



GAZETTE FRANÇOISE.

Du Novembre 2005.

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

So, has everyone dried out from Chelmsford yet? Personally, I'm still trying to get the mud out of my gaiters. Although it was a wet weekend, I think it's safe to say that everyone had a great time. I'd like to thank everyone for braving the weather and making Chelmsford a great event. A special thanks to Glen Cook for driving 12 hours from Maryland to come up play.

In keeping with tradition we will be holding our Annual November Regimental Gathering, Drill & Meeting on November 12th. We will be discussing upcoming events for 2006 and any other topics there are discussed at the Northern Department Continental Line Meeting which takes place on November 5. Anyone wishing to attend the Northern Dept meeting should contact me ASAP.

The last event of the year is Plymouth Christmas Parade which takes place on Saturday, November 19th. This year's event will follow the same format as last year. We will set up a small encampment near Plymouth Rock. We will also be participating in the short parade which starts at 1:00pm. I ask that all members that are available to come out on Saturday, this is a money making event for us, so your participation will be greatly appreciated.

It's time to start thinking about the leadership for the 2006 season. At this point I would like to ask for volunteers to be part of a Nominating committee. The nominating committee will be responsible for polling the regiment for those who would be willing to serve on the Board of Directors, or as an Officer of the Corporation. Anyone interested in serving on the committee, please contact me ASAP. The committee must be formed before December 1st of 2005.

We have very busy winter upon us. As Steven details in his column, we will be setting up several workparties and drills.

Hope to see you all very soon!!!

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

*Le RAPPORT du CAPITAINE,
Captain's Report*

Framingham on the Sudbury
November 2005

Hi Folks,

As the wettest October on record closes, it is time to look to winter camp and the next campaign season – our busiest ever. Though I didn't make it to the Chelmsford event, I heard a lot of great things about our little group - mostly along the lines of "grace and good nature despite adversity". Plus, I heard you kicked some serious butt, despite being out numbered. I'm quite sure *someone* will have a great write-up on this event.

Throughout this month we've been looking towards the events for next year. Next weekend – November 5th – the Northern Department of the Continental Line will get together and discuss the past and future campaign seasons. As usual, there will be a Regimental meeting to discuss next year's calendar following after. We also need to establish workparties to help get folks gear and to clean up our impression. There will also be new folks as well, so we need to get them outfitted and drilled. These workparties will concentrate on specific items like hats, stocks, garters, gaiters, foraging caps, etc. Uniformity and a good fit will be the key goals of these sessions. We'll also start to publish some items from the 1779 regulations just so that you know where our uniform and its "care and feeding" originated from.

This last month I called Paul Ackermann of the BAR to discuss their plans for raising a “French Contingent” to support the Yorktown campaign. To surmise, the BAR is having 40 sets of “campaign” style clothing made up. This is a cocked hat, white gaiters, and sleeved waistcoat made in medium, large, and extra large. The coat will be an option, but if the BAR selects a Caribbean unit, they can make Regimentals with out the lining. This way they can authentically freeze like the troops from the Caribbean. The BAR has asked for our help during their School of the Soldier in April to help the BAR drill. I volunteered our group for the weekend. When I get more information, I’ll let you know – but the wheels are spinning to get this going.

During our “off season” we need to get a “road show” out to the various groups to let them know what is going on for Yorktown. Our goal will be not to “poach” members from these groups, but to inform them of what we are doing. Hopefully, if it is a small company – like Acton for example (this is just an example) – then the whole group may join us in this venture. This is what we did during the bicentennial – hopefully we’ll gain some folks for the event this way. If you folks have any ideas on how to bolster the ranks or ideas of whom we can talk to, let Dana, Bill, or I know.

That’s all I have for now. We’ll see you all very soon!

*Pour le Roi et le Régiment,
Steven*



ÉVÉNEMENTS PROCHAINS,

Upcoming Events

ADAMS CELEBRATION BALL,
November, 5th ~ Next year is going to be quite an eventful year with all of the 225th Anniversary events commemorating of the Surrender at Yorktown being planned. To help kick off the year, the Grand Ball Committee has organized a pre-ball to get us all thinking about the year ahead. It’s a chance to get together with other local area units at a pass time so loved by our 18th century forefathers and mothers. It is therefore quite appropriate that we celebrate the wedding anniversary of John and Abigail Adams in recognition of all they did and gave up for their country in the struggle for independence. One of Massachusetts’ most famous couples will play so little a part in next year’s celebrations as John Adams was in Holland

working to negotiate a loan from Dutch bankers while Abigail was left home to manage their affairs. We therefore have chosen them for our theme.

