

THE SOUTHERN COMPANY
23rd Regiment of Foot, Royal Welch Fusiliers in America

Dispatch

Volume V, #1

FEB 2023

Event Schedule 2023

(Bold/Black events are set / others are tentative)

January 8 – Battle of Princeton, Princeton, NJ

January 13 & 14 – LUSO Movie production, Charlotte, NC

February 18 & 19 – American Heritage Festival, Lake City, SC

March 11 & 12 - Battle of Guilford Courthouse, Greensboro, NC & St. David's Day Dinner (Saturday 11 March)

March 25 - British occupation of Hillsborough, Hillsborough NC

Apr 29 & 30 – Market Fair, Fort Frederick, MD

May 6 & 7 - Mount Vernon Revolutionary War Days, Alexandria VA

June 10-12 – Old Stone House, Salisbury, NC

June 17 & 18 – Battle of Monmouth, Monmouth, NJ (BRITISH BRIGADE EVENT**)**

July 22 – Boone, NC -Hickory Ridge History Museum-British Occupation

TBD - Historic Hillsborough Excursion Day, Hillsborough NC (One day event)

Sept 23 & 24 – Endview Plantation, Yorktown, VA

*Sept 30 & Oct 1 – Fort Loudoun, Fort Loudoun, PA (**BRITISH BRIGADE EVENT**)*

TBD Oct / Nov – Revolutionary War Day Redeemer School, Winston-Salem, NC

November 11 & 12 – Battle of Camden/Hobkirk's Hill, Kershaw, SC

Upcoming Events

March 11 & 12 - Battle of Guilford Courthouse, Greensboro, NC & St.

David's Day Dinner (Saturday 11 March) – This is our first big event for the year. We have reserved an AIRBNB for Friday and Saturday nights – a few miles away from the battlefield. We plan on playing some wargames at the house on Friday night (all are welcome – not just the personnel staying at the AIRBNB). Alex will arrange several games for your choosing: choice of two Command and Colors block games—The Revolutionary War and Ancients Battles. Easy rules and some of you have played the Napoleonic version before at Hillsborough. Also Stratego, an oldie but goodie game requiring strategy, deception and a good memory. We have sent out coordinating instructions regarding the event in previous emails – please let us know if you have any questions. A separate email will be sent out with more details regarding the St David's Day dinner. Looks like a good turnout expected for the battles (17) and for the dinner (24). We look forward to seeing everyone at Guilford Courthouse in a few weeks.

****At the end of this newsletter is a quick battle summary of Guilford Courthouse by Lance Davis – Thanks Lance!**

March 25 - British occupation of Hillsborough, Hillsborough NC – This is an annual event that was moved from its usual weekend in February to March. It is a nice event with great opportunities to interact with the visitors. There will be numerous firing demonstrations and a chance to practice our drill before heading to Mount Vernon in May.

After Action Reports

Battle of Princeton

On Sunday, January 8th, a Northern Virginia detachment of Horsfall's Company (Alex Ivanchishin, Jordon Rowland, and Denis Messier) traveled to Princeton Battlefield State Park in New Jersey to participate in a reenactment commemorating the 246th anniversary of the Battle of Princeton. Captain Ivanchishin (fielding as a grenadier private), Jordon, and Denis brigaded with Grenadiers from the 42nd Highlanders, anchoring the right flank of the British line. As was the case in January 1777, the rebels once again drove his Britannic

Majesty's forces from the field. The weather was bright and sunny with a light frost on the ground at daybreak. All told, it was great day to be on a portion of the actual battlefield. There was no camp for spectators to explore but there were plenty of opportunities to engage with the public after the battle. Many were curious about the bearskin caps, which gave us a chance not only to pose for photos but also to discuss the differences in function, uniforms, and equipment between the Grenadier companies and the battalion companies represented on the day.

