

# Gazette Française pour le

Le 85<sup>ème</sup> Régiment de Saintonge / 4<sup>th</sup> Middlesex Militia Regiment of Foot, Inc  
www.saintonge.org

## Le Premier dans la Place!

February '03

### *Winter calendar:*

<b>Fri Feb 21</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>Rolling Party at Stevens</b> ( <i>with pizza, beer and movie</i> ) <b>(7:00 PM)</b>
<b>Sat Mar 8</b>	<b>85<sup>ème</sup></b>	<b>French Drill &amp; rolling party/informal meeting (10:30-2)</b> - <i>Stow (Old) Town Hall Soldats &amp; Musicians</i>
<b>Sun Mar 16</b>	<b>85<sup>ème</sup></b>	<b>Evacuation Day Parade (South Boston)</b> – <i>1 PM (11:30 Assembly)</i>
<b>Sat Mar 22</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Buckman Tavern Muster</b> ( <i>required for men-at-arms and musicians fielding with 4th Middlesex at Battle Road</i> ) <b>(11 AM)</b>
<b>Sat Apr 5</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Militia Drill</b> , <i>time and location TBD (required for men-at-arms and musicians fielding with 4th Middlesex at Battle Road)</i>
<b>Sat Apr 19</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Battle Road</b> ( <i>meet at Minute Man Voc Tech at 7:15 am</i> )
<b>Sat Apr 26</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>Trailer workparty</b> – <i>location TBD</i>
<b>Sat May 3</b>	<b>85<sup>ème</sup></b>	<b>Fife &amp; Drum Muster: Lexington Green</b>
<b>Sat May 10</b>	<b>85<sup>ème</sup></b>	<b>French army demonstration at MMNHP: drill, music, medical and engineering demos, civilian.</b> <i>Civilians welcome. .</i>

The 4<sup>th</sup> or 85<sup>ème</sup> designation refers to whether we do the event as 4<sup>th</sup> Middlesex or Saintonge (85).

Directions: Old Town Hall is on Route 117 in Stow -- one block west of the intersection of Routes 62 & 117.

### Winter Events:

#### **Winter Drills:**

<b>Sat Mar 8</b>	<b>85<sup>ème</sup></b>	<b>French</b>	<b>Old Town Hall, Stow – 10:30 AM</b>
<b>Sat Mar 22</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Militia ('64)</b>	<b>Buckman Tavern Muster – 11 AM</b>
<b>Sat Apr 5</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Militia ('64)</b>	<b>Time and location TBD: probably St. Brigid's</b>
<b>Sat May 10</b>	<b>85<sup>ème</sup></b>	<b>French</b>	<b>French Army Demonstration, MMNHP</b>

#### **Workparties:**

<b>Fri Feb 21</b>	<b>Rolling party ... plus pizza, beer and movie (Steven's)</b>
<b>Sat Mar 8</b>	<b>Rolling party following the drill (Old Town Hall, Stow – noon – 2 PM)</b>
<b>Sat Apr 26</b>	<b>Trailer Party (location TBD)</b>

**Sun Mar 16 85<sup>ème</sup> Evacuation Day Parade So Boston - 11:30 am assembly; 1 pm step-off (\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$)**

Now that we've moved beyond the 225<sup>th</sup> of the early war campaigns, we need to go back to marching this parade as Saintonge in keeping with our contract with the parade organizers. Which means that we'll have to say au revoir to some of our stalwart militia friends who marched the South Boston hills with us these past two years. We'll miss you guys ... and would welcome any of you who'd like to borrow French kit and march with us as Saintonge. To les soldats du roi ... here's our chance to fine tune what we've been working on in the drills and get some practice for the drill competition in June. It's our first parade of the year and a big fundraiser (\$1000) – let's have a good turn out. Notwithstanding the length (4 miles) and potential for cold, we turn the wait in the parking lot into a tailgate party

complete with mulled cider (feel free to bring something to contribute), march the requisite 4 miles up more hills than down, fire our annual volley at Dorchester Heights to commemorate Evacuation Day ... and then head to Waltham for an early dinner and beer at Watch City Brewery. Don't lose heart if the weather's bad --- think of the rest of us who will miss you. Dress: French, white gaiters. Bring a full canteen, you'll need water. Assemble in the Gillette Parking lot at 11:30. Directions: get off the Southeast Expy/93 at the Broadway bridge and turn left at the light after you cross the bridge. If you have a problem getting to the parking lot, park along Dorchester Ave (which is the straight line street that connects the route's starting point with the ending point). Step off is at 1 pm, but you won't be able to get into the parking lot after 11:30 -- bring something warm to wear while we wait. If anyone wants to caravan from Weston, give Nelia a call (781-899-5334). .

