



N° 56

GAZETTE FRANÇOISE.

Du mai 2008

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

Viburnum Shades, Sutton
May 1, 2008

Bonjour, mes amis!

We are now entering the 2008 season and I am looking forward to it immensely. It's always a sign of spring when the gear is being assessed, repaired and put in order and the tents are being aired out in anticipation of the first event of the season. We can put our toes in the pond at the Rebecca Nurse house on May 3rd and brush up our presentation at a joint drill with the Bourbonnais Regiment in Berkeley on May 10th. From there it's on to parades and then our first hosting of an event in a very long time at West Boylston, MA the first weekend in June. Steven Taskovics has been quite busy putting the final details together and the response has been just great! There will be some competitions for the Strawberry Banke Cup, so the joint drill on May 10th will be a good time to brush up on our presentation.

The response to this year's Battle Road Exercise was spectacular. The spectators saw a great performance, the Park Rangers were happy with the show and the day, Tower Park was marvelous, and we were all exhausted at the end of the day. At the party in the barn behind Hartwell Tavern, Jim Hollister had roughly fifty to sixty people quaffing gourmet beer and it was dusk when the party started to slow down. There was no difficulty falling asleep that night, except for a little bit of excitement that comes with a fun day.

I plan on having a spring trailer party when we have some good weather on a free weekend, so watch for the e-mail with a date. It will be on short notice, so keep checking your e-mail.

**IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ THE
FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH!**

And writing about the upcoming season brings up the topic of replying with one's intentions to attend each event. Without a doubt, this is the most frustrating part of being part of the administration. There are several e-mails sent before each event asking for information about attendance. It has been brought to my attention that e-mail is NOT the most efficient way of gathering this information, so I am open to suggestions. Many times I get asked questions at the last moment that clearly reveal that some of us are too fast on the delete button or simply don't read the e-mails except for a quick skimming of the title message. Sometimes folks tell me they never heard of this or that detail when it appeared in more than one electronic communication. So please – have the courtesy to reply when an e-mail comes around asking whether or not you are going to attend an event, even if it's in the negative. It's only a quick few minutes and is a great help to those of us who need to plan for space and food. (For every person who tells me in person they read this paragraph I will give a gift certificate to Amazon.com.)

In closing, I'd like to remind everyone that you ALL have talents that we need in the regiment. Thankfully, we are able to share with each other.

Vive le Roi,
Ellie Hutchinson
President, 85eme Regiment de Saintonge



*Le RAPPORT du CAPITAINE,
Captain's Report*

Happy May everyone! The snow is gone, the flowers are out, and the warm weather is here. If you didn't already know, we have a very full schedule this month.

We start the month with a laid back relaxing event over at the Rebecca Nurse house in Danvers, MA. Following that is a fun-filled combined French Drill with our good friends in the Bourbonnais. Please plan on coming early for pastry, coffee, tea and juice.

The following weekend is Daniel Boone's Homestead. We have yet to get any details on this event, so this may be a no-go. Watch your email for details.

The weekend after Boone's is Memorial Day weekend. As you all know, we have two parades scheduled for the weekend. The first parade is on Sunday in Somerville, the second parade is on Monday in Andover. I strongly encourage a large attendance at these two parades. These two events are money-making events for the group, and everyone should attend. Remember, this is how we pay for our powder, materials, and parties.

Camp Woodhaven is approaching quickly. There is still a lot to do, so if you have any interest in helping out with this event, please contact Ellie Hutchinson or Steven Taskovics and ask what you can do to help.

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



*2nd Annual Bourbonnaif Drill
Saturday, May 10th, 2008*

Please note that the drill is scheduled to start at 11 AM; this implies that troops are on site, in uniform and standing in ranks ready to receive the command "guard à vous!" at 11 AM.

In an effort to encourage folks to arrive in time for this to happen we are prepared to offer a modest brunch, to be served between 9:30 AM and 10:45 AM consisting of:

- ❖ coffee/tea/juice
- ❖ donuts, scones & jam
- ❖ whatever else we can find

All Bourbonnais are invited even if you don't feel up to drilling (do you have a note from your doctor?? ha ha). Please come to cheer us on as we ready for a busy season ahead.

NOTE: this location is on the Taunton River. No swimming is permitted and if you bring young kids, please keep watch over them!

