



GAZETTE FRANÇOISE.

Du Juin 2004.

*Du BUREAU du PRÉSIDENT,
from the President's Desk*

*Le RAPPORT du CAPITAINE,
Captain's Report*

Bonjour,

June is already here, and the Biddeford, Maine event is just around the corner. You will find details and direction for the event later on in the newsletter. We are also looking to put together a sewing workshop on June 19th. Carrie Midura has graciously volunteered her time to help us all get outfitted with new waistcoat. The sewing workshop will be held at Steven's house on June 19th starting 10:00am. Please contact me before June 5 if you plan on attending. If you already have a waistcoat, please feel free to come and help us build up our slop chest.

À l'Assaut de la Capitale is only two months away. I've been collecting information on Quebec for the past couple of weeks and plans for the event look fantastic! Expect to see an email from me in the coming weeks that will include a Registration Form, Participant Information, and FAQ's. Most of this information is also available at <http://www.quebeccity2004.com>. A few details are being included in the newsletter this month and the full details will appear in the July newsletter. If anyone has any questions about restrictions, forms, driving directions, etc., please feel free to contact me.

And of course, don't forget about the Trailer Work Party. Due to scheduling issues, we are changing the date and location of the Trailer Party. The new date is June 20th, I know it's Father's Day, but if you can spare a few hours we would really appreciate it. We will be starting at 10am and we hope to finish up around 1pm. Steve has offered to let us use his house for the work party and has also invited us to stay after the work party for a cook out. Please give me a call or send me an email if you can make it. We need to make sure our gear is as ready as we are for the upcoming events!

*Your Humble Servant,
Dana Rock, Président Régiment de SaintOngé*

Hi Folks,

What a May we've had so far! Between Sutton and a small trip to Colonial Williamsburg, we've been kept busy. At this writing we have the Memorial Day parades and a drill at the Golden Ball in Weston the week after. For the end of the month we have the Biddeford event, which is quite the event. Check out the website – this event is bigger than I thought and should be a lot of fun!

Besides Sutton, (which you can read more about later in the newsletter!) the music and a small detail of fusiliers took a trip to Virginia to support Colonial Williamsburg's Drummer's Call program held the second weekend in May. The music played as part of the "Field Musick of the American Revolution" (FMAR) which William, Beth, Nelia, and myself were a part of. We also did extra duty highlighting French field music and how music was used to control troops in the field. Helping the music on the field was Jerry and Abe, with myself acting as officer. Aside from the resounding 'click' of two muskets misfiring in unison, the rest of the program went off without a hitch. Williamsburg was very pleased with how both programs on both days turned out and is currently planning to have them again next year.

I'm looking forward to the coming month. The event in Biddeford looks better and better as the event information develops. You can check out the festival schedule at www.biddefordmaine.org, click on Related Links and then La Kermesse. The event schedule can be accessed from the links in the left column. It should be a blast! Hope to see you all soon.

