



# Ye Olde Goate's Gazette

*Official Newsletter of 4th Company, Brigade of Guards*

*End of Summer, 2009*

## Revolutionary Profile: Benedict Arnold

In looking for something to write in this space, I consulted the Oxford Companion to United States History in hopes of finding something short and pithy on the American Revolution. I read the entry in that volume on Benedict Arnold, of whom I knew little except that he was a hero at Saratoga, and then a traitor who plotted to surrender West Point to the British, causing the infamous death of Major John Andre, and then served as a Major General in the British Army until the war's end.

According to the Oxford Companion, his contemporaries might have seen his betrayal coming. Arnold was born in Norwich, Connecticut in 1741. At the age of fourteen, he ran away from home and joined the militia. He established an early pattern of disloyal behavior by deserting the militia. The author of the entry in this reference book, further explains, that Arnold would exhibit a lifelong habit of abandoning allegiances when they failed to produce wealth, status, or fame.

Remember also, that his most glorious moment in the war was when he seized command of his regiment at Saratoga after he had been relieved for insubordination and led them to victory. As a reward for wounds received in the battle, he was placed in command of Philadelphia's defenses in 1778.

"Rampant corruption in Arnold's command coupled with disputes with local officials led to his court-martial in 1779. Acquitted on most charges, he was given command of the military fort at West Point on the Hudson River north of New York City." It would be here that the most infamous chapter of his career and life would unfold.

Supposedly, his defection was due to resentment over earlier slights and the need for money to support a lavish lifestyle. Arnold always seemed to land on his feet. While Major Andre paid with his life, Arnold went on to hold a commission as a British general and retired to England after the unsuccessful conclusion of the war and retired in some wealth, though perhaps not what he'd hoped as he pursued his fortunes during the War for Independence.



In the United States, his name became synonymous with treason and treachery. Perhaps none of his contemporaries was surprised at his character or the lack of it. Looking with hindsight, one wonders how he could have ever been trusted, with a record for mercurial behavior that went back to his childhood. Perhaps, in a different age with less speedy information, reinvention of character was possible. This is hard to imagine in such a small county, but it must have been the case.

## Upcoming Events

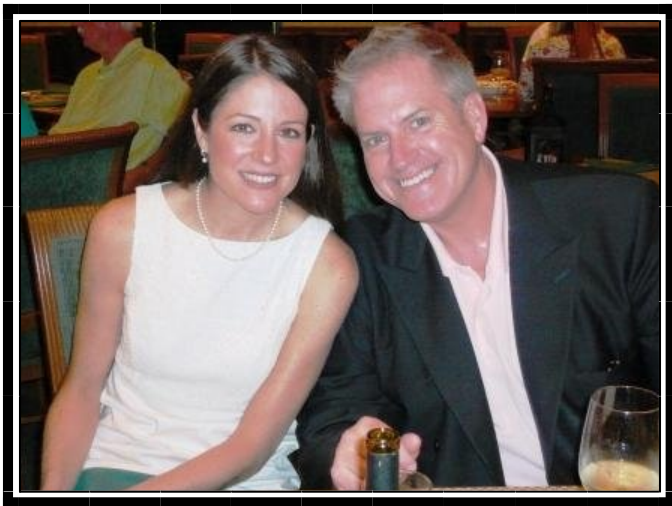
**September 12-13-Rock Ford Plantation-Lancaster, PA-British Brigade vs. Continental Line in a no holds barred cageless match. One more chance to illustrate the soldier's craft for Yankee Doodle.**

**September 18-20-Market at Washingtonburg, Army Heritage and Educational Center, Carlisle, PA.**

**October 10-11-Jerusalem Mill-the Big One. The rescheduled and hopefully unsoggy version**

# Company News

## Berger Gets Married



Erich and Meridith Berger

Guardsman Berger was married to Meridith Osborne on approximately August 29, 2009. Some of you may remember Meridith from her brief visit to our hobby at Williamsburg in the summer of 2007. Best wishes Erich and Meridith from all of the King's men. Photograph courtesy of Erich Berger.

Following is correspondent Erich Berger's report of the event:

We were married at the Snow Village Chapel, in Dobson, NC, just down the road from Kapp's Mill, a pre-Civil War era Mill, General Store and Post office. The Chapel was tiny, about the size of one of the replica buildings at Tannenbaum, holds around 20 people max. It's on private land, and is not advertised as a wedding site, strictly by word-of-mouth. The owner made a fortune in the trucking business, and built several replica-historic structures on his property. Meridith's father, the Rev. Barry Osborne of the Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church in High Point performed the ceremony. Present were Her mother Judy, her sister Autumn Melino and her husband Ryan Melino, Jim and Sarah Ahrends (friends and witnesses) my two sisters, Mary Sue Harnett, and Ruth Ann Degener, and Mary and Tom Mason, long-time friends of Meridith's parents who live just up the road from the chapel, and the 42nd Highland regiment (just kidding!) We then hosted the group at Shelton Vineyards for a luncheon and cake cutting. Later that evening, we were feted at a party thrown in our honor by one of Meridith's friends. We are planning a delayed honeymoon in Vienna, Austria later in the fall or depending on the air-fare deals to Europe, we may opt for a week at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville."

