



N° 44

GAZETTE FRANÇOISE.

Du May 2007

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

On the banks of Fort #208

Ensnconced in the ramparts, warm and most of all, dry, I write my monthly reflections. With the help of Captain Rock to lead us, we successfully completed our roles in the annual Battle Road celebration at the Minuteman National Heritage Park and forced the British back to Boston. Unfortunately, the Concord celebration on Monday, April 16th was cancelled due to the heavy rains that morning. The Minuteman statue was still nearly an island on Thursday when the Sudbury Companies of Minute and Militia arrived and there were several feet of water on the path from Buttrick Mansion. There are no plans to re-schedule this event later on.

We find ourselves nearly one third of the way through the season. Next up is a rolling party at the Community Hall at Frank Marini's complex on the evening of May 16th. We will need many rounds for the rest of the season so please, bring your enthusiasm, supplies, and good humor to create as productive a session as possible. As Frankie Laine would say, "Keep rolling, rolling, rolling, Keep those fingers rolling." (Sorry, wrong era!)

We will need to know definite numbers for the Bordentown event very soon. You can help make things go more smoothly and have fewer missteps if you let us know of your intentions as soon as possible. The numbers that were submitted for the registration were based on the show of hands at the meeting. To those of you who have responded, our many thanks for setting the example. If you have changed your mind, don't remember, or cannot participate, please help our planners and let them know if you are planning to attend (or not), will you be camping and if you will be taking meals with the regiment. Many complaints on Monday can easily be avoided with just a few minutes to send an e-mail or a phone call. The first call was sent a month

ago. As a member of the regiment, don't make us chase you for information that is vital.

On May 20th, there will be a drill at the Golden Ball Tavern in Weston. This will give us a chance to take the rust off our movements and out of our brains in addition to having a good time. We will also be celebrating Bastille Day, July 14th, at the Wayside Inn., at 6:00 PM. This is a good time for us all to get together as a regiment to just let loose and have a good time together. Remember to save the date! The details appear in another part of the Gazette.

My thanks to the officers and the Board of Directors who have been helping me every step of the way. I appreciate all the wisdom and advice I have received so far and am confident they will continue to support me. I hope to see all my friends soon.

Ellie Hutchinson
President, 85th Regiment de Saintonge

*Le RAPPORT du CAPITAINE,
Captain's Report*

Thank you everyone for all of your support and participation in at Battle Road. Once again we had a very successful day. I have good things from the Crown Forces and the National Park. The Battle Road Committee will be getting together in the coming weeks to review the event, and start planning for 2008. In all likelihood, we will be again asked to help coordinate the CCC for 2008. Even though the CCC didn't happen this year due to rain, we are confident that the new scenario will be successful.

I will be heading over to England and France during the middle of the month. . If anyone has any special requests of items for me to bring back, please let me know. Due to my trip I will be missing the Lafayette

Day Commemoration, the Drill at Golden Ball and the Memorial Day Parade in Somerville. I have asked Steven to take command at the Lafayette Day Ceremonies; also I have asked Abe to command at Golden Ball and for the parade.

See you all at the Rolling Party.

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



ÉVÉNEMENTS PROCHAINS, *Upcoming Events*

CARTRIDGE ROLLING PARTY, Wednesday

May 16th ~ **Arrival:** I would like everyone to arrive as close to 7pm as possible. We have approximately 14 lbs of powder to roll, so we need to start as early as possible. If you are feeling ambitious, feel free to roll some tubes before arriving. **Directions:** 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.



