



Ye Olde Goate's Gazette

Official Newsletter of 4th Company, Brigade of Guards

February, 2008

A Word From the Captain

Well, February is here at last, and the 2008 Campaign is fairly begun! The Company's growing President's Day Weekend tradition was blessed with fair weather and large, enthusiastic crowds for both the Sunday tactical and Monday's parade. The Guards were more than prepared for a fight after enjoying the hospitality of the Vanderbeek Tavern in Fairfax Station, on the road to Alexandria Saturday night. I won't turn this into an after action report on the George Washington celebration, but the skirmish was the liveliest I have seen at Ft. Ward, and the British encampment we constructed there will be adopted as a permanent feature of future events. Thank you to the many who turned out to help make it a great weekend, get some good work in before Guilford, and make some money for the Company in the bargain.



That is the good news. Unfortunately, the 4th Company that took the field at Ft. Ward, and marched in Alexandria's parade was not up to scratch. A quick look through the photos on our Flickr site will communicate that more powerfully than I can here. You will see unpolished brass, dirty weapons, unkempt wigs, and improper facial hair. You will also see veteran Guardsmen with sloppy, or downright wrong performance of the drill. That is unacceptable. A chief reason most of us chose 4th Company when we decided to become reenactors was its usually well-deserved reputation as one of the elite units in the RevWar hobby, a reputation earned by years of dedication to setting and maintaining a high standard of performance. We are proud to say that we honour the memory of Britain's premier fighting men of the Revolution. When we prepare and perform as we know we should, we do that, and no group on either side of the field that can hold a candle to us. When we take an event off, as many of us seem to have done this month, we are no better than the run-of-the-

mill shire regiments.

Guardsmen, we need to make certain that our appearance in this year's Ft. Ward was an isolated incident, and does not become habitual. Each of us knows the Company's standards, and has accepted the responsibility to live up to them every time he puts on the uniform and appears in public. We need to rededicate ourselves to doing the little extras required to make the difference between good and superior. You may recall a quotation we used to run in the masthead of this newsletter that said, "there is only one standard recognized for the Guards' performance in public ceremony – perfection". We can, and will regain our place at the top of the heap. At Guilford, we will devote as much time as possible to our drill and marching, which are currently unacceptable. Additionally, I intend to hold a Captain's inspection of the troops in marching order on Saturday, before the first battle, to ensure that we take the field looking like what we are: the best unit in the British Brigade.

Sign-up for Spring Events

We have two major Spring events just around the corner. Please advised Capt. Sheffer as to whether or not you can attend if you have not already so.

March 15 – 16, The Battle of Guilford Courthouse

April 19 – 20, The Battle of Petersburg

Please also start looking over the potential events for the rest of 2008. We'll be voting on some of these at Guilford if we have a quorum of Guardsmen.

Time to Pay Your Dues!!

2008 Company Dues

Here we go again!! The December BAR Newsletter contained dues information for the coming campaign year. To get ahead of the power curve again this year, and to take advantage of this "opportunity," I would like to execute the following procedure to both collect and disperse BAR and Coy dues and develop a more accurate unit roster and database. It is a three-phased operation:

1.) I will send all Coy members the Company Membership Application Form - again. Each member is required to complete the COY membership form (again) and return it to me. I will file and use the information to update our unit membership roster as well as provide the required data to the BAR and BB for the unit membership roles. As in the past, I WILL NOT provide any contact info if the member requests that it be excluded.

2.) Each Coy member will indicate if they plan to join / renew Coy and BAR, as well as for any family members. Coy and BAR dues rates will remain the same as they were last year and are listed below. Since this is close to the holiday period - again-- and we are still solvent, I will write a single check for the entire unit membership (including family members) to the BAR to cover those dues requirements for 2008 based upon provided information. I will expect individual / family reimbursement by 1 March 08 for both Coy and BAR dues. That will give some recovery time from the inevitable holiday drain on the checkbook.

