



N° 41

GAZETTE FRANÇOISE.

Février 2007

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

Well it's February again, and this may or may not be my last entry as president. Thank you all for your hard work over the last year. I'm proud of the way the regiment met its challenges. Please come to our annual meeting if you can, or designate a proxy to vote on your behalf if you cannot. On a personal note, please let me know if the regimental war-gaming night holds any interest to you. I look forward to working with all of you to make the regiment even better in 2007 as a soldier or as president as the regiment chooses.

*Your Humble Servant,
Adam Carriere,
Président Régiment de SaintOngé*



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

While Dana and Steven were traveling for work, there was a Battle Road planning meeting that I was asked to attend. At this meeting we began to plan for the event that is the official opening to our re-enacting season, Battle Road. But what also came out of that meeting was a cry for help.

For many years there has been a commemoration at the North Bridge in Concord known as "Commemoration of the Concord Conflict", where a group of Minutemen stand up to the vast British Army and eventually repel the Crown forces. In years past the numbers were strong and there was much support for this event. But as we all know times changed and the involvement in this event has lost much of its support. To the point that the British forces, who actually take the time to mourn their

losses here, are saying that if something is not done they are planning on ending their association with this event.

NPS has asked that the Saintonge/4th Middlesex to try to add a few more bodies to the Tactical Demonstration at North Bridge and bolster more support. For years past the numbers have been very lopsided. It does not make sense for the British to get repelled from the bridge by five militia members when they have fielded forty.

What I am looking for is some numbers from our unit. The event will take place on the Patriot's Day holiday, April 16th. This will be a quick tactical demonstration using the same rules of engagement that are currently enforced during Battle Road. I realize that not everybody has the ability to take time from work or from their duties at home. I am also contacting other units and individuals that might be willing to assist us with this event. If we do not do anything about this event then it will go away and as re-enactors this is something we cannot let happen.

For those people who already march in the parade that takes place after the end of tactical demonstration, we will hopefully have 15 or 20 minutes in between the two events. That should allow enough time to reach the beginning of the parade that goes to the center of Concord.

We do not have times set up yet, we have another Battle Road meeting this week and this tactical demonstration is the first item on the agenda. When there is more information I will post it in our newsgroup and chat group. If you have any questions about the event please feel free to let me know.

*YHS,
Brian Mixter,
Vice Président Régiment de SaintOngé*



Le RAPPORT du CAPITAINE, Captain's Report

As some of you may already know, I have been asked to Command at Battle Road this year. The plan is to run the event similar to what we have done in the past. There will be a few changes to the schedule, and I will announce them to the group as soon as they have been figured out. I've asked Steven to work with the Battle Road Committee to help plan the Tactical Demonstration. The goal is to make things move a little faster than last year, as well as to improve upon the impression of making the scenario look like we are pushing the Red Coats back to Boston.

We have been approached by NPS to organize the event at the Bridge on April, 16th. This is traditionally organized by Mark Daley, however the turnout for the past couple of years has been poor. NPS has asked us to supplement these numbers and bring another 30 men at arms to participate at this event. If you are able to make it, please let me know as soon as possible.

The Annual Meeting is fast approaching. It has been difficult securing a time and location for this event. However, with the help of Brian, Adam, Steve Crosby and Dave Walrath, we have secured a site. We will be meeting on February 17th at the Old Stow Town Hall. As usual, we will be holding a Drill as well as pot luck at this event. Details can be found later in this newsletter.

A concern that I would like to address in this group is communications. There are several key members in this organization who work very hard to make sure that we have strong organization that is very active in the reenacting community. One of the challenges that we all face is communication. It is very important that the leaders of this group keep the membership up to date with pertinent information, and I believe that we as a group have done a decent job at this. It is also very important that the membership communicates with each other and more importantly, to the leadership. We, as a unit, do a very poor job of communicating back to the leadership about upcoming events. We need to hear back from each and every member as to whether or not people are coming to an event and we need to know as soon as humanly possible. It is very very important to know for several reasons: The first reason is that the unit needs to give numbers to event organizers at the beginning of the year. Has anyone ever gone to an event and there wasn't enough wood? Of course you have, and do you know why that happens? It happens because more people show up to an event than the organizers

expected. Numbers help the organizers plan how much wood, water, straw, and porta-potties are need for their event. With this said, please let me or the Adjutant know if you are planning to attend any of the events planned for this year. Also, when an email is sent asking for numbers, please respond right away. We want to know if you are planning or not planning to go.

More business... As stated in the last newsletter, free paper copies of the newsletters will be going away starting with the March newsletter. At this time we have heard from a very, very small number of people who wish to continue with a paper copy of this newsletter. If you wish to continue receiving a paper copy of the newsletter, please let us know. More information about what to do if you want to receive a paper newsletter can be found later in this newsletter.

