



Ye Olde Goate's Gazette

Official Newsletter of 4th Company, Brigade of Guards

February/March, 2009

Follow the 4th Company On Your Cell Phone Via Twitter

For those of you who have not been reading your email, the 4th Company continues to push the envelope in combining the analog and digital ages. You can now get updates on the Company's business and events by following the 4th Company on Twitter.

The service has already been subscribed by Capt Sheffer, Sjt Manzano, Drummer Barocio, and Ptes Higginbottom, Berger, Morris, Theis, and Niven.

The rest of you should seriously consider registering so you can receive messages from the Company on your phone while away from your computer. This would have been particularly useful last weekend as we were all traveling to Greensboro on a weekend that had a very iffy weather forecast. If everyone used this service, the entire company could have been contacted simultaneously with an update regarding the event. Members en route could have received cancellation information and saved the remainder of the drive. Members who had not yet left could have been notified of changes in the event plans before leaving home without phone trees or the chance that people could just be missed inadvertently.

The service is free except for the text messages you receive which must be covered under your phones plan. The only expense is for text messaging service, which many of you already have and the cost of each message itself. Regardless of this expense, this tool promises to be very useful

All you have to do is go to Twitter's web site from your computer's or your phone's web browser and register your email address and telephone number. Once registered you can send a text message to "follow" the Brigade of Guards and you will receive the latest updates of the 4th Company's doings (or not-doings) on your phone. If you can't be bothered by the machinations of the faux foot guards, you can send a text message to 40404 with the content "off." The settings area of your account also allows you to set the service to go

to sleep if you don't want to receive messages while you are asleep, at work, or asleep at work.

The King requires your conscientious attention to your duty, besides, it might be useful and fun. What's to fear? You've already taken the shilling.



Corporal Vanderbeek and Pte Theis occupy themselves sharpening their impression in Castillo de Sahlin's dungeon instead getting wet in Greensboro. See more about the attempted event on page 2.

Combined Issue

This combined issue of the Gazette contains material originally intended for the February issue as well as a few updates for March. The editors had intended a February issue, but failed to realize the good intentions with similar behavior.

Company Business and Edification

Guards Invited to Burn Mt Vernon

Men of the Foot Guards! The men of the 76th Regiment of Foot, McDonald's Highlanders, have invited you to join them for the sacking of Mr Washington's home, Mt Vernon, on the weekend of April 24-25, 2009. This should be an excellent opportunity to visit this historic site located close to most of your quarters. In addition, showing the red coat at this location is an opportunity not to be missed. Mark your calendars.

7th and 64th Regiments Sport the King's Colours at Hillsborough

Always in search of something to do on Saturdays in NC, I joined the newly formed company of the 7th Regiment and their colleagues and in crime from the 64th Regiment, as well as the King's Own Patriots for their annual occupation of Hillsborough, NC on February 21st. To the joy of an itinerant Guardsman, this event is focused on showcasing the battalion drill for visitors to historic Hillsborough. We did three shows for small crowds and took questions from a variety of visitors regarding the efficacy of the King's arms and the nature of our rancor towards the local residents. The event is usually followed by a bacchanal of some sort sponsored by the 64th. Unfortunately, I can only comment on this as hearsay, as I eschewed the festivities for a sober return home.

Re-Enactment of the Battle of Guilford Court House Cancelled

As many are now aware, the annual event in Greensboro, NC was cancelled due to rain. Despite this, most of the Carolinas contingent of the 4th Company did gather for the event, largely in serial fashion. The Sheffers, Jay Callaham and Ed Niven were early arrivals, while Erich Berger, Allan Duckworth, and prospective member Peter Stith arrived later in the morning. Lloyd Morris was distracted by an errand at home long enough to find out the event was cancelled before he drove to Greensboro.

Despite the rain, a few members of the public braved the elements to tour Tannenbaum Park and ask questions about our fancy clothing and 18th century life. Those of us who attended also enjoyed the company of our colleagues in the numbered regiments (7th, 33rd, and 64th). By noon, all of the King's soldiers at Tannenbaum had dispersed in search of drier accommodations.

Safety News: Frost Nip vs. Frost Bite

As we begin our reenacting season, it is essential we take into effect the weather conditions we are operating in. One thing that is always known about the Camden Event-It's cold. The chances of being exposed to a cold weather injury is considerable until early May. So what is the difference between Frost Nip and Frost Bite?

While rosy cheeks may be cute (with or without a button nose), it's also a sign that it's time to go indoors. Frost nip, the beginnings of frostbite, often shows up as a mild blush on both cheeks. It also may nip the tip of the nose and ears and the fingers and toes, leaving them white and somewhat numb.

Frost nip isn't dangerous in itself. But overexposure to subfreezing temperatures and wet weather can lead directly to frostbite, which may be life-threatening.

Frostbite occurs in a couple of stages:

Frostnip

The skin feels stiff and numb and is white in color. Underneath the tissue is still warm and soft. The condition is not that serious, simply warm the body part by rubbing, moving and covering with extra layers of clothing.

Superficial Frostbite

After frost nip comes superficial frostbite. The skin is hard and frozen and looks white/blue. The tissue underneath the skin has not been affected yet. Superficial frostbite will cause blistering and medical attention is needed to prevent permanent injury.

Deep Frostbite

In case of further freezing the tissue underneath the skin will get affected as well. The skin is white/blue and totally frozen and the tissue is hard as well. Deep frostbite needs immediate medical attention. In severe cases deep frostbite can lead to permanent injury, amputation and even death.

