



The Fusilier

23rd Regiment of Foot

The Royal Welch Fusiliers in America

www.rwfia.org

COLONEL OF THE AMERICAN BATTALION

Brigadier Anthony C. Vivian

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St. Kitt's After Action Report

The 23rd Foot's contingent that ventured south to save the verdant isle of St. Kitt's from French depredations was ultimately successful and all have returned safely with tales of blue seas, sandy beaches, bucolic rain forests with flying monkeys. Apparently there will be repeat in 2016 so be warned so that YOU don't miss out on the deal of the century! Thanks again to Ken Siegel for all the hard work!

In respect to shaking off the winter rust, it is time to remind all company commanders and clerks to get those dues in!!! For our membership, a reminder that paying before March 1st gets you a \$5 break.

***** ST.DAVID'S DAY DINNER & BATTLE OF SANDY HOLLOW *****
7-18 May - Birmingham Township, PA



This will be our **Grand Gathering of the Regiment** for 2014 with our California lads coming east and the annual St. David's Day Celebration to be held at the Historic Dilworthtown Inn, one of the original buildings which was almost destroyed by the fighting and the subsequent British occupation.

Sgt. Raby and I inspected both the site and the restaurant and neither of us ever saw a more appropriate location for our annual dinner and meeting. The site is today a 300-acre park on which a critical part of the 1777 Battle of Brandywine was fought and where Lafayette was wounded. It is a short distance from Rt. 1 and Rt. 202 and is owned by Birmingham Township, so British Brigade/Continental Line safety rules will apply and we don't need to worry about the onerous and silly Pennsylvania Safety Regulations. The space is essentially open, making it excellent for formal camps, mounted troops and artillery. It slowly declines to privately owned woods which we plan on using in our tactical scenarios. The woods themselves are, for the most part, cut by trails and mostly free of thickets and brambles, providing an excellent place for not just light infantry and riflemen, but even battalion troops.

The site is actually within walking distance of the restaurant whose proprietors are reenactor friendly and whose establishment is second to none. Numerous paintings of British officers and men from our time period adorn the walls and our banquet room is first class as is the menu provided.

There are numerous hotels and motels in the area which can be found by googling "Birmingham Township Lodging," but make your reservations soon as they are likely to fill up quite quickly!

This is the first battle reenactment ever held on this ground and is intended to be a "one time" event, not a regular occurrence. While it is planned as a BB and CL Mid-Atlantic regional event, it is exceptional enough that all BB, CL and BAR units in good standing are welcome to participate. It will be well worth the trip!

There will be one major scripted battle each day and perhaps a "participant only" skirmish on Sunday as well. In addition the township is providing a powder allowance for artillery units (at least). A group of retired British Army officers are even traveling from the UK to make "symbolic" restitution to area families who lost property during the original battle.

Some of the proceeds from the weekend are also being donated to the **Wounded Warrior Project** by Colonel Paul Loane of the 43rd who organized this event.

The usual wood, water, straw and portable toilets will be provided and reenactor parking will be located a short distance from the camps. The schedule of activities has not yet been finalized, but there will be at least one major tactical demonstration each day.



Background on Battle of Brandywine

On September 11, 1777 George Washington's American troops, approximately 15,000 soldiers, were located on the east bank of the Brandywine River. The British Army, approximately 18,000 soldiers, left Kennett Square that morning in two columns. One division, under General Knyphausen, marched to the west bank of the Brandywine at Chadds Ford. Their job was to keep the American troops occupied. The other division, under General Cornwallis, moved north under a dense fog, crossing the Brandywine

before heading south in an attempt to outflank General Washington. Washington's intelligence reports informed him of the invading Brits and he sent General Sullivan, Stirling, and Stephens ahead to meet the British.

A murderous fight ensued for close to two hours, during this time, the 3,000 Americans on the hill at Birmingham Meeting disputed the fire of the enemy. For a majority of that time the fight was battled " almost muzzle to muzzle." A captain of the Delawares described it as, "Cannon balls flew thick and many and small arms roared like the rolling of a drum." The odds were against the Americans and after five attempts to surge forward, they were ordered to withdraw.

