



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

Volume VI, #1

March 2024

Event Schedule 2024

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

January 7 -- Battle of Princeton, Princeton, NJ

February 24 -- Drill Practice Hillsborough, NC

March 15-17 -- Battle of Guilford Courthouse, Greensboro, NC with Friday Night Wargaming & Saturday Night *St. David's Day Dinner*

April 6 -- 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 20-21 -- Battle of Petersburg, Battersea Plantation, VA

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 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 EVENT)



Upcoming Events

April 6 – **British Occupation of Historic Hillsborough, Hillsborough, NC**, - This is an annual event that allows us to interact with and educate the public, practice our drill in preparation for Mount Vernon, indulge in some comradery, and for the new Fusiliers, learn more about the Regiment and our uniform. The event is only Saturday and begins at 10am and ends at 4pm. The crowds have gotten larger over the years as the event moved further away from its historic February date as the colder weather kept the public attendance down. This is the first year it will occur in April...expect a big crowd. This year we will also have a cannon (provided by Pvt. Coyle) as an educational static display and should draw some attention. Expecting a robust turnout of up to 15 fusiliers.

<https://historichillsborough.org>

April 20-21 – Battle of Petersburg, Battersea Plantation, VA. Awaiting more information – Eric will send out a text when he gets something solid.

Apr 25-28 / Market Fair / Fort Frederick State Park, MD / The annual Fort Frederick 18th Century Market Fair features the best period artisans, craftspeople, and sutlers together with an 18th Century encampment. Explore Maryland's French and Indian War era stone fort built in 1756. See hundreds of reenactors and 18th century sutlers (vendors) selling 18th century period wares: paintings and prints, clothing, fabric, books, camp gear, flintlock rifles, muskets, bags, cooking hardware, lanterns, copperware, and so much more. (*Denis Messier attended last year if you want to speak to someone about what the fair is like*)

https://friendsoffortfrederick.info/market_fair.html

May 3-5 / **Revolutionary War Weekend, Mount Vernon, VA** / Mount Vernon's 12-Acre Field transforms into a battleground as Continentals, British, and Hessians conduct military drills and tactical demonstrations. By far one of the best events every year – highly recommend everyone who can make it to this event. We will be setting up camp on Friday – Alex will be primary contact for the event since Eric will be on a family trip. Plus, this is a paid event so the more members that attend the more money the regiment/southern company gets.

<https://www.mountvernon.org/plan-your-visit/calendar/events/revolutionary-war-weekend/>



After Action Report

January 7– Princeton, NJ. Well as you can imagine a battle in January – we did have snow flurries during the event, and it had its cold moments. That did not deter 7 brave Fusiliers from the south to attend along with our Regimental Sergeant Major. A few of the fusiliers who came on Saturday toured the Washington’s Crossing Museum on the PA side for very educational presentations of Washington’s crossing of the Delaware. The British army was well represented for the event and the battle reenactment had plenty of firing and maneuver. Luckily for us it was only a morning engagement; and we were able to meet members from all the military branches, some old timers from the USMC plus a British Army contingent who represented the Crown. This was also a paid event. Afterwards we all ended up having fellowship and lunch together at nearby Patriot’s Crossing Tavern before heading home.

February 24 – Hillsborough, NC. We put in a drill to knock off the rust before Guilford Courthouse. Thanks to those in attendance especially our two new Fusiliers Greg Brunson and Monty Dixon. Also, thanks to Cpl. Mike Lung for stepping up to drill the lads in formation, firing and maneuvers.

March 15-17 – Battle of Guilford Courthouse. Well, this is going to be a long recap because it was a high for Horsfall’s Company and the Regiment. We had 27 Fusiliers in attendance as well as a Saint David’s day dinner of around 60 people.

The weekend event began with a large group mustering at the 23rd Airbnb on Friday night – Corporal Tim Brieady was kind enough to bring a Command and Colors game and act as gamemaster. Others mingled, drank, ate pizza, and enjoyed the evening.

On Saturday we mustered at the battlefield at 9am. It was an impressive site with 27 members in attendance (that’s with a few last-minute cancellations). The 23rd was far and away the largest British Regiment in attendance and everyone said the unit looked sharp.



A special addition to our camp was provided by Kathy and Allen Hughes who set up a tavern complete with authentic cooking demonstrations, delicious food, and comfortable seating for many of us to enjoy throughout the weekend. We hope that they field with us again...they have an open invitation.

After lunch, the Regiment marched out with a very large and impressive British force to the battle staging area for the battle of Guilford Courthouse set to begin at 2pm. We moved up a hill to the crest – there we engaged the first line of the Continentals. Fusilier Gabe Everman shot his first round out of his new musket on the first volley.

We continued to press on the Americans until we reached the clearing where the main American force was assembled. We broke through the wood line only to be met by a thunderous canon volley which decimated our ranks. The remaining Fusiliers reorganized and fired on the Americans. Eventually the remnant moved forward and captured the American canon in a splendid show of determination.

Later that evening the Regiment moved on to our Saint David's Day dinner at Heritage Hills Banquet facility. Sheila Spaar and Valerie Barclay did a tremendous job decorating the venue to fit our Saint David's Day dinner.

A display and video presentation was set up highlighting the regiment, St David's Day and it's Silver Collection along with a special memorial dedicated to Capt. Tom Pieper, who passed away of 03 March 2024.