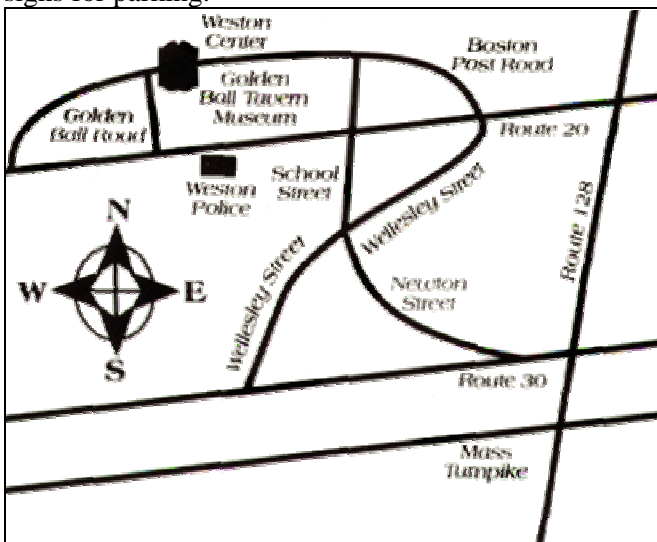
*Pour le Roi et le Régiment,
Steven*



ÉVÈNEMENTS PROCHAINS, Upcoming Events

RUM & REVOLUTION at the GOLDEN BALL TAVERN, Saturday, June 5. ~

Arrival: We'll be holding a French drill (in militia clothes!) in the back property of the site, as the event gets started. For those attending the drill, please plan to arrive by 10am, ready to drill. Those who wish to attend the event but will not be drilling may arrive at any time. The event is open to the public from 11am to 3pm. **Directions:** Route 128 to Exit 26 (Route 20). Take Route 20 West for 2 miles. Just past the Weston Police Station on your left, turn right on Golden Ball Road and right again on Old Post Road. The Golden Ball Tavern Museum is the second building on the right. Follow signs for parking.



Details: Our friends in the Tenth Massachusetts Regiment, Light Infantry have invited us to take part in their event at the Golden Ball Tavern on Boston Post Road in Weston, MA. The setting is 1774 and as the tavern was owned by a loyalist, there will be plenty of political discussions to determine the allegiance of visitors to the tavern. You may also enjoy sharing a drink with other gentlemen in the tavern or sitting down to a game of whist with ladies in the parlor. Cooking demonstrations will take place out of doors and our friends will also be feeding us lunch (so please remember to RSVP!) Although we'll be practicing our French drill before the event starts, everyone is asked to dress in civilian or militia dress since our setting for the day will be 1774. Please RSVP to Steven (508.877.9648 or frenchifer@rcn.com) if you will be attending.

BOD & OFFICERS' MEETING, Tuesday, June 8. ~ **Arrival:** Please plan to arrive by 7 pm at the home of Frank & Rosemary Marini in Berlin, MA. The meeting is expected to last approximately 2 hours. **Directions:** The house is at 64 Brook Lane, Berlin, MA. Frank's number is (978) 838-2112 – just in case! From Sudbury, Framingham, Concord: Take Route 62 through Hudson. Stay on RT 62 through Rotary. You will come to a three way fork in the road. Take River Street on Left. Travel for about 3 Miles. Look for Meadow Brook Village on the right. Turn Right onto Brook Lane. Travel ¼ mile down Brook Lane. It's #64 Brook Lane on Left. From 290 and 495: Take 290 to the Solomon Pond Mall Exit. Turn Right at end of Ramp. Stay in far Left Lane. Travel Straight for 1 mile. You will come to a rotary; take first right onto River Road. Travel for about 3 miles on River Road. You will pass the 1790 Farm. Meadow Brook Village will be on your Left. Turn Left onto Brook Lane. Travel 1/4 Mile down Brook Lane. It's #64 Brook Lane on Left. **Details:** At this meeting, the BOD will continue working on membership details and other current items. Anyone wishing to add items to the agenda should contact Dana or Steven.

SAINTONGE WAISTCOAT WORKSHOP,

Saturday, June 19. ~ **Arrival:** The workshop will be taking place at Steven's house. Please plan to arrive by 10am, ready to get started! We'll have coffee and refreshments waiting and lunch will be included. It will be a full day of fitting, cutting and constructing waistcoats so starting on time will help us get more done in one day! **Directions:** Take 495 to Route 20 East or Route 128 to Route 20 West. Follow Route 20 into Sudbury. At the set of lights immediately after the Shaw's Supermarket Plaza (heading east) or Sudbury Farms (heading west), turn onto Nobscot Road. Follow Nobscot Road into Framingham. (*It turns into Edgell Rd in Framingham*) Look for the Framingham Animal Hospital on your left. You will take the first real left after the Animal hospital onto Treeland Drive. Follow Treeland Dr to the end, take a right and then a quick left onto Janebar Circle. Follow Janebar Circle down the hill and around the bend, take your first right onto Roundtop Road. #79 on the right, light grey with dark grey shutters. Park on the street. **Details:** Participants in the waistcoat workshop will spend the day learning all about 18th century waistcoats and the details of c.1779 French regimental waistcoats will be the primary focus throughout the workshop. Each participant will receive all the materials and assistance necessary to create one custom-fitted, sleeveless, wool waistcoat with linen lining to be constructed according to information available in the 1779 French military regulations. Period sewing and proper fitting techniques will be taught and practiced throughout the workshop. The workshop fee is

\$65.00, which includes all the materials for the workshop, snacks and lunch. Please RSVP to Dana at (stonge85@comcast.net or 978.815.9457) so that enough materials can be ordered. Anyone who wishes to attend the workshop, and is interested in making a waistcoat for the Saintonge slop chest (instead of for themselves) may attend the workshop at no cost – but please let Dana know so that we can arrange to have the extra materials on hand. RSVPs are requested by June 5.