The retreating Americans were met by General Greene, who kept up destructive fire, as he let the Americans pass to retard the advance of the enemy. The pursuit by the British ended with the last volley of fire shot at Dilworthtown. The entire American army that night retreated toward Chester arriving there at different times by different roads. Casualty figures vary but the British killed were approximately 100 and 400 wounded while American losses were estimated at 300 killed and 600 wounded.

A large part of the British Army remained in the area of Dilworthtown until September 16. The destruction and wanton waste committed by the British on the peaceful dwellers of the neighborhood was excessive.

Just our kind of place I think!

Saturday May 17th 6:00pm 35.00 per person Regimental or Formal attire. Please make your checks payable to RWFA and mail to: Adjutant Rob Price 79 Everett Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06107 PLEASE AVOID DOING THIS AT THE LAST MINUTE!! We must give them a head count!

Menu

Field Greens Salad w/ Creamy Toasted Sesame Dressing

Dilworthtown Mushroom Soup - A Creamy Blend of Local and Exotic Mushrooms

MAIN COURSES

There will be a choice of chicken, red meat or fish which you may select at the dinner itself.

Dessert

Your Server Will Offer Selections

Coffee, Tea, Decaffeinated Coffee

REGIMENTAL AND BAR DUES

Regimental dues are \$20 if paid before March 1st,

Regimental dues are \$25 if paid after March 1st,

Regimental dues are \$30 if paid after April 15th.

BAR dues are \$25 additional and due March 31st. (BAR membership dues are voluntary but both California and Ohio Companies maintain strong ties and insurance through the BAR so members of those companies should be guided by their respective commanding officer.

Dues should be sent to your Company Clerk or Commander so that proper Company Rosters can be maintained. They in turn forward all to Regimental Adjutant Rob Price.

RECRUITING

Always looking for new comrades, so spread the word and let's grow our ranks. Each company should make its own recruiting flyers to have on hand at events.

The Colonel's Company would like to welcome their new recruit David Leslie-Hughes who at one time was an actual Lieutenant in the real RWF. He will be taking the field for the first time at Brimstone Hill and the Major knows that all ranks will join me in welcoming him and making feel at home

SEAMSTRESSES/TAILORS

We are always looking for these as well so if you know some one who is handy with patterns, needle and thread send their name along to HQ.

Schedule 2014

19 April **Battle Road - Sat Only**, Tower Park, Lexington, Massachusetts

This is run by the 10th Foot but Ken Siegel and several others often attend.

3-4 May Gunston Hall, Mason Neck, VA Of possible interest to Southern Company members but not a British Brigade or Continental Line Regional event so overall attendance may be sparse. If you have a choice of attending this OR the **Regimental Event & St. David's Day Celebration** two weeks later, it is hoped that all Loyal and Well Disposed Comrades will choose the later.

16-18 May BATTLE OF SANDY POINT & ST. DAVID'S DAY DINNER

21-22 June The Battle of Monmouth -Monmouth Battlefield State Park,
Manalapan, NJ

12-13 July Wyoming Valley Massacre, Mt Ariel, PA
BB & CL Contact Website Registration

2-3 Aug. Old Sturbridge Village -Sturbridge MA - (Invitation Only)

We are looking at this as a midsummer event. The site is colonial and those who have attended in the past give it very fine reviews.

20-21 Sept. Fort at Number Four, Charlestown, New Hampshire

4-5 October Chew House, Germantown, Pennsylvania

*****25-26 Oct. Mount Harmon Plantation, Earleville, Maryland*****

BB & CL event on a proven site with 18th century buildings and a minimum of modern intrusion. More information will be available shortly. -
Registration

1-2 Nov. Hope Lodge, Fort Washington, Pennsylvania

8-9 Nov. Fort Mifflin, Philadelphia, PA

6-7 Dec. Illumination of St Augustine Florida

I think we should all go!! What about you guys?? Whose with the Major here? Anyone?

2015

April Battle of Bunker Hill weekend tbd

5-6 December The British Night Watch 450th Birthday of St Augustine FL