Re-enactors will play the parts of John & Abigail as well as Abigail’s good friend Mercy Otis Warren in a brief ceremony during the musicians break. A country dance, dress is as formal as you choose. Your invitation:

You are cordially invited to celebrate the Anniversary of John & Abigail Adams in a Ball given in their Honor for the Many Years Service to their Country. Saturday, November 5th, 2005, 7:30- 11:00, The Adam’s Family Home, 135 Adams Street, Quincy, MA. A Country Dance to be held in the carriage house; Desserts and Punch for your Pleasure. Reservations are Limited to 75 People at \$20 per ticket. Please RSVP by emailing Rhonda McConnon at Rhondda18cnel@comcast.net or by calling 978 779-6250 by October 26th.

Please pass this information on to other members of your unit.

YH&OS,
Rhonda McConnon

DRILL, DISTAFF GATHERING, & ANNUAL MEETING, Saturday, November

12. ~ **Arrival:** Drill & distaff gathering will begin at 10am, Potluck at noon, and the meeting follows at 12:30pm. Please plan accordingly. **Directions:** We’ll be at the Meadow Brook Village Community Center at 59 Brook Lane, Berlin, MA. (Almost next door to Frank Marini!) 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 #59 Brook Lane on the Right. **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 #59 Brook Lane on Right. **Details:** A regimental drill will take place in the morning and at the same time the women will have the opportunity to work on their own projects. The annual meeting will follow at twelve-thirty – we expect it to last about two hours so everyone should be on their way

home in time for supper! There's a lot to cover at this meeting – there are just a few items: past events, 2006 events, fall & winter drill and work party schedule, uniforms, membership and any other issues that folks would like to discuss. Hope to see you all there – this is our chance to plan for our very busy 2006 campaign season!

*PLYMOUTH TIMELINE EVENT &
PARADE, Saturday, November 19 ~*

Arrival: Camp setup will begin in Brewster Park promptly at 8am. Please plan to arrive no later than 8am to allow time to setup a few tents and get cars moved out of the way before the event opens to the public at 9am.

Directions: From Boston, take Route 93 South to Route 3 South. Take exit 6A off Route 3. Follow the exit ramp to the right, which puts you on Route 44 East. (You will quickly have to move into the middle lane to avoid the entrance ramp to Route 3 North). Follow Route 44 East into downtown Plymouth and then turn right onto Court Street/Route 3A. Court Street will turn into Main Street. Brewster Park will be on your left between Leyden Street & Water Street. A local area map of downtown Plymouth can be found later in the newsletter. No information about parking was available at the time of printing so please watch your email or check with event volunteers upon arrival. **Details:** We'll be spending the day in the town of Plymouth – the place to be for Thanksgiving! A timeline event will be taking place in Brewster Park and we will have a small camp setup as Regiment Saintonge. In addition, we'll be marching in a short Thanksgiving Parade through the streets of Plymouth during the middle of the day. The schedule shows the encampment opening to the public at 9am, we'll assemble at 10am for an 11am parade step-off and finally we'll return to camp around 1pm to spend the afternoon drilling and demonstrating French military and civilian activities for the public. The encampment will be open until dusk and we'll break down as quickly as possible before we lose all the daylight! The Regiment is getting paid for our participation in the parade and encampment and we voted on attending back at the Annual Meeting in March – so please make every possible effort to attend. Breakfast and lunch will be served to all members of the regiment – so please take the time to let Dana or Steven know if you will be there... or you might go hungry! A bit more information, including a map, appears later in the newsletter.



*ÉVÉNEMENTS RÉALISÉS,
Past Events*

*BATTLE FOR CHELMS FORD, Chelmsford,
MA October 29 & 30*

So, there we were at Chelmsford..it was Saturday morning and raining. The rain was varying from heavy mist to a reasonable shower, but it was warm. The complicated planned tactical (3 different tacticals, 30 minutes each, with 3 different sets of participants) was "simplified" into a single tactical for everyone interested. Naturally that was when the rain intensified somewhat, but we went anyway.

For me the high point of the day was as we were marching off to the tactical, still in the open field (most of the battle was in the woods), getting rained upon, trying to protect our guns from the rain. I started humming "Singing in the Rain" more or less automatically, only to see Jim Casco, of Whitcomb's Rangers, dancing along ahead of us doing his best Gene Kelly imitation. (If you don't know Jim Casco, you don't know why this is funny).

We deployed into the woods, in search of the next set of orders (the scenario was rather like a treasure hunt--follow the first set of orders and they tell you where the next ones are, etc. etc.). We quickly divided into two sections of four, whereupon total chaos ensued. Every time my section (I can't speak for the other one) moved into position and began to find an enemy to shoot at, we'd be called upon to move to another position further down. This was generally not as a result of being pushed, but as a result of being needed more someplace else. So we wildly ran up and down muddy paths in the woods, trying to remain together and safe on the slippery ground, not knowing what the heck was going on. Given the weather, only half the guns were operating, but those that were working were going great.