TRAILER WORK PARTY, Sunday, June 20 ~ Arrival: Please plan to arrive by 10am. The more quickly we can get started – the earlier we'll be done! **Directions:** We'll be at Steven's place again. Please see the directions listed under the Waistcoat Workshop. **Details:** Help is needed to go through the trailer and ready the camp & commissary equipment for the season. It should only take a few hours and it would mean a lot if you could be there to help – we plan to finish up by 1pm. Steven will be hosting a cook-out following the work-party for anyone who would like to stay. (Plus the pool will be open so there will be a place to cool off!) Please give Dana a call or email to let him know you will be able to attend. Many thanks!

KERMESSE FRANCO-AMERICAINE FESTIVAL in BIDDEFORD, ME, Friday, June 25 - Sunday, June 27 ~ Arrival: All members are requested to arrive on Friday as close to 1:00pm as possible. There is a 5:30pm parade and we'd like to get the camp set up before we get ready to step off. **Directions:** (Please note: The following directions are courtesy of Mapquest – drivers beware! At print time, we did not have parking instructions so please watch your email in the coming weeks. These directions should get you to the field where we will be camped.) Take I-95 North to Maine. Take the ME-111 Exit (exit number 4) toward Biddeford. Turn left onto Alfred Street (West – ME/111). Turn sharp right onto Elm Street (also Route 1 & Blue Star Memorial Highway). Turn left onto West Street. Turn left onto Hill Street and follow Hill Street to the St. Louis Field. **Details:** Can you imagine... we're getting paid to head up to the Maine coast for a summer's weekend! We'll be participating in a parade and setting up a French Military Camp as part of the Kermesse Franco-American Festival in Biddeford, ME. We'll spend the weekend working on our French drill, interacting with the public and performing the various skills and demos that we do so well! We're being generously compensated so all members are asked to make the extra effort to attend – and really how hard can be it be to spend a lovely June weekend up in Maine! There will be a variety of performances and things to see while we there so we'll

spend just as much time being entertained as we will be part of the entertainment! Hope to see you there...



ÉVÉNEMENTS RÉALISÉS, *Past Events*

DE SUTTON, 1 & 2 Mai. Sutton was everything advertised and more! The battles and the tactical were just amazing. The Regiment did a fantastic job both on the field and off. Keith, Bryon, and the rest of the Sutton Planning Committee should be commended for such a great event.

Saturday, the battle started off earlier than usual as we packed our lunches and took the field. Bill and his team of drafted engineers put up a defense which held while the troops formed. Throughout the morning, small skirmishes ensued. The whole company then took the field. As usual we made the artillery "fly" up a hill to support the infantry while we then swung around to prevent a flanking maneuver that we quelled easily. Finding the position untenable, we retired to the main group. We fought a pitched battle, but true to form, we showed our élan and charged. After being "resurrected" we found ourselves "captured" by the First Foot Guards. But Hey, if the only way the Brit's can capture us is after we're "dead", I'll take it.

I also had time to take in the fashion show put on by the "Ladies of Refined Taste". Walking into the fly that was set up... it looked like a mini-museum. The fashion show itself was just hilarious as the characters went through their vignettes which showed off their clothes and their station.

On Sunday, the Regiment showed everyone who we are during the tactical and the battle. The tactical started off a little earlier than usual when the Brits – for once – took the field quite early. We then noticed a "character" in the field for which we sent out flankers to check it out. This character was found to be heavily armed, but half witted, and was easily overcome. William and Beth handily moved the cart to safe ground. When the opposition took the field, we saw an opportunity and took it. As the loyal opposition was distracted, we made our move and turned their line as we performed a classic flank. It is so rewarding to hear from the other side "Oh #)(%^^!! it's the French!!" Unfortunately most of the booty was captured by the Brits and they got the powder.*

