



Ye Olde Goate's Gazette

Official Newsletter of 4th Company, Brigade of Guards

December, 2011

Good-Bye

For the past three or four years, more often than not, my musings have occupied this space. This will be my last issue as editor of the Gazette. Doing this publication has been a privilege and an avocation in itself. It has never been a project of my own, but of an elite editorial staff, which will, no doubt carry on this work from 2012 forward.

It was my particular privilege for the last couple of years to work with Bob Vogler on this publication. Bob is still a member of the 4th Company, but one whom we rarely see. Nevertheless, he has made a great contribution to the Company through his contributions to these pages. Bob is a tireless student of the American Revolution, particularly in the South, and his curiosity has served to keep us all interested in learning more about the war and those who participated in it.. Bob's wide ranging curiosity has consistently kept the Gazette in interesting reading content, some of it contributed directly, some of it pirated from his contributions to the hobby's email lists.

I'd also like to thank Rich Manzano, Geoff Sheffer, and TJ Vanderbeek for serving as the editorial board and correcting my misspellings and making sure I understood the implications of the material we published in this newsletter. Rich Manzano served as an exacting editor and Geoff and TJ faithfully took over his duties after he became inactive with our group.

Thank you also to the rest of you who contributed material, either through directed effort or through infamous or poorly considered behavior. Thanks particularly to Jay Callaham, who kept us connected with the newsletters of our esteemed opposition, the 2nd SC and 2nd NC Continental regiments.

In case the 4th Company has been involved in sober planning and enjoyment of the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays and not gossiping about the misbehavior of other members, I have accepted the post of Serjeant of Sutherland's Company, 2nd Battalion, 71st Regiment of Foot (Fraser's Highlanders). As of 1 January 2012, I will no longer be a member of the 4th Company.

My decision to leave the 4th Company was not one that I relished. I have enjoyed my involvement with the group since I joined six years ago. I have always enjoyed our approach to the hobby and been proud of our impression of soldiers of the Foot Guards in the American Revolution.

I started out primarily interested in the American Revolution, but developed a strong interest in the history of the British Foot Guard regiments, which I will continue to pursue as a hobby in the future. For the past couple of years, I have enjoyed learning about the Foot Guards of the Great War in April and November each year.

Another of my historical interests has always been Scottish soldiers of the British Army and when I joined the 4th Company in 2005, it had been with the hope of portraying a soldier of the Scots Guards. At the time, politics of the hobby did not permit.

As our hobby slowed in pace after the end of the 225th anniversary cycle in 2006, I filled my spare time by working with Alex Good to start a company of the 71st Regiment. At first, I was just learning the material culture of the Scottish soldiers, but Alex held the 4th Company in high regard as a reenacting group and constantly engaged me to show the members of the 71st how the 4th Company practices the hobby.

This summer, he asked me to take the job as company serjeant. I considered the proposition carefully, as I really had no enthusiasm for quitting the 4th Company, which would be necessary. For six years, I have had great fun knowing everybody in the 4th Company and working with both leadership groups which have guided the organization in those years. My decision to resign had nothing to do with dissatisfaction with the 4th Company. Geoff and TJ have run a fine program and will continue to do so.

I look forward to seeing you all down the road. I hope our paths will continue cross in the hobby and life.

Flash, 1st Regt of Foot Guards

The Society Page

SJT Vanderbeek Marries By Ed Niven

The apex of the social season for the Foot Guards this year was not the Queen's Birthday, but the marriage of 4th Company Serjeant, TJ Vanderbeek to Tanya MacIntosh in Washington, DC on August 20th. Many luminaries of the 4th Company appeared for the wedding and reception following at the Torpedo Factory in Alexandria, VA.



The Happy Couple

The wedding itself was a fine opportunity for the 4th Company to gather to practice two of its strongest talents: celebration and the consumption of alcoholic beverages. Ted Sahlin, Rich Manzano, Ed Niven, and spouses/girlfriends/significant others were entertained by Geoff and Barb Sheffer at their house in Arlington between the wedding and reception. As usual, the Sheffers made everyone feel welcome and the exchanging of tall tales was as copious as the refreshments.

A three car convoy then conveyed the entire group to Alexandria for the serious partying that followed. TJ and Tanya's reception at the Torpedo Factory featured not only some fine dining, but dancing until well past the bed-time of 4th Company types.

The Company made a fine turnout to witness the serjeant's wedding. We managed to take up a table at the reception by ourselves, where the planning began for the next company wedding. A certain Pte Theiss of the Coldstream Regiment appears destined to visit the altar in the near future.

So, congratulations to TJ and Tanya, and best wishes for many happy years together. Thanks to TJ and Tanya for a fine evening and to Geoff and Barb Sheffer for their fine hospitality as well. It was as much fun as spending the afternoon sweating in winter clothes, and this is the rare group where such is not insulting.