3.) I will send the membership checks to the BAR and the BB on 01 February, so everyone should get their data to me no later than 31 January. The BB dues rate is \$25.00 per unit plus an additional \$1.00 per member. All will enroll - no options, but the unit will cover this payment, no need to send the extra \$1.00.

The following dues rates are provided for your information:

Coy Dues: \$25.00 per "head of household" or individual PLUS \$5.00 to include the rest of the family (regardless of numbers) who are active. We are such a bargain!!!

BAR Dues: \$25.00 for the "primary member" PLUS another \$5.00 for each additional member of the same household, up to a maximum of four paid members (including the "primary member"). All others above four dues-paying members are free.

Coy Dues Examples: Pte Bernhardt (individual) = \$25.00; Pte Grumpy Pants (\$25.00) and wife (\$5.00) = \$30.00; Pte Tentpeg (\$25.00), wife+ 3 kids (\$5.00) = \$30.00.

BAR Dues examples: Pte Bernhardt ("Primary member") = \$25.00; Pte Grumpy Pants (\$25.00) and wife (\$5.00) = \$30; Pte Tentpeg (\$25.00), and wife (\$5.00), and kid 1 (\$5.00), and kid 2 (\$5.00) and kid 3 (no additional charge, as there are already 4 paid family members) = \$40.00.

So, using the above examples, the totals for Coy and BAR membership would be: Pte Bernhardt = \$50 due; Pte Grumpy Pants and wife = \$60.00 total due; Pte Tentpeg, wife, and 3 kids = \$70.00 due. If you have questions, drop me an e-mail and I'll figure it out and charge you accordingly --- you can trust me.

Some thoughts:

1. You must be paid up to vote in the company meetings. We will have several this year (hopefully) as we are way overdue electing our corporate officers.

2. The Coy leadership strongly encourages BAR membership because: Their publications are good; They provide additional event insurance - both liability and injury - at their events; and they host interesting and unique events - many open ONLY to paid-up BAR members. Bottom line - It's worth it.

Make checks payable to (NOTE: *just as it is written here*):

4th Company, Brigade of Guards in America, LTD.

Mail to: Tony Vanderbeek

Calendar of Events

The 2008 reenacting season looks to be quite a busy one, so start marking your calendars and saving up your vacation days accordingly! There are several new events occurring in the South or Mid-Atlantic that 4th Company should seriously consider supporting. More details will be posted as they become available.

March 1-2: BAR Clothing Workshop: Regimental Coats (TBD)

The workshop is being held at Sully Plantation in nearby Chantilly, VA, and will be taught by master tailor Henry Cooke. See the BAR South web site for details.

<http://www.barsouth.org/dotnetnuke/>

March 15-16: Battle of Guilford Courthouse (Greensboro, NC)

Our signature event and the real start of the campaigning season. No 2008 details yet, but stay tuned.

<http://www.march1781.org/>

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

~Details not yet available~

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

Early indications point to this being a larger and better organized event than in the recent past. (Petersburg now takes on some Alpha and Omega significance for the unit, being not only the event where the 4th Company was founded but also Lonnie's last event.)

<http://www.petersburg-va.org/revwar/battle.htm>

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

~Details not yet available~

<http://www.danielboonehomestead.org>

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

Commemorates the Battles of Cowan's Ford (The "Catawba Crossing" led by the Guards, where Rebel General Davidson was killed and O'Hara's horse took a tumble) and Weitzell's Mill (prelude to Guilford Courthouse). There will also be a ceremony commemorating the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence (which antedated the one in Philadelphia by some weeks).

This is a fun event at a good site with historic buildings and few modern intrusions. It's convenient to interstates and hotels within a reasonable drive. While the battles are not being done at the appropriate time of year (February and March respectively), the weather is a LOT better. Free Saturday evening meal is included along with free BEER! It's been a smaller event, but with a lot of good action over varied terrain. If you have any junk furniture that looks somewhat period and want to dispose of it, they do the "Ramseur's Mill bonfire" as part of the "Race to the Dan" scenario that is worked in with the Catawba Crossing scenario. Since there is very little other activity, it's a great event for taking it easy and socializing between drills and so on.

