

# 8<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Regt. Ft. Laurens Det.

October 2021

8<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvanians;

I'm going to start with event reports from our last three events, which were are very different from one and other, and all very enjoyable in their own right.

## Authentic Weekend, 28-29 August

This event was proposed by Dave Graham, who did all the work in arranging and running the actual activities. When he first told me of his idea for this weekend I was very interested, and sure that not everyone in the unit would want to be involved, but believe there is room for various sorts of events for us. (In fact, we hold firelock matches every year even though some of you have not desire to shoot live). The Authentic Weekend was held at Mohican State Forest, outside of Loudonville, Ohio, and they actually closed the portion of the forest we were using so we could carry our firelocks. Dave's idea is that we would try to recreate part of the march of the 8<sup>th</sup> Pa. from Valley Forge to Fort Pitt. We met on Saturday morning, and hiked about four and one half miles, mostly uphill, by my recollection, carrying our complete kit, including packs, haversacks and firelocks. The weather was no help on this particular day, as it was 95 degrees, with a heat index of 102 degrees. The forest was beautiful and we did meet some riders on the horse trail who were taken by our 18<sup>th</sup> c. clothing. Speaking of clothing, originally we had planned on wearing regimentals, but the predicted weather caused a change of plan to linen hunting shirts for all but Dave, who was in his Native impression. (Not a bad day to be in a breechcloth). Once we reached the place we were to camp, we dropped our kits and went back down the hill to bring up the tents and potable water. (The hike had been circular in nature, and we were 3-400 yards from our vehicles). On the original march the tents were carried in wagons, and they drank from streams. We didn't have a wagon (the trail would not have accommodated one even if we had one) and drinking from the stream we crossed several times was not safe). Our campsite was well chosen by our scout, and once we had everything we needed on site, we began erecting the tents and getting the evening meal started. Tim Iten took on this chore, and planned and prepared the evening meal, the food for which had been divided in our haversacks before we started. The site was on top a wooded hill, surrounded by higher hills in the forest, and except any noise we made was 18<sup>th</sup> c. quiet. Surprisingly, we were not bothered by mosquitos or other insects, and perhaps they weren't around because they usually don't have any prey to feed on! We ate a fine supper prepared by Tim, of beef stew, and topped it off with several rounds of spirits. Tom Hornbrook and Tom Morris cut fresh pine boughs for our bedding, and as the fire died we all lay down for a well-earned rest, three to a tent. I had been apprehensive about sleeping on the ground, with only a blanket between me and the hard earth, but found I had not problems going to and staying asleep.

Sunday morning we were able to restart the fire (originally started with flint and steel) which had been banked the night before, and Tim prepared pork belly and grits for breakfast, along with a pot of coffee. While the meal was being prepared we struck the tents and cleaned up the camp area, and after eating we packed the camp gear, then our personal kits out, said our "goodbyes" and headed home. Those unit members participated were:

Dave Graham    Tim Iten    Doug Angeloni    Tom Hornbrook    Tom Morris    Bob Cairns

I would like to thank Dave Graham for doing a fine job arranging everything about this event including permission to use the park, permission to park our cars on private land bordering the park, choosing our route and camping area, getting Tim to do the food, and all the little things I don't recall just now. We talked a little before we left, and the only change we all agreed was that perhaps doing the next one of these in the fall would be more accommodating in regard to the weather, and maybe shortening the course, or making a little less strenuous. However, let me note that the youngest man on the trail was in his mid-50s, and the oldest was 71, with the average age being in the mid-60s. It was a fine experience, and I look forward to the next time.



