



The Company Informer

Rebellion to Tyrant < i> Obedience to God

April 2005

RIDGEFIELD, CT Sat. APRIL 23 10-4

RIDGEFIELD: Paid show and regimental drill day. This is a one day event at Ballard Park in the village center from 10-4 on Saturday, April 23. There is no rain date. (Tony, can you bring the van for set-up Friday evening like last year?). The day will be devoted to one-on-one educational stations with the public and regimental drill.

We will need volunteers for the following stations: 18th-century surgeon, Period clothing (male & female), whitesmith (Jim, you are the man!), recruiting station, musket and arms demonstration, cook fire, music, the soldier's life, maps and money, and sentry. We will burn powder in drill and at two markers honoring those who fell in Ridgefield on April 27, 1777. Also, this is a prime opportunity for us to solicit new recruits, so Captain Carmen will periodically dispatch parties to village restaurants and pubs for recruiting purposes. We will finish the day with a punchbowl in the tavern room at the 1790 Elms Inn across the street from Ballard Park.

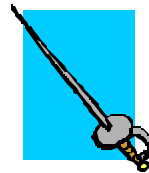
COORDINATOR: Keith Jones

PHONE: 203-438-5619

EMAIL: <keith.jones@snet.net>

Directions to Ridgefield:

From the East Take Route 95 to Route 7-North. Go left on Route 33 and take it through the Ridgefield Center when it becomes Main Street. At corner of Main and Prospect Streets is the Library...park in it's lot. We will encamp in Ballard Park which is directly across Main Street from the Library.



Campaign April—June 2005

- | | | |
|-------------------|--|-----------|
| April 16 | Patriots Day
Concord, MA | |
| April 23 | Colonial Days
Ridgefield, CT | \$ |
| April 24 | School of the Soldier,
New Windsor, NY | |
| May 13-15 | Siege of Charleston
Charleston, SC | |
| May 20 | School Show
New Canaan, CT | \$ |
| June 3 | School Show
Stratford, CT | \$ |
| June 25-26 | Battle of Springfield
Springfield, NJ (BAR) | |

From the North Take 84-West until the Route 7/Norwalk exit. Follow Route 7 until it intersects Route 35. Go right onto 35 and follow into the center of Ridgefield where it becomes Main Street. At corner of Main and Prospect Streets turn left and park in the Library lot. We will encamp in Ballard Park which is directly across Main Street from the Library.

"Battle Road - Prelude to War"

Saturday, April 16, 2005

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Hartwell Tavern historical area,
Minute Man National Park,
Route 2A

Imagine that it's early April in 1775 and you have been granted safe passage between British-held Boston (reenacted at the Captain Smith House area) and the Massachusetts countryside (reenacted at the Hartwell Tavern area) as tensions mount towards open conflict. Join British and Colonial Reenactors, Park Rangers and Volunteers as they portray a "typical" day leading up to the outbreak of war on April 19, 1775. Activities will include drill and musket firing demonstrations, cooking, clothing repair and recruiting for the colonial militia as well as life in the British Camp, a Battle Road tactics and weapons demonstration and lots more!

The focus of this year is living history. There will be a skirmish in the afternoon demonstrating a **small portion** of their normal Battle Road running battle. This year's venue will be expanded to include the depiction of Parker's Revenge which will be run through the new Orchard to the East of Hartwell Tavern.

Directions and Parking:

From I-95 take EXIT 30B. You will be on Route 2A West. The Minute Man Visitor Center is located one mile west of I-95. Hartwell Tavern Parking Lot is a short distance beyond on the right. Participant Parking will be at the Lincoln North Business Park.

Uniform— Militia Only.

