



The Company Informer

Solomon Goffe House Event - April 7th 12-4:30

Muster
Home craft demonstrations

A brief history: This house was a part of the 5th events back in the late 80's. It is where Tom Traue and his son Eric met Tom Angels...and we all know what that's led to. The curator, Bernice Shelburne, saved this home from the wrecking ball and an indifferent city government. Her and a small staff are knowledgeable and faithful to this beautiful home and the 18th century. Sunday's staff demonstration will be about hats and Bernice has asked for any of our ladies attending to bring their hats or questions.

I, Tom Angels, had the opportunity to work in the home and to experience, while being there all alone, my first and only supernatural experience! This home offers much for the ladies in our group to see first hand the types of crafts that can be incorporated into our camp demonstrations. There are two working fireplaces and a working beehive oven that are well used. Bernice is dedicated to passing on her love of history and I have the greatest respect for what she has done in this 1711 home.

The day will include extensive drills dividing our men into opposing forces and discussion of various tactics by our sergeant and commander. This is all important because we must be prepared to take the lead on the field at the Ridgefield event. All of Brigade will be looking to see the 5th on the field and take a lead in tactical portrayal. Twelve cartridges of powder would be sufficient and turnout with as much gear as you have to date.

For the ladies, feel free to bring any sewing projects and take a seat in one of the five decorated rooms in the house and relax. Take in the warmth and friendship of the staff and let your mind drift to another time as you settle in the 292 year old home. This is the place to get ideas for future projects in your 18th century portrayal. Bernice is a lady of many talents and is more than willing to share them with you. She has offered to teach anyone willing to learn during any of her monthly open houses.

Directions: From I-691 East, take exit 7 and go straight until you come to a light at Colony Street. Take a left and continue to N. Colony until you see the home on your right. I-691 West, exit 7 and bear right at the ramp/fork and go to intersection at Center St. Take a left, then go through one light & keep going straight until you intersect with N. Colony, bear right onto N. Colony, the house is on the right.

1711 Solomon Goffe House



677 North Colony Street
Meriden, Connecticut

Our period dressed guides will take you back in time thru the 18th and 19th century. You may visit today and smell the spicy aroma of baking apple pie or see freshly dipped candles hung to dry. What you'll come away with is a sense of living history.

Around the middle of the 17th century this landscape of stream and woodland was populated only by temporary encampments of Indians. It was divided by the road that connected the river town of Hartford with the seaport town of New Haven. One of the oldest roads in Connecticut was called the Hartford/New Haven Turnpike.

The oldest house in Meriden was built by Solomon Goffe in 1711. It is a gambrel style house with rich historical features such as original raised field paneling and floorboards and Connecticut's own built-in cupboard with lobed shelves. The rooms in the house are furnished as they would have been when the Goffe family lived there. There is a parlor on the south side of the center chimney, a living hall on the north, with a small entry at the front. Around 1800, the house was extended by the Clark family to include the north wing, a parlor with all its original paneling and a kitchen. These rooms are furnished as they would have been at that time. The newly restored upstairs has two bed-chambers, a large display area for our loom and weaving and spinning demonstrations.

From the Adjutant's Desk



Some brief comments on the Ball and award winners. The attendance was 44 including some 5CR friends. The atmosphere was terrific and the evening started with the tavern filled with the beautiful music of Linda Stevens. It was elbow to elbow as the fine members of our group conversed and viewed old 5th photo's, and Allan Tarbox with his lovely assistant Sandie, took portraits of most of the members present. It's been years since so many ladies attended the Ball and this speaks well for the 5th's camp portrayals. All speeches were warmly received, especially Karen Annunzaito's. She spoke of what the 5th meant to her and Peter and the kids. Then she read three letters written by her now adult children and the lifelong impression the unit made on them during their growing years and now with their current lives and marriage. The camp follower award went to Linda Stevens. Her music presentations both in our camps and representing the 5th at other shows is without equal. The tavern was filled with her harp music and this award is well deserved for her dedication to 18th century music. The 5th is fortunate to have both Linda and Mark in the group and their many years of service do not go unnoticed. The Peter Anunziato award goes to Steve Johnson. His efforts to improve the troops knowledge and performance on the field are admirable. Much time is spent behind the scenes preparing and planning. It is this superb effort that Steve and others make that requires you the member to attend important drill events or shows when the Commander puts out a special request to turn out if at all POSSIBLE. Huzzah to Steve and Linda for a fantastic 2001!

