



N° 63

# GAZETTE FRANÇOISE.

De l'avril 2009

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

Burbank Road, Sutton, MA  
April 1, 2009

Bonjour, mes comrades,

For a delightful change, we had marvelous weather for the Evacuation Day parade this year. This was Justin Follansbee's initiation into marching with Saintonge in a parade, so the weather gods were lulling him into a false sense of security. We had hot cornbread, courtesy of Nate Curtis, and we placed our orders for sandwiches to meet us at the end of the march. My thanks to Rick Lincoln who was willing to find out what the parade was all about to help us out. In return, we lent Frances and Adam to the Bourbonnais for a ceremony in Providence. There are photos as proof of their service in this newsletter. Adam was pressed into service as NCO and showed off his command ability.

Here's what we have lined up for the next few weeks:

**LAFAYETTE DAY – MAY 20<sup>th</sup>.** This is a repeat of the ceremony that we did on the Boston Common in 2007. We will be invited to the Union House for lunch afterwards, courtesy of the French Consulate and Francois Gauthier. If you are able to take the day off in the middle of the week, please consider attending. We are honoring those American Veterans who landed on D-Day in the midst of all the carnage and mayhem to fight for our freedom.

**MONTHLY DRILLS – 4<sup>TH</sup> WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH** – we are starting to focus on improving our drill and learning a few new maneuvers. The drills will be held at the Wayside Inn, starting at 6pm, rain or shine. Of course, the after action reports will be discussed over a beer or two in the tap room afterwards. Please come with a musket, cartridge box and your hat.

If you need loaners, just let me know. Our first drill was very successful and we were out until darkness fell. This is also a good time for us to try out new people to give commands, and receive proper harassment in return.

**BATTLE ROAD** – the guidelines for Battle Road this year have been posted on the Yahoo Groups website. Please make sure that you read these and understand the changes that have been made. While the Battle Road committee realizes that this information could have been sent out earlier, the idea is to continually improve the historical impression that the park gives. With new research constantly coming to light, the rules are amended and changed to keep our information as historically accurate as possible. Within the reenacting community, there is information, talent, resources and items of clothing that can all be taken advantage of to our benefit. It will be shame on us if we remain stagnant or complain when rules change and we are not willing to make the extra effort to change ourselves.

**TOWER PARK** – we will need to roll our own powder for this part of the day, so keep an eye out for dates on at least two more rolling parties. The more people who attend, the more rounds we can make!

I'd like to thank Adam, Matthew and Bill for taking the time to help show the proper 1764 drill to the Charlestown Militia, AKA Gardner's Regiment. We met in the top of an old building that was used by John Adams, Secretary of Defense. They were willing to learn the drill and marching maneuvers and were making plans for improving their firing drill as well. Again, this sharing of talent improves us all, not just the unit requesting help.

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



*Le RAPPORT du CAPITAINE*  
*Captain's Report*

Happy spring everyone! Just 3 weeks to go before the big event. Myles and Bill have been working very hard to get Battle Road ready to go on April 18<sup>th</sup>...so much for the dynamic duo stepping down from running Battle Road! It's a good thing that they haven't; they have done an excellent job in the past and this one is looking like the best yet. I'm hoping that we can have a large turnout for this event seeing it's in our back yard and many of our members are so involved with the planning and command structure. Please let me know if you are planning to attend.

As a side note, NPS will be providing powder for the bridge and Hartwell scenario, so please come with empty cartridge blocks.

As most of you know, after the tactical demonstration at the park, the battle will continue on to Tower Park. Alex Cain and his crew have been working tirelessly to get everything in place.

Thanks to everyone that came out to South Boston on March 15<sup>th</sup> for the evacuation day/St. Patrick's Day parade. The weather was fantastic, the crowd was better controlled, and we had a decent turnout with some good sounding volleys. Also I need to thank Carl, Kate and Nate for acquiring provisions at the end of the parade and carting us around South Boston to get back to our vehicles.

I hope to see everyone real soon.

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



*Money in Pre-Revolutionary America*

Part 1.

I could write an article saying only that nearly any commodity, parcel of land or nation's currency was legal tender in the 13 Colonies. That would be it; a short squib about the early history of our nation's money. It would, however, lack the emphasis that I mean nearly ANY commodity at ALL, ANY parcel of land or ANY nation's currency was Legal Tender for those folks of that far-off '75. The Colonies in the Americas were seen by their Masters as suppliers of specie, not independent economies which required currency, let alone their own currency. As far as North America was concerned, raw materials were supposed to travel east, to the Mother Country, where they were to be converted into manufactured products and then sold, in turn, to the Colonies. The Colonies were expected to pay for the manufactured goods with more raw materials. The Colonists, denied their own cash, pressed into service whatever they could to keep the local economies alive. An example of this occurred in Canada (Quebec) in 1685. The French Crown owed service pay to 1000 soldats stationed in New France. Each man was owed £30. The money was not forthcoming. Gathering £30,000 in coin, packaging and arranging for safe transport across France, the Atlantic and then Canada was slow and difficult. This does not mention the reluctance of locals to part with something of value and send it away, forever, to the other end of the world to who-knows-who.