- Frock coat, workman's jacket, sleeved waistcoat, farmer's smock (non-fringed pullover style acceptable), of wool, linen (flax or hemp), or cotton (or silk if appropriate to the overall impression). Leather coats and frontier/rifle/hunting shirts/frocks/coats (the garment with the cape and the fringe) are *not* acceptable. An appropriate sleeved outer garment is required and companies must not field with matching coats.
- Shirt: long, full sleeved, closed neck with stock, cravat, or neck cloth: Wool, linen, cotton in white, natural, or checked.
- Waistcoat: wool, linen, cotton (or silk if...). Necessary with frock coat, optional with buttoned workman's jacket or buttoned sleeved waistcoat or smock.
- Breeches: wool, linen, leather, or cotton (or silk if...). Trousers are acceptable as part of a lower class impression. Fringed suede frontier-style trousers are not acceptable.
- Stockings: over the knee, wool, cotton or linen (or silk if...), white or colors, held up with leather or cloth tape garters. Athletic socks are not allowed.
- [Shoes](#): period-style leather shoes with buckles or 2 hole lace up, black or brown (appropriate modern leather shoes may be worn if covered with gaiters), or moccasins (workman's ankle height, not calf-high).
- Gaiters: Optional with period-style shoes. Civilian-style half gaiters preferred to full or half military gaiters.
- Hat: such as civilian, cocked hat ("tricorn"), floppy hat, knitted cap, workman's cap. If no hat is worn, hairstyle should be reasonably believable (not blowdried into fluffiness).

***Brigade School
New Windsor Cantonment,
Vails Gate, NY
April 24, 2005***

Sunday's Schedule

8:00 Registration

9:00 Divine Services

10:00 - 10:50 am Assembling a Practical 1st Aid Kit for the Field - Nick Kalenich

10:00 - 11:50 am Assembling a Journal, Cutting & Writing with Quills - John Muller

11:00 - 11:50 am Fire Building Using Flint and Steel - John Wright

11:50 - 12:50 pm Lunch

1:00 - 2:00 pm Drill Session #2 – Paul Ackermann and Erik Lichack (on the Parade)

2:05 - 2:55 pm Leather Working Basics - Roy Najecki and Kai Moessle

3:00 - 3:30 pm Final Formation

DIRECTIONS:

New Windsor Cantonment state Historic Site is located in Vails Gate, NY near the city of Newburgh.

From East or West: Take Interstate I-84 to Exit 7S, NYS Thruway. Take Route 300 South (Union Avenue) past Thruway entrance and follow approximately 2 miles to traffic light at "T" intersection. Turn left, and at next light bear right onto Temple Hill Road. Go approx. 1 mile – New Windsor Cantonment State Historic Site will be on your left.

From North or South: Take New York State Thruway to Exit 17. After toll keep left on exit ramp to Route 17K West. Turn right onto Rt. 17K West and proceed to next traffic light. Turn left onto Route 300 South (Union Avenue.) Then follow per above.

***225th
Siege of Charleston, SC***



DATE: May 13-15

COORDINATOR: Tom Castrovinci

PHONE: 203-966-7651

EMAIL: <tcast@amsyn.com>

The British Army and Royal Navy will be encamped at Drayton Hall, a National Trust for Historic Preservation Site. The Continental Army will be encamped at Magnolia Plantation and Gardens, located next to Drayton Hall, and Horse Dragoons will be encamped at Middleton Place just a few miles down the Ashley River Road from both Drayton Hall and Magnolia Plantation and Gardens.

This event commemorates the valiant struggle of the Continental Army against the British Army and Royal Navy during the American Revolution between March of 1780 when the British Army and Royal Navy organized at Drayton Hall for the attack on Charleston, and the city's final surrender to British Forces on May 12, 1780. This was the worst defeat to the Continental Army during the Revolution and England's greatest victory. It was the only time during the Revolution that an entire American army was captured.

DIRECTIONS: From the north: Take I-95 South to Exit 86A onto Interstate 26 East to Charleston. Take Interstate 526 west at North Charleston. Drive approximately 5 miles to the Ashley River Road/Highway 61 north exit. Follow the parkway approximately 2 miles until it dead ends into Bee's Ferry Road. Bear right on Bee's Ferry Road and drive about 2 miles until it dead ends into Highway 61 and turn left. Watch for the Drayton Hall signs. Drayton Hall is 2 miles up Highway 61 on the right, followed by Magnolia Plantation & Gardens on your right, then Middleton Place another 4 miles down the road on your right.

