



Ye Olde Goate's Gazette

Official Newsletter of 4th Company, Brigade of Guards

April/May, 2009

Is Mount Vernon Burning?

Despite the best efforts of the Guards, the answer still remains: "no." On April 25 and 26, at the invitation of the 76th Regt. of Foot (Macdonald Highlanders) and the Virginia State Navy the Northern Virginia contingent of 4th Company participated in the second ever "Is Mount Vernon Burning?" program commemorating the oft-overlooked Potomac River raids of 1781.



Tentless and with no impedimenta beyond what we could carry on our backs the Guards took up position in a shady spot beside the Highlanders and a stone's throw from the Potomac and proceeded to educate all comers. Saturday was the busiest day with school groups and tourist being dropped off by the busload even before the gates opened and the crowds arriving in groups of 12 to 20. All the participating Guardsmen are to be congratulated. At times nearly every one of us was either giving a talk or being used as a visual prop and everyone's ability to engage the audience and give a clear account of an 18th century soldier's life did the unit credit – Jay and Ted having set the bar rather high for knowing the minutiae of our period, but apparently they also engrained good habits.

We were also joined on Saturday by Josh Ingram and Matt Morin, two likely lads who have the makings of good Guardsmen should they eventually take the King's Shilling. We look forward to having them out for an opposing forces event so they can experience the powder burning and rum swilling aspects of the hobby, the Mount Vernon event being predominantly an educational mission.

Sunday got off to a later start thanks to a poorly publicized closure of the GW Parkway. Since our numbers were slightly smaller, nearly the entire Guards contingent took to the boats and stormed ashore without incident. Following the script and the Navy Captain's command, the Guardsmen (and the Highlanders, too, it must be admitted) charged bayonets in a most professional and menacing fashion, helping to "persuade" Lund Washington to see reason. The practice does pay off. There was a more limited crowd down at the wharf because of the high temperatures. So as the saying goes "if the mountain will not come to Mohammed" then Guardsmen will go where the rum is...I mean: where the crowds are. We spent the late afternoon on the front corner of General Washington's lawn and, I believe, set a new record for the number of holiday photographs in which we appear.

Our thanks go out to the 76th Highlanders who extended us the kind invitation to participate and the Mt. Vernon staff for stepping up and dedicating a weekend to a less-than-stellar chapter in Mt. Vernon's history. Our scenario was immediately followed by one where General Washington's slaves debating the British offer of freedom. So, an insightful and balanced program all around and one in which I hope we can participate in the future.

Mirabile dictu – the betting pool for First Guardsman Overboard has not paid out. Against all odds, no Guardsmen or any other member of His Majesty's forces found themselves studying the marine life of the Potomac River first hand. The pot will remain in escrow and be used seed next year's wagering if we are invited back.

Sjt. Manzano
Coldstream Regt.

Company Business and Edification

An Appeal to Your Generosity

By Ted Sahlin

Friends-

I have watched the concept of a British Memorial at Guilford Park grow since 2006. It is now three years on and the fund has grown slowly and the cost has grown disproportionately, like the cost of so many other things.

Times are tougher now than in 2006, when this project started. Many of us are feeling that pinch in very real ways. None of us have gotten any "Golden Parachutes" from Wall Street firms. The men we memorialize, whose efforts were on behalf of the rule of law at that time, had it worse.

Brigadier General Charles O'Hara to the Duke of Grafton, after the battle at Guilford:

"we feel at the moment, the sad and fatal effects of our loss on that Day, nearly one half of our best Officers and Soldiers were either Killed or Wounded, and what remains are so completely worn out, by the excessive Fatigues of the Campaign in a march of above a Thousand Miles, most of them barefoot, naked and for days together living upon Carrion, which they had often not time to dress, and three or four ounces of unground Indian Corn has totally destroy'd this Army."

immediately after the Battle, we remained on the very ground on which it had been fought cover'd with Dead, with Dying and with hundreds of Wounded, Rebels, as well as our own. A Violent and constant Rain that lasted above Forty Hours made it equally impracticable to remove or administer the smallest comfort to many of the Wounded."

