



# *The Flash*

*Col's Co, RWF in America*

January/February 2020

## **The Winter Doldrums**

Ok I'll admit there's been a stretch since the last newsletter but let's be honest, there's not much doing in the winter. Historically we would be in winter quarters. Usually some nice colonial town like New York or Philadelphia while the rebels sat in the hills, places like Valley Forge.

Like those long-ago fusiliers, I hope you're taking the quiet time to see to your kit. Repair or replace that stuff which is getting a bit worn. Look to your buttons to see if any have dropped off or are in danger of dropping off.

Look to your shoes, are the heels wearing down-that's a problem I had last year adding to my back pains I realized and lastly make sure you strip down your musket and give it a thorough cleaning.

## **The Year Ahead**

The schedule is still being formed meaning we have room to add things but here it stands so far

May 2-3 Mt. Vernon VA

May 30-31 Fort Loudon PA

Sept 26-27 Celtic Fest. Bethlehem PA

Sept 26-27 Brinkerhoff House, Fishkill NY

Oct 3 Germantown, Philadelphia PA

The big event for the year is going to be the Fort Loudon at the end of May. This was supposed to be a British only school of the soldier event with the big event being at Boone's homestead but as the state shut down Boone's late last year that was dropped and with colonial troops asking to be let in it has changed into a general event.

The other thing to note is the last weekend of September has two events. The one in Fishkill has been set up by Dennis Murphy with local colonial units. It's about an hour's drive north of Westchester in an area with lots of interest in the period but not many active groups. This is a real chance to expand into the region hungry for history. I was up there last year at the gun show and it is a lovely stretch of the Hudson River valley

At the same time the Celtic show is maybe an hour north of Philadelphia and will be a day of talking to the public, recruiting and educating. Last year among all the heritage groups of men in kilts and bonnets, we stood out and as people said 'you're brave to be wearing red coats here, we'd explain that 'Celtic' also meant Welch and it led to a good entryway to conversation.

### **Powder**

I've mentioned this before but to bring it up again, I know it can sometimes be hard for people to find black powder. If you're having trouble let me know and I can pick some up for you and you can get it from me at an event- The post office gets awfully weird about mailing explosives.

### **The Regiment**

With the approach of St David's day on March 1st I thought I would share an interesting and someone personal experience about the history of the regiment.

The Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment both in the UK and here is Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. On St. David's Day we do not offer the loyal toast, it is our privilege to be exempt from it, but we do offer a toast to our Colonel.

When I was first married my wife and I travelled to England so she could meet my family there. We also spent a few days alone in Windsor and playing tourists we naturally visited the castle.

The entry hall there has a photographic portrait of her majesty. She is looking up and the camera was angled down between the red coated shoulders of what are

two guards' officers; red coats, black fuzzy hats. I'm sure no one gives it a second thought looking at the queen.

But as I looked at the picture, I realized the bearskins were not the modern bearskins of today with fur all over. The queen was in focus, not the soldiers but there was a distinctive red patch at the back of the hats, and the one on the left had a golden 'bomb' device, a grenadier officer, and then I noticed a red tinged ear that was very familiar to any of us in the regiment 20 years ago. It was Peter Ford.

That's right. In the official portrait of her Majesty the Queen in the entrance to her favorite royal castle, the soldiers in it are not the house hold division but the Royal Welch Fusiliers or more to the point, the Royal Welch Fusiliers in America!

### **DUES**

It's the four letter word I use a lot this time of year and this gets repetitive but we do need them. I will point out that the price is the same thing we were charge 25 years ago. Where else can you see no increase in costs for inflation etc.?

Regimental	\$20
Col's company	\$10
Total	\$30

Make the check out to Colonel's Company RWFIA and mail it to me at  
Paul Astle  
1103 Oxford Cir  
Lansdale PA 19446

Please note the BAR dues have to be sent in separately to the BAR. *Why* they have made this change I have no idea.