A Hidden History Of Slavery Uncovered By LEE FOSTER

The Hartford Courant June 17, 2001

SALEM - Archaeologists excavating a portion of an 18th-century plantation 2½ times larger than Thomas Jefferson's Monticello are unearthing the hidden history of slavery in New England. The 13,000-acre New Salem Plantation, as it was called by its owner, Col. Samuel Browne of Salem, Mass., operated from 1718 to about 1780. It produced grain, horses, barrel staves and dried meat that were shipped to the Caribbean to trade for molasses and rum. A labor force of about 100 captive Africans cleared the land and produced the goods that earned Browne a fortune.

The presence of slavery in New England has been downplayed or ignored since Connecticut outlawed slave labor in the mid-1800s, according to the team of archaeologists and historians working on the site. The result has been generations of Americans who believe that slavery was limited to cotton plantations in the Deep South, said Warren Perry, an archaeologist from Central Connecticut State University who is directing the Salem dig. "There's a myth of a historic white and free New England," Perry said. "This was to create an idea of moral superiority. Of course it's bull. ... The truth is in the ground." In fact, slavery was the lifeblood of a global political and economic system and played an important role in early Colonial history, said Gerald Sawyer, an archaeologist from the City University of New York also working on the project. The discoveries Sawyer and a field team of six CCSU students might make in Salem could bring the truth to light and educate people about the contributions and lives of nonwhite residents, said Abraham Abdul Haqq, an amateur historian from Colchester who asked Perry to examine the burial site. "New England has an arrogance about herself," Haqq said. "The history of your society has to be true and correct or it's not going to stand."

Haqq has led a quiet crusade to reveal details of the African presence in the area. He is well-known in the Colchester library, where he spends hours reading long-forgotten local histories, diaries and records looking for mention of African Americans and other disenfranchised people. In 1998, he was largely responsible for the replication in the center of Colchester of an 1803 school for African American children. Several years earlier, he located a burial site for black slaves, poor whites and Indians in the graveyard behind the Colchester Federated Church. In his readings, he learned about a slave burial ground on land in Salem owned by the Bingham family and sought out family member Bill Bingham to help him locate it. Bingham's ancestors had owned the former New Salem Plantation since it was confiscated from Browne's grandson, an English loyalist, after the Revolutionary War. After losing the land for about 50 years, Bingham's great-grandparents bought much of it back 150 years ago. Bingham, 46, and his six brothers grew up in the former plantation's main house. He now lives in a smaller home near the dig site. The Bingham family always knew about the "slave graveyard" more than a mile from the main house and the nearby "Indian graveyard," where Pequots associated with the farm were buried, he said. "It was not a completely unknown history, but it wasn't well-known," Bingham said. "Nobody bothered to look into it."

In 1997, Haqq sent his research to Perry and asked him to examine the burial site. He chose Perry because he was the only black archaeologist Haqq had heard of. Perry's "African eyes" would appreciate what the plantation site had to say about the black captives, Haqq thought. Perry is codirector of the African Burial Ground project, which is uncovering a slave graveyard in New York City. He was so busy when he received Haqq's request in 1997 that he told him he wouldn't be able to look at the site for a couple of years. When he finally ventured to Salem, Perry agreed to take on the plantation project. He persuaded Sawyer, his prize pupil at CCSU, to use the 2.5-acre site as the basis for his doctoral thesis. Two weeks ago, Perry's students started excavating a 10- by 10-foot area where a work shed might have stood. They so far have turned up tools, nails and crockery shards. Digging up the dead is not in the plans, although Sawyer has dug under the marker stones deeply enough to find evidence of some African burial customs, such as caches of quartz crystals, Perry said. Another archaeologist, John Pfeiffer of Old Lyme, a visiting lecturer at Wesleyan University, stopped at the site June 12 to check out Sawyer and Perry's work. New Englanders with European roots are kidding themselves if they hold their ancestors above the nasty business of slavery, he said. Slavery had been in the colonies since 1637, brought by "English entrepreneurs looking to set up safe havens from the crown," where they could make their fortunes, Pfeiffer said. The New World may have been a haven for the Samuel Brownes of the era, but the English considered everyone else fair game. "If you're not English and white ... you can be a slave," Pfeiffer said. State Archaeologist Nicholas Bellantoni said information from the site would acknowledge a people not well-represented by traditional "Eurocentric" historians. "Usually we see history from the perspective of the people who wrote the history - the Europeans. But archaeology sites represent all the disenfranchised people. It's hidden history," Bellantoni said. "It's exciting work."