AS with Captain Sheffer, for some time now, I have been troubled by the fact that the regimental veterans associations in Britain have contributed to this monument, when first contacted, but we have not. Seven (7) present day British veterans associations, with large demands on their funds from the current wars, have demonstrated their faith in the successful outcome of this project. For the people of these associations the monument, which we will see each year at Guilford, will be at best a photo in an email bulletin. Still they put their money forward on faith to recognize and remember the many crown forces soldiers who died so far from home, many of whom lie in unmarked graves. 4th COY must demonstrate our faith and dedication now. We have begun. But now, before you write that check for \$20.00, - what's the difference between that and \$25.00? One more Whopper, Fries, Big Gulp or in

my case, one more double slug caffeine at Starbucks. But that difference in contribution, magnified by 4COY matching funds becomes TEN bucks! So "round up" that amount, if you possibly can. When the current economic mess is finally over, we'll take our friends and children and later our grandchildren to Guilford to see a fitting memorial that each of us, allied again with our British friends, helped to build.

This will be a lasting monument. As our beloved hobby continues to shrink and faces a very uncertain future, it is right that we do this to support continued remembrance of our British heritage and to honor a noble foe who has since become our staunchest friend and ally.

I pledge One Hundred Dollars.

Congratulations to Drummer Cole

Congratulations to Andrew Cole, who will be commissioned as an officer in the United States Marine Corps while we are at Jerusalem Mill this month. Capt Sheffer will lead a small delegation of 4th Company luminaries to represent the Company at the ceremony.

Upcoming Events

The next event for the 4th Company will be at Jerusalem Mill, just north of Baltimore, MD on May 16-17. This will be the largest gathering of Crown Forces this year and cries for a large turnout of the King's finest. This site was visited last year by a light contingent of Guards and those in attendance gave the site good reviews. Should the weather gods smile on us, it should be a grand time.

A contingent of Guards is planning to gather at the Carlyle house in Alexandria on June 13 and 14 to help the public develop a more nuanced view of Crown soldiers of the American rebellion. An attempt on May 2 and 3 was thwarted by the promise of stormy weather.

Our favorite summer event follows on June 26, 27, and 28 when the 4th Company returns to its favorite nest of sedition, Colonial Williamsburg for Under the Redcoat, a celebration of the benevolent oversight by General Cornwallis' troops in 1781. The event will feature the usual Guard changing and picture posing details as well as the beloved musket firing competition. The weather will undoubtedly be mild and pleasant.

History and Culture Pages

A History of Corks

By Patrick Stewart

Cork comes from the wood of the *Quercus Suber* or cork tree, a species of Oak native to Spain.

The Greeks in the 5th century BCE sometimes used corks to close wine jugs.

Corks, however, were not the closure of choice in those ancient days:

the most common closures for wine jugs and amphora were a coating of pitch or gypsum over the opening of a vessel or a film of olive oil floating on the surface of the wine. The use of corks was apparently completely given up in the medieval times. Paintings from that era depict twists of cloth or leather used to stop the jug or bottle, sometimes with sealing wax to make a secure closure.

We find corks beginning to be mentioned again at the end of the 16th century. By the time Shakespeare wrote "As You Like It" (Between 1598 and 1600) they were well enough known for Rosalind to say impatiently to her cousin Celia: "I pray thee take thy cork out of thy mouth, that I may drink thy tidings." The marriage of cork and bottle, at least in England, took place by degrees over the first half of the 17th Century. The alternative closure of the time, stoppers of ground glass made individually to fit the bottle neck, held their own for a remarkably long time. Worlidge's "Treatise of Cider," published in 1676, declares that great care is needed in choosing good corks, "much liquor being absolutely spoiled through the only defect of the cork. Therefore are glass stoppels to be preferred..." Each stoppel had to be ground to fit a particular bottle, using emery powder and oil. The stoppel was then tied to the bottle by a piece of packthread around a button on top. Glass stoppers were finally abandoned around 1825, primarily because they were often impossible to extract without breaking the bottle.

The Romans found many uses for cork, including the construction of house roofs and beehives, in ship construction and for women's shoes.

In the 1600s, a French monk called Pierre "Dom" Pérignon, (born in 1638) a Benedictine Monk at the Abbey of Hautville near Riems, experimented with sparkling wines in the latter part of the Seventeenth century. He took a giant step towards the modern, most widespread use of cork — as a wine closure.

Containers holding sparkling wine traditionally had been plugged by wooden stoppers wrapped in olive oil-soaked hemp. Dom Pérignon observed that these stoppers often popped out. He successfully swapped the conical plugs for cork stoppers and cork soon became essential for wine bottling.

Fuelled by a rapidly growing wine industry, demand for cork increased, sending ripples into Catalonia in Spain. The world's first cork stopper factory opened in around 1750, in Anguine (Spain) marking the beginning of the industrial application of cork.

Cork stoppers arrived in Portugal around 1700. Some 70 years later they were used in cylindrical bottles in Oporto, allowing the wine to mature slowly in a glass receptacle for the first time.