You should bring your own:

- eating and drinking utensils
- lawn/camp chairs
- water for canteens

Most likely we will have visitors from the neighborhood and town who have been invited by our hosts to watch us drill. They may come into our "camp" to observe and ask questions so we should attempt to convey our 18th century impression whenever and wherever practicable.

The **schedule** is loosely drill, break for lunch (provided), drill some more, break for dessert, and perhaps a final drill or just relax before breaking camp. When the commanders get together that morning the timing of all this will be clearer (we can tailor the day any way we choose).

Address and directions: (feel free to Mapquest!)

Andrea/Kenneth Pontes
725 Berkley St.
Berkley, MA 02779

From the *North*:

- Berkley, MA is in Southeastern Massachusetts. Find your way to **Rt. 24 South** by best way, from Rt. 495 South, Rt. 93 South, Rt. 95/93 South or whatever works for you.
- From **Rt. 24 South** take Exit 11 - Padelford St. (pronounced "pah-DELL-fud") toward Berkley/Dighton.
- Turn slightly right onto Padelford St.
- Padelford St. becomes Porter St.
- Porter St. becomes South Main St.
- Turn right onto Elm St.
- Turn left onto Berkley St. It's before the bridge, if you go over the bridge you have gone past Berkley St.

From the *South*:

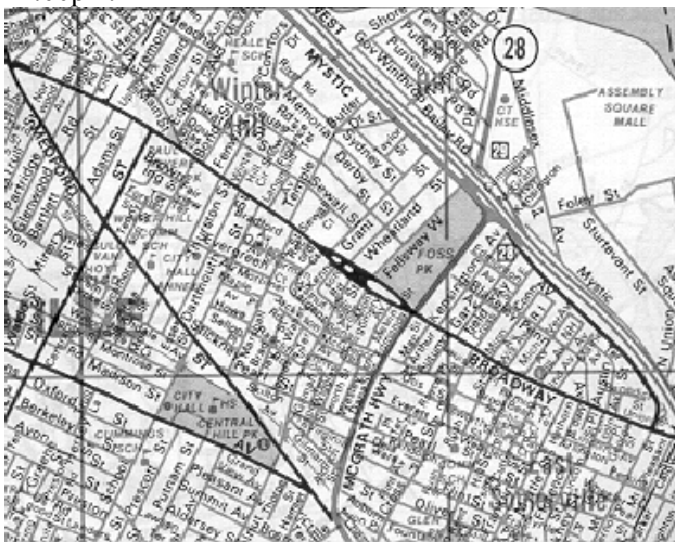
- Berkley, MA is in Southeastern Massachusetts. Find your way to **Rt. 24 North** by best way, from Rt. 95 North, Rt. 195 or whatever works for you.
- From **Rt. 24 North** take Exit 10 – North Main St., toward Assonet/Dighton.
- Take the No. Main St. ramp toward Assonet Neck/Dighton.
- Turn right onto North Main St.
- Turn left onto Elm St.
- Turn left onto Berkley St. It's before the bridge, if you go over the bridge you have gone past Berkley St.

The house is immediately on the right after turning onto Berkley St. Look for green mailbox. House is a 2-story, white, circa 1812 center chimney cape. Drive up the dirt driveway or to the left of it over the grass to unload your stuff if you need to, but park in the small lot behind the house that you passed when you turned onto Berkley Street. Please do not park on Berkley Street.



Memorial Day Parades

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.

