, a Mom came up and complained that she had been expecting a whole fife and drum corps! Can't please everyone!

In the meantime, the very helpful Security staff had found some more paving brick and Guardsman Jay Callaham, permanent KP for the day, was hauling some of them to the kitchen fire on the old wooden wheel barrow that was found near the woodshed, when it collapsed under the weight. A close examination determined that much of the wood in the barrow bed was

rotted from long exposure to the elements. We reported it to the Security guys who wrote up an incident report – and all were glad that it happened with us rather than from a kid or two deciding to sit on it and having it crash under them!

The rain finally stopped and so we were able to get back to a more diverse schedule. The lads performed several drill and firing demonstrations and posted guard on the front gates. We allowed some training of some of the older kids who had expressed an interest. That went very well and was appreciated.

We had less visitation in the camp area than anticipated, primarily due to the concentration of activity to the front of the Palace grounds due to the rain. People came around when we performed firings, attracted by the sound of the muskets, and some checked out the cooking demo, which seemed to interest the adults more than the kids. The map table and instruments display at the officer's tent was enjoyed by both adults and kids, as was some of the other "administrative duty" material that was shared with them. That was especially appreciated by the military veterans who had dealt with government paperwork ad nauseum.

The other "Hardest Worker" honourable mention goes to Deb Callaham for her huge efforts over the cooking fire! As always, we feasted on the largesse of the Governor's gardens and larder! The luncheon Salamagundi was excellent and the dinner was, as always, divine! The weather that weekend was unusually hot for that time of year, making her and Heather's work around the fire that much more challenging. The results were great and VERY little was left to clean out after all had stuffed themselves to their fill!

Great site, good fellowship among our fellow Guardsmen, good food, good performances, excellent hosts, a decent honorarium to go to the company treasury to cover necessities - - all in all, we considered it to be a very positive weekend. The thing we needed the most was MORE GUARDSMEN there to share the burden and enhance the fellowship!

# After Action Reports-Continued

## Guards Sack Williamsburg at 2nd Prelude to Victory Event

The 4th Company followed up its performance at last year's inaugural "Prelude to Victory" event with a return to Colonial Williamsburg 12 and 13 October. Under perfect weather, the Guards detachment, reinforced by several Maryland Loyalists swaggered into town and enforced the King's Peace for a few hours before giving way to Mr. Washington's rabble just before lunch. The 4th Company and friends put on a proper show of martial power for the inhabitants and visitors to the town, properly disposing of one vociferous rebel in one of the town's taverns. An afternoon of relaxation was followed by the 4th Company tradition of dinner (and drinks) at the Green Leaf Tavern. On Saturday morning we gathered for a brisk exchange of musketry with Mr. Washington's minions before retiring to our homes.

## Octoberfest 2007

I think we can all agree that this After Action Report pretty much writes itself...except for the part where Guardsman Berger is warned that he is now one infraction away from permanent sedan chair duty with the von Donop Regiment.

The only thing preventing Bergermeister Meisterberger from being immediately sent to the halberds for punishment (besides the fact that the new Serjeant still needs to purchase said halberd) is the fact that his new better half has expressed an interest dressing out and joining the ranks of the distaff.



## Washington Book Prize Redux

4<sup>th</sup> Company received a copy of the winning entry from the 2008 Washington Book Prize and a handwritten note of thanks from the organizers at Washington College in late October.