We dodged in, out, up, down, and through the woods on that hillside, avoiding getting blasted by the RIA gun, nearly getting skewered by a small detachment from the 10th foot, and trying to figure out where we were supposed to be. Eventually we stood down, having, with a section of 3 Rangers and half a dozen Continental Lights, defended ourselves against a force something like three times our size. We marched back to camp,

through the rain and the mud, muttering to ourselves about how we weren't going out for the main battle except as pikemen...

In spite of that, we cleaned the guns as best we could, powdered up again, and lined up for the public battle. By this time the rain had picked up again somewhat (naturally), but it was a shorter hike to the battle and a shorter battle besides. When we were done, we marched back to camp, where our dismissal was rudely interrupted by a squad from the 4th foot who stood just outside the hedgerow on the edge of camp, taunting us. Having received permission from Captain Frechette to "indulge" himself, Dana led half of our company around the end of the hedgerow, while the other half set up to engage them across it. Faced with a determined and tactically intelligent enemy, the redcoats chose to beat an extremely hasty retreat.

After that we were nearly all too tired to do much except enjoy the company of friends. Then, of course, the heavens opened up during the night, but that's a story for somebody else.

-Abe Fisher



*BATTLE FOR CHELMS FORD, Chelmsford,
MA October 29 & 30*

There is a Bill Malden cartoon featuring his immortal ink soldiers Willie and Joe. In this cartoon Willie turns to Joe and says, "Yesterday you saved my life. Here is my last pair of dry socks, we're even." Never has the meaning of this cartoon been as clear to me it was the morning of October 9th, 2005. I can tell you I would have killed for a pair of dry socks! In that spirit I would like to thank the Mees family for the semi dry polar fleece and pair of flip-flops they lent me.

Ok so you'll now be surprised to hear me say that I enjoyed most of the battle of Chelmsford. Saturday was wet and kept getting wetter but it was a warm wet and that makes all the difference.

Just before lunch a young and foolish British fifer wanted into camp in regimentals... I assume to talk to our fifers. Now our fifers were feeling a bit frisky so with Dana's permission they tied him up. Now this is a family show so don't go there! They marched him back to British camp for a prisoner exchange, timed to

coincide with the start of the tactical. Hopefully Carrie or Beth will tell us the details some time.

At about noon 8 soldats and Dana marched out to join the tactical we and company of lights (six to eight guys) and three rangers with us. We moved into the woods and quickly found the British orders. Dana split us into two platoons one under Bill, the other (my unit) under Abe. Each group fought a brisk action with Tory ranger, and English light troops for several minutes while the light infantry and rangers went after our objective. After about ten minutes we were nearly enveloped but holding and Dana decided it was time to cut our way out and let the British have their order. The cannon that was coming up may have had some thing to do with this. The two-section leap forged through the woods in somewhat less than perfect order but it was good enough for us to cut our way out. By this time Glen has the only working musket in our section, Mathew's was working intermittently, Abe and I were basically fixing imaginary bayonets and going through the motions. Sometime during this I lost track of our American allies. We made it down to the road when we saw another gun (I think it may have belonged to the Irish) Abe took us sweeping around a bush and onto the flank of the gun and we advanced. The Tenth foot charged us but it turned out they, and maybe the gun too, were "out of play" or "kind of out of play kind of in play." We fell back for this success full advance to meet up with Dana and Bill's section. About this time our lights showed up with the flag... Dana reported that the British had also gotten the flag. We called it a draw and got three bottles of rum from the English.

The 3:00 PM battle was a somewhat silly affair but pleasing to the crowd I hope. We advance out and both sides blazed at each other across the rising brook. Then back to camp for food. I'm please to know the Polish Hunter's Stew went over well. The wine the Mees brought matched the stew well. Paul O'Shaughnessy dropped by and enjoyed some Cognac with us while we discussed plans for and alliance of professionals against these American riffraff. Yeah, like we would ever be allies with Perfidious Albion.

The evening was fun but low-key singing and drinking in the Marquee. Brad Chetwynd gave a rousing little speech about how even with horrible weather reenacting was the greatest thing ever. (When I asked him to repeat this speech the next morning he said he was having a senior moment)

We broke up about 11:00 PM already aware that the event was cancelled for the second day because of the bad roads and the difficulty with what was already being called an evacuation the next day.

