



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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January 24th, 2013

St. David's Day 2013 & UTR

We will be holding the annual St. David's Day Dinner on Mar.2 2012 but sadly our Colonel, Brigadier Vivian will not be able to attend so I have dropped the "regimental" designation. It will be held at the Williamsburg Winery (5800 Wessex Hundred, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185 • 757-258-0899) - Cost per person will be 35.00 which will include table wine for the toasts. Dress is 18th century preferred and the Major would like all members to take note that the "late war" trousers are **NOT** acceptable 18th c. formal wear. The britches and white stockings are. There will be a cash bar open at 6:00pm. This is a wonderful chance to come down and enjoy Williamsburg when we don't have any reenactment responsibilities and when accommodations are not quite so expensive. A large turnout is expected, dress is 18th c., formal mess dress, or coat and tie and corresponding attire for the ladies.

The tradition of the Regimental St. David's Day dinner goes back in time to before the American Revolution. The Royal Welch Fusiliers do not celebrate battle honours but the national day of Wales, St David's Day (1st of March) is celebrated wherever there are Royal Welch Fusiliers. In Battalions the ceremony 'Eating the Leek' is observed by the youngest soldier in each company, and by newly-joined officers and guests at dinner in the Officers' Mess, whilst drummers and fifers, led by the Regimental Goat, march round the table. (The Major is in the process of reviewing this years applicants for "goat")

It is only on St David's Day that the Loyal Toast is drunk. Shortly after the 1797 Nore Mutiny when dining with the Regiment, King George IV expressed his wish that the Loyal Toast should be dispensed with as 'the loyalty of the Royal Welch is never in doubt.'

From Frederick MacKenzie's Boston Dairy - 1st March 1775:

"This being St. David's Day, the Officers of the 23rd Regiment, or Royal Welch Fusiliers, dined together according to the Custom. All the General & Staff Officers, The Admiral, and several other persons were invited to dine with the Regiment..."

Those who wish to make a weekend of it will have the joy of seeing all the sights and sounds of an elegant 18th century town and Yorktown and Busch gardens are nearby as well.

There will be the usual leek ceremony, toasts and presentations to the silver collection as well as special guests. I have listed only some of the many choices for lodging in and around Colonial Williamsburg.

Menu:

First Course: Potato Leek Soup OR Baby Arugula Salad topped with strawberries, blue cheese, candied walnuts, and champagne vinaigrette

Main Course: Petite Filet of Beef, Bordelaise Sauce OR Roasted Herb Chicken with Thyme Au Jus
OR Pan-Seared Salmon with Dill Sauce

Creamy Mashed Potatoes

Sauté of Green Bean, Shallot and Almonds

Dessert Course

Warm Bread Pudding

Warm Caramel Sauce

PLEASE NOTE!! We need to have our list of guest to the Winery by Feb. 25th so ACT NOW before you forget!! Make checks payable to: RWFA and send to: Rob Price, 79 Everett Ave. West Hartford, CT 06107

Lodging in Colonial Williamsburg

Williamsburg Woodlands Hotel & Suites 105 Visitor Center Drive, Williamsburg, VA (757) 253-2277
colonialwilliamsburg.com

Williamsburg Lodge 310 South England Street, Williamsburg, VA (757) 220-7976
colonialwilliamsburg.com

Comfort Suites Bypass 220 Bypass Road, Williamsburg, VA (757) 645-4646 comfortsuites.com

La Quinta Inn & Suites Williamsburg 814 Capitol Landing Rd, Williamsburg, VA (757) 229-0200 lq.com

Quality Inn Historic East - Busch Gardens Area 505 York Street, Williamsburg, Virginia
(757) 220-3100 qualityinn.com

Hampton Inn 718 Bypass Road, Williamsburg, VA (757) 229-7330 hamptoninn3.hilton.com

Under The Redcoat 2013

Due to two other southern events, (Battle of the Hook and St. David's Day Dinner) we are putting off our formal participation in Under The Redcoat until 2014. I have spoken to Radford Polinsky and he has assured me that any RWFA wishing to attend this years UTR are more than welcome, are covered by insurance and will be brigaded with other units. Our regular invitation will revert to 2014 when it will most probably be a Regimental Event in late War uniform. Please note that if you DO go, it is late war kit only as per Williamsburg's request so that we are more easily brigaded with other units with late war.