Even though there are multiple stages, frostbite can occur within seconds. It can happen to anyone, although the elderly, young and people from tropical climates have a higher risk of getting frostbite. [Source: Farmer's Almanac]

Thanks to Jay Callaham for the preceding, who borrowed it from the 2nd SC Newsletter, "Voice of the Crescent."

History and Culture Pages

18th Century Enlightenment

By *Ed Niven*

One of the key factors regulating modern life is the presence of electricity, which frees the modern person from the natural cycle of light and darkness. Accounts of eighteenth century life let us know that people of the 1700s struggled against the tyranny of nature to extend the productivity of their waking hours beyond the natural day.

Eighteenth century homes and residences were lighted by firelight if not by the natural light of the sun or the moon. Wax candles and oil lamps were available at significant expense, so were not generally found in the homes and businesses of craftsmen, much less in the homes of people who were employed by craftsmen.

The budget solution to lighting was the tallow candle, made from inedible mutton or beef fat collected from butchers and domestic kitchens. These candles gave off less light than wax candles and required a thicker wick to give off sufficient light. In addition, tallow had a lower melting point and the candle melted faster. The user also had to be careful to keep the wick trimmed properly or it would become soaked in fat and would give off acrid smoke as it burned.

The poor man's solution to lighting was the rush light. These were twisted rushes soaked in animal fat and could be lit at either end. These lights were popular with students, and were the source of the modern expression of "burning the candle at both ends."

A late seventeenth century Londoner, Thomas Tryon advised that it was better to buy tallow candles from the earlier dipped batches, as the better tallow rose to the top of the copper kettle earlier in the process. The tallow that did not rise as quickly, produced candles that failed to give a clear light and were prone to "run and sputter."

Most Londoners of this period lived in cramped rooms with little natural lighting and depended on these inferior sources of light. They could resort glass globes or reflecting sconces to amplify the light but these were also beyond the economic reach of the working classes. The Enlightenment did occur in the eighteenth century, but it turns out, was purely intellectual in nature. Once the sun set, light was a scarce and expensive commodity.

Source: *Hubbub: Filth, Noise, and Stench in England* by Emily Cockayne (New Haven, Yale University Press, 2007)

Review of

With Zeal and With Bayonets Only

By *Ed Niven*

The Acknowledgements section of Matt Spring's study of British tactics in the American War for Independence mentions a few names familiar to redcoat reenactors: Don Hagist, Linnea Bass, Radford Polinsky, Todd Braisted, and our own Jay Callaham. The book itself should be well received by the community of British reenactors. It is well researched and documented and offers some new insights about the tactical behavior of British troops in North America.

Spring's work is also concise, dealing with organization, training, tactics, motivation, and leadership in a mere 280 pages. It isn't often that a reader might wish for a book to be longer, but I found myself wishing this book could have examined some of the topics in greater detail. Nevertheless, a reader will not be disappointed with the information presented.

If Spring's work gains acceptance among reenactors, our battle demonstrations will become much more athletic undertakings. The author writes that British practice was to move quickly into position, deliver one well aimed and effective volley with bayonets fixed, and then charge the American line at a trot or jog, yelling as they advanced.

This book follows Stephen Brumwell's book on the French & Indian war redcoat nearly seamlessly, emphasizing the practice of the British Army's North American tactical school of thought. Spring explains the superiority of the two rank firing formation for infantry companies in North America. Spring also documents the development of marksmanship among the soldiers serving here. Interestingly, he also explains why this was less than ideal for operations in Europe.

Perhaps the most interesting parts of this work are its studies of the soldiers themselves. The author examines the motivation and esprit de corps of the redcoats as well as some mundane topics like methods for loading the musket, methods for moving regiments from line into column and the reverse, and comparison of the marksmanship of the British and American soldiers.

This book should be widely read by reenactors who wear the red coat. Spring not only updates the scholarship on British tactics but also helps us glimpse the men who wore it.

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. A couple of "heads up" for event notices that have cropped up on the Mid-Atlantic Crown Forces discussion group. Watch your email and future editions of the Gazette for details and discussions about attendance.

April

Battle Road/Patriot Day – Boston, MA

Potential "road trip" Event

228th Anniversary Commemoration Revolutionary War Reenactment and Encampment
Battersea Plantation, Petersburg, VA-April 18-19.

Battle of Bound Brook, April 18-19, 2009

Burning of Mt Vernon, April 24-25, 2009-the Guards have been invited to take part in this raid on Mt Vernon by our friends in the 76th Regiment, an opportunity to enjoy Mt Vernon in proper redcoat fashion.

May

Jerusalem Mills – Baltimore, MD-May 16-17

(Big 3 event)

June

Under the Redcoat, 2009. Colonial Williamsburg, Williamsburg, VA, June 26-28

230th Commemorative of the British Raids of 1779 -- New Haven, CT

Potential "road trip" Event

September

Rock Ford Plantation, Lancaster Pennsylvania, September 12-13

"On behalf of Historic Rock Ford Plantation, I would like to extend an invitation to our friends at the Continental Line and British Brigade to encamp at General Edward Hand's Rock Ford Plantation on the banks of the Conestoga River in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, on the weekend of September 12 & 13, 2009."

Ray Bradley

November

Sully Plantation Colonial Day, November 7, 2009

Sully Plantation, Chantilly, VA

Welbourne Immersion Weekend, Leesburg, VA-November 7-8, 2009

Carl Johnson will be the commander of the Crown forces for this immersion event near Leesburg, VA. The organizers are focusing more on re-creating life in the field than playing a war game. The scenario will have the Crown forces as an advance guard outside Philadelphia in 1778, with Mr Washington's forces nearby. Crown forces will concentrate on security and camp life. The rebels can and may attack, but this won't be the focus of the event.