



The Flash

Col's Co, RWF in America

May-June-July 2020

Still Shutdown

Ok I know there has been a long lag in newsletters but the chief reason for this is that the company newsletter exists to talk about events we can go to. For obvious reasons there hasn't been one. Though to be fair, if someone doesn't say barbers are an essential business soon, I'm not going to need a wig to have a que.

I wasn't a fan of mullets when they were a fashion statement originally and I like them less so now! I've been working from home since mid-March and it's weird. Since I don't have a commute longer than going into my dining room, I'm getting more sleep. I'm eating better, walking around my development 2-3 times a day I'm getting more exercise. My car is getting weeks to the gallon. I'd be doing great if not for grim death stalking the streets keeping me so penned up that a trip out for a gallon of milk is deemed an adventure.

But I do want to check in, let you know we're still here and fingers crossed will be active in the fall. The web site is currently showing 4 events in the end of September beginning of October time frame. Two in Pennsylvania and two in New York. I've not yet heard if Hope lodge is going ahead but there's plenty of time for that.

That having been said this is a great time to mean your kit, look to it, clean it. I mean if you've been following your beloved RSM's instructions the stuff must be gleaming by now right?

One piece of gear I discovered late last year is that Townsend sells natural fleece shoe liners.

<https://www.townsend.us/collections/footwear-miscellaneous/products/natural-fleece-shoe-liners-fl-978>

This is not required kit by any means but if your shoes are a bit hard, and Townsend's can be a bit rough, these can really help to pad them.

The Year Ahead

The schedule is still well, flexible but I'm being hopeful about the fall and possibly stuff being added earlier on once we know it can be. We're a sociable people and once the all clear is given I think we're going to see block parties and BBQ's and that sort of thing and people in a rush to do *something*.

September 19-20 Brinkerhoff Estate, Fishkill NY

September 26-27 Celtic Fest. Bethlehem PA

October 3 Germantown, Philadelphia PA

November 7, Hope Lodge PA (?)

Please note the change in the date for the Brinkerhoff estate, it's been moved back by a week.

Brinkerhoff Estate.

This has all the makings of not being one of the few events this year but also a really good one. Dennis Murphy has been coordinating with two groups of NY Infantry in the area who think it is a great area to build up local interest in the period. For our sakes it is beautiful, just about an hour north of the city and eager to thumb its nose at the state that doesn't want re-enacting in state parks like Pound Ridge.

The Regiment

We've passed April, May and are into June and for our regiment in this time period we were particularly active and sometimes it is good to be reminded of our glorious exploits. On the 18th of April Paul Revere and others roused the 'son of liberty' to try to stop the British from defusing the situation in Massachusetts by seizing weapons stashed by colonials. All members of the 23rd were involved in this. The grenadiers and lights were in the battalions whose march set off Revere.

When it was clear that the colonials were up in arms the remaining hat companies of the 23rd were among the brigade under Lord Percy who went out to relieve them and cover the retreat of the by then exhausted troops.

In our own history the RWFIA was at the 200th and 225th anniversary of the event. The legend of 1975 was that president Ford was asked to say a few words at the event at the bridge in Concord. The problem was there were a large group of protestors on the other side of the bridge and the secret service felt they did not have enough men to cover it if things turned ugly.

They asked British officers if the bayonets were sharp? Yes. Would they be able to handle crowd control if needed? Yes. And apparently someone thought they meant 'do it now' and as President Ford got up to speak, it is said on some of the recordings of the event, you can hear British officers ordering 'charge your bayonets!' and the Secret Service had to step in to prevent a second battle of Concord Bridge from breaking out.

At the 225th anniversary, when there were 700 British re-enactors in the column that was recreating 750 soldiers, how's that for realism? The 23rd started the event at the back of the column. But as we marched on through the day, other units needed more and more of a rest, we made our way up to being the front of the line! The day was noted for many odd little events but towards the end we and a couple of other units were taken out of the line and loaded on to army trucks to be driven around the crowds and form up south of Lexington to be the relief column.

There were other groups with us, but the RWF had enough numbers that as the crowd looked to the north to see the retreating red coats approach, we marched up from the south and had enough numbers to line the street from curb to curb moving the crowd out of our way. To the annoyance of other regiments behind us.