LAFAYETTE DAY, Saturday May 19th ~

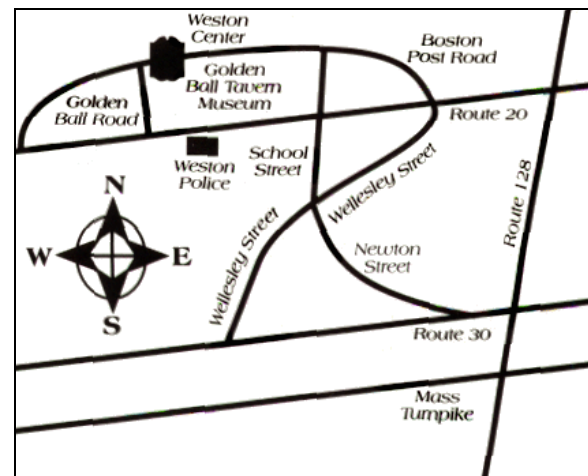
Arrival: We will need to meet on the Boston common at a tent near the visitor's center no later than 10:30. Parking is everyman for himself since they need to reserve spaces for the families of the medal recipients and the Air Force Band. **Directions:** From 495 take exit 22 for I-90 East. Follow the Mass Pike to 24A towards South Station. Keep left at the fork to continue toward

Kneeland St. Turn left at Kneeland St. Then turn right at Washington St. Next turn left at West St. Finally turn left at Tremont St. **Details:** You may have heard rumors, but now it's true. We have been invited by the French Consul, Francoise Gauthier, to participate in Lafayette Day, Saturday, May 19th, on the common in Boston. We need to bring the colors, flag stands, muskets and powder since we'll be passing in review and also firing salutes to the US soldiers who died in Europe and are receiving the French Medal of honor. This is the link to the website: http://www.consulfrance-boston.org/article.php3?id_article=1044



GOLDEN BALL DRILL, Sunday May 20 ~

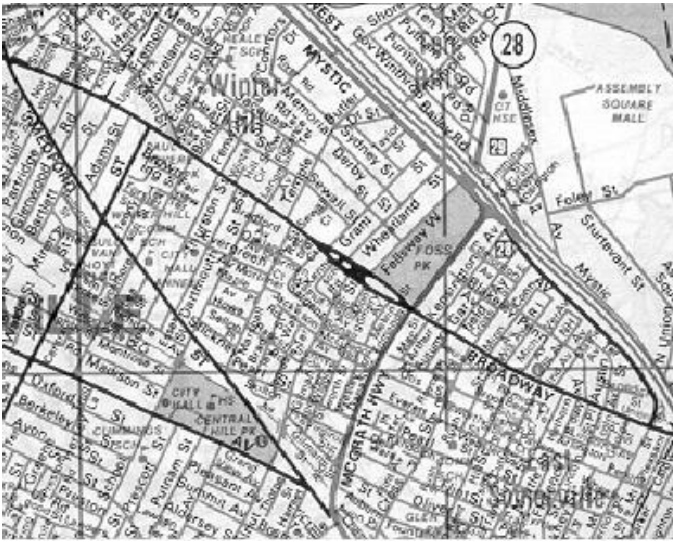
Arrival: The event will be held at the Golden Ball in Weston, MA from 1pm to 4 pm on Sunday May 20th. Please plan on arriving slightly before 1pm, so we can kick off the event on time. **Details:** On May 20th, there will be a drill at the Golden Ball Tavern in Weston. This will give us a chance to take the rust off our movements and out of our brains in addition to having a good time. **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.



SOMERVILLE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE,

Sunday, May 27. ~ Arrival:

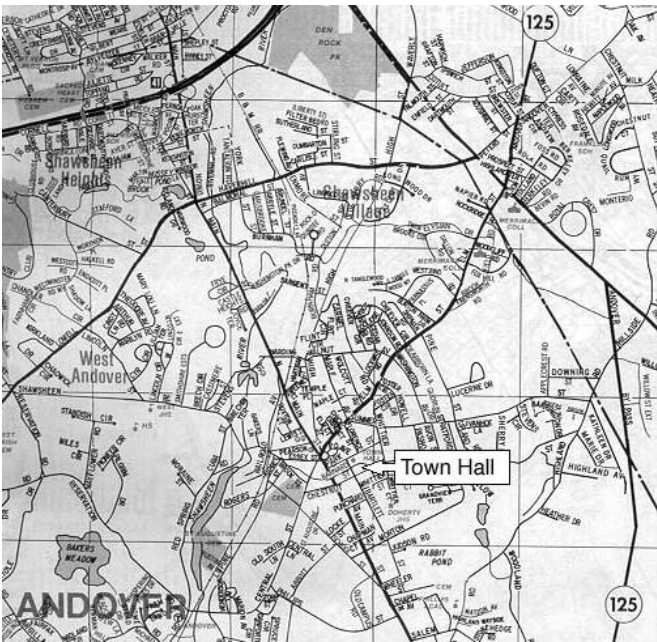
Meet at City Hall (Highland & School Streets) at 12:00 for a 1 pm step-off. Parking will be at the Dilboy Field. **Directions:** Take Route 2 East towards Boston. Turn Left on to Rt 16. Follow Rt 16 for 2 miles, the Dilboy Field will on the left. Shuttles to the High School end around 12:00pm.



