

Gazette Française pour le

Le 85^{ème} Régiment de Saintongre / 4th Middlesex Militia Regiment of Foot, Inc

www.saintongre.org

Le Premier dans la Place!

November '01

Winter quarters:

Fri	Nov 16	85^e	Music Rehearsal
Wknd	Dec 29-30	4th	Trenton/Princeton
Sat	Jan 5	everyone	Regimental meeting and workparty

Official events are in bold. 4th or 85^{ème} indicates whether we do the event as 4th Middlesex or Saintongre (85^{ème}).

Winter Events:

Dec 29-30 **4th** **Trenton/Princeton 225th**

The event will take place on the actual roads, streets and fields where it originally occurred ... Saturday will include an early dawn crossing of the Delaware, a 9 mile march to Trenton (there will be buses as well) and the 1st and 2nd Battle of Trenton. Sunday will be Princeton (and some are planning to do the 13 mile march from Trenton to Princeton). There is a website at <http://www.tencrucialdays.com/> which will include information about the event as the planning proceeds. We have to include the names of those attending on our return. Those who have said they are coming are: Steven, Dana, Carrie & JoAnn Albertin, Cori & Bill Rose, Rhonda, Myles & Kate McConnon, Bryon Bausk, Sue, Todd Bailey, Rob & Mary Hutton, Steve Diatz, William Newell, Skip Hayward, Adam Carriere, Nancy Cahill, Robby & Daniel Welch. If you aren't listed and plan to go, please let me know ASAP – no walk-ons will be permitted, in other words they will not let people participate who are not listed on their unit's return. We also need to let them know who would like to do the crossing or the march to Trenton (only a limited number will be able to do the Crossing and due to time factors, you probably cannot do both the Crossing and the 9 mile march from the Crossing to Trenton): Todd, Bryon, Myles and Sterling have all said they'd like to do the crossing. If there are others (or if any of you want to do the march to Trenton), please let me know that as well. Note that there is some risk that the crossing won't happen due to low water. Housing: they have made arrangements for billeting up to 1,000 re-enactors close to the Old Barracks (no, we're not doing an outdoor encampment in December). Bring bedroll, sleeping bag (& pad) or cot. For anyone who does not want to sleep dormitory style, Sterling reports that hotel space is going fast – contact him at swall@daylor.com if you want to try to coordinate hotel space. Meals: they will be feeding us breakfast and lunch both days. Dinner is on your own. Once I receive the final mailing, I will send it out to those planning to go.

Sat Jan 5 **everyone** **Regimental Meeting and Workparty (Potluck)**

We have moved our traditional November end-of-season meeting to the first weekend in January in order to schedule it for a weekend. Our membership continues to extend farther and farther outside of Boston and we have an increasing number of kids who make significant contributions to the Regiment ... both of which argue for avoiding meetings on weeknights. This meeting will be an important precursor to our voting meeting in February – a chance to look at events taking shape on the horizon, to consider other things we might like to do, to look at parade invitations and to begin to shape the schedule. We will also be looking for people with an interest in supporting and leading the Regiment in the 2002 campaign season (and there is plenty of work to do both in appointed and elected roles) to let us know what you're willing to do. And yes, it will be a workparty ... clean up the trailer, check & repair equipment ... followed by a potluck dinner. Weather permitting, it will be preceded by a drill and music practice.

Sat Feb 9 **everyone** **Regimental Meeting**

This is our annual meeting at which we vote on our schedule as well as Field and Corporate officers.

Drills, Workparties, Music Practices

We are working on putting together a schedule of drills, music practices and workparties for the winter.

Drills: our goal is to schedule drills twice a month in January, February and March.

Music: (from Andrea) We are cranking up the rehearsal machine again for the winter with a goal of practicing twice a month or so until March 17 parades start the season again for the Saintonge Regiment. We have some new recruits to get going on the repertoire and requirements! Hooray! Welcome!

Tentative Schedule: Dec 7, Jan 11, Jan 25, Feb 8, Feb 22, Mar 1, Mar 8. Subject to change – watch your email.

Workparties: we plan to set up several weekend workdays to work on both French and militia kit as well as regimental projects. Probably at Bill Rose's new house which is reported to have lots of space (and we know Bill always has more fabric than he has actually figured out what to do with!). Contact Nelia, Steven or Bill if you have projects you want to work on so that we can plan for what everyone wants to get done.