Sunday's battle was classic. After fending off flankers from taking the artillery, we entered the field to take care of the Jaegers that were harassing the line. After two quick volleys, we dropped steel and charged the Jaegers, who quickly lost their resolve and returned to their line. As this was happening, the 40th tried to flank. That was quickly quelled as another bayonet charge caught them off guard, sending them over the wall to safety. As the 40th cleared the wall and hit the poison ivy, we caught the Foot Guard trying to retire through a defile. Seizing another opportunity, we caught the Guards in with another bayonet charge – losing some of our brave souls, but making the Guards pay dearly for theirs. Finding that the Militia had great success also, the day was carried by the allied Line.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

☼ THANK YOU – Contributions to this month's newsletter came from Ellie (Sutton event photographs), Sue (an article on clothing) and Steven (Sutton AAR). Many thanks to all three for giving us so much to read, view and enjoy! Additional submissions will be gratefully received (hint... hint...) at gazettefrancoise@earthlink.net.



À L'ASSAUT de la CAPITALE ! Québec City, Québec, Canada

Here are a few details to tease you with concerning the upcoming event in Québec ! The first thing you should know is where to find the rest of the information online... There are two different websites and the first is www.quebeccity2004.com; which contains the general information for the event.. The second website is www.2ndmass.org/quebec2004 and it is the primary website for information specifically related to the American forces (and their allies!) for the Québec event. The event schedule will be posted soon and you can currently view several event maps. There is a page for FAQs linked from both websites and it is also included below. As more information comes online you'll hear about via email and the July newsletter will contain everything else you need to know. Plans are shaping up for this to be a fantastic event – hopefully everyone will be able to attend!

Questions for crossing the border into Canada:

Do I have to do anything special in order to bring my musket across the border? You must declare all firearms and weapons at customs when you enter Canada. If you do not declare all firearms or weapons, they could be seized and you could face criminal charges. You may need documents to prove that you are entitled to possess a firearm in Canada, and you will have to transport it safely. Canada considers reproductions of flintlock firearms, other than handguns, that were manufactured after 1897, to be antiques even though they may have been manufactured very recently. If you are a Canadian resident or a visitor to Canada, you can import firearms that are considered to be antiques under the Firearms Act and regulations. You do not need to register antique firearms, nor do owners of antique firearms need licenses. We suggest that you leave your pistol at home. It is restricted and there are special permits necessary. Ammunition can be brought in by up to a maximum of 17.66 pounds. You may want to speak to a chief firearms officer of the province you are planning to visit. They can be reached through the Canadian Firearms Centre at 1-800-731-4000.

What type(s) of identification do I need? All travelers entering Canada are required to provide proof of citizenship. A passport is ideal, however, your birth certificate, certificate of citizenship, or naturalization certificate, when presented with valid photo identification such as a drivers licence will also be accepted. If you are a permanent resident of the U.S., you should bring your green card.

What information/identification do I need for any children traveling with me? The Canadian customs and immigration officers make an effort to recover missing children. Customs officers at the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency pay extra attention to children as they enter Canada. Customs officers may thoroughly interview children traveling without proper identification, or with adults who are not their legal guardians. Recognizing which children have a valid reason to accompany adult travelers is an essential aspect of the program. This additional attention helps to ensure children's safety. To avoid delays at international borders, travelers should consider this advice:

All adults should carry identification for the children traveling with them, regardless of the children's age. Parents who share custody of their children should carry copies of the legal custody documents.

The Canada Customs and Revenue Agency suggests identification such as a birth certificate, baptismal certificate, passport, or immigration document. If none

of these are available, get a letter stating that you are the children's parent or guardian from your doctor or lawyer, or from the hospital where the children were born.

Any adult who is not a parent or guardian should have written permission to supervise the child from the parent or guardian, as well as the child's identification. A letter would also facilitate entry for any one parent traveling with their children. This permission letter should contain addresses and telephone numbers where the parent or guardian can be reached. When traveling with a group of vehicles, the parent or guardian should travel in the same vehicle as the children when arriving at the border. Carry identification for all children traveling with you, regardless of their age

What if I have a criminal record? Anyone with a criminal record (including a DWI charge) may be excluded or removed from Canada, and should contact the Canadian Embassy or nearest Canadian consulate before travel. A waiver of exclusion may be available but several weeks processing are required and a fee must be paid. For further information on entry requirements, travelers may contact the Embassy of Canada at 501 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W, Washington, D.C. 20001, # (202) 682-1740, web address: canadianembassy.org; or the Canadian consulates in Atlanta, Boston, Buffalo, Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, Los Angeles, Miami, Minneapolis, New York, San Juan or Seattle. (*In the past, reenactors have been turned away from the border because of criminal records.*)

Are there restrictions on other items I can bring with me? Generally speaking, you are allowed to bring personal goods for your trip into Canada. This may include camping and fishing supplies.