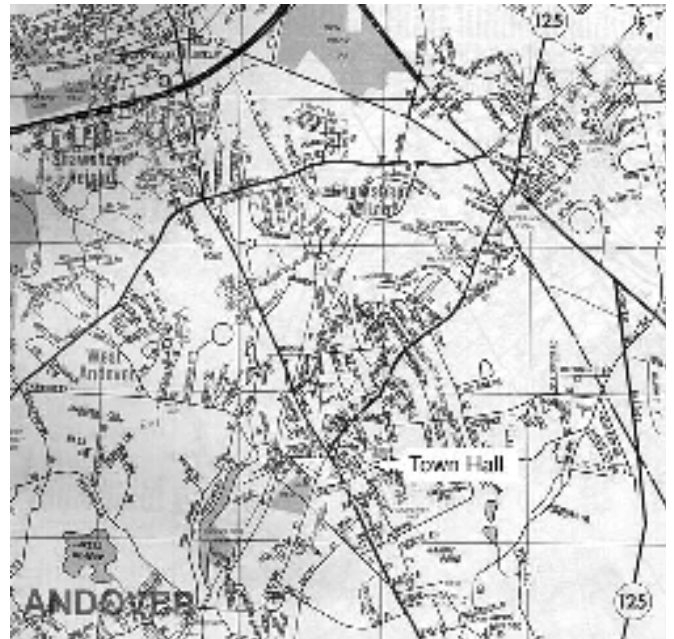


Details: We are marching as French with white gaiters. Please make sure to bring a full canteen. The parade is

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.



*West Boylston Bicentennial and the
Battle at Camp Woodhaven
June 7-8, 2008*

Scenario and Event Overview

Late in the War for American Independence, area militias and the citizens and of West Boylston have heard that a British Force supported by artillery has come South from Canada. There is a fear that this British Force may be after the supplies that are located in West Boylston. New England troops returning home from the Highlands and a few French troops returning from the South have been engaged in reconnaissance missions to ascertain the strength of the British Force. When the British surprise the gathered French and American troops a battle ensues for the supplies needed by both sides.

This reenactment scenario will be part of the presentation for the West Boylston Bicentennial Celebration. It will include encampments on the town common and the Bigelow Tavern. We will also have use of the Bigelow Tavern for the participants on Saturday night. The Bigelow Tavern is an original building that was actually used during the Revolution as a gathering place. The original chalk drawings depicting the trial and execution of Bathsheba Spooner and her accomplices for the mid-war murder of her husband can still be found in the attic. This tavern will be used by the Ladies of Refined Taste for their excellent demonstrations during the day.

The battle and tactical will be held on private land at Camp Woodhaven approximately 1.5 miles from the common. Camp Woodhaven encompasses 65 Acres - not including the addition of adjacent land next to the camp that will be made available by the time of the battle. Terrain varies from woods with trails and limited undergrowth to open fields. Responses from the walk-through in the early spring were either "wow" or "amazing". We are working with the owner to facilitate the availability of this site for later events, not necessarily tied in with the Town, for our own tacticals. Transportation will be provided starting at 9:30 AM from the camps to the battle/tactical site.

Schedule of Events:

Friday, June 6th Registration and set up for participants and sutlers. Registration will be at the

Catholic Church next to the Common from 12 Noon to 9PM on Friday and 7:30AM to 10:00AM on Saturday. There will be a group of reenactors providing interpretation for the West Boylston schools. If interested volunteers may contact Steven Taskovics or Ellie Hutchinson (contact information at the end of this document).

Saturday, June 7th

7:30 – 10:00: Registration at the Catholic Church next to the Common

9:00 – 9:30: Re-Dedication Ceremony of memorials to West Boylston Revolutionary War Veterans.

9:30 – 5:30: Buses to and from the Common and outer parking lots to the battle site at Camp Woodhaven.

10:00 – 5:00: Ladies of Refined Taste expose to the Bigelow Tavern to exquisite taste and polite gossip.

10:00 – Noon: Morning Tactical exercises at Camp Woodhaven.

Noon – 12:45: Nooning at Camp Woodhaven.

12:45 – 1:15: Troops form for the Battle of West Boylston

1:15 – 2:15: Battle of West Boylston

2:15 – 2:45: Pass in Review

2:45 – 4:45: Afternoon Tactical Exercises at Camp Woodhaven.

4:30 – 5:30: Board Buses back to Town Center.

4:30 – 6:30: Saturday evening meal - free of charge to participants – Masonic Hall across from Town Common and British Encampment.

7:00 – 9:00: Concert on the Common – Middlesex County Volunteers Fifes and Drums

3:00 – 9:00: Beverage tent open on Common

10:00 – 10:00: Food vendors open on Common

Sunday, June 8th

9:00 – 9:30: Church services on the town common.

10:00 – 11:30: Units drill in preparation for competition – camp sites and town common.

11:30 – Noon: Nooning.

12:30 – 2:00: Competition for Strawberry Banke and Boston Garrison Cups. Drill and Maneuver competitions on Town Green and Town Common. Competition may go longer than 2:00 depending on number of participants.

2:30 – 3:00: "Last Man Standing" speed firing competition at the Town Green wall at cemetery.

