



# GAZETTE FRANÇOISE.

De l'septembre 2009

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

Burbank Road, Sutton, MA  
September 4, 2009

Bonjour mes Amies!

The Marlboro parade and our regimental Birthday party are coming up quickly! Please make every effort to attend. Even if you are unable to march, we would love to see you at the party at Steven and Heather Taskovics' house. Thanks very much to Steven, Heather and Anna for hosting this party every year.

We need to set the bar higher for the regiment for the rest of this year. Our monthly drill is scheduled for Wednesday, September 23 at the Wayside Inn. The focus will be on getting our movements more synchronized and concise.

I will be steering the membership with the goal of being the best military regiment on the field at ANY event. This can only be done with commitment and participation from all those who share this goal. The concentration and focus will be getting our members to be more authentic instead of just "good enough". We need to refresh ourselves and teach our newer members about the history of the regiment so we can all be comfortable talking to visitors who visit our camp.

Recognizing that it can take a person a while to get up to speed, I ask folks to embrace the concept of constantly progressing. A big part of our hobby is researching our impressions and be as accurate to the history as possible. Just because an idea was accepted in the past, once we have gained new information that makes that idea obsolete, it is our responsibility to correct our personas accordingly.

This effort is not to be misunderstood as being exclusive—only that our focus is changing. Take a look

at your efforts in the past and see what you can do to improve upon them. We want to be the best that we can be on and off the field. And by putting in the work and making the efforts now, we will be able to have even MORE fun at future events.

As an active member of this regiment, you should be supporting our upcoming activities. We all have family commitments and other priorities that come first but we can only be good if we have participation from a majority of our members. **The more people who attend events, the better the events will be for all involved.** So clean your muskets well, check your uniforms for missing buttons and tears; make the needed repairs and be a proud participant of your regiment.

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



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

Well it's September—time to get ready for the fall. Is it just me, or did we have a 3 week summer? We do have a nice month ahead.

Our annual Labor Day parade in Marlborough is on. Following the parade is the Regimental birthday party which will be hosted by the Taskovics family. Please contact them ASAP to find out what you can contribute to the party.

I would also like to invite everyone to attend the Sudbury Faire on Saturday September 26<sup>th</sup>. This will be my last event as Colonel of Sudbury; where did the year go? Mathew Mees has been working his tail off to get this faire underway, and I hear he's been doing a great job. I also hear that John Neuhauser has something good planned for the battle this year—I wonder what he's up to.

Lastly I would like to strongly suggest that everyone makes a great effort to attend our monthly drills. For the past few months, our attendance has been poor. I know that everyone wishes for the regiment to look its best at every event. In order for us to get to a point where we look great, we must make every effort to attend drills. The more we practice our Manual of Arms, the better we will get. If anyone would like to spend extra time working on the drill, please feel free to contact either Steven or myself to set up a private drill session.

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



## *French Linguistic Tidbits for the English-Speaking Soldier*

Tidbit #1: The ubiquitous command, “*Au Temps*”  
by Anonyme

The following is an example of a dangerous scenario caused by mispronunciation of French: You watch your comrade stuffing his face with dinner after the big battle. You express your opinion of his overzealous eating habits by attempting to call him a pig. You must be very careful to pronounce the French word for “pig” correctly, and you must use the obligatory article in front of the noun. If you don't, you have just invited your comrade to sleep with you. [Specifics at the end of this article for those who want to try this at home. Not recommended for teenagers to try on their French teachers.]

Even the most linguistically challenged French re-enactor knows what to do when he hears the various

phonetic approximations given for “*Au temps*,” the command to cancel a preparatory command just given. Some soldiers and observers may have noticed, however, that there is a wide variety of pronunciation whenever this order is spoken. If you only speak English, the subtleties may have escaped you. If you speak some French, you may have noticed that the sounds produced when giving this command sometimes produce other words and meanings. When real French people hear these approximations, they might either (1) snicker politely at the other meaning, or (2) not understand what you are saying until they see what you are doing. Luckily, the possible mispronunciations are not the kind that could get you in real trouble with a native French speaker.

You don't have to study French to excel at pronouncing this essential command, “*Au temps*”. Learn a few basics, one step at a time. Amaze your friends and confound your enemies, plus surprise any French people who happen by.

Grammar and Translation: The “*Au temps*” command is a contraction of “à + le + temps”. “à” is a preposition meaning “at” or “to”; “le” is a masculine singular article meaning “the”; and “temps” is a masculine singular noun meaning “time”. In French, whenever “à” is used with “le” (and only if the following noun does not start with a vowel), the two words are contracted to form “au”. The literal translation of this whole expression is “at/to the time”.