Details: We are marching as French with white gaiters. Please make sure to bring a full canteen. The parade is about 1-1/2 miles and finishes with a brief ceremony at the Veterans Cemetery. If there's any interest, we can head out for dinner after the parade.



ANDOVER MEMORIAL DAY PARADE,
Monday, May 28. ~ **Arrival:** Assemble at 8:45 for a 9:30 step-off. **Directions:** Assemble & park behind the old Town Hall on Rte. 28. A larger map image can be found on saintonge.org.



Details: Same as previous years: great parade, *very* short route (8 blocks) with an excellent ceremony to remind us why we're doing this. And lunch provided by the sponsors before we head to Medford. Dress is French, white gaiters, full canteens.



ÉVÈNEMENTS RÉALISÉS,
Past Event

Battle Road 2007

Providence smiled upon us once again, as the weather broke for that shiny Saturday. The familiar sights and sounds of friends new and old were indeed welcome, and it felt great to shake off the winter rust. Well, it always feels great to be in Minuteman Park regardless!

After powder was brought to the park magazine and the provincial forces formed into companies, the first task of the day was the safety inspection. New this year was the use of a sticker indicating an inspected and acceptable musket (if not an acceptable operator!)

Following inspection, there was ample opportunity to engage in conversation or browse the few sutlers that were on site. The Brits were showing off to the crowd, demonstrating a firing and advancing tactical maneuver, and some of the provincials were going through a formation and weapon drill.

As we waited for the main tactical scheduled for that afternoon, two brave and foolhardy revolutionaries (Pvt. Will and yours truly) successfully penetrated the perimeter defenses of the British camp to reconnoiter. We observed the usual flurry of activity, some appealing cuisine, as well as an artillery display courtesy of the Royal Irish Artillery. After gaining useful information about their artillery technology, we managed to sneak back into friendly territory, as the British picket was otherwise engaged and harassing other honorable citizens.

After an adequate nooning, the main event of the day began to unfold. Our companies formed up and deployed down the battle road, past the Bloody Angle to our first position. My company was among the first to engage. As the enemy approached, the anticipation was palpable and the men anxious. We fired several rounds, and were then on our way at a rapid pace through the dense and prickly woods in an attempt to get ahead of the advance.

Confusion reigned as some of our squad lost their way through the brush. We managed to emerge somewhere in the west field area, and began to alternate firing lines by going into the field to snipe and then returning to the cover of the woods. The enemy continued his scattered and erratic progress down the road.

We completed the action by reforming companies in the west field near the Hartwell Tavern and firing a few final rounds at the retreating British infantry. Others of our forces had successfully pushed the King's services into and beyond the east field, until they were forced to withdraw by the arrival of the aforementioned enemy artillery pieces. The victory of the day was ours again, notwithstanding!



GALERIE des IMAGES,
Picture Gallery





A little bit of History.

The Régiment DE Saintonge, 1781

The regiment was founded in 1684 and was led by 13 colonels until it was reformed in 1792. In 1775, the older de Cambrésis regiment was merged with Saintonge and subsequently formed its second battalion. In '81 the *Colonel* was the **viscount de Custine de Sarrèck** and the *Colonel en second* was the **comte de Castries de Charlus**. There was one *Lieutenant-colonel*, the chevalier **Chandron de la Valette**, and one *Major*, Teisseydre de Fleury, who in 1779 tore the British colors from the ramparts of Stony Point. There was also one *Quartier-maitre trésorier*, **Bernard La Fage**.