Some time around 2:00 AM I was awakened in a state of serious distress finding my tent flapping in an increasing breeze. I jump up threw my cloak on and tried to re-stake the tent but found this impossible. I called for help and thankfully Glen heard me and we secured my tent. Sadly this was not before my last pair of dry every thing had gotten soaked....

At that pint I as thinking, "I'm 25 minutes from home and warm shower and a dry bed but I can't get there from here!" It was most discouraging, but the fact that I would be home the next day heartened me. I can only stand in awe of the fortitude that kept so many men with the colors of any army when it meant suffering far great with out knowing you had a way out. The next day was "hurry up and wait" and try to stay as dry and warm as possible. At least we didn't have six inches of water in our camp like the British. Finally at about 3:30 PM I was home and got that warm shower and dry bed I had been longing for. All in all it's an experience I'm glad to have had but not one I want to repeat any time soon, if ever.

- Adam Carriere



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

☼ THANK YOU – Contributions to this month's newsletter came from Abe Fisher and Adam Carriere. Many thanks to both for giving us so much to read, view and enjoy! Additional submissions will be gratefully received (hint... hint...) at stonge85@comcast.net.



GALERIE des IMAGES, Picture Gallery



*French Line Pass in Review after the Public Battle
Chelmsford, MA. October 2005*



Battle for Chelm's Ford, October 2005



*Our young cadet appears to be in good spirits despite the rain,
Chelmsford, MA. October 2005*



*American tent line,
Chelmsford MA. October 2005*

*85^{ème} Régiment de Saintonge
2005
Governing Board*

President

Dana Rock

Commanding Officer

Steven Taskovics

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Abe Fisher

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Kevin Collins

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Bill Rose

Board of Directors

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Frank Marini

Adjutant

Nelia Newell

NCOs

Abe Fisher – Fusilier Coy

Dana Rock – Chasseur Coy

Bill Rose – Grenadier Coy



*Le PROGRAMME,
the schedule for 2005*

The events listed below are the official schedule for 2005 - as approved by the membership at the annual meeting. Questions and suggestions may be directed to members of the BOD.

Date	Unit	Event
Jan 11	All	Work Party at the Rose's (7-9) Bolton, MA
Feb 8	All	Work Party at the Rose's (7-9) Bolton, MA
Feb 26	All	Regimental Annual Meeting (10-12) Berlin, MA
Mar 8	All	Work Party at the Rose's (7-9) Bolton, MA
Apr 12	All	Work Party at the Rose's (7-9) Bolton, MA
Jun 14	All	Work Party at Steven's (7-9) Framingham, MA

*EXERCICES et RENDEVOUS,
Drills & Distaff Gatherings*

Date	Unit	Event
Jan 8	All	French Drill & Distaff Gathering (10:30-12) Old Town Hall, Stow, MA
Feb 12	All	French Drill & Distaff Gathering (10:30-12) Old Town Hall, Stow, MA
Mar 12	All	French Drill & Distaff Gathering (10:30-12) Old Town Hall, Stow, MA
Apr 3	All	4th Middlesex and 2nd Massachusetts Drill Dunstable, MA
Apr 9	All	4th Middlesex and Sudbury Drill Wayside Inn, Sudbury, MA
May 14	All	French Drill & Distaff Gathering (TBA) TBA
June 11	All	Fencing Seminar Burlington, MA
Nov 11	All	Drill & Distaff Gathering Annual Meeting Berlin,, MA

Date	Unit	Event
Mar 12	4 th	Dorchester Heights Dorchester, MA
Mar 13	4 th	MMNHP rally Lexington, MA
Mar 20	85eme	St. Patrick Day Parade Boston, MA
April 16	4 th	Battle Road Lexington, MA
May 13 – 15	85eme	225th Siege of Charleston Charleston, SC
May 21-22	Music	Drummers Call Williamsburg, VA
May 21-22	85eme	Little Farm Newbury, MA
May 29	85eme	Memorial Day Parade Somerville, MA
May 30	85eme	Memorial Day Parade Andover, MA
July 8,9,10	85eme	Landing of Rochambeau Newport, RI
Aug 6 -7	85eme	Old Sturbridge Village Timeline Sturbridge Village, MA
Sept 5	85eme	Labor Day Parade/ Regimental Birthday Party Marlborough, MA
Sept 17	4 th	Applefest Parade Northborough, MA
Sept 24	85eme	Sudbury Muster Sudbury, MA
Sept 25	4 th	Rehoboth Rehoboth, MA
Oct 1	85eme	Lebanon Lebanon, CT
Oct 2	85eme	Medford Parade Medford, MA
Oct 7 -9	85eme	Warren Farm Chelmsford, MA
Nov 19	85eme	Plymouth Time Line Plymouth, MA



And the winner of the Dirtiest Uniform Contest is.....

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