Meaning in context: The command “*Au temps*” (“at/to the time”) refers to an understood previous time. This means return to the time immediately before the preparatory command just issued, i.e., cancel the order just given. [Note: Once the Execute order is given, it is too late to say “*au temps*”, because you have already done something and can't go back to your previous position without a new order.]

English language/U.S. military equivalent: “*As you were*” (referring to the state you were in before the preparatory order just given). If you are in the Navy, the English equivalent is “*Belay that.*” [The Navy always has to be different.]

Phonetic approximations sometimes heard on the drill field / battlefield: Two common

approximations of the pronunciation of “*Au temps!*” result in unintended meanings:

1. “*Ah-tond!*” This sounds like the second person singular imperative, “*Attends,*” which means “[you singular] *Wait!*”
2. “*On-tond!*” This sounds like the second person singular imperative “*Entends,*” which means “[you singular] *Hear!*”, or “[you singular] *Understand!*”

Pronunciation (the tricky part): Make sure the command sounds like two separate words, and don’t add a consonant at the end of the first word. Taking one word at a time:

*Au:* Sounds similar to an English “*Oh,*” but the sound comes more from the back of your mouth than the English “*Oh.*”

*Temps:* Never pronounce the final S. That’s easy, but the middle three letters are not like English. When a French M precedes a P, it is very nasal. Make sure it is an M, not an N. The E is not like the E in the English “*temporary*”. It is more like the vowel sound in the English “stomp.”

The resulting expression is phonetically similar to “*Oh < word break > Tomp*”.

*Voilà!* You can practice fine-tuning the sound at the next event.

[Explanation of the dangerous scenario: If you say “*le cochon*” to your overeating friend, you are calling him a pig, but if you drop the article, “*le*”, and say the first vowel like an English double *oo*, you will be saying “*couchons*”. The S at the end of “*couchons*” is not pronounced. This is the first person plural imperative meaning “Let’s sleep together.” There is a reflexive pronoun missing, but that will be overlooked due to the shock of the listener being propositioned by you, in public at the dinner table. ]

Frances Wentworth

*85ème Régiment de Saintonge  
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***85ème Régiment de Saintonge***

***Post Office Box 854***

***Sudbury, MA 01776***

***www.saintonge.org***



## Dear Friends in the Reenactor Community,

As many of you know, on September 21 of this year, Minute Man National Historical Park will celebrate its 50th Anniversary.

Since April of this year, we have been presenting, with your steadfast support and assistance, a wide range of special programs and activities designed to:

- THANK our partners and friends
- INSPIRE and CHALLENGE our visitors to think deeply about what will be required of ordinary citizens to protect the hard won blessings of liberty in today's world
- CELEBRATE what we have all accomplished together over the past 50 years.

Today, the North Bridge, sites along the Battle Road and many other historic places within the park are alive with your vibrant and compelling presence. Visitors from all over the world gravitate naturally to you, in authentic 18th century garb, seeking to better understand the events and the people which led to the founding of a unique and hopeful nation—unlike any other then—and even now. ***We are thankful every day—literally—for your commitment to "our" story.*** It is, of course, your story too.

On a personal level, those of you who know me know that I have been a supporter of a strong bond between the park and the reenactor/living history community for over a decade. I love to encounter you at the Bridge, at Hartwell Tavern or in the increasingly bucolic landscape—an occasionally "transporting" experience. I'm sure you know what I'm talking about!

You are essential to our Interpretive Program. Your participation with us brings an immediacy and accessibility that is rarely found between the covers of a book. You have amazing encounters with people we would never otherwise know about; like the North Vietnamese officer who visited the North Bridge and became reacquainted with a former 'enemy'—a Volunteer at the time. You make learning a fascinating experience for people of all cultures and ages.

**AND, you are a fun lot!** Which brings me to my central point—On Sunday, September 20 there will be a **GALA CELEBRATION** of the park's 50th Anniversary. This event would not be complete without you. I would like to extend a special invitation to you to join us for the Gala. Information is available on line at the [Gala Website Reenactor Page](#).

We would also like to offer you a discount on the already reasonable ticket prices should you want to come dressed in 18th century party finery (*and I hope you will!*) and we would like to invite you to participate in the opening procession led by Middlesex County Volunteers and colonial, British and National Guard ceremonial units. There will be an opening reception and a **Historian's Address by Doris Kearns Goodwin. NECN Anchor, R.D. Sahl will be our Master of Ceremonies** and will keep the speechifying within bounds. Following brief remarks and presentations, there will be a **Colonial Dance Demonstration** (*featuring Poor Richard's Penny and Colonial Dancers*)... followed by called dancing for the intrepid and adventurous.