**Sat Mar 22 4<sup>th</sup> Buckman Tavern – Militia Muster – 11 AM**

Spring came early in 1775, the light snows of January and February barely muffled the sound of the militia at drill. This year all had changed. In the past, militia drill was a social occasion, however with the rising crisis in American-England relations changed this, with the courts closed, the legislature was meeting in secret and angry mobs were protesting changes imposed by Parliament. The militia training was being taken seriously. Some companies were drilling four times a week. Join the local militia at Buckman Tavern, across from Historic Lexington Battle Green, as they show their martial drill and elect their officers. That's the version for the public ... equally important for us is that this is a chance to drill with other units we will be fielding with before Battle Road. Drills not only increase the safety of the event, but also familiarize everyone with the field maneuvers, making it more fun. All men-at-arms and field musicians who plan to be at Battle Road must be at at this drill (unless you live too far away to reasonably make the drive).

**Sat Apr 19 4<sup>th</sup> Battle Road (Assemble at Minute Man Voc Tech at 7:15)**

*Details will be posted at [www.battleroad.org](http://www.battleroad.org) as they become available*

Battle Road this year will use the venues at McHugh Field (Meriam's Corner), Hartwell Tavern and Tower Park. Significant planning has gone into improving the scenarios at Meriam's Corner and at Hartwell ... stay tuned. All men-at-arms and field musicians who plan to be at Battle Road must attend the Buckman Tavern Muster and April 5 drills.

**Sat May 3 85<sup>ème</sup> Fife & Drum Muster, Lexington Green.**

The name has changed, but this is the third annual muster being held on Lexington Green, Lexington, MA. The Saintonge Musique will be participating and we expect some of the Royal Deuxpoints musicians to join us. We'd like to include a demonstration of the French drill in conjunction with our performance – talk to Steven if you'd be willing to participate.

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Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Annual Meeting in Stow earlier this month. Congratulations and thank you to those elected & appointed to serve as officers and directors for the upcoming year. In particular, I'd like to thank Dana for stepping up to serve the Regiment as President in the coming year. Merci.

Field Officers

Captain: Steven Taskovics  
Sgt, Gren Coy: Bill Rose  
Sgt, Chasseur Coy: Dana Rock  
Sgt, Fusilier Coy: Abe Fisher  
Fifre Appointe: Carrie Albertin  
Tambour Appointe: William Newell  
Porte Drapeau: Frank Marini

Field Staff (appointed)

Adjutant: Nelia Newell  
Quartermaster: Dana Rock

Corporate Officers

President: Dana Rock  
CO: Steven Taskovics  
Treasurer – Abe Fisher  
Clerk – Carrie Albertin  
Safety Officer– Bill Rose

Board of Directors

Todd Bailey  
Sue Felshin  
Les Malecki  
Frank Marini  
Nelia Newell

**2003 preview:** With the 225th anniversary of the French Alliance which was sealed by the treaties of February 6, 1778, we re-focus our energies on our Saintonge impression as France prepares to enter the war. More of the drills and parades will be French ... but we will fight as militia for the two 225<sup>th</sup> events on the schedule: Monmouth in June

and the Battle for Rhode Island on Labor Day weekend (a key 225<sup>th</sup> event for New England militia units). French events on the schedule include a French Army Demonstration at MMNHP on May 10, the Northern Dept CL Garrison Weekend at Strawberry Banke June 7-8 (including the drill competition & a celebration of the signing of the French Alliance), and several possible tacticals. See the schedule included in this newsletter for more details.

One of our goals for the year is to have more drills and more informal opportunities for the Regiment to get together so that we're not trying to sort out the entire year at one meeting in February! At least one of those gatherings will be a French drill & demonstration at the Visitor's Center in May ... we haven't done that in a while. In keeping with the experience of the French marching through towns on their way south, we'd certainly expect to see plenty of non-French in attendance. We're also hoping to find more things to do informally as a group ... thank you to Carrie Albertin for organizing our trip to Two Towers and dinner beforehand. Despite the deluge (literally), it was a fun dinner and good to see people. Stay tuned for more invitations .. in the meantime, workparties and drills are a great chance to get together.