DUES

Come on you lackies, laggards, dawdling, poky leaden and flagging members whose check is in the mail! We know your game. The contrivances are getting old now and your ingenious, and often cunning means to avoid paying dues is about to end. The states attorney will post the mugs of those not current for 2002 right next to the deadbeat dad's photo's. The plotting must stop. You must come forward and pay the piper. Unless the company surgeon finds you unstable, end this shenanigan and pay up!
Your friends in the Paymaster's office.

New member updates:

Trish Soucy and Caitlin (12) and Joey (7). They paid their dues, why not you?

Membership

We should continue to push for new members and spread the word about us. Tom Traue feels compared to other groups we are in good shape number wise but we can be out in front of all other's in the hobby with strong yearly growth. Lets not rest on the laurels of 2001. The more hands at events the lighter the work load for ALL. Lets all help shorten commander Traue's 6-Year term.

Events

The school show will be held at the Mead school in Ansonia (same as last year). Its June 7th a Friday and will require 12 members who want a 3 day weekend. So impressed was the principle that the superintendent was called out to view the activities and we were warmly received. Let's plant the future seeds of re-enacting in these small skulls of mush. Tom Traue coordinator.

Most events will have a coordinator as the point man or woman. All contacts can go thru them concerning times, food counts, tentage and carpools and weather cancellations.

NEW NEW NEW

The 30th anniversary of the recreated 5CR and Delancy's Loyalists will take place in 2004. We are planning to combine both groups once again as was done with the 20th celebration. Your thoughts concerning this event will be entertained by Tom Traue.

WOMEN'S CLOTHING WORKSHOP

On March 17th a loud noise rose over the voice of the wee people. A rumbling din and hum came out of a house in South Britain. It came from the inspired souls of the 5th campfollowers. It was the day of the first Women's and Children's Workshop.

Beckie Fifield the new BAR Women's Clothing Adviser and Colleen Humphrey of 18c Early American Life and Battle Road were on hand to give a wonderful and informative workshop. Along with the ladies of the 5th several of the Loyalists from Delancey's also participated.

Inspiration and motivation drove the day. Our Donna went home with 100's of question asked, 75 or more answered. Trish started her stays and made a great bargain on a short gown and is going to look great at Ridgefield. Toni gleaned lots of information on children's clothing, gained motivation and cut out two shirts for her son. Kathy is off and running on her stays and is keeping pace with Debbie. They will be in camp with a good foundation. Jill and her daughter cut out Caracos and learned great ideas from Colleen about construction and other neat stuff. Lindsey and Wendy, Colleens daughter, had fun talking and hope to see each other again. It was my pleasure to get to know the ladies of the 5th better and have a chance to chat and discuss 18c. Women.

During the day we all shared our thoughts on being campfollowers, construction tips for clothing, and much more. We hope to continue our new connection with the Delancey's group, Colleen and Beckie and hold other workshops together.

COSTUMING PHILOSOPHY FOR THE 18C WOMEN

With the new Reenactment year beginning and several very important events scheduled for the 5th Connecticut, it is most important that we reevaluate the interpretation of our 18-century clothing. Costume and appearance are part of an accurate visual language that contributes to our visitors' understanding of Revolutionary history. The use of clothing in the presentation of the 5th Connecticut illustrates the various stations of life and their complexities and subtleties. Appearance can be used to interpret the wearer's gender, age, socio-economic group, social status, personal expression, and

ethnicity as appropriate to the date, season, activity, or occasion being depicted.

Our costumed appearance speaks as loudly as what we say. Clothing, however, can be more than a visual impression; it affords the interpreter the opportunity to discuss the importance of status and fashion and its relationship to other objects that surround the visitor.

Costuming may be just one of the components of our presentation of a past society, but we should strive to achieve the highest standards of authenticity that we can in our appearance. This means that it would be better to wear the correct B. A. R. approved item than an inappropriate one. Not everyone will have the correct spectacles or shoes to begin with, but a few correct outer garments can give the impression that you care.

We are continually learning from primary sources what type of clothing women wore from the beginning to the end of the war. Shifts, stays, petticoats (two), caps, neckerchiefs and a wide non-bibbed apron are the constant. The short gown, bed gown, caraco or gown that goes over all this is very important. Style and fabric plain or patterned, makes it right or wrong. Think before you make an item, it's better to have one correct short gown than several inappropriate garments.