Regimental Events 2013

There are two regimental events this year, each of which promises a unique reenacting experience. Both were presented at the joint British Brigade/Continental Line Meeting in January and received very strong support from the memberships of both organizations. The **235th Anniversary of The Battle of Monmouth** (in Freehold, New Jersey) will be played on a wider field and will not try to emulate the original battle but will be a bit more free wheeling according the sponsors and the park. This will be our first regimental event of the year and will be in early war kit. More details to follow but please plan on this one if you are in the Mid Atlantic Region.

The second regimental event for the season will be the **Battle of the Hook** in Gloucester, Virginia on 18-20 October which some may remember from several years ago as a fine event. This year will be even bigger and better. The Royal Welch Fusiliers will again be defending their redoubt with zeal and panache as they did in the original encounter when under a ferocious Yankee bombardment a solitary Fusilier was seen to mount the ramparts and expose his backside to the advancing foe. Ah, the stuff of legend! How keenly did the other troops defend their position after such bold high jinx!

Well we are going to do it again, this time with our California Company taking part, and from everything presented at the BB/CL meeting it sounds like this is not one to miss!. It is across the York River from Yorktown and close to Williamsburg as well. The choice of an October engagement is perfect as we may see some relief from the summer's heat. Stay tuned for further details, the Major is entertaining suggestions as to whether this should be an early or late war uniform event.

Rules and Regulations

It has come to the attention of the Major that several members of the RWFA attended the Gelston Castle event last year dressed as sailors and fielding in the American camp. Our rules forbid this and this individuals involved know this well, being long standing members. They were even seen in a march past of the American Army. A letter is being sent out "refreshing" their collective memory that our ROs state that we may not belong to any other Revolutionary War group and maintain membership in the RWFA. This will be the last time that this happens. If it occurs again with **ANY** member of RWFA, dismissal will be swift and certain. The rules are there to protect the regiment , please follow them.

Recruiting

We need to fill our ranks, so the mantra for 2013 will be RECRUIT, DRILL, RECRUIT, DRILL & REPEAT! The regiment has looked a little rusty in its last few appearances and I would greatly appreciate it if the officers and NCO's were to tighten things up. If we look good, we attract more recruits. If we have more recruits, we have a stronger voice within the British Brigade, if we have more recruits and look good on the field, then we can write our own ticket.

The importance of recruiting can not stated too strongly. I have left this to the company commanders discretion in the past, but it seems that we have more members retiring into the Pensioner Company than we have new men coming onto the field. Look for recruiting opportunities in your area, gun shows, toy soldier shows, militaria shows, public events where a tent or table can be set up.

Follow up with all your contacts. Don't just assume that once you've handed them over to an NCO or officer that the job will be done, members have events that happen in their lives which sometimes interfere with recruiting efforts. I will be putting together a new brochure for the regiment soon.

Regimental and Company Rosters

All company commanders and clerks must submit their 2013 rosters ASAP so that the full Regimental Roster can be completed. Please get your dues collected and get on it so it doesn't drag into spring!

Seamstresses and Supplies

There is a new regimental seamstress in Pennsylvania, Fran Wilcox who is in Pipersville, PA. I will be meeting with her shortly to provide samples, patterns etc. She will be doing waistcoats, britches, gaitered trousers, regimentals and gaiters.

In order to maintain uniformity in our dress, the materials for small clothes and regimentals will still be received through the regiment stores, but we will be working on streamlining that.

Fran Wilcox 249 Cafferty Road, Pipersville, PA 18947 (267)885-4022 wfrantastic@gmail.com

There is also available the fine services of ...