A reminder that we are relying primarily on email for communication, but have asked that anyone who is not able to get information by email let us know so that we can print them out and mail them or contact you by phone. So far, no one has spoken up, but the offer still stands. 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](mailto:cwnewell@erols.com).

*Your Servant*

*Nelia Newell, Adjutant*

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## *Captain's Corner*

Framingham on the Sudbury – February 2003

Hi Folks,

The New Year has just started and we're well on our way for some exciting events for the coming year. For the coming year, we are going to focus on our French Impression. This is no different than what we did before Battle Road when we focused our attentions to the Militia Impression. Talking with most of you, the French impression is what we want to develop and how we identify ourselves. With that said, we have some pretty significant Militia events coming up at the end of the year.

The Bowl is BACK for the taking. As stated last month we are working at winning the bowl back in competition at Strawberry Bank this coming June. Drills have started and will continue throughout the year. We have scheduled the second Saturday of every month for drills at a time from 10:30 – 12:30 at the Stow Town Hall. MANY thanks to Dave Walrath for making the space available for us! We are going to fine-tune the drill throughout the year. Some small changes we found in the drill – which has already been sent to most folk – that actually improve the look and execution of the drill.

From what I saw last month, we'll be hard to beat – but that's the point.

With a set drill/meeting time, I would like this time to be not only for drills but for Regimental gatherings. This way information about events and research can be shared and we can really SEE each other every month. Right now, the men at arms and the musique are using this time to hone their impressions and skills. I encourage members of the distaff to get together during this time also. At the end of the "working session" I would like to gather everyone to go over what is coming up and have discussions from the floor. This will be new for us, but I'm looking forward to see how this will evolve over time.

On gathering side of thing, Carrie and Dana did a great job organizing and planning the dinner and movie night for the Regiment. It was great fun! There are plans for outside activities in the future – pass on any ideas that you have to Carrie and Dana. I already passed on my pub crawl idea to them – they're looking for more suggestions.

For April, Battle Road is definitely on and plans are underway for the scenarios. This year we will be working with the folks from the LTB and other Regiments on the execution of these scenarios. Both Skip, Alex, Warren, and other from the LTB would like to work more with the Fourth since both groups work REALLY well together. I'll try to schedule at least one combined drill before Battle Road.

Folks, thanks for allowing me to be your Captain for the last year! I look forward to serving with you this coming year!

*Pour le Roi et le Regiment*

&

*For Massachusetts and Congress*

*Steven*

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### New Business

**Commissary, transporting gear:** we need volunteers to coordinate Commissary/Cuisine and to transport gear. See the schedule at the end of the newsletter for which events need support. Please talk to Dana or Nelia if you can help out.

**Sabres:** the new French sabres are completed and are being shipped to us! We will be getting them to those who ordered them: Steven Taskovics (2), Bill Rose (5), Dana Rock (1), Sterling Wall (1), Fishreys (2), Newells (2), Rob Hutton (1), Baileys (1), Bob Childs (1). We also ordered 6 for the Regiment to have on hand, if anyone is interested in purchasing one, contact the Quartermaster (Dana).

**BAR Memberships:** Those who want to renew BAR memberships (or who want to join), please get a check made out to the "Brigade of the American Revolution" to Nelia by March 15 at the latest (or at the South Boston parade). The BAR is one of the umbrella organizations we are affiliated with, but unlike the Continental Line, individuals are not members just because the unit is a member. Membership brings you the BAR publications which often have a wealth of research and interesting articles as well as access to BAR schools and clothing seminars (see [www.brigade.org](http://www.brigade.org) for more information and membership forms). The fee is \$25 for the first member of each household, and \$5 for additional members. Please make your check out to "The Brigade of the American Revolution" and send the check along with your renewal form to me so I can send them all in together.

**Continental Line – subscriptions to the Continental Soldier:** The Soldier is published 3-4 times a year and includes event descriptions, articles and updates about what is going on in the Line. Cost is \$15/year - send address, unit (Saintonge) and a check payable to the Continental Line to Mark Magiera at P.O. Box 566; Chelmsford, MA 01824.

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### 2003 Schedule

Following is the schedule we voted on at the Annual Meeting on February 8. Returns are due to the organizers for many of these events in the next few months so we'll be looking for headcounts soon. Merci.