***Please join us on Sunday, September 20, 2009! It wouldn't be a party without you.***

***Gratefully,  
Nancy***

*P.S. Please feel free to share this invitation with any fellow reenactors we may have missed. Thank you!*



# Colonial Faire

## Muster of Companies of Fyfes and Drums

**Living History Demonstrations Historical  
Re-enactments Children s Games &  
Activities Craft Vendors  
Parade of Fyfe and Drums 12:00 PM Followed  
by Fyfe and Drum Muster! Food Court**

**When:** Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Time:** 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

**Where:** Longfellow's Wayside Inn,  
Wayside Inn Road, Sudbury, MA 01776

**Brought to You by the Sudbury Ancient Fyfe and Drum Companie and the Sudbury  
Companies of Militia and Minute**

**Admission:** Adults \$1.00, Includes Raffle Ticket for \$100  
Gift Certificate to the Wayside Inn. Children  
Under 12 Free.

Free Parking

Event held rain or shine!

[www.Sudburyminutemen.org](http://www.Sudburyminutemen.org)



*85<sup>me</sup>*  
*Régiment*  
DE  
**SAINTONGE**

**BRILLIANTE JEUNESSE**

Qui désirez acquérir de la Gloire,  
venez vous ranger sous les  
ETTENDARDS de la ce Noble  
Regiment. La Victoire vous y  
couronnera de ses Lauriers. Les  
Jeunes-Gens qui voudront parrager la  
Réputation que ce brave Corps s'est  
acquise pourront s'adresser à

**INFO@SAINTONGE.ORG**  
**REGIMENT SAINTONGE**  
Box 854, Sudbury, MA 01776

**BRILLIANT YOUTH**

Those who desire to obtain Glory:  
Come and muster beneath the  
Standards of this Noble Regiment.  
Victory will crown you with Laurels.  
[Whether youthful or not,] those  
who wish to share in the Reputation  
of our brave and honest Corps  
should apply to:

**INFO@SAINTONGE.ORG**  
**REGIMENT SAINTONGE**  
Box 854, Sudbury, MA 01776

*Le PROGRAMME,  
The Official schedule for 2009*

**WORK PARTIES**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Event</b>
		<i>April 18-19</i> <b>4<sup>th</sup> Battle Road</b> Lexington, MA
		<i>May 3</i> <b>85eme Rebecca Nurse Homestead</b> Danvers, MA
		<i>May 24</i> <b>85eme Memorial Day Parade</b> Somerville, MA
		<i>May 31</i> <b>85eme Minute Cub Muster</b> Westford, 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*

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

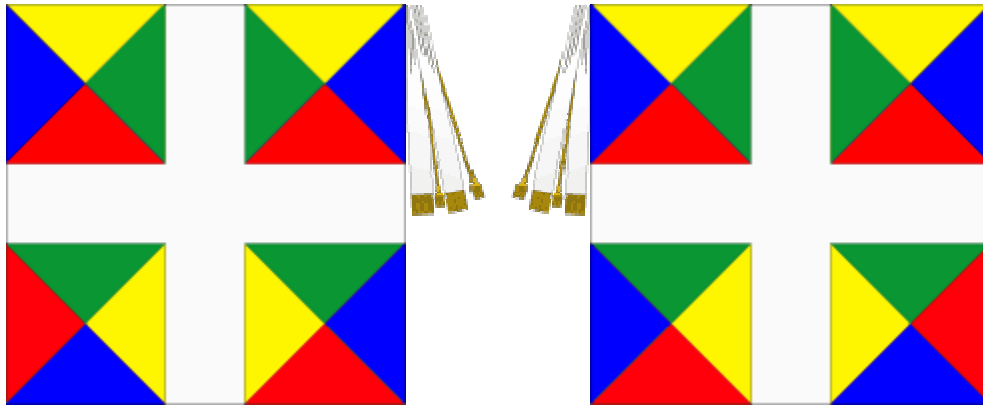
<i>June 5-7</i>	<i>85eme</i>	<b>Tewksbury 275<sup>th</sup> Parade</b> Tewksbury, MA
<i>Jun 27-28</i>	<i>85eme</i>	<b>La Kermesse</b> Biddeford, ME
<i>Jun 27 -28</i>	<i>4<sup>th</sup></i>	<b>Rising Storm</b> MMNHP – Lincoln, MA
<i>Aug 1-2</i>	<i>85eme</i>	<b>From Redcoats to Rebels</b> Strubridge, MA

**2008 EVENT SCHEDULE**

Recommend Events are indicated by bold text

<b>Date</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Event</b>
<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

<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>Oct 10-11</i>	<i>85eme</i>	<b>Jerusalem Mills Event</b> Jerusalem Mills, MD
<i>Nov 21</i>	<i>85eme</i>	<b>Plymouth Encampment</b> Plymouth, MA



*Two Views of the Regimental Flag of Saintonge.*

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