Lastly I want to mention work parties. Work parties are an essential part of this origination; they are the best way to help us all improve our impression. Last month I made mention, in the schedule section of the newsletter, that if people wish to help organize a work party they should contact either me or Adam. I have heard back from only one person. Brian Mixter has stepped up, once again, to take on putting together a rolling party. This is not the only item that we should be working on. For example, we could all use a backpack, or how about new gaiter straps or a new hat? If people are looking for a project to work on that could help the regiment, and you don't know what to work on, give me a call and we can figure something out. Now, you don't have to be an expert on gaiter straps or backpacks, in fact they only thing you need is the enthusiasm to help grow and to improve the impression. There are several people who know how to construct these items, and others who know where to get the material. There are a handful of people who might even be willing to host the work party. We are not asking for someone to run around and do everything, we are just asking for people to organize the work party. That means to pick a project, figure out who knows how to put the thing together, find someone to get the materials, a place to work on the project, figure a date and time, and get people to show up. Please let me know if you are able to help out.

For Massachusetts and Congress
et
Pour le Roi et le Regiment!
Dana Rock



ÉVÉNEMENTS PROCHAINS, *Upcoming Events*

ANNUAL MEETING & DRILL,
Stow, MA, February 17th ~ **Arrival:** Please plan on arriving at Noon. **Details:** Similar to past annual meetings, this will be a dual purpose meeting. We will kick off the afternoon with a potluck starting at 12:00pm. We will move on to our annual meeting starting around 12:30. Topics for discussion will be next years schedule. We will also be holding elections! Once we cover all the items on the agenda, which should be between 2:30 and 3:00, we will begin our drill. Please remember to bring your cartridge box, musket & hat. For the distaff members of the regiment, you are invited to stick around, chat, work on projects, or watch the guys. If the weather is nasty – call Dana at 978.758.9350 for any change or cancellation info. **Directions:** Old Town Hall is on Route 117 in Stow, one block west of the intersection of Routes 117 & 62. There is limited parking on the street; additional parking is available at the "new" Town Hall directly across the street. From the East: Take Rt. 117(W) to Rt. 62 (Stow Ctr.); Old Town Hall is on the right, one block west of the Rt. 117/62 intersection. From the West: Take I-495 to Rt. 117 (E) - Old Town Hall is about 8 miles on your left, just before the Rt. 62 intersection. From the South: Take Rt. 62(E) to Route 117; turn right and it will be one block on your right. From the North, take Rt. 2 or Rt. 111 to Rt 62(W); take Rt. 62 to Rt. 117 and turn right for one block.



Important Notice to all Members

For many years now the Regiment has been providing FREE paper copies of the newsletter to all members upon request. Due to increasing costs of copying and stamps, the regiment will no longer provide a free paper copy of the Newsletter to inactive members. The regiment defines inactive members as those who have not participated in two Regimental events in the past year. All active members who request a paper newsletter will continue to receive a free copy. For those who are inactive members of the regiment, you may continue to receive a paper copy of the newsletter

for a nominal subscription fee of \$5. A check may be written out to "The Regiment Saintonge" and mailed to:

85ème Régiment de Saintonge

Post Office Box 854

Sudbury, MA 01776

You may also opt for an electronic copy of the newsletter, free of charge. The newsletter can be viewed at any time via our Yahoo Group. If you prefer, you can receive the Newsletter via email. Please contact our Clerk, Elizabeth Mees at emxmees@juno.com and let her know your preferred method to receive the newsletter. This new policy will go into effect starting with the March Newsletter. We apologize for any inconvenience, and thank you for your support and understanding.



2007 Governing Board Ballot

As determined by the Nominations Committee, with the input from individual members of the regiment, the Ballot for the 2007 Saintonge Election appears later in the newsletter. If you will be unable to attend the meeting in February, and you have attended at least two events during the 2006 campaign season, you may mail your completed ballot to Regiment Saintonge, PO Box 854, Sudbury, MA 01776. Please mail in your Ballot ASAP. All absentee ballots must be received before the annual meeting on February 17th.



ÉVÉNEMENTS RÉALISÉS, *Past Event*

Drilling on Frank's Flats

January 13, 2007

Despite the cool, clouds and drizzle, sixteen muskets brought their owners to Marini's hideout in Berlin. It had been a rough evening the night before. The meeting time was adjusted from 10:00 AM to noon to allow those who attended the Twelfth Night Ball in disguise time to assess the self-inflicted damage. All the members appeared to be in shape for the first drilling session of the season and the verbal picks and axes were at the ready.