## This Month in the History of the Guards

### *1688 William of Orange Lands in Devon, The Glorious Revolution Begins*

November 1688 marked the beginning of several years of turmoil in the Foot Guards regiments. The overall crisis within the British monarchy was to impact the Guards directly and dramatically. Thanks to his conversion to Catholicism, his unapologetically pro-Catholic domestic policies and foreign policies that seemed likely to make England a client state of Louis XIV's France, King James II had lost the confidence of the country and the Court. The birth of a male heir and prospect of reestablishing a Catholic royal bloodline finally pushed James' myriad opponents into open revolt. James' son-in-law William, Prince of Orange and Stadtholder of the Netherlands, was invited by a group highly placed nobles to intervene militarily and reestablish a Protestant monarchy. William had long planned such a move and embarked his 21,000 man strong army, landing in England during the middle of November. James moved a hastily assembled and ill-trained army (which included at least two battalions of Guards) westward to challenge William. The Guards never came to blows with William's army, however. Sir John Churchill and the commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Foot Guards, the Duke of Grafton, deserted and declared for William as did many other highly placed army and navy officers. James moved his dispirited and shrinking army back to London and began a long series of military and political maneuvers that would eventually culminate in his abandoning the Throne and fleeing to France. James ordered his Foot Guards regiments to remain in London and offer no resistance to William

# Working on Your Kit During Winter Quarters

With Winter Quarters nearly upon us Guardsmen should begin looking to their kit. Newer recruits, your humble Editor included, have been missing several items from their turnout due to the spotty availability of some items that veteran Guardsmen had no trouble acquiring back in the day.

## Wool Blankets

These are being worn more often as we are frequently at events where we portray the Army “on the march.” And of course at the time when they’re more needed, accurate and affordable blankets are much more of a challenge to find. Guardsmen who do not currently own a blanket should make a point of adding one to their kit in the near future. We have only one loaner blanket in Company Stores. Our old supplier Massachusetts Army-Navy in Boston appears to be out of business. Their old 800 number now encourages you to call a different number for “hot chat” and their old store number has been reassigned residentially. Currently, the easiest way to buy blankets online is from the Turkey Foot Trading Company ([www.turkeyfootllc.com/blankets.html](http://www.turkeyfootllc.com/blankets.html)). Their white wool blanket is consistent with what many of us are carrying.

Searching online on eBay or outdoor and military surplus sites using terms like “British Hospital Blanket”, “British White Wool Blanket” and “British Surplus Blanket” can also sometimes be fruitful. As of this writing, the General Army Navy Outdoor eBay store ([stores.ebay.com/General-Army-Navy-Outdoor](http://stores.ebay.com/General-Army-Navy-Outdoor)) carries acceptable blankets, as does The Sportman’s Guide: (<http://www.sportsmansguide.com/cb/cb.asp?a=300606>) web site.

Be sure to run your finds from any other vendors by veteran members of the unit before placing an order.

Do NOT purchase the white wool blankets pre-marked with the ‘GR’ and Broad Arrow sold by the Smoke & Fire Company. They do not meet our authenticity standards. Also avoid the white with blue stripes Czech surplus military blankets.

NB: Blankets are no longer worn “horseshoe” style, but are folded in thirds lengthwise and rolled into a tight cylinder. A hemp webbing strap (available from Company Stores for \$14, contact Sjt. Manzano) is then run through the center of the rolled blanket and it is slung over the right shoulder. The blanket roll should be worn high on the back so as not to impede access to you haversack, canteen or cartridge box.

## Checked Linen

After a long and frustrating absence from sutler shelves, blue checked linen is once more available. Most of the previously available yard goods were woven with much too wide a check pattern and no Guardsman should look like he made his shirt from the tablecloth of a cheap Italian restaurant. The checked linen listed below uses a much more accurate to the period 1/8” check. We would like to see Guardsmen begin retiring cotton muslin fatigue shirts now that the proper material is available. Checked linen can be purchased from the following vendors:

### Wm. Booth – Draper

(<http://wmboothdraper.com/>)

See their “Linen | Checks and Stripes” section. The blue checked linen (WLG-171) is available for \$15/yd

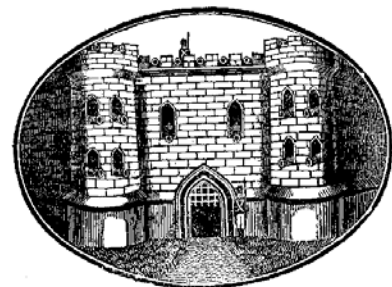
### Rancocas Merchants

Pvt. GP spotted this sutler at Bordentown and your Sjt. promptly bought all the blue checked linen they had with them. Price is \$10/yd and as of a few weeks ago they still had some in stock. Sadly, they have no online store but you can contact them via email ([suited@bellatlantic.net](mailto:suited@bellatlantic.net)) or phone (856-461-3369).