With Trenton and Princeton still to come, the season isn't quite over. However, with the trailer put away for the season (but not yet cleaned up ... make sure to put the January 5 meeting/workparty on your 2002 calendar), it's time to pause to look around and thank all the many members of the Regiment for their contributions to the 2001 campaign season. To those who have stepped time and again to get equipment to events, to serve as officers, to cook our meals and to help each other out ... Merci! To those who continue to think up the crazy ideas that make us who we are ... Huzzah! I think this year's prize has to go to Bryon and Anita for inaugurating Redoubt Service. And finally, to those who have stepped forward to lead us in honoring those we represent .. and those who continue to take risks in one way or another to protect and serve those around them and to protect our freedom and beliefs as a nation. Thank you ... to Skip for the Ceremony on Lexington Green ... to Sarah, Jim, Myles, Andrea, Steven, Rob, Kate and other members of MCV for their concert at the Bridge after September 11; to Russ Moore, Mary Stone, William, Steven and Beth for organizing the music for the Memorial Service at Dracut ... to Tarra for what she captured in her sketches and poem ... and to Steven, Beth and William for spending Veterans Day providing music for other groups in a year when the day carries additional meaning for both US and allied Veterans.

Looking forward ... it's time to begin thinking about next year. Our schedule comes together over the winter months as well as the core group of people who provide the support to carry us through the season and the core participants at the events we have committed to. We'd like to invite those of you who are interested in being involved in the support and leadership of the Regiment during 2002 to talk to Steven or I early on so that you can be included in meetings and email discussions over the course of the winter ... the expectation is that this core working group will take the lead during the year to meet and coordinate efforts; participate in workparties and drills; march in the parades; research and help define/improve our impression; help with the logistics required to get to events (cuisine/commissary; transport regimental gear; coordinate set-up); offer to help host units with pre-event and on-site jobs; and other tasks that go into making the Regiment what it is. That group needn't be limited to elected or appointed officers and we'd like to see the size of the group expand, but you should plan to be a frequent participant, ideally as both Saintonge and 4th Middlesex because both impressions are integral to the Regiment. Think about it and speak to Steven or I if you're interested. And thank you to those of you who have stepped in so many times this past year.

As always, if you have questions or need additional information about anything in this newsletter, please contact me at 781-899-5334 or cwnewell@erols.com.

Your Servant

Nelia Newell, Adjutant & President

Hi Folks,

Wow – what a month! From the ceremony on Lexington Green to our actions in White Plain, it was a very fulfilling month.

First, the Lexington Green observation. Skip – as usual – pulled together a wide breadth of reenactors to make for a very worthwhile event. From 16th Century pikemen to 20th Century American and British soldiers, the reenactment hobby was well represented. All participating reenactors represented a part of the American story in regards to the building of the country in what it was today. The readings and presentations further added to the observation and the music and the town/audience participation rounded out the observance. Great job Skip!

Due to schedule constraints and a communication misfire, I didn't give the speech I had written regarding the allies. The folks who read it thought it would be worthwhile to print in the newsletter, so it's enclosed.

White Plains...in a word wow!

First of all, thanks to everyone who helped out our members in need (even me!) during our crisis time. This help came from the 4th and the Lexington folks pitching in and our friends from the 2nd MA. This hobby is just filled with folks willing to help out in a moments need to do what is needed to make the event work for everyone. Actions like this galvanize my belief that this is one the best hobbies around filled with the best folks. For our friends in Lexington – a warm thanks for all your efforts and your enthusiasm, not only on the field, but especially in camp and during one the more “interesting” weather conditions I've been in.

And what about that weather – geez! I think this is the coldest fall event I've ever been to. How cold was it? Well, when Rhonda lifts up a ladle and the whole bucket comes up because it's ice, it's pretty cold! Everyone within both groups kept up the humor and kept the fires going to make it a warm event. I've got to find out what Nelia feeds Alex – we're all freezing and he's comfortable in britches and a linen smock!

The '64 platoon – with few exceptions made up of the Lexington Training Band and the 4th, did a FANTASTIC job on the field. During the morning drill, Abe and I were floored by how GOOD we all looked and how WELL we performed the manual. Literally, all the muskets came up and over all the same time – consistently. And the volleys were just phenomenal – from the entire company! Both patrols were “interesting” – I will not forget the look on Neil's face (40th British LI) when he found out WE were the patrol and was captured without firing a shot. On Sunday's patrol, there was a little bit of something for everyone, even though it got crazy towards the end. What about those Levies – especially that Dwight guy? Good to see everyone in the ranks and in the Regiment.