The regiment was composed of 10 companies which included 1 of *Grenadiers*, 1 of *Chasseurs*, and 8 of *Fusiliers*. The companies were named after their *Capitaines commandants*: **de Beaumont, Bedee, de Brie, Corbiere, Duchesne, de la Falnere, de Ferrette, de la Folnere, des Forets** and **Wouves**. There were 10 other *Capitaines commandants* with the above as well as 10 *Lietenants en premier*, 10 *Lieutenants en second* and 17 *Sous-Lieutenants*.

There were 160 Grenadiers, 125 Chasseurs and 974 Fusiliers which gave us 1,259 enlisted men under 64 officers. There were also 4 "followers of Thomas Balch". I think this is the Virginia Balch, not the one from Dedham, but I need to do more work to uncover his identity and importance.

While the soldiers came from nearly every province in France, there are only 5 from Saintonge. The greatest number came from Lorraine, followed by Picardie, Bretagne, Franche-Comté and Champagne. Little Artois supplied only a few less than Champagne. Luxembourg and Nüremburg each offered 1 of their sons and the Comtat Venaissin, the Papal state of Avignon, provided 2 to the French army.

It has been reported that ¼ of the French soldiers did not speak French as we recognize it. Probably the troops from Bretagne, Lorraine, Languedoc and Provence would be included in that number although each region during this period still had its patois which may or may not have passed for French in Ile de France.

Two-thirds of the men were under 30 years of age. They ranged from 17 (5) to 65 (a grenadier). 52 died in Newport, 9 in Providence, 7 in Williamsburg and York. Twelve died aboard ships and "at sea" and 4 died in New York on their return from Virginia.

Smallpox undoubtedly accounted for some of these deaths, especially in Newport. North America was in the clutches of a smallpox pandemic at the time and while Europeans were more resistant to the virus than Continentals, it could still take its toll among the younger troopers.

The document I am getting this information from was entered into the record of the 58th US Congress and typically lists the men in this manner:

Gilbert (Denis), dit Laramée, né à Champlitte [Franche-Comté] (1758), S. 1er déc. 1778.

The "S." is the date of entering the service. There can also be a retirement date or death date, with location, if before 1784.

The names are not listed in alphabetical order, neither are they listed by birth, enlistment, dismissal dates or by province. Even brothers (men sharing same family name, close in age with the same enlistment date and location) are not listed together. They might be listed at random. They might be listed by order of march or height.

But we know something else about fusilier Gilbert. He had a nickname. Nearly 1/3 of all the men listed had nicknames which are listed in the roster. I do not know the significance of this, outside of respect for the individual or esprit de corps. The names are nearly all repeated from company to company although none are repeated within any given company. These names are a window into another world.

There are names given for location, such as *Nantais, Saint Privat or Bologne*. Some are descriptions of character: *La Douceur, Tranquille, La Flamme, La Clef des Cœurs, La Roche*.

We have vegetable names. Our friend Denis, called *Laramée*, for instance. His name means, barring some idiomatic morphing, *Leafy Branch*. He served alongside *La Tulipe, Fleur d'Oranger, Fleur d'Epine* as well as *La Fleur, JoliBois* and *La Roze*. I think *BrindAmour*, (Sprig of Love), and *La Giroflée*, (Wallflower), were not necessarily referring to plants.

Names of martial aspects were represented. *La Lance, La Giberne* (Cartridge Box), *La Bombe, La Grenade, Fort Château* march with the more abstract *Sans Quartier, Sans Remission, Vaucouleurs, La Tourmente, La Liberté, La France*.

Nicknames have a life of their own. *Bellaire, La Fortune, La Jeunesse, La Forme, La Détante* (Slow on

the Uptake), *Belle-rose*, *Printemps*, *Boulangier*, *Joilcoeur* and his pal, no doubt, *Vive l'Amour* were all together in Yorktown.

Some of the names are so personal as to be puzzling to me. Claude Mathe from La Chapelle sous Chauv in Alsace was called *Vincent*. Etienne Roussely of Monac (Limosin) was called *Martin*. Pierre Meriadee of Moulaix would answer to *Saint-Amant*.

Francois Lasaigne of Aurillac in Auvergne was *Versailles* to his mess-mates (groups of 12) and Jean Ferrier of Angoulême was also known as *Paul*.