### Burnley & Trowbridge

(<http://www.burnleyandtrowbridge.com>)

Has blue checked *fustian* for sale. The color and size of the checks are on target, but being 50 cotton makes it less authentic for our purposes (which is not a knock on B&T, who have reliably supplied our soldiers and camp followers for many years). We prefer soldiers who are upgrading their kit, or purchasing for their first fatigue shirt, to use all linen whenever possible



# Calendar of Events

## LEGEND:

**RED** text indicates a event the Company voted to support – MAJOR EFFORT

**GREEN** text indicates some interest and elements of the Company will support

*ITALIC* text indicates a new or potential event but no decisions have been made

BAR or BARS, indicates a BAR hosted, sanctioned, or supported event. BB means British Brigade

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National organization web sites have other event listings:

Brigade of the American Revolution: <http://www.brigade.org>

British Brigade: <http://www.britishbrigade.org>

## 2007

### >> **November 10: Drill at Sully Plantation, Chantilly, VA**

Members of the "northern platoon" will be conducting a drill at Sully Plantation from 9 a.m. until noon on Saturday, November 10, 2007. OpOrd to be sent out during the first week of November.

See [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully/) for directions.

### >> **December 14: Fifer Cole's 21st Birthday Celebration**

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### **November 1: "To Keep and Bear Arms: Armed Political Power in Virginia, 1648-1791"**

The George Washington University Law School, Washington, DC

Faculty Conference Center, 2:00 pm

This study is a deeply researched examination of military policy in Colonial and Revolutionary Virginia and an investigation of the ideological and empirical origins of the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution. It explores the "original" political context and "intent" of the amendment, which was written largely at the behest of and by Virginians during the 1788 Ratifying Convention. The central issue (and predominate concern) was federalism; specifically, the respective sovereignty of the state and national governments over the power of the sword. At bottom, the Second Amendment brokered a compromise between two conflicting perspectives over how armed political power should be constituted and exercised within a federation of state republics. For more information contact:

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### **November 3-4: Camden Field Days -- Camden, SC**

From Patrick O'Kelly of the 2<sup>nd</sup> South Carolina:

It isn't every event where I get carte blanche to do what we want for a scenario, but this has occurred with the Camden Field Days [this year].

On Saturday will be the battle of Camden. By doing it historically, there will be quite a bit of artillery fire in the beginning, and then an intense fight at the end. There will be a mortar firing demonstration with tennis ball projectiles (Camden has a cleared range fan beside them). There will also be a Ferguson rifle demonstration. There are usually a good amount of Sutlers there. Right after the battle there is always a round table discussion about some topic of the Revolution.

Saturday night there will be the Guy Fawkes Day effigy burning / celebration in the redoubt. There will be a dance on Saturday night, and they will also open up McCaa's Tavern, selling beer to the reenactors from inside a building.

Sunday will be a new scenario, Quinby Bridge/Shubrick's Plantation. This was a fight that [occurred] in July 1781 [pitting the 19<sup>th</sup> Regt. of Foot against Lee's Legion and other mounted rebel partisans.]

See [www.historic-camden.net](http://www.historic-camden.net) for more information.