Included are two videos:

One from the American Battlefield Trust:

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pF6L18cJ-34>)

A second, well-produced video from the Army's 1st Infantry Division that includes some drone footage of the action

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRCO1VspTUK>)

As an added bonus to attending the event on Sunday, Alex, Jordan and Denis visited both Washington's Crossing and Museum on the NJ side of the Delaware and Monmouth Battlefield State Park on Saturday before overnighting at Alex's family house in Howell, NJ.

LUSO Movie Production

On Friday, January 13 members of the recreated 23rd Foot (Eric, Jon, Graeme, Kevin, Nolan and Tim) took part as extras in the filming of "LUSO" (<https://lusotheseerie.com/>), the pilot program of a Revolutionary War era TV show to be streamed on the Angel Network. We spent the day running to and fro across a muddy field to recreate scenes from the Battle of Camden. Tim sacrificed his groin muscle in defense of King George's honor! It was windy and cold, but fun was had by all as we got to see the behind the scenes work that goes into filming an "epic" motion picture.

American Heritage Festival

On Saturday, February 18 the recreated 23rd Foot (Eric, Graem, Gabe, Kevin, Ben and Tim) participated in the American Heritage Festival in Lake City, SC. Reenactors from the Revolutionary War, WWI and WWII setup displays. The 23rd and 33rd defended a redoubt against an oncoming hoard of 15-20 colonials on the parade ground. All the fusiliers of the 23rd became casualties. Luckily, however,

Ben (our Sergeant) and a young drummer from the 33rd were able to benefit from our sacrifice executing an advance to the rear.

Personnel Matters

Personnel updates within the Southern Company:

It is with great sadness, we announce the passing of Richard Colyle's wife Leigh Bienkowski – Richard, we are so sorry for your loss.

Promotions

Happy Birthday

February - Chris Beers / Lance Davis / Kevin McClain /

March - Daniel Spaar / Nolin Jones

Uniform Matters / Military Items

One of our own Southern Company members is an 18th century master tailor so if you need any uniform items contact **Sergeant Ben Beers**.

Fusilier Tim Brieady has his own company that makes t-shirts and patches – check out his website at: <https://redheadedtshirts.com/>

Regimental authorized tailors/seamstresses

| | |
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| Mike Grillo (42nd Highlanders) 9 Shady Lane Scarsdale, NY 10583 Phone: (347) 804-9763 Email: rwffuz94@aol.com | Carl Johnson (7 th Reg. Foot) 4202 Shoal Creek Drive Greensboro, NC 27410 Phone: (704) 957-9108 Email: carlivar@yahoo.com |
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Sutlers

G Gedney Godwin - <http://gggodwin-com.3dcartstores.com/>

Townsend's - <https://www.townsend.us/>

Avalon Forge - <http://www.avalonforge.com/>

Sampson Historical - <https://www.samsonhistorical.com/>

Najecki's - <https://www.najecki.com/repro/reproindex.html>

Websites of Interest

23rd RWFIA - <http://rwfia.org/wp/>

British Brigade - <https://www.britishbrigade.org/>

The Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum at Caernarfon Castle –
<https://rwfmuseum.org.uk>

The Royal Welsh - <https://www.army.mod.uk/who-we-are/corps-regiments-and-units/infantry/royal-welsh/>

Commander's Comments

Great start for the New Year and 2023 campaign season. Next is Guilford Courthouse, always a good battle event with lots of marching and firing. We will change things up a bit this year and not have a full camp experience like previous years. Minimum campsite and lunches will be served on both battle days. I dare say all our previous heroic campers will testify to horrible weather conditions; rain, snow, high winds and bitter cold making the experience less than ideal. So, this year we procured a house to stay overnight Friday and Saturday. Also, it appears to have plenty of room to host a St David's Day dinner for all ranks and guests. Plans are being finalized for both Friday evening game night and the Saturday evening dinner. Details will be shortly forthcoming.