<http://www.ruralhillfarm.org/>

Crash space with some of us who live nearby (about an hour drive for me; very close to Lloyd and close to Flash).

Cheers!

Jay

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

~Details not yet available~

June 7-8: Fort Frederick Encampment, Tactical Exercise & Firelock Match (Big Pool, MD)

~Details not yet available~

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

~Details not yet available~

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

~Details not yet available~

Calendar of Events (Continued)

August 16-17: BAR National Encampment, Fort Ligonier (Sturbridge, PA)

~Details not yet available~

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

~Details not yet available~

September 26-27: Siege of Yorktown (Newport News, VA)

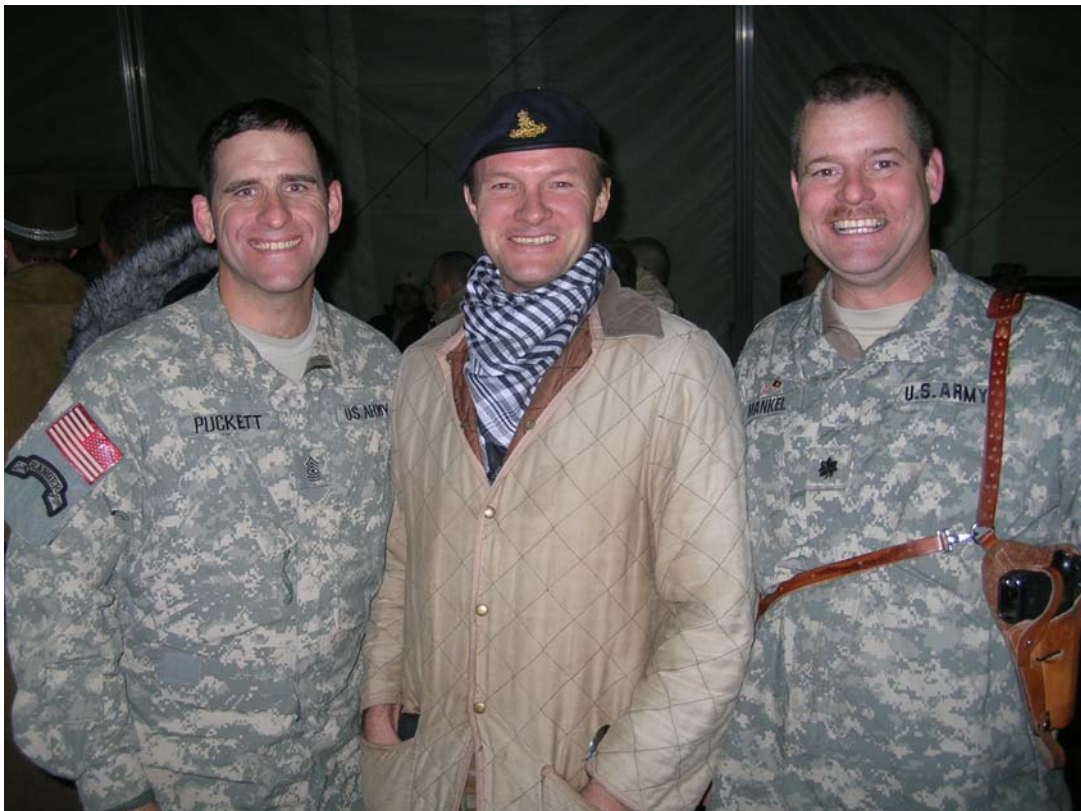
~Details not yet available~

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

What looks to be the "Big Three" event in our area during the Fall.

<http://www.battleofthehook.com/>

Dickie Winchester Makes Friends in Afghanistan



Thanks to our Captain Sheffer and former Captain Callaham for this picture of Dickie Winchester rubbing elbows with a couple of notorious rebels in Afghanistan. The fellow on the left is Bert Puckett of the 2nd SC Regiment and the fellow on the right is Eric Mankel of the 2nd NC Regiment.