Some of the soldats sound like fun. I could sit at the fire with *Belhumeur*, *L'Amiable*, *Pret à Boire* and *L'Ami*. But I would think twice before swapping pints of eau de vie with *César*, *Ciseaux*, *L'Eveillé* (Alert) and *La Déroute* (The Rout) or *JoilFleur*, *La Tendresse*, *La Forme*, *Lagrandeur*, *La Couture* and *Sans-Terre*.

The names are familiar. I assume that using the feminine of the word is similar to the Townie adding "Y" to a name. "So I was telling Bobby that him and Matty couldn't use Franky's pahkin space." I wonder how much irony is involved in the names. Were all the *Sans-Peur* fearless, *Constant* constant or *Tailleur* tall? Was Noël Teyesse of Anjou really a hayseed (*Rustique*)?

There were some names you would think were nicknames, but were not such as Hilaire Petitemanche or Remi Menu of Reims. I can just imagine the name that would be pinned on the Normand from the village of Moron if he were in my shop.

In the end, I have more questions than I had started out with. Tabulating the age and recruitment locations has raised questions of demographics and geography. I would really like to find a large map of pre revolutionary provinces. Were the Trois-Èvèchés part of Lorraine? How were the men recruited? What did the name signify if so few came from the province? Why are the men listed as they are in the roster? Is there an idiomatic dictionary for those nicknames? Why all the flower names? Does the army carry on the tradition of nicknames? I leave these questions for now and submit one last name by way of dedication to this project:

Carrière (Jean-Bernard), né à Toulouse (1756), S. 27 oct. 1773, congédié [honorably discharged] le 6 juill. 1783.

Mees (Matthew)

85ème Régiment de Saintonge
2007 Governing Board

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Abe Fisher – Fusilier Coy

Bill Rose – Grenadier

Dwight Dixon – Chasseur Coy



85ème Régiment de Saintonge

Post Office Box 854

Sudbury, MA 01776

www.saintonge.org



*Le PROGRAMME,
The Office schedule for 2007*

WORK PARTIES

| Date | Unit | Event |
|--------|------|---|
| May 16 | All | Cartridge Rolling Party, 7:00pm Berlin, MA |

If you would like to take lead on a work party, please contact either Dana Rock: stonge85@comcast.net or Ellie Hutchinson: ehutchinson@webconverting.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 31 | All | Drill / Muster Day Hartwell Tavern, Lexington MA |

2007 EVENTS

Recommend Events are indicated by bold text

| Date | Unit | Event |
|----------------|-----------------|--|
| Mar 18 | 85eme | Evacuation Day Parade Boston, MA |
| Mar 31 | 4 th | Muster Day Lexington, MA |
| April 14 | 4 th | Battle Road Lexington, MA |
| April 16 | 4 th | Old North Bridge Concord, MA |
| May 19 | 85eme | Lafayette Day Boston, MA |
| May 20 | 85eme | Golden Ball Drill Weston, MA |
| May 27 | 85eme | Memorial Day Parade Somerville, MA |
| May 28 | 85eme | Memorial Day Parade Andover, MA |
| May 28 | 85eme | Memorial Day Parade Medford, MA |
| Jun 9 & 10 | 85eme | Battle of Bordentown Bordentown, NJ |
| Jun 23 & 24 | 85eme | LaKermesse Festival Biddeford, ME |
| Jun 31 & Jul 1 | 4 th | Camp Cambridge at Hartwell Lexington, MA |
| Aug 4 & 5 | 85eme | Redcoats to Rebels Sturbridge, MA |
| Aug 18 | 85eme? | Fort Taber New Bedford, MA |
| Sept 3 | 85eme | Labor Day Parade Marlborough, MA |
| Sept 8 & 9 | 4 th | Fort Ticonderoga Ticonderoga, NY |
| Sept 29 | 85eme | Sudbury Muster Sudbury, MA |
| Sept 29 & 30 | 85eme | Mount Vernon Mount Vernon, VA |
| Oct 6 & 7 | 4 th | Saratoga Saratoga, NY |
| Oct 20 & 21 | 4 th | Rock Ford Plantation Lancaster, PA |



Battle Road 2007

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