TJ and Tanya kicking up their heels after dinner



After dinner, the dance floor was crowded



Fall Events

Revolutionary War Days Mt Harmon Plantation Earleville, MD September 24-25, 2011

The 4th Company mustered on September 24th at Mount Harmon Plantation for what promised to be the largest event of the season. On the day preceding the event, however, torrential rains fell on the area, dumping in excess of 3 inches of water in already waterlogged area. Further dampening attendance for the weekend was a weather forecast that predicted even more rain Saturday night. The temperatures for the weekend never exceeded eighty degrees but the practice of our hobby was as uncomfortable in this environment as our usual attendance at Williamsburg in June due to high humidity levels.

Nevertheless, the 4th Company slogged in on Saturday morning despite many misgivings. In attendance were Capt and Mrs Sheffer, Sjt Vanderbeek, Cpl Niven, Ptes Vanderbeek, Sahlin, Chamberlain, Theiss, Gaudio, Weissinger, Manning, and a new recruit, Jonas Klemm, who in real life is currently serving as Chistian Gaudio's Executive Officer.



The 4th Company contingent at Mt Harmon

At 8:00 am on Saturday morning, conditions were not auspicious. We drove down Mt Harmon's long driveway, which was waterlogged and muddy, a one lane mud road which promised to become a quagmire under much more rain. We parked in a once grassy field which was in the process of swallowing any heavy vehicle which ventured into it. With many misgivings, we gathered around Tony Vanderbeek's van for distribution of loaner gear, and contingency planning.

After kitting our new privates and recruits, the Company elected to lug one tent into the swampy Crown

camp for equipment storage and emergency shelter. While the privates set up the tent, Corporal Niven gathered water bottles and filled them for the coming day's exercises.

The Company then formed for musket drill and training of the new men. We did some marching and maneuvering and practiced the firing and loading sequence and Serjeant Vanderbeek trained our newest recruit on loading and firing the musket. By the time the troops were well warmed, Barb had set up the company's nooning which was received gratefully by the entire Company.

After lunch, it was time the Company to get down to business. The company formed and marched off to harry Mr Washington's lads at the head of the Crown infantry. We were brigaded



with the 7th, 23rd, and 42nd of Foot. We marched off to the top of the neighboring hill and waited for the signal to begin the show.

While we waited, we heard a lots of firing to our right between us and the river. American cavalry and a company of riflemen showed up on our front, but we extended our line to the right, giving them no room exploit our open flank and they withdrew.

With some confusion, we advanced down the hill a short time later looking for the enemy. At the bottom of the hill, we found them. Hidden behind some trees extending into the field was the 2nd North Carolina regiment and some of their friends. After firing at us they quickly retreated over the brow of a small hill to reload. We exchanged several volleys at close range with them practicing the same tactic. As the Crown troops appeared in force, the North Carolina continentals lost some heart and refused to show themselves further, except for their captain's peeking over the hill like a child's Jack in the Box. After some spirited skir-

Fall Events

mishing, which included Pte Vanderbeek taking a shot at the Yankee Captain, the Crown Forces pushed forward to the inevitable conclusion of the battle, with Mr. Washington's contingent retreating rapidly in front of the Crown's troops.

With the day's work done, the Company focused on rest, repair, and rehydration. At 5:00 pm, the 4th Company decided to punch the clock and repair to Dover, DE for the night in hopes of a night's sleep in an inn and out of the rain, which we were able to accomplish.

We returned to Mt Harmon Plantation early on Sunday morning, to similar humid and wet conditions. The rain had failed to materialize the previous night, so the condition of the road leading to the site was characterized by less swampiness and the parking area had gained some solidity from the previous day.

Dutifully, the company mustered and spent close to two hours on Sunday morning honing its maneuvering and musket skills before breaking for another of Barb Sheffer's magnificently catered meals. A late arriving crowd enjoyed photographing us while we ate and some of our members engaged the strangely dressed visitors in spirited conversation.

Not long after noon, the drummer beat the call for the Army to form and once again we marched off to do battle with the minions of the American Congress. On this day, it was the lot of the Crown troops to suffer defeat and the battle went badly for us from the start. Our brigade was once again under the command of our Capt Sheffer. He did his best to maneuver the brigade in an orderly manner, but as the battle turned against us, discipline crumbled on the field.



The Foot Guards defend the King's turf

With no small amount of recrimination both in the ranks and among the officer corps, the Crown force

limped to the bitter conclusion of Sunday's battle. It was a fairly disorganized affair with gaps opening between the Crown brigades, companies crossing the lines of fire of other units as they tried to retreat, and was generally not one of the better performances of the King's troops.

The crowd, however, was pleased with Congress' march to victory. The 4th Company performed well during both battles, despite having some fairly inexperienced members at the event. We did have some problems with confusing commands from the Brigade Sjt Major as well as confusion in following the unfolding of our role in the battles.