3:00 – 3:30: Results of competition and awarding of Strawberry Banke and Boston Garrison cups and prize for the "Last Man Standing".

Break camp at 3:30 PM - safe trip home.

Registration:

Registration will start on Noon Friday, June 6, 2008 at the Our Lady of Good Counsel Church located at 111 Worcester Street (Rte 140) in West Boylston near the

common and the Cemetery. Tables will be manned by town volunteers and reenactors until 9:00 PM on Friday June 6 and will resume at 7:30 AM on Saturday June 7. It is important that all participants register to determine proper counts for the tactical, receive tickets for the Saturday evening supper and libations, and to receive any final information and parking passes. (Note – The Town has volunteers registering the reenactors)

Camps:

The Allied Camp (Continental Line and Artillery, Militia, and French) will be located at the Bigelow Tavern. The Crown Camp (British Line and Artillery, Loyalist, and German) will be located at the Town Green between Church and Central Streets. Modern camping – if needed – will be behind the Masonic Hall on Church Street. All sites are grassed and flat.

Amenities:

The town will be providing the typical amenities of wood, water, and hay. Water will be town water through manifold distribution at the Tavern and Green sites. Porta-potties and wash basin stands will be set-up behind the Tavern at Masonic Hall and at Camp Woodhaven. They will be cleaned at regular intervals throughout the weekend. Running water will be available all day. The concession stand at Camp Woodhaven will be open, however it is recommended that all tactical and battle participants pack a haversack meal similar to the events at Battle Road. There will be limited or no opportunities to return to camp once the tacticals and battle have begun.

Parking and Transportation:

All reenactors will be parked at lots within a 2-3 minute walk from the camp sites. At both the Tavern and Green sites, there is temporary parking close to the camp sites to facilitate off-loading of gear. Due to the rough camping areas available at Camp Woodhaven, all camping will be at the Tavern, Green, or behind the Masonic Hall. The Town will provide a locked lot at the DPW for trailered artillery pieces to facilitate transport on Saturday to the Camp Woodhaven site. Parking for artillery trailers will be available at Camp Woodhaven on Saturday. Once cars are parked, transportation will be provided to and from the battlefield for the reenactors and the public since there is limited or no places to park at Camp Woodhaven.

Safety and Security:

Once camps are set-up starting Friday afternoon, there will be police and security details at both camps. An EMT/Ambulance and fire apparatus will be available at

the Camp Woodhaven site in case of an emergency involving either the public or reenactors or in the event that a small grass fire should start from either the musket firing or the artillery.

All firing permits have been drawn by a member of the Crown Forces. Both the Police and Fire Chiefs have attended planning meetings and are well aware of and support the events during the weekend. Battle areas will be roped or taped off for public around the permanent buildings at Camp Woodhaven.

Food and Entertainment:

There will be a ham and bean supper provided to all pre-registered participants provided by the Town on Saturday Evening between 4:30 to 6:30. Four seatings will be scheduled for all reenactors and dependants. The organizers and the host groups are working on providing libations to the reenactors at the Tavern prior and after the Fife and Drum concert on the common.

A concert of period fife and drum music will be provided by the Middlesex County Volunteers from 7:00 to roughly 9:00 PM.

Drill, Maneuver, and Firing Competitions

Due to the cost of transport, the Town can only afford one day of transportation for the participants and spectators. To make the weekend an interesting event, the Strawberry Banke and Boston Garrison Cup competitions will be held on Sunday. The three main events will be execution of drill, maneuvers, and firing. Teams will be a minimum of 5 men at arms and one officer or sergeant. Music is not included in the team count; however, musicians are encouraged to participate as part of their unit.

For the drill competition, each unit will be judged on the execution of their drill based on their manual. All published elements of your drill will have to be executed – including that of the bayonet, since this is late war. Units will be judged on accuracy of drill, execution of all elements, discipline, and bearing.

For the maneuver competition, each unit will be judged on the execution of maneuvers based on their drill. At a minimum, maneuvers will include all facings while standing, wheels, obliques, marching in line and column, passing defiles, and bayonet charges. Units will be judged on accuracy of maneuvers, dress, execution of all elements, discipline, and bearing.

For the drill and maneuver competitions, additional or unique elements will add to the score, but will also

detract from the score if not executed properly. As usual, bribery of the judges will not be discouraged.