The Fusiliers, invited guests including the 33rd Regiment, began the night listening to Lance Corporal Shane Watson playing his fiddle and partaking in drinks and appetizers. The formal dinner commenced at 6:30pm. Captain Alex Ivanchishin provided some opening remarks and a short remembrance of Tom Pieper and what he meant to the Regiment, followed by the first toast of the evening to Tom. Traditional regimental toasts were then made throughout the dinner. Lastly, the leek party entered and new Fusiliers, promoted Fusiliers, and guests partook in the leek ceremony. The leek was "enjoyed" by many, and some "enjoyed" it several times. A rousing singing of the Men of Harlech ended the festivities.

A special thanks to Sheila Spaar, Anne Everman, Valerie Barclay, and Brandy King for serving and cleaning up after the dinner.



Sunday saw around 21 Fusiliers in attendance. We mustered at 10am for drill and reorganization. We had a different scenario for Sunday—Battle of Wetzell’s Mill, a battle that occurred on 6 March as prelude to Guilford Courthouse—which saw us on the left flank of the British Army. We moved through the woods emerging onto the battlefield facing the Americans. We matched them volley for volley eventually pressing forward with bayonets and forcing them back.

At the very end of the battle, we performed mourn arms in honor of Captain Tom Pieper – our former Regimental Commander and Captain of the Mid-West Company. Jay Callaham (event narrator) announced our intentions to the crowd. They were very quiet and respectful.

Personnel Matters

Personnel updates within the Southern Company:

New Joins – Eli King

Happy Birthday

January – Richard Coyle, Gabe Everman, Vincent Wolf

February – Chris Beers, Lance Davis, Micah Brunson, Monty Dixon, Kevin McClain

March – Nolin Jones, Bob Clarke, Dan Spaar

April – Eric Spaar

Promotions

Mike Lung from Corporal to Lance Sergeant

Members & Friends of the 23rd currently serving:

Captain Nate Williams, USMCR, FBI Agent

2nd Lt. Jon Spaar Jr. USA, Fort Moore, Georgia



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. A few members have already made the switch.



Woolen Small Clothes!! Woolen Small Clothes!! Woolen Small Clothes!!

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
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-and-units/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.rwfmuseum.org.uk/friends-of-the-museum.html>

Commander's Comments

We had a great start to the 2024 campaign season. Attended Princeton again in January with eight attendees. A drill was organized for February at Hillsborough and Guilford Courthouse (GCH) and St David's Day was celebrated in March. GCH had the largest attendance for the southern company to date plus a good number of members coming from great distances (NY, Conn, AR, and TN) making our total 27 (2 couldn't come at the last minute). The 23rd was the largest unit in the Crown forces: a first for southern campaigning.

St David's Day was another huge success. We had close to 60 attending, including family members and guests. The Silver Collection was still absent; but next year for the 250th, I'm sure we will see it in all its splendor.

The weather was incredibly in our favor for once at GCH which contributed greatly to our overall enjoyment. Our camp was probably the biggest and best established in my memory. A very special addition to our encampment was a Tavern brought to us by Kathy and Allen Hughes. It was fantastic and much liked and appreciated by the lads and civilians who came by to learn about its function and period food prep. Kathy and Allen made this tavern their hobby and we hope they come out with us again.

None of this could be possible without the enthusiastic support of the members and your families. Thank you all.

It seems we are on track for another bountiful year recruiting new members. Eric has already been contacted by several lads interested in joining our ranks. We may see some of them at Hillsborough on April 6.

Hillsborough Revolutionary War Weekend is shaping up to be our biggest attendance there to date (maybe 15) and this year Pvt. Coyle is bring his cannon as a static display...should attract some interest. We will be drilling, demonstrating firing, and giving short talks on the historical significance of the British army's



occupation of the town and the British army/soldier in general. Lunch will be provided. Will be fun.

Next in May is Mt Vernon. This is a paid event so I ask as many of you that might be able to attend make it a priority. If the weather cooperates, it is a wonderful event and venue for you and family. We've always had a good turnout in recent years from the southern company, let's keep that going. More on Mt Vernon after Hillsborough.

I know it's still far in the future but put Camden on your calendars now. This year a major push by the Camden organizers, the BB and BAR to make this the biggest event on the east coast in recent years. I predict we'll exceed our GCH numbers for attendance. Eric is arranging the historic tavern in Camden again for our end of season diner as well.

Finally, let me say one more time about every member making it Priority One to acquire their woolen small clothes. The exception for linen small clothes expires in 2024. Uniform requirements for 250th events up north and more events down south are mandating woolen small clothes, like GCH. Both our commander and I have done the research for you as to where to purchase them or have them made. Do it or run the risk of not being able to field for some events in 2025.

Cartridge box Badge swap-out is underway.... plan is to get large numbers exchanged at Mt Vernon, and future events during the season ending in Camden. Cost is \$10 for a new badge if you turn in the old one.

All southern company dues have been collected and forwarded to our keeper of the coin. Huzzah and thanks.

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

ICH DIEN!

Your Most Humble Servant,

Alex Ivanchishin, Captain
23rd Regiment of Foot
Captain Christopher Horsfall's Company
Royal Welch Fusiliers in America