Spring School Shows

These are the shows that allow us to do what we do all season long. They pay for the food you eat, the canvas you sleep under and allow us to hire the best officers possible. Well, two out of three ain't bad.

**WE NEED ALL OUR MEMBERS TO SUPPORT THESE FUNDRAISERS
PLEASE CALL THE COORDINATORS AND OFFER YOUR TIME**

DATE: Friday, May 20, 2005

PLACE: SAXE MIDDLE SCHOOL, 468 South Avenue, New Canaan, CT 06840

TIME: 7:30 set-up until about 2:00

SCHOOL PHONE: 203-594-4500

COORDINATOR: Tom Castrovinci 203-966-7651

EMAIL: tcast@amsyn.com

**This is a big show requiring 10 stations. We need some craft people to fill things out.
Let Tom7 know if you know somebody (i.e. tinsmith, blacksmith or any other type presentation).**

DIRECTIONS:

Merritt Parkway – Rte. 15 (Southbound and Northbound)

Exit 37; left onto South Avenue (Rte. 124 North) to New Canaan. Saxe Middle School is on the right just prior to the next major intersection. At this intersection, turn right onto Farm Road and enter rear parking area (first right).

I-95 (Southbound and Northbound)

Exit 15; follow signs for Rte. 7 (Connector) Danbury. At Exit 2, take a right. Go to next light and take a right onto New Canaan Avenue (Rte. 123 North); follow through Norwalk to New Canaan. Pass under Merritt Parkway bridge (Rte. 15). Travel 3/10 mile and take a left onto Old Norwalk Road. Follow to four-way stop sign and go straight onto Farm Road. Saxe Middle School is on the left. Enter rear parking area (on left just prior to traffic light).

DATE: Friday, June 3, 2005

PLACE: WOOSTER MIDDLE SCHOOL, 150 Lincoln Street, Stratford, CT 06614

TIME: 7:30 setup until about 3:00

SCHOOL PHONE: (203) 385-4275

COORDINATOR: Joy Filler (203) 426-7933

EMAIL: filler2@charter.net

DIRECTIONS:

I-95 from New York

Take exit #32 (West Broad Street). At the bottom of the ramp veer left around the rotary. Go under the turnpike and at the light veer right onto Linden Avenue. At the stop sign take a left under the viaduct. You are now on King Street. At the traffic light, proceed across the intersection. You are now on Nichols Avenue. Go thru 2 traffic lights. Lincoln Street is the 2nd right after the 2nd traffic light. Wooster is on the left. Go to stop sign, turn left and park in the front of the building.

I-95 from New Haven

Take exit #32 (West Broad Street). At the bottom of the ramp take a right. At the stop sign take a left under the viaduct. You are now on King Street. At the traffic light, proceed across the intersection. You are now on Nichols Ave. Go thru 2 traffic lights, Lincoln Street is the 2nd right after the 2nd traffic light. Wooster is on the left. Go to stop sign, turn left and park in the front of the building.

Merritt Parkway (from New York)

Take exit #51 (Nichols Ave.). At the end of the ramp there is a light, take a right onto Nichols Ave. Go through three sets of traffic lights (about 1 mile) and continue about 1/3 mile to Lincoln St. on your left. You will see the school soccer field and the school on the left. Proceed up Lincoln St. and park in front of the school.