Veteran's Day Celebrations – A full day for the music as we represented the regiment at two events. Thanks goes to William Newell for organizing the event with Acton when they couldn't find music for their event. We made some veterans and folks very happy. In Nashua, Jim Haydn had the “honor” of commanding an amalgamated firing and music platoon – each with 20+ folks. It was truly an “united Nations” as the amalgamated group consisted of members of the New England Line, British, French, Militia, and representatives of 3 fife and drum companies. Everyone had a blast and the crowd was very appreciative.

For the future – we're still not done yet. The Northern Department Continental Line meeting was this weekend on Sunday. As usual, we will talk about it at our company meeting (Jan 5). From what is on the radar screen, next year seems pretty full. As a group, we need to make a concerted effort to what events we can comfortably support for the coming years. Critical mass at events makes it fun for everyone and gives us the “clout” we deserve. So, bring your schedules and crystal balls to the meeting. Also, we've had a bear of a time finding drill/meeting space. Let's throw out some potential leads for these spaces at the next meeting.

Again, thanks for your continuing support throughout the year – it's been tremendous. Thanks again to our friends in the Lexington Training Band for bolstering our numbers this year. As a group, they are coming up to be in the Continental Line. We are their sponsors and it's our privilege to be so.

Pour le Roi et le Regiment

&

For Massachusetts and Congress

Steven

En Avant

ND Meeting: The Northern Department meeting was held this past Sunday (at the American Legion Post – thank you to Les Malecki for reserving it – your efforts were appreciated by many) and included a review of events for 2002. The ND will be sponsoring 3 events, all of which look excellent:

June 1-2 - Artillery School - Fort Adams, Newport, RI - Sponsored by UTA

June 22-23 - Crown Point - Sponsored by 2nd Mass

October 11-13 - 2nd Battle of Saratoga - Sponsored by 1st New York Regt

We will be talking more about these and other invitations at the meeting on January 5. For those interested, other possible events for 2002 include (this list does not include our parades ... yes we will be marching the streets of Boston, Medford, Marlboro and other assorted towns):

April 13 – Battle Road (sponsored by Lexington, 4th Mdx, 2nd Mass, Guards, 5th Foot, 10th Foot)

June 29 - dedication of the battery

July 6-7 – Hubbardton 225th (the battle actually took place on July 7)

Sept (Sat/Sun of Labor Day) - Williamsburg

Sept 28-29 – Saratoga

Sept 28 – Sudbury Faire

Oct 4-5 – Fort Montgomery – West Point

And the Mid-Atlantic Dept is trying to put together a Brandywine 225th event.

There will undoubtedly be others ... and there are always local sites for which we have an open invitation.

Looking beyond 2002, some venues to put on your radar screen for 2003 include the 225th of Monmouth and of the Battle for Rhode Island as well as an event at Upper Canada Village and, for 2004, a return to both Newtown and Quebec. Stay tuned

Flints: for those who ordered flints, I have them. I did order more than requested, so if anyone needs flints, they're \$1 each.

Musket for Sale: Clayton Emery is selling a Charleville which he describes as “musket in good condition, perfect working order, bayonet thrown in, \$400 firm.” Contact him directly at 603 964-7803 or claytonemery@mediaone.net (he lives up near Portsmouth NH).

Fife & Drum music: The 4H Fife and Drum Corps which includes several Saintonge members (Beth, Wendy and Teddy Humphreys, William & Alex Newell) was recorded at the State House for “From the Top” a national radio show which showcases young musicians. It will air in the Boston area on WGBH (89.7 FM) on January 12 at 11 am (the website, ww.fromthetop.org, lists stations and times in other areas of the country).

En Arrière

In memoriam: many of you have heard already that John Seitz passed away on September 26. He was active in many aspects of the hobby, going back to the days of Arnolds Expedition to Quebec and the march to Yorktown ... and lived most recently in England and continued to contribute via email to a number of internet lists including the Rochambeau list. We dedicated our ‘stand’ piece to him at Sudbury and participated in a moving memorial service conducted by 2nd Mass at White Plains. The following comes from a message Sheila Seitz, John’s widow, sent to Brad Chetwynd:

On Wednesday September 26th at 9.10 pm John had a massive heart attack and passed away. He had told me in the afternoon that the day had been nearly perfect and that he was a happy man. It was very quick and unexpected but for him an ideal time and way to go. Remember him for the good things - especially the humourous ones - and feel happy about his life, as I certainly shall. Regards, Sheila Seitz

White Plains: Steven has already passed on the key impressions from White Plains ... a great group of people to spend a weekend with, fun site, lots of sutlers, cold .. and more Tristram Shandy... oh, and did I say COLD? Following is a thank you from the Lexington Training Band and from Sue Felshin. To the Lexington folks ... we too look forward to serving with you many more times. And as for Sue, what she neglects to mention is that the way she got into the predicament was by coming down to help out when she was too sick to have left her house in the first place!



