



The Fusilier

23rd Regiment of Foot

The Royal Welch Fusiliers in America

www.rwfia.org

COLONEL OF THE AMERICAN BATTALION

Brigadier Anthony C. Vivian

Volume XLI: No.08

5 December, 2013

BATTLE OF THE HOOK

It is my very great honor to report to your Lordship that on the 19th and 20th instant of this month in the year of our Lord 1781 our regiment was a part of the force engaged with the Rebels at Gloucester Point in the colony of Virginia.

Our regiment was augmented by the two missing scouting forces lately gone missing in the Ohio and Far West Territories bring our total strength to an impressive number.

On the 19th, battle was joined early when a large body of French effected a landing near to our redoubt despite the warnings given by our distaff who were nearby on a promenade, the weather being of an agreeable nature.

The army's guns opened a brisk fire upon them but the French for once stood firm and began to advance in large numbers towards our positions. Upon being duly summoned by the Officer of the Day to block or delay this incursion, the regiment formed with celerity and determination and marched forth only to be pressed back onto its starting point by the press of numbers. Further action that day occurred when our scouting and foraging parties where surprised by an immense hoard of rebels who pressed us back into the redoubt.

Our Regiment's volleys were crisp and full with barely a misfire amongst us. We gave ground grudgingly, making Johnny Reb pay dearly for each inch of ground.

Nightfall found us in the redoubt awaiting the enemy's inevitable advance which came on at about 6:00 of the clock as the sun's last rays were fading behind the gentle Virginia hills. At that point our artillery did open upon the gathered host who responded in kind and were not the exchange so lethal, it might have been possible to admire the blasts of fire and sparks issuing forth from each side.

At long last their assault was launched, and while the force of it swept us from the redoubt, a brave counterattack launched within minutes gained us back the position, which we held for the duration of that evening.

The following morning we sent forth foraging parties into the nearby farmstead to gather food and sundry supplies. Our regiment was sent out to the far right flank of the Army under the command of Captain Mack an officer of great zeal and energy.

They were very quickly engaged by enemy light infantry and cavalry who made their progress difficult and soon forced them to retire in order upon the main force after having given battle for the better part of an hour.

The main army having set fire to the dwellings and storehouses of the farmstead also found itself hard pressed by an overwhelming force of enemy infantry who were very well supported by cavalry and artillery and such was their perseverance that we were soon out of ammunition with only our bayonets to contest the issue at hand.

Duly our General in his mercy called upon the commander of the Rebel forces and arranged our surrender. We marched with bayonets fixed and colours flying thought the combined ranks of Rebels, French and Spanish troops, and while most troops continued up the road to interment, I was fortunate to find a turnout in the road and so marched the Regiment away from the main army and to freedom. We will fight another day!

I remain your Lordship's Most Humble & Obedient Servant,

Major GF Morgan
23rd Regiment of Foot
Royal Welch Fusiliers

One of the largest events we have seen in recent years and certainly one of the best in recent memory. Special thanks go to Jim Coffey and Paul Astle for bringing the extra ammunition. To Joe Siegel and Ruth for obtaining our Saturday night dinner and all those who brought extra food including the DeLucia family for providing the dining facilities. For those who traveled great distances from California, Ohio and Florida, for the Ladies of the Regiment who shone in splendor, to Steve Raby Sergeant Major and Brigade Sergeant Major. To Ken and Marie Clare for support and logistics. Thank you to all who showed up and supported the regiment.

This event was a shining example of how great an event can be when we are all there. The 23rd looked fantastic, fought with grit and determination and stood as an example for every regiment on the field. We received many compliments on the late war uniform from officers of other regiments and our opposition.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat. Dec. 14, 2013 Battle of Iron Works Hill

<http://www.ironworkshill.org>

Mt. Holly, NJ

This year's event sound like it might be a good recruiting event for us. Please let the Major know if you are interested!

This annual commemoration features Crown and Continental forces in camp, drilling, and eventually battling through town, from the Prison Museum on High Street to Monroe Street Park. We'll also have children's musket drills, Mercy Ingraham's cooking demonstrations, author John Nagy talking on "Spies of the Revolution," The Ministers of Apollo presenting a concert of music from the 18th century, a British regimental surgeon, Ned Hector and English Country Dancing, plus a few surprises.

10:00 to 3:00 Crown Forces Camp - Burlington County Prison Museum (Directions)

Living History inside, in the front and back yards, and in the adjacent Warden's House:

British military surgeon (inside)

18th century field cooking by Mercy Ingraham (front yard)

"Sutlers" display and sell 18th century goods to reenactors and the public (see the Links page for a tentative list). (front yard)

11:00 - "Spies of the Revolution," presented by author John Nagy, who will also be selling/signing his books (Warden's House)

11:00 & 1:00 - New recruit drilling for children of all ages. (front yard)

2:30 - Artillery firing demonstration. (front yard)

10:00 to 3:00 Colonial Forces Camp - Mill Race Village (Directions)

Reenactors will describe camp life and military campaigns.

Mike Kochan will discuss and demonstrate a 100-calibre wall gun (commonly used in fortifications and aboard merchant and naval ships), mines used in the Delaware River against British warships, a Franklin battery, and a model of the 1775 submarine "Turtle."

11:30 Officers Meeting - "Cobbler Square" at High and Garden Streets

Representatives from each reenacting company should attend.

12:00 Live concert of 18th century music - Friends Meeting House (81 High Street)

See The Ministers of Apollo below.

3:00 to 3:45 "Battle" of Iron Works Hill

(Preceded by a 2:30 artillery demonstration in front of the Prison Museum)

Continental and South Jersey militia troops attack the Crown Forces (near the Old Courthouse), who push back through the streets of Mount Holly to the Rancocas Creek in Monroe Street Park.

The progress of each side through town will be narrated by Joe Laufer, the Burlington County Historian.

4:00 Dancing with the Stars (and Stripes) in 1776 - Noah Lewis, Dancemaster
Red, White & Brew (33 High Street)

Follow the intricacies and just plain fun of 18th century dancing. Join in and see if you might be the next 'Colonial Idol.'

Sounds like fun!

December 27th, 7 PM Old Barracks Colonial Ball at the Masonic Temple, Barrack Street

Colonial dances will be taught and lead by Neil V. De Marino, colonial dancing master, professional dancer of Baroque and 18th century dances, and faculty member of Art of Motion, a professional studio school. Colonial musicians, Anne & Ridley Enslow of "Rules of Civility", will accompany De Marino on the fiddle and hammered dulcimer.

Reservations Required.

Admission \$15/adult, \$7.50/Old Barracks Association Member

Light Refreshments Served.

Call (609)396-1776 to reserve.

Sat. Dec 28th, The Battles of Trenton Reenactments

11:00AM First Battle of Trenton, N. Warren St. Battle Monument Park to Mill Hill Park

After the crossing of the Delaware River and marching to Trenton, the American rebel forces-exhausted, dressed in rags, ill from the cold and lack of sleep and decent food had accomplished the impossible by inflicting a crippling blow to the world's greatest British army. Follow the action from the symbolic first cannon shot fired at the Battle Monument to Mill Hill Park down Warren Street to Mill Hill Park. No Admission Fee.

3:00PM Second Battle of Trenton, Mill Hill Park

After a commemorative ceremony at First Presbyterian Church, the battle commences on East State Street to Mill Hill Park. No Admission Fee.

If anyone is interested, please let me know and I will get us registered.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