Alcohol and Tobacco - As long as you meet the age requirements set by the province or territory you are visiting, you can bring with you no more than 40 ounces (1.14 litres) of liquor or 52 ounces (1.5 litres) of wine or 24 containers of beer (355mL or 12oz. each). Please note that we classify coolers according to the type of alcohol they contain. You can bring 200 cigarettes, 50 cigars or cigarillos, 200 tobacco sticks, and 200 grams (7oz.) of manufactured tobacco.

Gifts - You may also bring bona fide gifts worth up to CAN\$60 each for your friends or relatives in Canada without paying duty, as long as these do not consist of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products. Please don't wrap these gifts until after you've cleared customs; an examination may be required.

Fresh Meat – Fresh or raw, unprocessed meat and meat products may not be brought across the Canadian border. Please plan to purchase any commissary meats after you arrive in Québec.

Mace or pepper spray is restricted.

Do I need anything special in order to receive medical care while in Canada? Good medical care is widely available. The Canadian health care system is run on a provincial basis and is funded by Canadian taxpayer money. Tourists do not qualify for this health care plan and should have their own insurance to cover any medical expenses. Health care professionals in the province of Quebec might only speak French. The US Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and if it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. U.S. medical insurance plans seldom cover health costs incurred outside the United States unless supplemental coverage is purchased.

What is the Driving in Quebec Like? Unless otherwise posted, the maximum speed limit in Canada is 50km/hr in cities and 80km/hr on highways. On rural highways, the posted speed limit may be 100km/hr (approximately 60 miles/hr). Seat belt use is mandatory for all passengers, and child car seats must be used for children under 40 pounds. At intersections, directional signs will indicate only which turn is allowed; any other turn is prohibited. Many highways do not have merge lanes for entering traffic. As in the United States, all emergency assistance in Canada can be reached by dialing 911. Driving while intoxicated (DWI) is a serious offense. Penalties are heavy, and any prior conviction (no matter how long ago or how minor the infraction) is grounds for exclusion from Canada. A waiver of exclusion may be obtained from Canadian consulates in the United States, but it requires several weeks to process. It is illegal to take automobile radar detectors into Quebec. Police may confiscate radar detectors, operational or not, and may impose substantial fines.

Questions for crossing the border back into the US

What type(s) of identification do I need to reenter the U.S.? Due to heightened security it is strongly recommended that U.S. citizens also present their passports even when returning from travel only to Canada. Getting a passport from the Department of State is not too difficult nor time-consuming (expedited service can be requested for an additional fee). If you do not have a U.S. passport, a US citizen may be required to prove citizenship by presenting a U.S. state or federal government-issued birth certificate or record (note:

hospital-issued birth certificates are not acceptable) or baptismal record, Certificate of Citizenship, or Certificate of Naturalization [note: notarized photocopies or notarized fax copies of such certificates are acceptable, but affidavits of citizenship and voter registrations are not), and a photo identification document, like an unexpired driver's license or military ID. It is not unusual to run into a US Border Patrol check point within 75 miles of the border. These are set up on Interstates Highways and on some secondary roads. Please be aware and careful in these areas (they come up quick and there have been some bad accidents around these check points.)