## Stupid Re-enactor News

Police said a man in Georges Township, Fayette County (PA), fired a metal cannon that sent a two-pound lead ball into his neighbor's house.

William Edward Maser, 54, fired the cannon in his yard on Tent Church Road Wednesday evening, said Trooper Brian Burden of the Pennsylvania State Police. He said he was not sure how regularly Mr. Maser fired his cannon.

The cannon shot a lead ball through the side of his neighbor's house, breaking a window and traveling through a wall before landing in a clothes closet. No one was injured.

The cannon is an 80-pound homemade replica of cannons used during the French and Indian War. It has been impounded as evidence.

*The preceding account was reported by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

## Upcoming Event: Brandywine, 2010

Right now the event has British Brigade and Continental Line support, no decision has been made as yet about the BAR (you may recall they didn't play well before regarding the Cooch's Bridge event). Regardless, units will have to be member units of whatever organizations are participating and have their own insurance. The scenarios will be loosely based on phases of the the Battle of Brandywine, probably Birmingham Meeting House on Saturday and Angew/ Weedon's Brigades on Sunday. I walked the site with British Brigade commander Michael Grenier (and my British coordinator for Charleston and Green Spring) in January and we're likely to move some things around due to the anticipated greater numbers (like move the British Camp to where the British parking was in 2007).

The dates are September 25-26, 2010.

*Editors Note: The information for this event was provided by Todd Post of the 2nd VA Regiment, the organizers. Please mark your calendars.*

# History and Culture Pages

## More Eighteenth Century Terminology

Once again, we visit the really dusty section of the library to consult the old and discarded dictionaries for words now lost to the English language.

Battel-to feed as cattle do; to grow fat  
Bawse-to cry out  
Boot-advantage, overplus  
Boose-an ox, or cow-stall  
Borne-to burnish, polish  
Brills-the hairs on the eye-lids of a horse  
Brize-a sort of ground that has lain long untilled  
Brocking-throbbing  
Burled-armed  
Burl-to dress cloths as fullers do

Cattell Catching-using all means to procure wealth  
Celerer-a butler  
Clumperton-a clown  
Clumpt-lazy, unhandy  
Clung(adj)-shrunk up with leanness, half famished  
Clung(v)-do dry as wood does after it is cut  
Cob-a rich and covetous wretch; also a foreign coin  
Cobble(v)-to botch or do bunglingly  
A Cobweb Morning-a misty morning  
Crool(v)-to growl, mutter, or mumble  
Curmudgeon-a covetous Hunks, a pitiful, niggardly, close fisted Fellow.  
Cute-new wine unworked

Dab-a slap on the face, box on the ear, also a dirty clout  
Daff-a dastard or coward  
Dances-statues  
Dare-harm or pain: e.g., *It dares me (It pains me)*  
Darreign-an attempt  
Dreary-little  
Defouled-shamed  
Denarii-a general term for cash or ready money  
Depelupe-transparent  
Depeach-to acquit, the opposite of impeach  
Dere(v)-to hurt  
Destrier-a war horse  
Dig-a mattock  
Dieta-a day's work or journey  
Dilling-a child born when his parents are old

I'm beginning to think that if it were possible to meet and converse with an eighteenth century person, I might have no idea what he would be saying.

## An Account of A Guards Soldier

The editors are always scouring the pages of history for references to the lives of Guards rankers, no matter how slight. Below is a reference to an enlisted Guardsman from just after the war in America.

Folks,  
Thought I'd pass on this report fresh from The Scots Magazine,  
Vol. XLVIII, p.90...

"On Wednesday, Feb. 8. [1786] was tried at Guildhall, before Lord Loughborough and a respectable jury, a cause wherein **one Cole, a soldier of the guards**, was plaintiff, and Mr. Crowe, late Captain of an independent company of foot, was defendant. It appeared that Cole had been a soldier of military experience, and in consideration of his going over from Ireland to England to take care of the recruits belonging to Capt. Crowe's company, and to enlist more, Capt. Crowe promised him an Ensigncy as soon as one Mr. Marsh, for whom it was intended, should be otherwise provided. Mr. Cole came over to England and was very useful; but Mr. Marsh being provided for, Capt. Crowe, instead of giving his Ensigncy to Cole, sold it. The injury which Cole sustained in consequence of the breach of promise, was the subject of the action; and the jury, under the direction of the learned judge, and to the great satisfaction of the hearers, found a verdict in favour of the plaintiff for £250 damages."

Officers, watch what you promise, it might cost you.

Eric B.



*Editors Note: The preceding account was posted to the RevList by Eric Bloomquist, a fellow reenactor*

# History and Culture Pages

## Elements of Esprit in the British Army

A general who led a later generation of more successful redcoats characterized his men as “the scum of the Earth.” Americans are generally still encouraged to view the British soldiers of the 1770s and 80s as unadaptable and generally poorly motivated to excel in their work. Such a view is, in part, designed to accentuate the superiority of the democratic man over the King’s subject. The American stereotype holds that the virtuous frontiersman triumphed because of his independence, adaptability, and superior understanding of the essential aspects of conflict.