I hope this will be passed along to everyone from the 4th Middlesex to thank them for the fantastically successful carrying out of the White Plains reenactment. You made everyone from Lexington feel so very welcome. We learned so much from you, and you were always willing to help us out in every way. It was a privilege to have spent this last weekend with you, and I cannot thank you enough for your hospitality, your graciousness, and the many kindnesses that were extended to us. I hope that we from Lexington will be allowed to join and serve with you many, many more times, and share with you a host of wonderful experiences in the future.

*With sincere gratitude,
Bill Poole*

Lexington Training Band

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Dear friends of 4th Middlesex, et al.,

My utmost thanks to everyone who took care of me, kept me company, and took over for me at White Plains!!! I don't know how I could have gotten through without you, and I am overwhelmed to have such wonderful friends! It's just as well that I left on Saturday, as I was able to rest very well at home. By Sunday, I was feeling much better, and while I am still not entirely back to normal, by now I feel almost myself again. The doctor's diagnosis: beats the hell out of him. My symptoms are not good matches for any known diseases or conditions (although they are poor matches for several). He sees insufficient reason to suspect any particular cause for my illness. He has no idea whether it will recur, but does not see any reason for me to expect it to. Basically, he thinks I should pay it no mind. Well, I can't pay it no mind, but I do feel much relieved. I wasn't expecting a solid diagnosis, but I was expecting him to say my symptoms were highly consistent with some dread disease or other. Instead, it looks like I have joined the proud(?) ranks of the Medical Mysteries. Congratulate me ... I guess... ;-)



Again, my grateful thanks! I hope you all enjoyed the rest of the weekend, or at least as much of as I left to you ;-).

*Your affectionate friend,
Sue Felshin*

Veterans Day ... Steven, Beth and William joined the Acton Minutemen to play the National Anthem for their Veterans' Day flag ceremony and joined a number of other musicians marching with 1st New Hampshire's in the Nashua Parade. Following from Jim Hayden (Capt Commanding, 1st New Hampshire: "*The 50 person contingent of amalgamated units for the Nashua NH Veteran's Day parade last weekend was awesome - over 20 fifes and drums representing 6 or 7 units, plus the line troops of 1st NH, with some from 2MA and 2NH added in, Plus campfollowers was an awesome sight. Thanks to all that participated. Jim*") And from Bob Werner (Capt, Acton Minutemen): "*Thank you very much for your effort in obtaining fifes and drum for our Flag Ceremony on Veteran's Day in Acton. I really appreciate your efforts, not just as an Acton Minuteman, but as a Navy Veteran as well.*"

Reflections on the Contributions of our Allies

Written for the Lexington Commemoration

Steven Taskovics

Throughout America's history as an independent country, we've relied on Allies and friends to help us in our times of need. During our struggle to be independent a number of countries came to our aid – namely the Netherlands, Spain, and France among others. The help received was invaluable – as these countries supplied us with arms and equipment and with France and Spain – troops. The uniform that I am wearing is that of a French officer – representing the country that gave us the most in material and soldiers.

Alliances are complicated affairs – King Louis XVI of France knew this full well. In order for the Americans to have credibility in the eyes of the world it would have to be their fight. King Louis would only provide the means to carry on the Revolution – the Americans through their own actions – would provide their destiny. Upon his arrival, Rochambeau wrote the following to Washington:

“We now sir, are under your command and I hope that in a month we shall be ready to act under your excellency's orders. It is hardly necessary for me to tell Your Excellency that I bring sufficient funds to pay in cash for whatever is needed by the King's army, and that we shall remain as strict discipline as if we were under the walls of Paris...”

Washington responds..

“I hasten to impart to you the happiness I feel at the welcome news of your arrival and, as well in the name of the American Army, as in my own, to present you with an assurance of our warmest sentiments for allies, who have generously come to our aid. As a citizen of the United States, and a soldier in the cause of liberty, I thankfully acknowledge this new mark of friendship from his Most Christian Majesty.”