Do I have to do anything special in order to bring my musket back across the border? Register Your Musket (and other items) Before You Leave the United States. You may have to pay duty on your musket each time you bring it back into the United States, unless you could prove that you owned it before you left on your trip. Documents that fully describe the item - for example, sales receipts, insurance policies, or appraisals - are acceptable forms of proof. To make things easier, you can register certain items with Customs before you depart - including watches, cameras, laptop computers, firearms, and tape recorders - as long as they have serial numbers or other unique, permanent markings. Take the items to the nearest Customs Office and request a Certificate of Registration (Customs Form 4457). It shows Customs that you had the items with you before leaving the U.S. and all items listed on it will be allowed duty-free entry. Customs inspectors must see the item you are registering in order to certify the certificate of registration. You can register items with Customs at the border which you're departing. Keep the certificate for future trips. Prior to departure, bring the items to be registered to your [local U.S. Customs office](#) during normal business hours. The Customs officer on duty will give you a blank CF4457 to complete. Fill in the "Name of Owner," "Address of Owner" and "Description of Articles" blocks, and sign in the "Signature of Owner" block. The Customs officer will compare the merchandise with the information entered on the form, completing and signing the blocks grayed out above, and return the completed form to you for subsequent presentation to U.S. Customs each time the registered articles are returned. The form remains valid for re-importation of the registered articles for as long as the document is legible. The certificate is not transferable.

Do I need to declare items I purchased in Canada? When you come back, you'll need to declare everything you brought back that you did not take with you when you left the United States. You must declare: items you purchased and are carrying with you upon return to the United States; items you received as gifts, such as

wedding or birthday presents; items you bought in duty-free shops or on the ship or plane; items you brought home for someone else; You must state on the Customs declaration, in United States currency, what you actually paid for each item. The price must include all taxes. If you did not buy the item yourself - for example, if it is a gift - get an estimate of its fair retail value in the country where you received it. If you bought something on your trip and wore or used it on the trip, it's still dutiable. You must declare the item at the price you paid or, if it was a gift, at its fair market value. Family members who live in the same home and return together to the United States may combine their personal exemptions. This is called a joint declaration. For example, if Mr. and Mrs. Smith travel overseas and Mrs. Smith brings home a \$600 piece of glassware, and Mr. Smith buys \$200 worth of clothing, they can combine their \$400 exemptions on a joint declaration and not have to pay duty. Children and infants are allowed the same exemption as adults, except for alcoholic beverages.

Other Questions

What is Quebec City like? It is French, well French-speaking Canada. It is a World Heritage Site because it is one of the most beautiful natural settings in North America. The well-preserved Vieux-Quebec (Old Quebec) is small and dense, steeped in four centuries of history and French tradition. The city still has the ramparts that once protected it, 17th- and 18th-century buildings, and numerous parks and monuments. The city is immaculate preserved as the only fortified city remaining in North America north of Mexico.

What is the camp site like? It is the Plains of Abraham, named after the river pilot Abraham Martin, is the site of the famous 1759 battle that decided the fate of New France. People cross-country ski here in winter and in-line skate in summer. It is a large linear park along the cliffs above the St. Lawrence River. The far end of the park has an interpretation center, attached to the Musee de Quebec. You should expect the site to be beautiful. But you should also expect it to be windy and possibly cool (even in the middle of the summer). So bring some warm clothing along with your normal summer dress. You are a distance from your car in an urban area (no easy parking) so expect to walk everywhere and that your feet will be tired during the weekend. (Our camp is at the top of a hill.) We are also in an urban area, although it is beautiful it has all the issues of any major city - act accordingly. The city is French speaking. From past experience if you attempt to speak some French it is well received and you want to make it clear that you are an American not an "English-speaking" Canadian. (American = money).

Will we be camped near any restaurants, stores, etc?

You can certainly cook in camp, but if you decide to go out on the town - the old city is very close by along with the Grande Allee (which is just one street up from the Plains.) These locations you will find great opportunity for eating, drinking and merriment. If you plan to cook in camp, it is suggested that you do your shopping before you arrive in camp – it is an urban area with no "Walmarts" so it will be easier to bring items with you.

Can I use my ATM/Credit Card in Quebec? Can I exchange my money there?

Check with your bank, but for the most part your ATM and Credit Cards work. The ATM will give you Canadian money. You can also exchange money at the border. Currently, a US Dollar gives you about \$1.30 Canadian Dollars.

When can we setup? When do we have to be off the site? Do you recommend any hotels?