**January:**

Jan 11 French Drill

**February:**

Feb 8 French Drill & Annual Meeting

Feb 21 Rolling Party, Movies and Pizza (Steven's house: 7 PM)

**March:**

Mar 8 French Drill – Stow (Old) Town Hall – 10:30 PM

Mar 16 South Boston (French) (\$1000)

Mar 22 Buckman Tavern Militia Muster (Militia, mandatory for all those planning to field at Battle Road)

**April:**

- Apr 5 Militia Drill – place TBD  
Apr 19 Battle Road (Militia)  
Apr 26 Trailer workparty – place TBD

**May:**

May 3 Fife & Drum Muster, Lexington Green (French)

May 10 French Army demonstration at MMNHP VC (French)

*We will set up a small French camp at the Visitor's Center (down near the pond leading from the parking lot) and spending the day doing drill and music demonstrations. When Dan & Judy or Ed are available we've set up Medical and Engineer's demonstrations as well. Because the French marched through many towns on the way south to Yorktown and occasionally had visitors from General Washington's army, this is the sort of informal event that can absorb civilians, militia, and even some of our later-war allies. It's an opportunity not only to talk to the public, but to educate ourselves by pulling together what we know of the French camps. And an excuse to pull out Bob Selig's research and some of the order books to think about ways to improve our impression for the Garrison Weekend in June.*

Memorial Day Parades: May 25: Somerville (\$700) (Militia)  
May 26 Andover (\$300) (French)  
Medford (\$500-600) (French)

May 30-June 1: 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Cobleskill (BVMA); CL/BB Tactical -- tentative

*We tentatively voted to include this in our schedule, pending more information about the event. Cobleskill is one of those places in NY that the Loyalists and their Native American allies raided (looking out over the next couple years, we've got a lot of chances to drive to NY to commemorate these constant raids). Apart from an effort to have some of the Northern Dept events west of the Hudson, the big draw here is that it will be combined with the Grand Gorge Tactical ... which should make it a fun weekend. The good news is that Grand Gorge is supposed to be a great site and a cool event. The bad news is that it's sandwiched between the Memorial Day parades and the Garrison Weekend (both more important weekends for the Regiment that we shouldn't undermine), followed later in June by the Bunker Hill Parade and Monmouth.*

**June:**

June 7-8: Strawberry Banke Garrison Weekend and Drill Competition, Portsmouth NH (French)

*"Theme for the weekend is the "Citizens, Soldiers & the French Alliance", and will include an encampment at Puddle Dock, a military parade through downtown Portsmouth, the unloading of French military supplies from the Gundalow and transporting them by ox cart to the warehouse, issuance of muskets and clothing, civilian interpretive activities, lectures on a variety of topics including a keynote address by George Neumann, a display of military artifacts resulting from the Alliance, an evening feu de joie, followed by a dance sponsored by the 1<sup>st</sup> New Hampshire in honor of their 30th anniversary. One of the highlights of the weekend will be the competition for the coveted Strawberry Banke Cup, which will include drill and maneuver components to wrest the Cup from the greasy grasp of those pork rind eating heathen of New Jersey!" [from the 10<sup>th</sup> Mass newsletter. 10<sup>th</sup> Mass is one of the event sponsors.]*

*For those who haven't participated in a Garrison Weekend, the idea is to portray an army in garrison as opposed to fighting in the field. Strawberry Banke is a terrific venue and a fun place to spend a weekend. There will be plenty of opportunity to demonstrate both military and civilian activities. And we expect to finish the weekend with the celebration of the return of the Drill Cup to the French army!*

June 15: Bunker Hill Parade as part of Militia Battalion (\$1000)

June 21-22: March out of Valley Forge (probably not something we'll do in large numbers, but all are welcome)

June 28-29: Monmouth (225th) (Militia)

**July:**

July 26-27: New Ipswich encampment w/ 2nd Mass

*2<sup>nd</sup> Mass has invited 6 local units to join them at their annual encampment at the Barrett House in New Ipswich, NH. They've been doing this event for several years with the 1<sup>st</sup> Foot Guards. In addition to small American and British encampments, a number of craftspeople set up around the house. And the Guards usually set up a cricket or trap-ball pitch on a grassy field. Small events like this can be a fun way to enjoy a weekend with friends from other units in a relatively low-key fashion (translation: no guard duty and you can walk between camps without showing passes ☺). And this particular event has historically attracted a large number of spectators and kids who enjoy drilling with wooden muskets and learning 18<sup>th</sup> century games.*