For this month, we will leave aside the last question and focus on the nature of Tommy’s sense of esprit de corps. Did he have any? Was he motivated to excel as a soldier? What were the factors that motivated or demotivated him in the practice of his profession?

Historian Richard Holmes gives a good bit of attention to the harsh discipline of the eighteenth and nineteenth century British Army in his history of the redcoat in the age of the flintlock. He dwells at length on the heavy use of brutal corporal punishments and a variety of punishments used to demean and ridicule the men who suffered them for infractions of military rules and practices. Another historian, Alan Guy, quotes Colonel Samuel Bagshawe (93<sup>rd</sup> Foot) as characterizing the redcoat as a “commodity to be recruited, drilled, managed, disposed of when worn out, or reluctantly drafted into other units.”

Socially, soldiers came from the bottom of society and were generally regarded by their countrymen with contempt. They made less money in a day than juvenile chimney sweeps in London and their pay was exceeded by even the meanest occupations of their day. Some of them served in the army to escape penal confinement or servitude. As a result, harsh measures were employed to keep them regimented.

Author Stephen Brumwell writes, though, that fear of army discipline or the provost marshal’s noose were by no means the only motivating factors for the eighteenth century soldier. He proposes that the regard of the soldiers’ comrades ranked highest amongst the factors that motivated Tommy to perform competently at his profession. Sylvia Frey proposed in her sociological study of the King’s men that the fear of punishment combined with concern for the evaluation of his colleagues were his highest motivators. Mark Odintz writes that regimental loyalty and unit identification was “perhaps the most significant feature of British military life” in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. He went on to write that unit pride exerted a significant influence on the men and officers alike.

In his history of the British soldiers of the French & Indian War, Stephen Brumwell finds that unit loyalty was perhaps the strongest motivating factor for the British soldier of the age. His research indicates that some soldiers were drafted from regiment to regiment during their service, but most served with a single regiment. The more senior the regiment he served, the less likely the individual soldier would be drafted to another. As a result, the senior regiments of the Army were more likely to have highly motivated soldiers.

According to Brumwell the eighteenth century army did not have an organized system for rewarding acts of valor and extraordinary loyalty. Both Brumwell and Richard Holmes write accounts of soldiers who received awards for acts above and beyond the call of duty. The rewards in such cases varied with the circumstances of time and place. Neither author would consider the potential for financial reward or the awarding of medals to inspire a soldier of the 1700s to extraordinary acts of valor or service.

Some officers of the period praised the British soldier for having a higher level of patriotism than say the German soldiers who fought with them in America. None of the historians consulted for this article found a higher level of devotion to country amongst the British rankers. Brumwell is the only author to have commented on the question and he noted that little evidence existed that they were more or less patriotic than the soldiers of any European nation.

So, though they enlisted sometimes in search of fame and fortune, the British foot soldier was rarely very motivated by these factors in the practice of his profession. It was his regiment and his company that inspired his professionalism. He had a desire to uphold the reputation of his regiment and earn the respect of the men with whom he served. Medals and financial rewards were infrequently rewarded and though some soldiers qualified for pensions of various descriptions after long service, few were likely to have been motivated by that prospect. The lash, the noose and the enemy waited for those who cared little for their regiment or their comrades.



# 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 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

Market at Washingtonburg, Army Heritage and Educational Center, Carlisle, PA, September 18-20

*"Washingtonburg" is a public education living history event with no opposed tactical. In 2007, we used the time to drill and interact with the visitors - there were a ton of visitors. The Army paid us for participating, which made Tony happy.*

## October

Jerusalem Mills – Baltimore, MD-October 10-11

(Big 3 event)

## November

Sully Plantation Colonial Day, November 7, 2009

Sully Plantation, Chantilly, VA

Revolutionary War Field Days

Historic Camden, Camden, SC, November 7-8, 2009

Description from Historic Camden's Web Site:

*South Carolina's Revolutionary War years come alive as some 500 re-enactors interpret life on the Southern Campaign trail. At 1:30 pm cannons roar as Redcoats and Patriots portray tactics from Camden's Battle of Camden (Saturday) and Commander Choice (Sunday), followed by military courts martial scenarios. Watch period craftsmen ply their trades. Listen to civilian interpreters share their lifestyles as you stroll through the camps. Enjoy shopping on Sutlers Row and watching a period fashion show and colonial dance demonstrations. Lots of hands-on activities for kids of all ages.*

## December

British Night Watch

Castillo de San Marcos, St Augustine, FL, December 5, 2009

*In joint cooperation with the City of St. Augustine this event commemorates the British period of St. Augustine's history (1763-1784). Living history reenactors portray and explain the lives of British soldiers, sailors, Native allies, and loyalists during the period of America's revolution. Events begin at 9:30 am and include historic weapons demonstrations and displays of military and civilian life. Saturday evening concludes with a torchlight parade through the streets of the city.*