(photos by Dave Graham)

### **Fort Niagara, 18-19 September**

I don't have enough superlatives to properly describe my feelings regarding this event and the conduct of ALL members of the 8<sup>th</sup> Pa. in attendance. I have NEVER been prouder of the unit than I was at Ft. Niagara. To start with, of the dozens of units represented on both sides, we were the largest unit on the field. Some of us arrived Thursday and set the camp up

for those coming later. (Thanks to those folks). More unit members arrived on Friday and we all spent the day sight-seeing and visiting with old friends. Friday evening a near-dusk tactical was held on the long grassy beach east of the fort, and we were the center of the American line. On Saturday morning the unit formed, with 19 men and two guests from other units falling in with us. (Steve Gilbert of the 3<sup>rd</sup> NY acted as ensign, and Tom Edwards of the 10<sup>th</sup> Va. fell in with a musket). The 8<sup>th</sup> made up the majority of our battalion, and we were joined by men of the 13<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Va., and Klotz's Pa. Militia. These units made up our 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon and both were inspected by Henry Cooke, B.A.R. Natl. Inspector, during the event, their first official B.A.R. event. We also had two unit members on the howitzer crew, commanded by Jim Workman and filled out with members of the 5<sup>th</sup> Va. Additionally, one of our surgeons, Jack Weidner and his surgeon's mate, Cheryl Weidner, set up in camp, and we had fine support from our distaff, who, when ever possible, were ably guarded by Don Newton.

Saturday, with all our men now in camp, we formed early and sized the company, fell in at a brief Congressional Forces formation, then spent time drilling, practicing evolutions that would be necessary during our maneuvers in the field. We had three tacticals on Saturday, one in the morning, one after lunch, and one just before dusk. The unit provided food for lunch, and our commissary NCO, Cpl. Tom Morris, organized the distribution. Our ladies also contributed to lunch, sharing scones (thank you Cheryl) and other snack items (thank you Diane) and Shawn Smith passed out blueberry muffins made from blueberry from his New England blueberry fields. (Shawn attended both days, even though his 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary was Sunday).

The tacticals were three stages of the same action where we attacked and attempted to capture various parts of the fort's outer defenses. The morning action was very successful, and we actually captured the objectives for not only that attack, but also for the afternoon attack as well. The evening battle ended with us in possession of all the outer works. Sunday we lost all we had taken the day before to the Crown troops. There was also a memorial service for those reenactors who had passed in 2020-21, and the announcing of the winners of the drill competition. We did not participate in the contest, as it was limited to teams of 4-8 men. Since we do not and have never had a "second string", I would only enter the competition if all 19 of us could be involved. The fact that you are all proficient in the drill was clearly demonstrated the entire weekend.

Every man did his very best to hold his position in the line and to carry himself and his firelock in the proper martial position. Tom Hornbrook, our company's First Sgt., remarked on how fine the unit looked going through maneuvers and the manual of arms. These remarks were seconded by the current B.A.R. Natl. Commander, John Lopez, and by past Natl. Commander Mark Hurwitz. The 8<sup>th</sup> made a fine impression and displayed a very military attitude throughout the event.

I would like to thank Tom Morris and Chris Ankeney for planning & preparing the Saturday evening meal, and for taking care of laying out leftovers and coffee Sunday morning. Doug Angeloni made sure everyone's cartridge boxes and canteens were full. Sgt. Hornbrook handled the issues with muskets that needed attention. Thank you to Vic McGinnis, Greg Cocco & Dan Boyer for helping us set the camp up. Thank you to Jack Weidner for the excellent photos he took during the weekend. Thank you to ALL of you, men-at-arms and distaff, for your great spirit and dedication to making this a great weekend for everyone.

**HUZZAH THE 8<sup>TH</sup> PENNSYLVANIA !!!**



8<sup>th</sup> Pa., Ft. Laurens Det. At Fort Niagara, 18 Sept. 2021, in regimentals and hunting shirts (photos by Jack Weidner)



In action before the ravelin

Staging before the evening attack  
(photos by Jack Weidner)

**Brecksville Fallfest, 26 September**

This one-day event is like an old friend to the NW Dept. B.A.R. We have been doing this show annually for many years ( in the neighborhood of 25 years), and it is one of the primary funding sources for the NW Dept. It is held in Brecksville in one of the Cleveland metroparks and the setting is outstanding. Most of the other activities at the event are geared toward childrens' participation and we see many kids and dogs every year. This year both the spectator and reenactor numbers were down, but that didn't stop everyone involved from having a good time. Nine members of our unit participated and they were;