For the firing competition, each unit will be judged on how fast a unit can safely fire five rammed charges. All units will fire with two ranks standing. The first round will be loaded by vocal command with all evolutions executed. Time for the remaining rapid fire rounds will start when the command to fire is given by the commanding officer/sergeant of the unit. Units will be judged on crispness of firing, execution of all elements, discipline, and bearing. Deductions will be awarded for each mis-fire and dropped rounds. Units not firing in a safe manner will be disqualified.

The final event is known as “The Last Man Standing”. All registered participants, including members not part of a team, are encouraged to participate. This event will determine the fastest individual within the British Brigade or Continental Line. Time will begin at 35 seconds and count down by 5 seconds until 25 seconds. Time will count down by one second thereafter until there is a last man standing. Time starts from the firing position and ends when the musket is at the shoulder. If time is called –usually through a whistle blow - before the musket is at the shoulder, that individual is disqualified. When the musket is fired, if there is a mis-fire, that individual is disqualified. An individual moves to the next round only when the musket has got to the shoulder within the allotted time and has discharged. If the top three individuals are part of a participating competitive unit, then points will be awarded to each unit that the individual is part of.

At the end of the competition, the Strawberry Banke and Boston Garrison Cups will be awarded as well as the prize for “The Last Man Standing”.

Complete rules will be forwarded to all unit commanders by early May. If there is a member of your unit that would like to be a judge/referee for the competition, then let Steven or Ellie know.

Directions

The Registration site will be at Our Lady of Good Counsel church located at 111 Worcester Street in West Boylston MA. The directions are fairly straightforward; however signs guiding participants will be provided to help direct folks to the Tavern and the Common.

Coming from the East

Take 495 to Exit 25 for I-290 West. Follow I-290 W to Exit 23B - RT-140N. Follow Route 140N into West Boylston for approximately 5 miles. Before the center of town, bear right into the parking lot of Our Lady of

Good Counsel church. You will be given a packet upon registration that contains a map directing you to camp sites and parking lots for re-enactors.

Coming from the West via Mass Turnpike (RT 90)

Take RT 90 to I-290 East. Follow I-290 E to Exit 23B - RT-140N. Follow Route 140N into West Boylston for approximately 5 miles. Before the center of town, bear right into the parking lot of Our Lady of Good Counsel church. You will be given a packet upon registration that contains a map directing you to camp sites and parking lots for re-enactors.

Coming Via RT 190

Take 190 to Exit 5 (W. Boylston/Princeton) to West Boylston. Take Rt 140 South. Follow Rt 140 South over the bridge following the road left onto Worcester Street (which is still RT 140 South). At the light in the center of town, bear left onto Worcester St. and pull into Our Lady of Good Counsel Church parking lot.

Need Additional Information?

For more information, please contact Steve Taskovics at frenchifer@yahoo.com or Ellie Hutchinson @ ehutchinson@yahoo.com.

Steven Taskovics



After Action Report: Battle Road Exercise

This year's Battle Road Exercise was very special. Not only was the overall command of the event in the hands of the 4th Middlesex, but this year's event actually fell on the 233rd anniversary of the first battles of the American Revolution – April 19.

For some of us, the day started in Wayland re-enacting the first portion for the march of the Sudbury Company from Wayland into Sudbury. For other people, the day started in the center of Sudbury, re-enacting the march of the rest of the Sudbury Company from Sudbury to Concord. Then there were others who started the day at the Concord Commemorative Celebration (CCC) at the North Bridge in Concord, while the remaining members of the militia started their day at the Hartwell Tavern in Lincoln.

But no matter where your day started it ended up in the same place – on the Battle Road outside of the Hartwell Tavern. And for the second year I had the honor and privilege to be asked to be part of the rear guard that is supposed to harass the British as they come marching up the road back to Boston. There were two separate companies under the overall command of Bill Rose. One company was under the command of Corporal Adam Carriere and the other under Sergeant Dwight Dixon. The action started by the British marching out while we “hid” in the cover provided by the trees. Once the British moved forward it was our job to give them chase. And chase them we did.