The spread of mass-produced glass bottles with a uniform neck and opening helped to advance the acceptance of cork stoppers, not just for wine but a wide range of liquids.

The English were the first to seal wine bottles, using cork imported from Spain or Portugal.

One thing remained to be invented before the cork closure became truly practical: a corkscrew so that the cork could be driven all the way in, not left half-out like a stopper. The first printed reference to a "bottlescrew" was in 1681 by one N. Grew: "a steel worm used for the drawing out of corks out of bottles." They had been used for at least 50 years to draw bullets and wadding from fire-arms. The term "corkscrew" was not coined until 1720.

Editor's Note: The author is a fellow practitioner of our hobby who lives in Rochester, NY. The piece published here was originally posted on the RevList. It is republished here with the author's permission.



History and Culture Pages

An Account of A Coldstream Serjeant

By Ed Niven

The statutes of the State of Pennsylvania record an act passed on October 8, 1779 for the dissolution of the marriage of James Martin and his wife Elizabeth. The legal record indicates that Mr. Martin was absent the city of Philadelphia during the British occupation of the city and during that time, his wife Elizabeth cohabited with a Serjeant Havell of the King's troops and declared him to be her husband, going by his name until the British army left Philadelphia. At that time, she left with the British army, taking with her James Martin's property and leaving debts contracted in his name. This record in the statutes was entered by Mr Martin as he petitioned and was granted relief from the obligation to pay debts contracted by his departed spouse.

More interestingly, a probable descendant of the said soldier, believes him to be a serjeant of the Grenadier Company of the Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards who arrived with the regiment in New York in 1776. The descendant, Kevin Havell shares with us that he is still seeking records to verify this, but believes it highly probable that the Sjt Havell identified in the incident in the Pennsylvania statutes is his great, great, great, great, great, great-grandfather. Kevin Havell believes it likely that James Martin was away from the city because he was serving in the Continental Army at the time.

Kevin Havell was kind enough to share a little more background information on his likely ancestor:

I am still waiting for additional material from the Guards archives at Wellington Barracks. At this stage I believe Sgt Havell to be great, great, great, great, great, great Grandfather, Richard Havell who lived from 1737 to 1825. He died in Chelsea and lived at one stage in Paradise Row next to the Royal Hospital (Chelsea Pensioners) Previously the family had lived in Piccadilly, a couple of blocks from Horse Guards. My family has a very long established military tradition. He left for America when his son Richard was 15 years old. I do not think the son went with him. I will see if the Guards archives throws anything up. I presume he returned to his Regiment in 1783. I know he was living with a Grandson, George when he died.

Thanks to Kevin Havell for some rare details on a red-coat enlisted soldier. Though the current details are sketchy, it is rare for us to have even this much detail about one of the British rankers who served in the war here.

18th Century Standards of Cleanliness

By Ed Niven

A number of reenactors have theorized that eighteenth century people must have had a higher tolerance for dirtiness and smelliness than allowed by modern sensibilities. After all, clean water was much harder to find and no house had indoor plumbing. Baths had to be drawn and heated by the bucket-full and regular bathing must have been a luxury of those who had both the time and the servants to help with the labor of the undertaking.

The doctors of philosophy who have examined this proposition are divided in their views. Lawrence Stone writes that public and private hygiene was largely ignored in the 1700s. He writes that men and women both rarely washed and both sexes lived in constant sight and smell of human feces and urine.

Keith Thomas, on the other hand, writes that Stone's view is unsupportable based on historical evidence and that Stone disregards differing views on hygiene that were held during the period. Thomas writes that full body immersion was rare due to the lack of proper facilities as noted in the first paragraph of this article. Thomas argues, however, that various body parts were still cleaned on a regular basis, though more likely as a dry process using a pig's bristle brush, or a dry napkin.

Urban residents of London in the eighteenth century were modern in their concern regarding the cleanliness of the water of the Thames and were, in general, unlikely to immerse their bodies there due to an awareness of a variety of pollutants to be found in the water. They were so concerned that many would not bathe in the Thames within miles of the city.

Publications of the time were lousy (in a manner of speaking) with advertisements for a variety of chemicals and products aimed at masking the smells of a variety of human discharges and removing harmful chemicals from the body.

All of this leads to the observation that notions of cleanliness must have been decidedly different from modern sensibilities. Nevertheless, it would be wrong to argue that there was no concern for cleanliness and hygiene. It was a different age with values rooted in the environment as then known.

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.

May

Jerusalem Mills – Baltimore, MD-May 16-17
(Big 3 event)

June

Battle of Ramsour's Mill-Lincolnton, NC-June 13-14

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.