The Brigade prepares to get down to business in Saturday's performance

Overall, the event was enjoyable. The weather conditions were surprisingly challenging given the time of year. Both days were not very hot but very humid. No rain materialized during the event, but the humidity took its toll. The Company's turnout was excellent considering the conditions and its performance was strong. The site was good but the scenarios were hampered by a turnout much reduced by weather. The officers had some differences of opinion on how to adjust and this may have been the reason for some of the difficulties on the field on both Saturday and Sunday.

The event featured an unusually large number of cavalry for our hobby and this also led to some difficulty in managing the scenario. On the hobby's email list, there was much discussion in the post-mortem about the proper way to integrate the horsemen.

It was not, perhaps, a legendary event but a pretty solid one, especially considering the nature of the weather.

Fall Events

Tactical Event Welbourne Farm Middleburg VA October 29-30, 2011

The 4th Company committed to attending a smaller version of 2010's tactical at the Welbourne property in Middleburg, VA. We had hoped to spend a similar weekend, scheduled a little earlier in the year to prevent the kind of cold we weathered in 2010.

Our best plans, however, went awry. The area was subject to an unusual autumn snowstorm. Sjt Vanderbeek, Corporal Niven, and Pte Vanderbeek had planned to represent the company, reinforced by some potential recruits and friends from the Muskets of the Crown. As the conditions of the day became known, the 4th Company decided to withdraw from the event.

In the end, the site didn't get much snow, but did get some. The snow was preceded by an afternoon of cold drizzle, which would have prevented most of our tactical fun. In the end, it was a good decision, but a disappointing end to what could have been a really good event.

Prelude to Victory Colonial Williamsburg Williamsburg VA October 7-9, 2011

I had the honor this year of being invited to attend the annual Prelude to Victory event at Colonial Williamsburg with our esteemed opposition. I received an invitation to participate with the 6th North Carolina Regiment. The opportunity to practice our hobby at Williamsburg in fine October weather was too good an opportunity not to accept.

I borrowed a French lottery coat from a colleague in the King's service who had come over in recent years from the service of the American Congress. We joined our regiment on Saturday morning and immediately got to work practicing battlefield tactics with the Carolina Brigade (2nd NC, 6th NC, 2nd SC Regiments) under the tutelage of Patrick O'Kelley. This was the only part of the event that reminded me of our weekend in Williamsburg every summer.

Our company was on guard each morning, but we didn't really have anything to guard or guard against, except to keep a watchful eye out for the Crown forces, known to be in the area. We were on guard for two or three hours and then demonstrated infantry tactics on Saturday afternoon for the assembled dignitaries and visitors to Colonial Williamsburg. I report with

regret that I embarrassed the regiment and the King's service by discharging my weapon prematurely on one of the volleys during the demonstration bringing the ire of my serjeant and company. The 6th North Carolina I found to be a fine bunch of soldiers who handle their arms like old veterans. The 6th impressed the crowd and their commanding general with a couple of demonstrations of martial excellence on Saturday afternoon.

Saturday night at Prelude to Victory lacks the raucousness of the British visit. Chewning's Tavern is strangely quiet on Saturday night and closes early. The whole town was quiet by 8:00 pm despite the presence of a large number of reenactors still in the historic area. I slept on the green in front of the Governor's Mansion in the 6th NC camp. It was quiet until some William and Mary students showed up around midnight being boisterous until reprimanded by one of my colleagues in the 6th. The remainder of the night was uneventful.

I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to see the hobby from the other side. The weekend in Williamsburg is quite different from UTR. The weather isn't nearly as challenging in October and the interpreters emphasized that the town embraced the congressional army when it was there. I wonder if the town really had so much enthusiasm for the presence of an army, and was completely devoid of Loyalists in the early autumn of 1781 when the outcome was still in doubt. Nevertheless, that's the way the event is framed.

The march out on Sunday afternoon was oddly familiar despite an unusual snafu on the green behind the courthouse forming the column. I went home, however, with much less exhaustion than I normally do.



Guard detail marching to its post at Prelude to Victory

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..

Proposed 2012 Schedule, with Alternatives

	Recommended	Alternative / Additional
January	Drill at Carlyle House	
19 February	Race to the Dan, South Boston, VA	Fort Ward, Alexandria, VA
20 February		Alexandria Parade
17-18 March	Guilford Courthouse, Greensboro, NC	
April	Drill at TBD	
13-15 April		Battle Road, Boston, MA
23 June	Battle of Monmouth, Monmouth, NJ	
4-5 August		235 th of the Battle of Oriskany ¹
15-16 September	Brandywine Creek State Park	
6-7 October	Immersion Event at Welbourne ²	
3 November	Colonial Days at Sully Plantation	

1 – This event is a proposed British Brigade / Continental Line event that is being held at a location that has traditionally been outside of our areas of activity. <http://oriskany235th.org/>

2 – This event is intended to be a similar but larger version of the 2010 event, and also held a little bit earlier in the year. <http://www.welbourneevent.com/>