Our camping space is limited. As a result, we ask that you limit your tentage. Details of the camp will be issued through the Corp Commander and Quartermaster. Arrival will be from any time on Thursday 1 pm on to Saturday morning. Camp will be vacated by 9 am on Monday (you can spend the night but you must break camp before you go out for Breakfast. The QM staff started working on Wednesday - at this point they are tired and want to go home.) The city is full of hotel options, if there are any special rates that will be passed on to unit commanders. At the high end there is the Fairmont Le Chateau Frontenac at just under \$400 a night and I would also suggest the Loews Le Concorde which is just beyond the British camp (ask for a room overlooking the Plains) with rooms from \$200 a night.

What other services are in the area (grocer, laundry, emergency)?

There are a number of services located in Quebec City, such as grocers, laundries, emergency and pharmacies. See [Services](#) at main Quebec 2004 web site for a current listing.

Do you have any suggestions to make our stay more pleasant?

Plan to get into Quebec on Thursday, set up camp and enjoy Thursday evening in the city. Get up early on Friday and enjoy some of the sites of the city. The city has some world class museums to enjoy. Then stay on to Monday and drive home in the light. One museum review has this exhibit showing during our stay - "Clothes Make the Man," the exhibition produced by the McCord Museum of Canadian History – will be open at the Musee de l'Amerique Francaise in Quebec City. See the website for details: <http://www.mcq.org>.



*GALERIE des IMAGES,
Picture Gallery*



*May 2004 - Revolutionary War Weekend
Sutton, Massachusetts*



*May 2004 - Revolutionary War Weekend
Sutton, Massachusetts*



*May 2004 - Drummers Call
Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia*



BASIC WOMENS CLOTHING

Notes from Sue Felshin

The following is an excerpt from notes compiled by Sue Felshin for a presentation at the Minute Man National Historic Park in mid-March. A basic clothing seminar was conducted for the park volunteers, with Sue leading the discussion on women's clothing. Due to the wide range of experience levels of the park volunteers, Sue's talk focused on the most basic items of a woman's wardrobe during the Revolutionary War period. While some readers may be familiar with the topic at hand, it never hurts to have a refresher! I hope everyone will pick up at least a few new tidbits of information as you read through her article. Additional excerpts will appear as space permits in future editions of the Gazette Françoise... Enjoy!

Notes on Basic Women's Clothing of the Era of the American Revolution

This article is pitched to beginners. My goal is discuss *basic* accurate ways to dress, not *every* accurate way. Let's first consider a few questions.

What do people see and remember the most, in detail? In this order: (1) Face, (2) Face and head, (3) Face, head, shoulders and (4) Everything.

What's most important for the overall 18c look? In this order: (1) No visible modern makeup, (2) Silhouette (as created by hair and clothing) and (3) Fabric—appropriate linen and wool for most-visible clothing.

Where can you skimp or “fix it later”?

- Inner layers of clothing—Shoes and stockings—wear black ones for invisibility
- Machine sewing
- Make one good item and one awful and replace the awful one later—this is better than making two so-so items since then you'll eventually replace both.
- Start with simple items and leave off details that can be added later. For example, shift cuff closures. Wear plain knee socks at first and buy 18c stockings later. Start with bed gown, then get jumps or stays, then (optionally) get gown. Etc.
- See also the article titled “I'm Short On...” at www.18cnewenglandlife.org.

Safety first: Don't compromise your safety for accuracy. If something makes you so uncomfortable that it interferes with your ability to keep yourself safe, don't

wear it. Most of the time, you can find a way to stay accurate *and* safe—don't assume that because one thing doesn't work for you, there isn't another accurate solution. But every so often, there is no accurate solution.

One more concept to remember is just because a sutler sells it doesn't mean it's accurate! Just because you see someone else wearing it doesn't mean it's accurate! No matter who they are! If you want to know, ask. Don't trust “yes, it's documented” as an answer. If they don't provide specific documentation, then maybe it's accurate and maybe it isn't. But just because they don't provide specific documentation doesn't mean it must be wrong—who carries documentation of everything everywhere they go, or has memorized everything?

About **documentation**: if you plan to do your own research, that's great! A resource list will be included in an upcoming excerpt and those resources are good starting places and can lead you to other resources. You can visit historical societies, find old newspapers in libraries (runaway ads are a great source of descriptions of common folk), examine art and artifacts on line and in museums, and much more. Some things to keep in mind:

Most artifacts have vague provenances, or no provenances, or sometimes, incorrect ones. Also, when you see an artifact alone, you don't know how it was worn or what other clothing was worn with it. Artifacts are great for seeing what fabrics were *really* like ... if they haven't faded or deteriorated beyond recognition. They're great for seeing details of how garments were cut and how they were stitched together ... assuming the garments are really from the time period, area, social class, and ethnicity you're interested in.