I urge everyone, if you haven't, to take a hard look at the GCH organizers guidance sent out earlier on Safety and Standards. I will have our NCOs conduct a more detailed inspection of all ranks to ensure we are in good shape IAW with the above guidance. Plus, it is required by our Regimental Orders. Inspections are solely to inform the rank and file on their deficiencies

in uniform and equipment so as to make the proper fixes IAW safety and standards.

Along those lines we in the Horsfall's Company are making very good progress toward acquiring the needed woolen small clothes, gaitered trousers and muskets for all. The goal is to be 90-100% NLT March 2024. In April of 2024, we will need to send a small contingent to attend the Battle of Lexington and Concord and must be able to pass their inspection criteria for authenticity, including woolen smallclothes.

Remember only two weeks after GCH we are invited to attend the British occupation of Hillsborough, Hillsborough NC on March 25. This is a very nice, informal and visitor friendly event. We usually set up a small encampment, provide lunch and practice our drill and firing for the spectators, talk a little history and have many educational interactions with the visitors. The 33rd Foot and 64th Foot, plus a handful of militia on both sides, also attend. The event organizers hold the 23rd in high regard and treat us very well, so let's make a good show of it with a good turnout.

Last thing; dues collection is coming along. Anyone needing to pay their dues still can give their reenlistment paperwork and dues to Eric at GCH, **check payable to "Colonel's Coy, RWFIA."** Dues are critical to maintaining the health of the organization and pays for our insurance.

Hope to see you all in camp and on the field once again.

For God and Country—God Save the King!

ICH DIEN!

Your Most Humble Servant,

Alex Ivanchishin, Captain
23rd Regiment of Foot, Horsfall's Company
Recreated RWFIA

The Battle of Guilford Courthouse: A Victory Too Costly

Commanders:
British: Charles Cornwallis
American: Nathaniel Green

Forces Engaged:
British: 2,385
American: 4,400

Estimated Casualties:
British: 532 (22% of forces)
American: 1,310 (30% of forces)

Based on the statistics above (especially the casualties) one may suppose that the British were defending at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse and the Americans were attacking. But one would be mistaken. Although the force in the offense usually suffers the greater percentage of casualties due to the necessity of exposing itself as it closes with the defender, on this occasion it was the American defenders who suffered the greater loss in casualties, in addition to losing the contested ground and retreating.

Nathaniel Green created a defense-in-depth patterned after Daniel Morgan's successful tactics at the recent Battle of Cowpens, as he deployed his men in three successive lines. The most forward line was composed of North Carolina militia, the second was made of Virginia militia, and the rear line of Continental Regulars which was to deliver the decisive blow to the Crown's army.

Charles Cornwallis formed his troops on both sides of Salisbury Road (with the **23d Regiment of Foot** on the left) and Banastre Tarleton's dreaded cavalry in the middle as he approached the rebels.

The Americans fired first, then the British returned fire and surged ahead. The North Carolinians in the first line of defense fell back, followed by the Virginians in the second line. The British now approached Green's main bid for success, the Continentals in the rear line of defense. Although thus far successful, the British forces were now disjointed and struggling for cohesion.

As this third stage of the battle was joined, our friends in the 33d Regiment of Foot were the first to engage the enemy, but alas, they were driven back. The outcome of the battle was now in question. It was for this pivotal moment that Colonel Webster rose to the occasion as he placed his hat on the tip of his sword, raised it high into the air and shouted, "Come on, my brave fuzileers!" British forces on the left side of Salisbury Road (the 23d Regiment of Foot's side) turned the American flank, and General Green made the

prudent decision to concede the field and retreated to the North via Ready Fork Road.

It is impressive that the British loss in forces was less than that of the Americans, given that the British were the attackers, but their losses of nearly a quarter of their strength made this too costly a victory in this far-flung theater of North America, where reinforcements did not come easily. Cornwallis lacked the combat power to pursue Green, so he opted to proceed to Southeastern Virginia to attempt reconstitution of his army.

Little did he know the contemporary activities of the French Navy.