Bob Cairns	Tom Hornbrook	Doug Angeloni	Vic McGinnis
Dave Graham	John Graham	Mark Vozer	Jim Workman
Sue Workman			

Sue set up her display of games and fascinated children with them and puzzles  
Mark had a table that focused on breech-loading weapons of the Revolutionary War period  
Dave & John did their native impression and were very busy with the public all day  
The rest of us preformed the rifle/musket demo and artillery demo

Members of the 5<sup>th</sup> Va. were also very involved in interpreting cooking and other 18<sup>th</sup> c. skills. Also involved were members of the 23<sup>rd</sup> R.W.F., Jagers, Westmoreland Militia, and Lamb's Arty.

It was a very nice day, and I want to thank Vic from driving over from Pennsylvania to help out.

I would like to thank everyone that attended any of the three events I just reviewed and want you to know that your participation at events is what drives me to continue playing and working for the regiment. It becomes very difficult to plan events that are poorly attended, and that leads me to the next item.

### **BRIGADE OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION NORT WEST DEPARTMENT**

**Event Notice: Adena Mansion and Gardens, Chillicothe, Ohio**  
Saturday and Sunday, October 30 & 31,

On Saturday and Sunday, October 30 & 31 the BAR North West Department will be holding an event at the Adena Mansion and Gardens in Chillicothe Ohio.

Adena was the 2000-acre estate of Thomas Worthington (1773-1827), sixth governor of Ohio and one of the state's first United States Senators.

The house is one of only three houses designed by Benjamin Henry Latrobe still standing in the country. Adena is a beautiful site with very few incursions from the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Adena mansion was completed in 1807. It was faithfully restored for Ohio's Bicentennial in 2003. Touring it will provide you with the opportunity to see the house as it appeared during the time when the Worthington family lived there, including many original Worthington family furnishings.

If you take the short walk to the overlook on the eastern side of the grounds you can see Mount Logan and the surrounding area that was the inspiration for the Great Seal of the State of Ohio.

Thomas Worthington held a special reception for the Indian Chief Tecumseh and several of his party at Adena.

Guided tours of the mansion will be available for all Brigade members.

All BAR Members with civilian impressions and/or demonstrations are invited to attend the event.

The following meals will be provided: Saturday: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner. Sunday: Breakfast and Lunch. Lunches will be period meals served in the camps. Units should provide at least one large pot to carry their rations. You will need period eating utensils and bowls. Period eating ware will not be required for breakfasts or dinner on Saturday evening.

A special reception for members of the BAR, the staff of Adena Mansion and gardens and the Nathaniel Massie Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution is being planned for Saturday evening. The reception will include period music and light refreshments.

In order to plan for meals members are asked to register for the event by contacting Joe Forte, event coordinator, by E-mail at [jjforte@frontier.com](mailto:jjforte@frontier.com) or by phone at (740)-474-6183.

The event runs from 9:00AM until 5:00 PM on Saturday and 9:00AM until 4:00 PM on Sunday.

Event Coordinator: Joe Forte, email: [jjforte@frontier.com](mailto:jjforte@frontier.com) (740)-474-6183.

**Brigade of the of the American Revolution**

**Adena Mansion and Gardens**

**October 30 & 31, 2021**

Daily Schedule of Activities

Saturday, October 30:

9:00 AM: Officers Call, Brigade of the American Revolution, (BAR)

9:30 AM: First Formation, Brigade of the American Revolution

10:00 AM: Unit Drill and Rifle / Musket Demonstration,  
Brigade of the American Revolution

11:00 AM: History of the Worthington Family and Adena Mansion, by Maryanne Brown former curator of Adena Mansion and Gardens.  
Location: Meeting Room in the Visitor's Center.

12:00 PM: Noonning, Brigade of the American Revolution in the respective camps.