Heather Chaffee 15010 Victory Blvd. #102 Van Nuys, Ca 91411 (201) 450-6153 Heath51937@aol.com

NEW CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE MAJOR

Maj. G.F. Morgan PO Box 79, Pt. Pleasant, PA 18950 (267) 293-0311 (hm) (215) 262-6013 (cell)

gmorgan53@comcast.net

Please update your records as I still get the occasional piece of regimental mail sent to my old address and soon the forwarding order will expire.

2013 RWFA Schedule (still a WIP!)

*Feb. 17th 2013 **Fort Ward Battle, Alexandria, VA** *please contact Erik Spaar if interested **

*Mar.2 2012 **St. David's Day Dinner** - * see above **

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*June 15, 16 2013 **235th Anniversary of the Battle of Monmouth** * see above **

The Battle of Monmouth in 1778 occurred when British Army under Sir Henry Clinton marched through New Jersey on their way to New York. The rearguard was set upon by Continental Army at Monmouth Courthouse near Freehold, New Jersey. The resulting battle was inconclusive with the Americans holding the field but the British also achieved their objective of reaching their work on Manhattan Island. It was the last major engagement in the north. The present day village of Freehold is a picturesque town with cafes and boutiques, there are numerous eating and drinking establishments and the Monmouth Battlefield Park has just undergone a very extensive rehabilitation.

Oct. 5th 2013 **Battle of Germantown** Germantown PA

Oct. 19, 20 2013 **Gloucester Point, VA** * see above *

Nov. 2, 2013 **Hope Lodge, Fort Washington, PA**

British Brigade Schedule of Events

(Only Monmouth and The Battle of the Hook have been listed as national events)

- 16-17 March Battle of Guilford Courthouse, Greensboro, North Carolina
- 6-7 April Battle of Princeton New Jersey - "Washington at Princeton"
- 13 April Battle Road - Minuteman National Park, Lincoln, Massachusetts
Contact - 10th Reg't of Foot
- The Boston Garrison - Not an official British Brigade event
- 15 April Patriots' Day- Lexington, Massachusetts Contact - 10th Reg't of Foot
The Boston Garrison - Not an official British Brigade event
- 20-21 April Patriots' Day Weekend - Old Foprt Niagara Youngstown, New York
- 27-28 April The Siege of San Juan, Puerto Rico (1797)
- 3-5 May Gunston Hall, Lorton Virginia
- 8-9 June King's Birthday Old Fort Niagara Youngstown, New York
- 14-16 June 235th Anniversary of The Battle of Monmouth - Freehold New Jersey
BB/CL Contact * Registration
- 29-30 June Under the Redcoat, Colonial Williamsburg (Invitation Only)
- 6-7 July Battle of Hubbardton, Vermont (LHA)
- 20-21 July Salem Maritime, Salem Massachusetts
- 3-4 August Old Sturbridge Village -Sturbridge MA - (Invitation Only)
- 10-11 August Soldiers of the Revolution Old Fort Niagara Youngstown, New York
- 17-18 August Cricket Tournement: British Brigade. Johnson Hall, New York
- 24-25 August Battle of Newtown, Elmira, New York
- 14-15 September Mount Harmon Plantation, Earleville, Maryland
- 14-15 September Fort at Number Four, Charlestown, New Hampshire
- 14-15 September Brown's Raid, Fort Ticonderoga, New York
- 21--22 September Saratoga national Historic Park, Stillwater, New York

BAR Events

- 5 October Chew House, Germantown, Pennsylvania
- 18-20 October Battle of the Hook - Gloucester Virginia
BB/CL Event Contact * Registration
- 19-20 October Victory Weekend, Yorktown, Virginia
- 2-3 November Hope Lodge, Fort Washington, Pennsylvania

9-10 November Siege of Fort Mifflin, Philadelphia, PA

2014 Events

March St Kitts, Caribbean

TBD Gunston Hall

TBD Cherry Valley, New York

TBD Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York

July/August Fort Taber/Fort Rodman, New Bedford, Massachusetts

TBD Cirt of Worcester, Massachusetts

2015

TBD Mount Harmon Plantation - Earleville MD