You can purchase patterns from J. P. Ryan, Burnley and Trowbridge. This is their Web site for patterns. <http://www.jpryan.com/ladiespatterns.html>
www.burnleyandtrowbridge.com

Use linen, wool or cotton in a plain color, a stripe or check. Get the book Textiles for Colonial Clothing by Sally Queen if you're unsure. Take it with you to the store. You can also order a catalog and samples materials from

Burnley and Trowbridge Co., 108 Druid Drive, Williamsburge, Va. 23185 \$5.00

or

The Linen Lady, Box 305, Frederick, Pa 19435, Include \$1 and a self stamped addressed envelope

Or

Wooded Hamlet Designs, 4044 Coseytown RD, Greenscastle, Pa 17225

Join the 18c Web site at
18cWoman@yahoo.com

RIDGEFIELD EVENT

Hello 5CR,

Just to bring you up to date with this event. On March 9th, the Captain, Pay Master and I walked through the Ridgefield Event site with all the town officials and BAR officers. Everything is coming together. We just need to get the troops to report in with their returns. The deadline was the 15th. This is going to be the best event probably all year and then some!!!!

We need to start getting on BAR people to get their returns in. We are cutting it to the wire and the BAR feels, as do I this is going to be the event of the year. The town is supplying a lot of great activities for us, ball, barn dance, roasted pigs, etc. I can't even write it all. Plus a free medal to commemorate the battle, for participants. So for those non BAR members, it is even worth joining the BAR just to be able to play in this one as you'll really get every \$ back and then some. So please pass the word and let's get the troops at this show! The 5CR is the host unit. Anyone who misses this show is going to cry!

JOE

QUARTERMASTER REPORT

By ordr of ye excellency 5th Conn Regt, HQ COy Capt. Traue!

1st Ordr - All troops are to take inventory of loaned equipment and send in their QM return to the Sjt Quarter Master for accounting. Those soldiers and camp followers being sick with the pox can be delayed but others not returning their accounts will be charged to their pay. Please have your returns in by the drill day. Beware, the drum major has been issued a new cat o' nine tails.

2nd Ordr - All QM helpers holding unit supplies and equipment must take inventory and note condition of equipment and supplies. All cooking wares to be boiled clean and inspected. All artificers to inventory and report. All soldiers to ensure they have dry powder and clean muskets.

3rd Ordr - If time permits on drill day the unit wagon will be inventoried and inspected with a written report returned to QM Sjt.

Your most humble and obedient soldier,

5CR Quarter Master Sjt. Joe Hukill

2002 SCHEDULE

April 7 Solomon Goffe House (Meriden) Drill Day [coordinator – Tom A.]

April 13 Battle Road (CL ND)

April 27-28 Battle of Ridgefield (5CR/BAR) [Tom T.]

May 27 Bristol Memorial Day Parade 11:00 [Tom A]

June 7 School Show Ansonia [Tom T]

June 9 Hurd House [Sandie T]

June 22-23 Crown Point (CL ND) [Tom T]

July 4 Groton Parade and 5CR Party [Steve Johnson]

July 5-7 Hubbardton VT (CL)

Aug. 3-4 Old Newgate Prison, Granby, CT (18c. Wedding) [Tom A]

Aug.17-18 Bennington VT

Sept. 14 Stratford Historical Society [Jill B (?)]

Sept 27-29 Encampment at Saratoga (National Park) (CL)

Oct. 5-6 West Point/ Fort Montgomery (BAR)

Oct 12-13 Battle of Saratoga (CL)

Oct 19-20 Burning of Kingston NY (CL)

From the itinerary of General Washington

June 15, 1775, to December 23, 1783

Monday January 5.

At Valley Forge: "The letter you allude to, from the Committee of Congress and Board of War, came to hand on Saturday morning; but it does not mention the regulations adopted for removing the difficulties and failures in the commissary line. I trust they will be vigorous, or the army cannot exit. It will never answer to procure supplies of clothing or provisions by coercive measures." – Washington to the President of Congress.

Tuesday October 21, 1779

At West Point: "In a letter of the 15th instant from General Gates, he writes to me, 'My intelligence from all quarters and reports from all stations, announce that the enemy are preparing to evacuate Newport. Monday or Tuesday it is imagined they will take their departure.'" – Washington to the President of Congress