While I cannot say what it looked like from the crowd, from my perspective, it was as close as I had ever been to feeling like I was actually at the original battle. We would fire and then advance to the cover of another tree, then fire again. The constant rate of fire just sent chills down my spine. We were climbing over the stone walls (very carefully as to not disturb the walls per the park guidelines) and using the walls as cover. This is really why we do the hobby in my opinion. To get this feeling, to let it overtake you.

Once we got into the field closest to the tavern we met up with another company who had come out of the woods (just like the Minutemen did 233 years ago!) and fired a final volley to close out the action on the Battle Road. Before the end of the day at Minuteman Park the commanders were told that this was the best rear guard action in a very long time – and even though my musket was dead to the world by the end of the scenario it was

well worth it just to hear the park officials say it was a great day!

Brian Mixer



Le Mot Juste The Correct Word

(Substitute the English word for the French)

After a hot day in the field, our friend, Prete de Boire, returns to the auvent, finds the *seaux* empty and goes to the source to fill them. This makes everyone happy.

He then takes a turn preparing *haricots vert* for dinner. First, *les haricots* are trimmed at both ends and dropped in water which is *a ebullition*. When the skins have darkened sufficiently, *les haricots* are poured into a *passoire* and then tipped into a *poele a saute* with *sel, un morceau de beurre* and a little *d'ail hache*.

There is always a debate as to whether we should add *fromage rape, le vinaigre* or *les amandes couper en tranches*. Old *Prete de Boire* shrugs, thinking that there can be no disputing matters of taste.

English Words: **saute pan, salt, green beans garlic almonds, chopped, grated, ready to drink,cheese, colander, boiling, piece of butter, sliced, fly, buckets, vinegar.**

N.B. Extra credit will be awarded for the correct distribution of diacritical marks and any spelling corrections.

Correct answers next month!

YMHS,
Matthew Mees



Newsletter Fees Due

Newsletter fees are now due. If you are receiving a paper copy of the newsletter and you did not attend 2 or more events in 2007, we ask that you send in \$5.00 to the Regiment to help defer the cost of copying and postage.

Please make sure that you send in your check to:

Regiment de Saintonge
P.O. Box 854
Sudbury MA, 01776

Merci !

85ème Régiment de Saintonge 2008 Governing Board

President

Ellie Hutchinson

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Dana Rock

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Steven Taskovics

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Elizabeth Mees

Safety Officer

Carl Hutchinson

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Mathew Mees

Heather Taskovics

NCOs

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 Official schedule for 2008*

WORK PARTIES

Date	Unit	Event
Mar 13	All	Waistcoats & Gaiters S. Taskovics' house – Framingham, MA
Apr 2	All	Rolling Party Dave Harris' house – Lancaster, 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
	N/A	

2008 EVENT SCHEDULE

Recommend Events are indicated by bold text

Date	Unit	Event
Mar 16	85eme	Evacuation Day Parade Boston, MA
Mar 22	4 th	Muster Day Lexington, MA
April 19	4 th	Battle Road Lexington, MA

May 3	85eme	Rebecca Nurse Homestead Danvers, MA
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May 10	85eme	French Drill Berkley, MA
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May 17 & 18	4 th	Daniel Boone Homestead Birdsboro, PA
May 25	85eme	Memorial Day Parade Somerville, MA
May 26	85eme	Memorial Day Parade Andover, MA
May 31–June 1	4 th	Battle of Schoharie Blenheim, NY
June 6, 7 & 8	85eme	Camp Woodhaven West Boylston, MA
Jun 20 - 22	4 th	Battle of Monmouth Monmouth, NJ
Jun 27 -29	4 th	Fort Carillion Fort Ticonderoga, NY
Aug 2 & 3	85eme	From Redcoats to Rebels Strubridge, MA
Aug 23-24	85eme	Heritage Days Fall River, MA
Sept 1	85eme	Labor Day Parade Marlborough, MA
Sept 1	All	Regimental Birthday Party Taskovics' House
Sept 5,6 & 7	???	Fort Ticonderoga Fort Ticonderoga, NY
Sept 13	85eme	Rebecca Nurse Homestead Danvers, MA
Sept 13 – 14	4 th	Battle of Rhode Island Newport, RI
Sept 27	85eme	Sudbury Muster Sudbury, MA
Oct 17 – 19	85eme	Battle of the Hook Gloucester, VA
Nov 22	85eme	Plymouth Encampment Plymouth, MA



Battle Road March, April 19, 2008

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