1:00 PM: Artillery Demonstration, Brigade of the American Revolution

2:00 PM: Clothing of the Revolution, Brigade of the American Revolution

3:00 PM: Tactical Weapons Demonstration, Brigade of the American Revolution

5:00 PM Site Closes to the Public

**ONGOING PROGRAMS:** These programs will be going on throughout the day.

- Role of The Department of the Geographer, Washington's Map Makers, Geographer's Marquis Tent
- 18<sup>th</sup> Century Open Hearth Cooking, Tennent House Kitchen.
- Daughters of the American Revolution, (DAR), Introduction to Genealogy, DAR Information Table. Start the process to discover your Revolutionary War Ancestor.
- Discussion of the women's role in the American Revolution, Ladies of the BAR.

**Especially for the Children:**

- Daughters of the American Revolution, Story Time, Near the DAR Information Table.
- Make a replica Revolutionary War Musket Cartridge, Ladies of the BAR Tent.

**Brigade of the of the American Revolution**  
**Adena Mansion and Gardens**  
**October 30 & 31, 2021**

Daily Schedule of Activities

Sunday, October 31:

8:45 AM: NWD Board Meeting

9:45 AM: Officers Call, Brigade of the American Revolution, (BAR)

10:00 AM: Divine Services

10:30 AM: First Formation, Brigade of the American Revolution

11:00 AM: Unit Drill and Rifle / Musket Demonstration,  
Brigade of the American Revolution

12:00 PM: Nooning, Brigade of the American Revolution in the respective camps.

1:00 PM: Artillery Demonstration, Brigade of the American Revolution

2:00 PM: Clothing of the Revolution, Brigade of the American Revolution

3:00 PM: Tactical Weapons Demonstration, Brigade of the American Revolution

4:00 PM Site Closes to the Public

**ONGOING PROGRAMS:** These programs will be going on throughout the day.

- Role of The Department of the Geographer, Washington's Map Makers, Geographer's Marquis Tent
- 18<sup>th</sup> Century Open Hearth Cooking, Tennent House Kitchen.
- Daughters of the American Revolution, (DAR), Introduction to Genealogy, DAR Information Table. Start the process to discover your Revolutionary War Ancestor.
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Especially for the Children:

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  - Make a replica Revolutionary War Musket Cartridge, Ladies of the BAR Tent.
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As of this writing (11 Oct.) I have only heard from 10 unit members and only 6 have said they plan to attend. I certainly hope this changes. Joe Forte has worked very hard to make this a special event, and the site itself warrants you visit. I surely hope to hear from MANY more of you. After all, the more of us, the more fun we'll have. Please support the 8<sup>th</sup> Pa. and NW Dept. B.A.R., and come join in a good time, 18<sup>th</sup> c.-style.

On another subject, several unit members let me know that the GOEX black powder company was closing. As a result I called the powder supplier we normally use and bought 50 lbs. This should hold us for at least two years, and allowed us to buy at the price we'd been paying, rather than where the price may go if there is a shortage.

That leads me to another thought. Our unit has been fortunate over the past several years to be the benefactor of several donations, both monetary and in the form of black powder. We are currently in a good financial position, even though for the second straight year our traditional primary source of income, The Pine Tree Barn event, has been cancelled. I am currently communicating with a person that contacted us about a possible paid event for the unit next summer, but the talks are so preliminary I'll wait for something more definite before giving any details.

Paid events are what makes it possible for the unit to provide powder, tentage, and food at events. We spend the money we make on the people who made it. I will be glad to let you know our current bank balance and powder inventory if you will send me a stamped, self-addressed envelope. I won't put that information on the web. It's our business, not anyone else's.

I'll finish now, and hope that many more of you will decide to attend the Adena event. YOU are the strength of the 8<sup>th</sup> Pa. and the N.W. Department.

Bob Cairns

**HUZZAH the 8<sup>TH</sup> PENNSYLVANIA !!!**



( Photo submitted by John McDowell)