Trade with the Natives was all about manufactured items for local raw materials. Pelts and local produce could be exchanged for local goods and necessities but merchants who supplied "Western" goods could accept only limited amounts of "kind" transactions. You could not trade grain for pelts. Les Sauvages demanded knives, pots, shot and powder for their trade items. The soldats were not in a position to produce much excess by way of raw materials and were almost completely helpless when it came to manufacture. The Colony sends raw materials to France and France sends finished goods back. The settlers and soldats wanted to live as they had in the "old country". Wanting to live like Frenchmen, they wanted the stuff of Frenchmen. But you need cash to live like a Frenchman. With the lack of cash, the Quebec economy was slowly starving. The Intendent (governor) of Quebec, Jacques Dumuelles, at last, had an idea which could, and did, solve the problem.

Before I tell you the solution, I would like to talk about the playing cards of France during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The French have claimed for centuries to have received playing cards from the Gypsies out of India sometime in the 14<sup>th</sup> century and adapted their use for the King, who was a melancholic and could not sleep. The French say that the English based their card design on the French pattern. They also claim that they standardized the card suites. Well, there were no Romani around Paris in those days and we have seen German and Italian cards from that early era as well. But the English did base their patterns on the French designs and the French did standardize the suites.

We all know the suites: Piques (Spades); Carreaux (Diamonds); Cœurs (Hearts) and Trèfles (Clubs). The face cards are recognizable to us as well: Roi (King); Reine (Queen); Valet (Jack) and AS (Ace). The numbered cards have the numbers (Indices) either in two or four corners. The Face and Ace cards are labeled likewise. So while the English nine of spades has 9 spades on it, the French neuf de piques not only has 9 piques, it is also labeled “9” up to four times. French cards also tell you who the characters are on the cards. The Kings are Alexander, Cæsar, Charles (Charlemagne), and David. The Queens are Rachel, Argine, Judith and La Pucelle (Pallas). The Jacks are Hector, Lancelot, Roland and Hogier. In earlier times Mounted Knights would be the Aces, but by “our era” (ca. 1780’s) an As represents only its suite.

The first cards were produced in Thiers, the center for pre-revolutionary paper production. The paper is important. In the winter when waterways would freeze, the paper mills would send representatives out to collect and pay for the linen and hempen scraps and rags thrifty housewives would save. These bits would be carried back to the mill where they were sorted. The rags were then moistened and set in a damp bath to ferment for six to eight weeks. The Government, who shows its hand at every corner in this process, forbade the use of accelerants such as lime in this process. When the paper had turned a sour and as Diderot says “bilious” yellow, it would be shredded and pulped, eventually becoming the soft ivory color we so prize today.

After the fermentation, maceration and stamping, the fibers find their way to the vat where the slurry is gathered up in a mold and pressed into paper. In a sixteen hour workday a team of two vat men could produce up to 4,160 sheets of double folio paper. They had to be good to make those numbers. [The good vat men were susceptible to “repetitive motion syndrome” which they simply called “paralysis”. They would be transferred to another department after a recovering lay-off.] After pressing, the paper would be sized with glue

made from boiled and filtered tanning scraps. Sized paper will accept ink without the ink running.

Cards, however, would not be made of paper as such. They were made of Cardboard. Its manufacture is very similar to paper; only the board stock is made from paper and old cardboard and is “fermented” for two weeks. It is molded in thicker sheets and can be built up in thickness in a manner similar to modern plywood. For playing cards, the paperboard would not be too thick; it would receive a coating of paste and was laminated with a thinner sheet of paper, pressed and the faces polished. The Government kept very tight control of the production of playing cards. Louis XIII decreed that the manufacturer had to have his name and shop address on the Valet of Trèfles. By the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, only twelve cities were allowed to have “Cartiers” within their boundaries. By 1701, the patterns were set and assigned, one style for each of the nine regions of France. A deck from Picardy would look different, to period card players, from one from Languedoc or Île de France. The design of cards remained unchanged during this century, until the Fall of the Monarchy in the Year I (autumn, 1792).

These regulations were enforced by tax officials of the regions, no doubt located in each of the twelve or so cities that were allowed card printers. The printing would take place in the tax office and the printers were levied 1 Sol (shilling) per sheet. The cards were block printed, twenty at a time as black outlines on white stock. The printed sheets would then be taken to the print shop where they would have their colors stenciled on, be cut and packaged for sale.

So playing cards were strictly regulated, even in 1685. Meanwhile; Dumuelles and the Quebecois were getting desperate what with the promises of cash to arrive from France and their crashing economy.