Merritt Parkway (from New Haven)

Take exit #52 (Nichols Ave.) At the end of the ramp take a left onto Nichols Ave. Go thru three sets of traffic lights (about 1 mi.) and continue about 1/3 mile to Lincoln St. on your left. You will see the school soccer field and the school on the left. Proceed up Lincoln St. and park in front of the school.

225th Anniversary Of The Battle Of Springfield New Jersey Celebration June 25 & 26th, 2005

This battle significantly impacted upon the outcome of the Revolutionary War. British troops invaded from Staten Island to Elizabeth(town) intending to capture Morristown by seizing the Hobart Gap in the Watchung Mountains (Today's Route 24). They were confronted with significant, unanticipated resistance from American Continental and local Militia and were driven back to Staten Island. It was "The Final Invasion", the British were never to fight another Revolutionary War Battle in New Jersey

The Township celebration will be large.

- A two day Revolutionary War Encampment consisting of several hundred American and British Revolutionary war re-enactors will be staged on the high school grounds.
- Their camp will be opened to the public for displays of life in the late eighteenth century.
- Two battle re-enactments will be staged. We hope to win again!
- There will also be a rededication ceremony of the "Battle Monument" located in front of the 1st Presbyterian Church on Morris Avenue to mark its 100th Anniversary.
- Saturday morning will also have rides and games for children at Jonathan Dayton High School.
- The annual July 4th fireworks display will be held on Saturday night, June 25, 2005, in lieu of July 4th. This will feature a special finale synchronizing fireworks to music.
- There will be a giant parade on Sunday, June 26.
- Thomas Fleming, author of *The Forgotten Victory*, the story of the Battle of Springfield will be a guest speaker at a pre-celebration event on June 5th, which is the anticipated date for the public unveiling of the restored John Ward Dunsmore painting, depicting the Battle Of Springfield, titled "Give 'em Watts Boys."

"Give 'em Watts, Boys!" The Battle of Springfield, June 23rd, 1780

(Editor's Note: With the upcoming 225th Anniversary of the Battle of Springfield, Springfield, NJ, scheduled on June 25-26, 2005 as a major BAR Event, it was felt that a historic introduction/review of the events of 1780 were in order for the membership.)

Introduction: On June 23rd, 1780, the climactic battle of the final invasion of NJ was fought in Springfield. Approx. 6,000 Crown forces under Gen. Knyphausen attacked from Staten Island, NY, via Elizabethtown, NJ, attempting to seize the Hobart Gap in the Watchung Mts. and then Morristown. He was stopped by Gen. Greene with a force of approx. 2,000 Continentals and NJ Militia.

Stopped at Springfield by the bravery of Maxwell's Jerseymen, Angell's Rhode Islanders, "Light Horse Harry" Lee's Dragoons and many others, the town was burned to the ground upon the withdrawal of British forces. When studying the American Revolution, only a handful of towns or communities were burned to the ground by the British in an act of terror to militarily intimidate the population. Lexington & Concord were not. Springfield was.

Directions:

Take Garden State Parkway North or South or New Jersey Turnpike North or South to I78 West. I 78W (Local Lanes) to Exit 50B Millburn (1st Exit Past GSP). Right at Light at top of ramp onto Vauxhall Rd. (CR-630/CR-30) At 2nd Light (3 Gas Stations) Make left onto NJ-124/Springfield Ave. Follow 1.4 miles (Past Home Depot & Over I-78) to Morris Ave. (Commerce Bank/CVS/BP Gas) Make Right onto Morris Ave. Make Left at Next light onto Mountain Avenue. Jonathan.Dayton.High.School. is two blocks South on the left.

From I 287 South Take Rt 24 East to I78 East to Exit 49A - NJ-124/Springfield Ave.. Follow to second light and make right onto Morris Ave. (Commerce Bank/CVS/BP Gas),.Make Left at Next light onto Mountain Avenue. Jonathan Dayton High School. is two blocks South on the left.

Congratulations to the Newly Elected Non-Commissioned Officers

Tom Traue Tom "Seven" Castrovinci Joe Hukill