But why would men, let alone a country, come to aid such a fledgling country? In the words of Count Segur – a cousin of Lafayette and later a French officer who served in the Soissonais Regiment – the experiment of liberty was intriguing. This intrigue was shared by many officers of the French Line. He writes:

“...We were all dreaming of liberty, at once calm and lofty, enjoyed by the entire body of citizens of Great Britain.” He writes elsewhere, *“No one thought of a Revolution in France...We all wanted to fly to America in the name of philanthropy, and we were destined to bring home the germs of an ardent passion for emancipation and independence.”*

There were many others who came to the aid of America as volunteers. The most famous is Lafayette who became one Washington's most favorite and loyal officers for both his daring and his youth. The author of the first American drill was a Prussian by the name of Baron von Steuben. This drill and his training gave the Americans the discipline to face some of the best armies of the world. His drill was used right up to the Mexican War. The architect of West Point was a Pole by the Thadius Koskiusko and another Pole Count Pulaski lead a squadron of cavalry made up of entirely of European volunteers who – like Baron Segur – found the American experiment intriguing. Due to the help of these allies, mind you at their own expense and sacrifice as with Count Pulaski who died leading a charge at Savannah – this American experiment worked.

However, this is not the end of the story, it is actually one start to the building of the fabric of America. Some of those soldiers and volunteers who came to our aid stayed. Entire Companies of Hessians who fought against the Americans – stayed in Pennsylvania. Some members of the French Expeditionary force stayed behind as well along with many of the volunteers – some as guests of the United States as a thank-you for their services. They see the United States as many do today – as a haven. Look about you – most of us are from some place else – brought here to make a better life to be American.

As a reenactor I take comfort in my history knowing that we will do the right thing and follow the right path. I see today now what Washington and Rochambeau did with their alliance. The world knows that today's struggle is our fight and are coming to our aid. Just as with our first major struggle we will be successful – our history tells us that.

85^{ème}/4th 2001 Schedule
(as of November)

				<u>Cook</u>	<u>Transporte quip</u>
2/10		Annual Meeting, Drill, 4 th Middlesex 225 th celebration			
3/1		Cartridge Workparty (Newells).			
3/7		Cartridge Workparty (Newells)			
3/14	Musique	Music Practice (Albertins)			
3/17	Militia	Evacuation Day 225 th - Dorchester Heights (NHP)	NHP		
3/18	85 ^e - 4 th	Evacuation Day Parade (South Boston)	\$		
3/19	85 ^e	French Drill			
3/21	Musique	Music Practice (Albertins)			
3/24	Musique	Freezer Jam (Midland MI)			
4/14	4 th	Muster Day and Tavern Days at Hartwell Tavern	NHP	Sue & Cathy	Dana
4/28		Trailer Workparty (Elliotts')			Childs
5/6	4 th	Shrewsbury – Hebert Candy	\$	Nelia/Jeanne/ Sherry	Keith
5/19-20	85 ^e	Whitpain/Blue Bell, PA	CL/BB	Anita, JoAnn & Nelia	Van - Nelia, JoAnn & ?
5/28-29	4 th 85 ^e 85 ^e	Memorial Day Parades: Somerville (Sunday afternoon) Hudson (Monday morning) Medford (Monday afternoon)	\$		
6/2-3	4 th	Crown Point – 225 th of the Carleton campaign.	ND CL	Nelia	needed
6/15-17	Militia	Bunker Hill		2MA/10MA/ 4 th Mdx: Carrie M & Jeanne	Keith
7/20-22	85 ^e	Fort @4 (Charlestown, NH)	ND CL	Anita	Keith
9/4	85 ^e	Marlboro Parade (\$500) & Reg't Bday Party	\$	Anita	
9/22-23	85 ^e	Dracut – encampment & Sat morning parade	\$	Nelia, Sue	Childs
9/29	85 ^e /4 th	Sudbury Faire & Muster of Fyfes and Drums		Anita	Childs
10/14	85 ^e /4 th	Lexington Green – Commemoration of September 11			
10/27-28	4 th	Battle of White Plains (225 th)	CL/BAR/BB	Sue	needed
12/29-30	4 th	Battles of Trenton & Princeton	CL		

Looking ahead ... 225th events on the drawing board for the 1777 & 1778 campaigns:

June 22&23	Burgoyne Campaign (Crown Point)
July 6&7, 2002	Hubbardton
Sept 21&22, 2002	Brandywine (tentative)
Sept 28&29, 2002	Remembrance of Saratoga
October 5, 2002	Germantown
Oct 12-13, 2002	Saratoga
May 3&4, 2003	French Alliance Day
June 21&22, 2003	Valley Forge
June, 2003	Monmouth
August, 2003	Battle for Rhode Island

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White Plains – 225th
October 2001