### **November 9-10: "Cavalry in the American Revolution" Conference and Tours, Wofford College, Spartanburg, SC**

Presented by the Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution (SCAR), The South Carolina Historical Society, Wofford College, and the Cowpens National Battlefield, the conference will feature scholarly presentations, field demonstrations, and battlefield tours. The keynote presentation will be made by Dr. Gregory J. W. Urwin on the topic "There Is No Carrying on the War Without Them: "The Continental Light Dragoons, 1776-1783." See [www.southerncampaign.org](http://www.southerncampaign.org) for more information.

### **November 17-18: British Invasion of New Jersey, Ft. Lee, NJ**

The Palisades Interstate Park Commission and the 4th Battalion, New Jersey Volunteers will be sponsoring the annual commemoration of the British 1776 Invasion of New Jersey and Washington's historic Retreat. New activities will include: A pay call for the troops; Working parties for the site's blockhouse and kitchen (Woodcutters are especially needed); Courts Martial for each side; Baking bread in the fort's oven.

Artillery demonstrations each day will feature the fort's magnificent 32 Pounder. The fort will continue to provide a hot lunch each day, with the difference this year of serving a period "common pot." All participants are requested to bring their period eating and drinking utensils. Assistants, either male or female, to help with lunch each day will be needed. Please make someone available beforehand or aid if requested.

The event will include an interesting tactical weapons demonstration (battle) involving the blockhouse on Saturday, with Sunday devoted to demonstrations, drill and camp activities. It is our intention to have continuous and concurrent activities each day that will be enjoyable for the participants and spectators alike.

### **Nov. 30 – Dec. 2: Grande Illumination & British Night Watch – St. Augustine, FL**

The southern-most of all RevWar events. Probably to lengthy of a commute for all but Guardsman Berger but we include so brief write-up none the less for any Guardsmen wishing to visit warmer climes in uniform.

"The Festival weekend will begin this year on Friday Nov 30th 4 p.m. with a presentation of the 225th Anniversary commemorating the 1782 Loyalist Evacuation, ordered by His Majesty King George III from Charleston to St. Augustine. Soldiers, Townsfolk and Distaff will "walk" into to St. Augustine to be greeted at the City Gates by Guards. Once the Evacuee's passes are checked they will be welcomed to St. Augustine and partake in the events that make up the British Night Watch Weekend. Followed by an 8 p.m. Friday "Evening of 18th Century Entertainment" at the British Encampment, Spanish Quarter Colonial Museum."

See [www.britishnightwatch.org](http://www.britishnightwatch.org) for more information.

## **2008**

We have several preliminary dates for events in 2008 so start marking your calendars and saving up your vacation days accordingly! More details will be posted as they become available.

Winter Quarters Bacchanalia (Arlington, VA) – Date TBD by Cap'n Geoff & Lady Barb Sheffer

February: Washington's Birthday Events (Alexandria, VA) – Skirmish at Ft. Ward, Washington's Birthday Parade, work party and company business meeting, possible Pasta-palooza II.

February: Race to the Dan activities, Halifax County Historical Society (southern VA)

February: Ft. King George (Darien, GA)

Mid-March: Battle of Guilford Courthouse (Greensboro, NC)

April 5-6: Old Salem (Winston-Salem, NC)

April 19-20: Battle of Petersburg (Petersburg, VA)

May 17-18: Daniel Boone Homestead (Birdsboro, PA)

May 17-18: "Spirit of the Hornet's Nest" Rural Hill Farm (Huntersville, NC)

May 19-20: Welbourne Plantation (Middleburg, VA)

June 28-29: Battle of Monmouth 230<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Freehold, NJ)

August 2-3: Old Sturbridge Village (Sturbridge, MA)

September 20-21: Jerusalem Mill (Kingsville, MD)

October 18-19: Battle of the Hook (Gloucester Point, VA)

*We remain your most Humble and Obedient Servants,*

*Sjt. Richard Manzano, Co-Editor  
Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards  
"Nulli Secundus"*

*Guardsman Ed Niven, Co-Editor  
1<sup>st</sup> Regt. of Foot Guards  
"Semper Primus"*