

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

Volume V, #5

DEC 2023

Merry Christmas Fusiliers!



And Best Wishes for the New Year

Proposed Event Schedule 2024

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

January 7 -- Battle of Princeton, Princeton, NJ

March 15-16 -- Battle of Guilford Courthouse, Greensboro, NC with Friday Night Wargaming & Saturday Night *St. David's Day Dinner*

April 6 or 13 -- British occupation of Hillsborough, Hillsborough NC

April 13-15 -- Battle Road (MMNP) and Lexington Green (some members of the regiment must attend for the 23rd to be eligible to participate in the 250th in 2025)

April 25-28 -- Market Fair, Fort Frederick, MD

May 3-5 -- Mount Vernon Revolutionary War Days, Alexandria VA

July 17-21 -- HISTORICON Wargaming Convention, Lancaster, PA

July 27-28 -- Old Fort Niagara, Youngstown, NY (BRITISH BRIGADE EVENT)

September?? -- Endview Plantation, Yorktown, VA

September 28-29 -- Fort Loudon, PA (BRITISH BRIGADE EVENT)

November 11 & 12 -- Battle of Camden, Kershaw, SC & End of Campaign Season Dinner (BRITISH BRIGADE and BRIGADE of the AMERICAN REVOLUTION EVENTS)

Upcoming Events

January – Battle of Princeton, NJ— the annual Princeton Battlefield reenactment is slated for the morning of Sunday, January 7, 2024 and will take place on portions of the original battleground at Princeton Battlefield Park, in New Jersey.

Col. Kenneth Gavin, Spencer's Additional Regiment and Jerry Hurwitz, 43rd Regiment of Foot (both Trustees of the Princeton Battlefield Society and organizers of the event) invited the 23rd RWFIA to attend the reenactment and commemoration. It's on Sunday and starts at 9:30 AM and ends at 1:00 PM. A few of us (Alex, Denis and Jordan) attended last year and it was a grand, short and sweet event. All told, it was a great day (the weather was clear, but cool) 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.

The event was attended by more than 260 reenactors, including 6-8 cannons, and 800+ spectators. I'm told the organizers are expecting increases to those numbers this year. Those who were present last year can attest that it was a fine day for living history on the ground where the actual battle was fought.

Military units and lineage organizations will also participate in a wreath-laying ceremony following the reenactment. RWFIA won't be a part of the wreath laying; but, we are invited to stay for the ceremony. Like last year, I (Alex) plan to attend as a Grenadier. Anyone willing to attend with me I will treat to lunch following the event at the Patriot's Landing Restaurant a few minutes away near Washington's Crossing State Park. For more information on the event go to PBS1777.org.

The event will once again provide an honorarium of \$25 per reenactor to each unit based on actual attendance. They will also again provide hot beverages and pastries free of charge to all reenactors.

A 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>)

For those living in Northern VA, if you leave for the event early on Saturday, as an added bonus, you should have time to visit one or more Rev War sites in the area. Last year we visited both Washington's Crossing and Museum on the NJ side of the Delaware and Monmouth Battlefield State Park before overnighting at Alex's family house in Howell, NJ. This year maybe the Trenton Barracks and Washington's Crossing Park on the PA side. I can probably accommodate 4-5 Fusiliers overnight at the house.

After Action Report

November 10-12 – Camden, SC. We had a great event in some respects; however, the weather did not cooperate at all. On Friday evening we had our first End of Campaign Season dinner at the Historic Tavern in Camden, SC which was attended by 19 Fusiliers and five family members. It was the perfect venue—good food, some singing, toasts and presentations – a fun time for all with plenty of comradery. We will be incorporating this End of Season Dinner into our Camden event next year as well.



A few presentations were made at dinner. 23rd Foot red T-shirts were presented to new privates, musicians and old privates and NCOs who returned to the regiment after their long hiatus. Tim Brieady made the shirts and once again donated them to the company. Joe Siegel, Gabe Everman, and Graeme Barclay, Ben Beers, Nolin Jones, Eric Bothur, Denis Messier, Mike Lung and Bob Clarke each received their shirts. When a recruit gets promoted to Private he'll receive a shirt.