At approximately 12:30, with the distaff busily engaged in much-needed projects inside, we fell out under orders from Sgt Fisher with Musician Humphreys playing and skipping to assembly. We discovered the recently

AWOL Private Mixer in the proper uniform having failed to obtain a section 8 discharge by wearing women's clothing and another new recruit for which credit for the impressment thereof belonged to Captain Rock. The inspection that followed underscored our attention to duty to keep our weapons on the cutting edge, with only a few minor exceptions. Will's musket had some winter rust in the barrel still, but he promised that it would be gone by the next drill.

Our drill consisted of a review of the basic maneuvers and we were all re-acquainted with the commands in our adopted language. Surprisingly, our new recruit, Ryan, turned out to be a reasonably quick study. He received several different explanations for each movement from various members and he was able to choose at least one that was accurate each time. We did not attempt to teach him the fine art of not thinking; being a dangerous habit, but that will come in time. He did have the required trait of the inability to unflinchingly determine the difference between "droit" and "gauche".

Marching proved to be our second best performance of the day. We did left wheels, right wheels, no cartwheels, formed and broke ranks, and turned ourselves out admirably once we dredged the formations from our memories. Although he wasn't outside to witness the much sought-after one-hand-sounding "Thwack" as we slapped our cartridge boxes, Bill Rose would have been pleased to hear it. The first time, it sounded exactly like one hand since only one man slapped his box. However, we managed to get everyone to make the desired sound not once, but TWICE! There was no repeat of the command to get it right that day. There were those soldats who had the mirror image of the box plate impressed on their right palms, and the resulting tears were not of joy at having executed a maneuver correctly, but of pain.

After a short impromptu meeting with previews of events to come, we dispersed at 2:30 PM. Our thanks to Frank and Rosemary for a meeting place and for those who brought the cookies and pies to sustain us. The upcoming annual meeting will be on the 17th of February. Thwack!



Who is the King of France?

(The following article started as a conversation online with C-.)

Who is the King of the Saintongenais? Who will tie the white scarf of approbation to our flag when we visit France? Who is the living successor to Louis XVI?

To answer this question, my dramatic plan is to start with that far off '89 and bring us up to our own current time. Please inform me as to any mistakes I might make in this recitation.

Louis XVI, all Louis will be referred to by their number, to avoid confusion, lost his opportunity to become a Constitutional Monarch and consequently lost his life. His wife was executed as well, despite her disqualification from holding the throne of France, being only able to fulfill one of the three basic requirements of French Monarchy: born a Roman Catholic, born in France and born a male.

XVI left two generations on maiden aunts and two children. The daughter married an Austrian and had no children.

The son was locked in a room without any sanitation until he perished, washed and trimmed only days before he died. His heart has been preserved in the crypt of St. Denis.

XVI had two younger brothers, the Dukes of Provence and Artois. Provence became XVIII with the fall of Napoleon. He ruled France with a hundred day vacation in England, courtesy of Monsieur N, until the throne passed to Charles X, Artois as was. XVIII has no issue.

Charles X ruled for several years until the people, fed up with corruption and a reactionary Church, forced him to abdicate.

He passed the crown to XIX, who held it long enough to cross the room with his own abdication papers, giving them to representatives of his cousin, Louis Philippe of Orleans.

The Orleanist line was founded by monsieur, XIV younger brother. The parallel development of his house was viewed with distaste by the mainstream Bourbon. Their relative freedom, ability to make money and develop real estate- notably the Palais Royal, were galling to XVI and his family.

Louis Philippe's father, Louis Philippe Joseph; Duc de Chartres, discarded his "Orleans" for the more current "Egalite" and voted for the execution of his cousin. He himself was snagged by the Committee and executed in 1793.

His son, Louis Philippe, was safely imprisoned through the Revolution, waited out Napoleon's Empire and the Bourbon Restoration. It was to him that XIX resigned. It was Louis Philippe who was proclaimed Monarch on the balcony of the Hotel de Ville of Paris, his shoulders draped with the Tricolour by La Fayette, before a now Constitutional populace. The bourgeois King ruled until he turned into a pear and lost to a government eventually ruled by a newspaper editor, Napoleon III and his beautiful Spanish wife.

XIX had a younger brother who assumed the name "Henri V" and remained the only true Bourbon to the followers of what was by now called the Legitimist Party. Henri V died without issue in 1883. He was the last Bourbon of France. There were no more.

But wait! Did you say the "*last Bourbon of France*"? What about XIV's grandson, Philippe, who became Felipe V of Spain? Is he not more of the Royal Blood than any Orleanist?

Well, a war was fought over this very question. The dispute was resolved at the Treaty of Utrecht, 1713. The treaty calls for the complete separation of the two Bourbon families and denies them access to the throne of the country not of their birth.