When you look at art, you can see how clothing was worn, but you can't be sure of the cut, construction, or materials. What's more, you have to keep the context in mind. First, there is virtually no art of common Colonial women, so you have to look at other countries' art and guess how it applies to the Colonies. Second, how real is that art? Rich people often had their portraits painted in imaginary or fantasy clothing (which would not appear dated as quickly), such as draped lengths of fabric, 17th century costumes, or “peasant” costume (not that peasants ever dressed like you see in the portraits). Much art is allegorical or satirical. For example, if you look at one of Greuze's paintings of half-dressed servants or peasants with their clothing falling off, you can guess (without being certain) from the realism of the painting that the individual garments are real and use them for study, but you can't use the artwork as a model for how to dress in public.

*Le PROGRAMME,
the schedule for 2004*

The events listed below are the official schedule for 2004 - as approved by the membership at the annual meeting. Questions and suggestions may be directed to members of the BOD. It should be a great year !

Date	Unit	Event
Feb 7	All	Work Party at Bill Rose's Bolton, MA
Feb 17	BOD	BOD & Officers Meeting Berlin, MA
Feb 28	Distaff	Fabric Shopping Road Trip TBA
Mar 6	All	Regimental Annual Meeting Berlin, MA
Mar 6	BOD	BOD & Officers Meeting Berlin, MA
Mar 20	Music	Freezer Jam Michigan
Mar 26	Distaff	Movie Night Framingham, MA
Apr 17	4th	Battle Road/Hartwell Tavern Event Lincoln, MA
May 1 - 2	85e	Revolutionary War Weekend Sutton, MA
May 15	Music	Williamsburg Fife & Drum Program Williamsburg, VA
May 18	BOD	BOD & Officers Meeting Northborough, MA
May 30	85e	Memorial Day Parade Somerville, MA
May 31	85e	Memorial Day Parade Andover, MA
May 31	85e	Memorial Day Parade Medford, MA
Jun 5	4th	Rum & Revolution (optional) Weston, MA
Jun 8	BOD	BOD & Officers Meeting Berlin, MA
Jun 19	85e	Waistcoat Workshop Framingham, MA
Jun 20	All	Trailer Work Party Framingham, MA

Jun 25 - 27	85e	La Kermesse Franco-Americaine Festival Biddeford, ME
Jul 31 Aug 1	85e	À l'Assaut de la Capitale! Québec City, Québec, Canada
Aug 28- 29	4th	225th Anniversary of Newtown, NY Elmira, NY
Sep 6	85e	Marlborough Labor Day Parade, Marlborough, MA
Sep 6	All	Regimental Birthday & Cookout TBA
Sep 18 - 19	??	Rebecca Nurse Homestead Encampment Danvers, MA
Sep 25	85e	Colonial Faire & Muster Sudbury, MA
Oct 10- 11	85e	225th Anniversary -Siege of Savannah Savannah, GA
Oct 16 - 17	??	Kingston
Nov 20	85e	Military Timeline Plymouth, MA

*EXERCICES et PRATIQUES,
Drills & Practices*

Date	Unit	Event
Jan 10	85e	French Drill (10-12) - Stow Town Hall, no musicians
Feb 7	85e	French Drill (10:30-12:30) Stow Town Hall, Stow, MA
Mar 6	85e	French Drill (10-12) Berlin, MA
Apr 3	All	Drill (11-1) – Stow Town Hall Stow, MA
May 8	---	Drill - CANCELLED
Jun 5	All	French Drill (10-12) - Golden Ball Tavern Weston, MA

Work-parties and additional drills will be scheduled throughout the year. If you have a specific project you would like to work on – let the captain or president know. Getting the French uniform and accoutrements in order will take top priority as the French prepare to take the field again this year!



*May 2004 - Revolutionary War Weekend
Sutton, Massachusetts*

*85ème Régiment de Saintonge
Post Office Box 854
Sudbury, MA 01776*