The second Pride Award was presented to Denis Messier. This award recognizes individuals who have shown a commitment to the regiment by setting high standards for appearance, soldiery interpretation and exemplary commitment to the betterment of the company and its members. Since joining the 23rd last year he has shown us that he is “all-in; fully invested in the 23rd RWFIA.” He assembled his full kit in record time; hand-made uniforms for his two boys complete with bearskins and cartridge boxes; attended his first event at Camden in 2022 and every event in 2023 save one; made garrison caps for several fusiliers; and, volunteered to take photos of himself in full kit as part of our overall submission to the Battle Road Committee for acceptance for the 250th Anniversary Lexington-Concord event in 2025. A well-deserved award. Your company commander also received a token of appreciation from the troops which I humbly accepted—thank you!



Later that evening and Saturday morning were dominated by steady rainfall. Everyone and their equipment were pretty wet by the time the battle rolled around on Saturday afternoon; but, the rain let up and we did engage the Americans for a reenactment of the Battle of Stono Ferry.

The battle was fought on June 20, 1779, near Charleston, SC. The rear guard from a British expedition retreating from an aborted attempt to take Charleston held off an assault by militia forces



under American General Benjamin Lincoln. The British forces withdrew to Stono Ferry and waited for ships to transport them back to Savannah. At Stono Ferry they erected a “blocking position” of two redoubts, and a large moat to slow down the Continental army so that the British could withdraw. Inside the redoubts were mainly Provincials and

the Royal North Carolina Regiment. Outside the redoubts, but behind the

abatis and moat, were the 71st Highlanders, artillery, and Hessians. The 23rd was positioned in the Redoubt with the Royal NC Regiment and a six-pound gun. Hessians to our left and the 7th Regiment with Light Infantry (portraying the 71st) to our right outside the redoubt.

The Continentals arrived in column, but quickly (not really) deployed into line and were immediately engaged by the light infantry and 7th on our right. The Continental militia on our left successfully outflanked the Hessians and drove them back into our redoubt. All the while, our right flank withdrew back to a line on our right while we in the redoubt heaped a merciless fire upon the Continental line with musket and cannon fire causing them to make an “orderly retreat” (as “orderly” as the Continentals can ever make it). We then sallied forth from our redoubt (leaving the Hessians to it) and formed a line with the 7th and Lights, fired volleys and advanced quickly in pursuit of the fleeing Continentals. The Continental cavalry covered the retreat and charged our position. British forces fixed bayonets, front rank kneeling and rear rank firing, and repulsed two cavalry charges. Battle over, another British VICTORY!

Due to the unpredictability of weather forecasting for this event and the fact that another evening and morning of solid rain was certain before it was “predicted” to clear-up by noon Sunday, the consensus of the group (the misery level for our campers was pretty high) was to cut our losses and head home on Saturday evening. The 23rd folded up camp and dispersed.

Overall, even with the withdrawal on Saturday, we can claim a successful event. We had a great end of season dinner and program Friday night followed by a successful fielding and battle on Saturday. All were in high spirits throughout despite the continuous rain and drizzle.

It was the largest single turnout of the Company to date – 21 signed up and 19 (counting our Regimental Drum Major) came. Thanks to everyone who attended and especially to our new Fusiliers Greg Brunson and Monty Dixon who were not dissuaded (I hope) by the rain.

YouTube video of our event: [Southern Campaign 1780: 244th Anniversary Battle of Stono Ferry Reenactment](#). We appear from half way through to the end.

Review 2023 Campaign and Highlights

Another year of campaigning in the south came to a close at Camden, SC. The Southern Company had another very good year. We scheduled 14 events for 2023 and attended a new record 10 events with 1 rainout/cancelation at Endview Plantation. We attended our usual core events including Hillsborough, Guilford CH, Mt Vernon, and Camden. We added Princeton Battlefield in January to our schedule and hope to make it a yearly event.

We (some of you) participated in a movie production (trailer clip above); and, we orchestrated a long-awaited return of the traditional St David's Day dinner in conjunction with the Guilford Courthouse weekend and an End of Campaign Season dinner at Historic Camden Tavern. These will be annual events now that we have the proper venues to host them.

The highlight of 2023 was the 23rd RWFIA return to Monmouth Battlefield after 10 or so years. Another opportunity to don our early war kits with wig and bearskins, drill and exercise in large formations, and prepare for the 250th up north. An impressive turnout for the 23rd from all of our companies on the east coast.

We had a great recruiting year, having gained 6 new members of which some were past members who came back to the Regiment after a long absence bringing our muster roll to 30 members. These numbers can only be attributed to you all for being so engaging with the public, looking and performing so well and making the hobby look enjoyable and fun that others would want to join us. Your enthusiasm is infectious--in a good way.