The Intendant decided to answer his problem of no cash by using playing cards. He had cards cut into quarters, they must have been four indices cards, and handed the numbered parts to the soldats, giving them all numbers which added up to 30. He then promised the men that when the coin arrived from France that they could exchange the card pieces for a like amount of coin. Thus, a soldat who handed in the 6 Cœurs and 7 piques at the Intendant’s office could exchange them for £ 15. Merchants were encouraged to accept the card quarters and did. Trade became lively, money exchanged hands and the local economy was saved. The £ 30,000 did arrive, the card pieces were turned in, much redistributed, no doubt, and people were happy for that in Quebec. The Crown hated the idea of this paper money and tried to discourage the practice, but as long as the French controlled Canada, cards were quartered

and distributed. Their numbers signified a 1:1 value with French £ and were exchanged at that rate.

Next Time: Crying up Silver!

Matthew Mees



*85ème Régiment de Saintonge  
2008 Governing Board*

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***85ème Régiment de Saintonge***

***Post Office Box 854***

***Sudbury, MA 01776***

***www.saintonge.org***

*The Sudbury Companies of Militia and Minute  
Cordially invites you and your guests to our*

*Regimental Ball*

*At the Wayside Inn, Sudbury, Massachusetts  
Friday, April 24th at 8:00 pm*



*Music and Contra Dance calling by Yankee Ingenuity*

*Join us as we honor Mark Lamkin for all of his service to the Sudbury Companies  
especially his term as Colonel from 2007-2008*

*\$36 per couple/ \$18.00 per person at the door  
\$32.00 per couple/ \$16.00 per person if you prepay before  
April 13, 2009 by sending a check to:*

*Sudbury Companies of Militia and Minute*

*P.O. Box 187*

*Sudbury, MA 01776*

*Reservations for dinner at the Inn may be made separately by calling  
(978) 443-1776*

*If you have any questions, please contact Col. Dana Rock at  
(978) 758-9350 or colonel@sudburyminutemen.org*

*Le PROGRAMME,  
The Official schedule for 2008*

**WORK PARTIES**

Date	Unit	Event
<i>Apr 8</i>		<b>Rolling Party – Taskovics’ House</b> Framingham, MA

If you would like to take lead on a work party, please contact either Dana Rock: [stonge85@comcast.net](mailto:stonge85@comcast.net) or Ellie Hutchinson: [ehutchinson@webconverting.com](mailto:ehutchinson@webconverting.com)

*EXERCICES et RENDEVOUS,  
Drills & Distaff Gatherings*

Date	Unit	Event
<i>TBD</i>	<i>85eme</i>	<b>Drill Practice - Wayside Inn</b> Sudbury, MA

<i>April 18-19</i>	<i>4<sup>th</sup></i>	<b>Battle Road</b> Lexington, MA
<i>May 3</i>	<i>85eme</i>	<b>Rebecca Nurse Homestead</b> Danvers, MA
<i>May 16 &amp; 17</i>	<i>85eme</i>	<b>Jerusalem Mills Event</b> Jerusalem Mills, MD
<i>May 24</i>	<i>85eme</i>	<b>Memorial Day Parade</b> Somerville, MA
<i>May 25</i>	<i>85eme</i>	<b>Memorial Day Parade</b> Andover, MA
<i>May 31</i>	<i>85eme</i>	<b>Minute Cub Muster</b> Westford, MA
<i>June 5-7</i>	<i>85eme</i>	<b>Tewksbury 275<sup>th</sup> Parade</b> Tewksbury, MA
<i>Jun 27 -28</i>	<i>4<sup>th</sup></i>	<b>Rising Storm</b> MMNHP – Lincoln, MA
<i>Aug 1-2</i>	<i>85eme</i>	<b>From Redcoats to Rebels</b> Strubridge, MA
<i>Sept 7</i>	<i>85eme</i>	<b>Labor Day Parade</b> Marlborough, MA
<i>Sept 7</i>	<i>All</i>	<b>Regimental Birthday Party</b> Taskovics’ House
<i>Sept 12-13</i>	<i>85eme</i>	<b>Fort Ticonderoga</b> Fort Ticonderoga, NY
<i>Sept 26</i>	<i>85eme</i>	<b>Sudbury Muster</b> Sudbury, MA
<i>Oct 2-4</i>	<i>85eme</i>	<b>Rebecca Nurse Homestead</b> Danvers, MA
<i>Nov 21</i>	<i>85eme</i>	<b>Plymouth Encampment</b> Plymouth, MA

**2008 EVENT SCHEDULE**

Recommend Events are indicated by bold text

Date	Unit	Event
<i>Mar 15</i>	<i>85eme</i>	<b>Evacuation Day Parade</b> Boston, MA
<i>Mar 21</i>	<i>4<sup>th</sup></i>	<b>Muster Day</b> Lexington, MA







*Posing with the Consul General of France, Mr. Francois Gauthier – Rhode Island State House*

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