### **August:**

Aug 23-24: Fort Revere (French)

*We've been doing this event in small numbers (2-3 people) for the past several years to help support the fort. With a relatively slow summer schedule, it is a good opportunity to set up a larger French encampment and spend a weekend together in late August.*

Aug 30-31: 225<sup>th</sup> Battle for Rhode Island (Militia) – Glen Farm Park, Portsmouth RI

[www.brigade.org/barcal/BRI.html](http://www.brigade.org/barcal/BRI.html)

*The Battle for Rhode Island saw the participation of many New England militias and is a key 225<sup>th</sup> event for us to be a part of. More to the point, the site is unbelievable and we're in for a great weekend. Plan is to re-create the "Battle of Hessian Hollow" on Saturday afternoon and the "Battle of Rhode Island – Attack of the Mass. Troops" on Sunday afternoon. Sunday morning, there will be a tactical in a ravine bordering the encampment (which has a bridge to die for!). The American camp has running water & showers and borders Sutler Row. The site is just down the beach from a public beach with a life guard. What better way to spend Labor Day weekend, huh? We're north of Newport, so we'll avoid the Labor Day traffic nightmare ... an easy trip back for the Marlboro parade on Monday! **Space is somewhat limited so we need to get returns in quickly – units will be accepted on a first come basis. Because of this event, we will put off a return to Williamsburg until next year.***

### **September:**

Labor Day: Marlboro Parade (\$500) (French)

Sept 11: Remembrance, Concord Bridge

*Hosted by Saintonge Musicians for Boston area musicians and other re-enactors at Concord Bridge the evening of September 11 to remember those who died on September 11, 2001.*

Sept 27: Sudbury Faire

## 85<sup>ème</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> 2003 Schedule (as of February)

				<u>Cook</u>	<u>Transport equip</u>
1/11	85°	French Drill			
2/8	All	Annual Meeting, French Drill			
2/21	All	Rolling Party, Movies & Pizza (Steven's)			
3/8	85°	French Drill			
3/16	85°	Evacuation Day Parade (South Boston)	\$		
3/22	4 <sup>th</sup>	Buckman Tavern Muster	BRC		
4/5	4 <sup>th</sup>	Militia Drill			
4/19	4 <sup>th</sup>	Battle Road			
4/26	All	Trailer Workparty			
5/3	85°	Fife & Drum Muster, Lexington Green			
5/10	85°	French Army Demonstration	MMNHP	Needed	Needed
5/25-26		Memorial Day Parades:	\$		
	4 <sup>th</sup>	Somerville (Sunday afternoon)			
	85°	Andover (Monday morning)			
	85°	Medford (Monday afternoon)			
5/30-61	4 <sup>th</sup> /85°	Cobleskill 225 <sup>th</sup> (tentative)	ND CL	Tentative	
6/6-8	85°	Strawbery Banke – Garrison Weekend	ND CL	Needed	Needed
6/15	4 <sup>th</sup>	Bunker Hill Parade	\$		
6/21-22	4 <sup>th</sup>	March out of Valley Forge	CL		
6/28-29	4 <sup>th</sup>	Monmouth 225 <sup>th</sup>	CL	Needed	Needed
7/26-27	4 <sup>th</sup>	Barrett House, New Ipswich NH	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mass	Needed	Needed
8/23-24	85°	Fort Revere	MDC	Needed	Needed
8/30-31	4 <sup>th</sup>	Battle for Rhode Island 225 <sup>th</sup>	CL/BB/BAR		
9/1	85°	Marlboro Parade & Reg't Bday Party	\$	Anita	
9/11	All	Remembrance, Concord Bridge	85°,NPS	Needed	Needed
9/27	85°/4 <sup>th</sup>	Sudbury Faire & Muster of Fyfes and Drums		Needed	Needed

*Régiment de Saintonge*  
*4<sup>th</sup> Middlesex*  
*P.O. Box 85 4*  
*Sudbury, Mass. 01776*

**Saintonge – 4<sup>th</sup> Middlesex**  
**Upcoming Events – Schedule through early May**

<b>Fri Feb 21</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>Rolling Party at Stevens</b> ( <i>with pizza, beer and movie</i> )
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