2024 is shaping up. First push is for Princeton. It's a nice little, "big" event on the actual battlefield where Mercer was bayoneted and Washington rallied his men to victory. Rest of the year is GCH with St David's Day, Mt Vernon, Hillsborough, Endview Plantation/Yorktown, and Camden with End of Campaign Season dinner.

Personnel Matters

Personnel updates within the Southern Company:

New Joins – Monty Dixon, Thomas “BEAR” Walling, Greg Brunson & Micah Brunson

Happy Birthday

October - Thomas “BEAR” Walling

November – Jon Spaar Jr., Ben Beers

December

Members currently serving:

Captain Nate Williams, USMCR

2nd Lt. Jon Spaar Jr. USA

Uniform Matters / Military Items

The Regiment is moving toward a new (as authentic as it gets) Cartridge Box Badge – it is like one of our earlier versions. More information on swap-out and acquiring the new badge will be forthcoming.



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

Regimental authorized tailors/seamstresses

Ben Beers / mbeers@surry.net

Mike Grillo / rwffuz94@aol.com

Carl Johnson / carlivar@yahoo.com
Heather Chaffee / Heath5197@aol.com
Lynn Bull / Lynnbull12@yahoo.com

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>

Web Sites of Interest

The Royal Welsh - <https://www.army.mod.uk/who-we-are/corps-regiments-andunits/infantry/royal-welsh/> 23rd RWFIA - <http://rwfia.org/wp/>
The Brigade of the American Revolution (BAR) – <https://www.brigade.org/>
The British Brigade - <https://www.britishbrigade.org/>
The Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum – <https://rwmuseum.org.uk>
The Regimental Museum has a way for individuals to support the museum's work - it's called Friends of the Museum. They will be having speaker events that may be of interest to the members. Use the following link to sign up.
The link: <https://www.rwmuseum.org.uk/friends-of-the-museum.html>

Commander's Comments

The Horsfall Company, 23rd RWFIA ended its 2023 campaign season down south at Camden, SC. Although we fought the Continentals with our usual esprit de corps defeating them soundly we were not so lucky with Mother Nature. The nearly continuous rain/drizzle starting Friday evening and continuing through Saturday and Sunday “dampened” (to put it mildly) not only our spirits, but our equipment. However, by staying under cover most of the time, wiping our muskets and keeping them dry as possible we weathered the worst of it and were fit for battle when the weather cleared (a decent window allowing us to do battle, saving

the day). After the battle it was decided--having achieved our objectives for this event and with the weather battling against us--we strike camp and pack-up.

Lord Cornwallis passed on his ardent thanks for our endurance, esprit de corps and victory at Stono Ferry. He regretted having to recall the 23rd to the rear depriving the lads of further glory on the field despite their high spirits to fight another day. The 23rd did their duty, performed heroically; however, further sacrifice of health and spirit warranted pulling us from the line. His Lordship ordered us into winter quarters for a much needed rest and refurbishment.

Winter quarters is a respite from a long and hard campaign. Take advantage of the time to rest up for next year; but also take the opportunity to clean and service your uniform and equipment for the next season. Endeavor to complete your kit by acquiring what you still need. Refer to the CARE AND MAINTENANCE FOR THE UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

OF THE ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS IN AMERICA Uniform and Equipment Guide to help you get your kit in order. This will be critical next year as we prepare for the 250th Anniversary cycle of events starting with Lexington and Concord in April 2025. This includes woolen small clothes, bearskins, gaiters, wigs, badges and muskets. The command staff will be working with everyone to make this happen. Also, review your drill-previous Dispatches identified several web-sites to view drill and maneuvers and everyone should have a copy of the 35-count manual. If you don't have these two documents let me know and I'll forward them to you. With more new recruits in the ranks, more drill, not less will be a priority in 2024.

Annual reenlistments and dues (\$35) will be collected early in January. Details on the new dues policy and collection will follow soon along with our regiment-wide membership in the Brigade of the American Revolution and what that means.

Enjoy the holidays one and all. We will muster again in the new year for more glorious engagements against our foe--the rebel army.

See you all in camp and on the field. *For God and Country—God Save the King!*

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Your Most Humble Servant,

Alex Ivanchishin, Captain

23rd Regiment of Foot

Captain Christopher Horsfall's Company Royal Welch Fusiliers in
America