In the mid 1820's the Spanish Bourbons were further split over a succession dispute and the ascent of an Isabella. The anti female secessionists were called the "Carlist" The Carlist survive to this day despite suppression and persecution by the Spanish Crown and Republic and mild toleration of the Falangist, who fall a bit to their left. They have thrown their hat into the Royal French Ring, despite the strictures of the Treaty of Utrecht, because of the greater evil posed by the descendents of the Regicide and his son, the Bourgeois King.

Henri VII, son of VI, is the current Orleanist (although a Guise) hopeful, despite his civil divorce and remarriage, which disqualifies him in the eyes of the strict. He has four children, none of whom are qualified to carry on the throne, even as the descendent of XIV's brother.

The Spanish Bourbons are forbidden by the Treaty of Utrecht to be involved with the French Throne and have little credibility in either country.

Thus the blank looks by Frenchmen when we cry "Vive le Roi!" Perhaps we can find a General of a later incarnation of our regiment to tie our scarf. But then, the thread of Saintonge is as tangled a skein as the Bourbon succession.





*Le PROGRAMME,
the proposed schedule for 2007*

The events listed below are the unofficial schedule for 2007 – the official schedule will be printed after it has been approved at the annual meeting

WORK PARTIES

No work parties have been scheduled at this time. If you would like to take lead on a work party, please contact either Dana Rock: stonge85@comcast.net or Adam Carriere: adamc1776@gmail.com

*EXERCICES et RENDEVOUS,
Drills & Distaff Gatherings*

Date Unit Event

Jan 13 All **Drill**
Berlin, MA

Feb 3 All **Continental Line Meeting**
King of Prussia, PA

Feb 17 All **French Drill & Annual Meeting (12:00-4:30)**

Mar 10 All **Drill**
TBA

2007 EVENTS

Recommend Events are indicated by bold text

Date Unit Event

Mar 18 85eme **Evacuation Day Parade**
Boston, MA

Mar 31 85eme Lock, Stock and Barrel
Valley Forge National Park, PA

Apr 14 4th **Battle Road**
Lexington, MA

April 16 4th **Old North Bridge**
Concord, MA

April 28-29 4th Battle of Bound Brook
South Bound Brook, NJ

May 5 & 6 4th Jerusalem Mill
Jerusalem Mill, MD

May 27 85eme **Memorial Day Parade**
Summerville, MA

May 28 85eme **Memorial Day Parade**
Andover, MA

May 28 85eme **Memorial Day Parade**
Medford, MA

June 2 4th Toms River Blockhouse
Toms River, NJ

Jun 9 & 10 85eme? **Battle of Bordentown**
Bordentown, NJ

Jun 23 & 24 4th Battle of Monmouth
Monmouth, NJ

Jun 23 & 24 85eme **LaKermesse Festival**
Bidderford, MA

July 7 & 8 4th **Battle of Hubbardton**
Hubbardton, VT

July 28 & 29 ??? **Upper Canada Village**

Aug 4 & 5 85eme **Redcoats to Rebels**
Sturbridge, MA

Aug 11 & 12 4th **Battle of Bennington**
Bennington, NY

Sept 3 85eme **Labor Day Parade**
Marlborough, MA

Sept 8 & 9 4th **Fort Ticonderoga**
Ticonderoga, NY

Sept 8 4th Battle of Paoli
Malvern, PA

Sept 8 4th Brandywine
Chadds Ford, PA

Sept 21-23 4th Heritage Weekend
Stafford, NJ

Sept 29 85eme **Sudbury Muster**
Sudbury, MA

Sept 29 & 30 85eme Mount Vernon
Mount Vernon, VA

Oct 6 & 7 4th **Saratoga**
Saratoga, NY

Oct 6 & 7 4th Fort Montgomery
Rouses Point, New York

Oct 6 4th Germantown
Philadelphia, PA

Oct 14 4th Fort Mercer
National Park, NJ

Oct 20 & 21 4th Rock Ford Plantation
Lancaster, PA

Nov 3 & 4 4th Hope Lodge
Fort Washington, PA

Dec 1 & 2 85eme **Putnam Park**
Redding, CT



85ème Régiment de Saintonge
2007 Governing Board
Ballot

President (Choose 1)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adam Carriere | <input type="checkbox"/> Ellie Hutchinson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brian Mixer | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Commanding Officer (Choose 1)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dana Rock | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|

Treasurer (Choose 1)

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steven Taskovics | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|---|--------------------------------------|

Clerk (Choose 1)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Liz Mees | <input type="checkbox"/> Heather Taskovics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

Safety Officer (Choose 1)

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carl Hutchinson | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|--|--------------------------------------|

Board of Directors (Choose 5)

- | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abe Fisher | <input type="checkbox"/> Sue Felshin | <input type="checkbox"/> David Harris |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ellie Hutchinson | <input type="checkbox"/> Jerry Jaquinto | <input type="checkbox"/> Matt Mees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beth Mixer | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |





Yorktown, VA

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Sudbury, MA 01776*