



Head of Elk

Once again God decided to provide us accurate weather for the historical battle that wasn't. Friday night the rain and thunderstorms began and did not let up until almost battle time on Saturday. Then we were treated to high temperatures and humidity sufficient to drive the men to strip and the women-folk to submerge their feet in buckets of ice and water. Dinner consisted of "Mother of All Pots Stew" (a unit favorite) and our after-dinner entertainment consisted of the mother of all thunderstorms threatening to make the dining fly actually take flight. But the illustrious, industrious members of the battle and heat weary 11th PA continued conducting the general membership meeting while anchoring the fly poles with their bodies even as other wimpier regiments sought the safety of the historic house at the site.

Tacticals were conducted on a large field sandwiched between trees and a fence surrounding a medium security prison. Catcalls and other words of "encouragement" from the prison inmates lent a strange flavor to the scene, but, overall, the adaptable 11th PA did enjoy portraying loyalist troops and playing in the redoubt.

John Curtis achieved a new level of authenticity when his tent pole broke. A bit of rope, some torn linen and a good sized stick proved an adequate and worthy splint for the broken pole and prompted semi-serious discussion about making all the tent poles have the same authentic appearance. As if to provide further proof to the durability of the design, even the high winds of a severe thunderstorm were unable to undo the makeshift mast. In a fit of rage at not being able to defeat the tent pole, the wind and rain conspired to surgically remove John's tent from it's location amid all the other tentage by yanking all the stakes and hurling it to the soggy ground, tent pole still splinted, but intact. The men all pulled together to relocate the tent and secure all the supplies in a dry location and John was able to continue his weekend albeit in a slightly damper state than when he began.

In all truth, and taking into consideration the rain, wind, heat, oppressive humidity, mosquitoes, ants, thunder, lightning, and overflowing privies, the weekend of Head of Elk had to be one of the more historically accurate weekends in which we have had the pleasure of participating.

Ode to Stumpy

By John Curtis

Faithful Mount
I knew you well
That is to say my arse
Knew you well.
If I stood on your face
The further could I see,
If I knelt down behind you
Could I pee?
Never a complaint
Nary a bumble
Without even a feint
And never a grumble!
O' Stumpy, faithful
Friend and true
My heart did rend
When I left you!
But leave you I must
So behind I let you
Before you turned to dust
Rotting in my trunk – PU!



Battle of Cedar Bridge

By James Bell



Lovely Brianna Carroll

The Good 'Ole Days Festival in Manahawkin is definitely an 11th PA event. This was the third year the township of Manahawkin called upon our own Bill Treusch and asked us to participate in the historical recreation of the Battle of Cedar Bridge, which is unquestionably the last battle of the American Revolution fought in

New Jersey. The skirmish took place in December of 1782, more than a year after Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown.

The battle took place between John Bacon's Loyalists and the Burlington County Militia. Although mostly still a sideline of the craft's fair that dominates the park we utilize, we reenacted the Battle of Cedar Bridge, the Massacre at the beach and the trial of John Bacon, his capture, and forcing of drink down the dearly departed corpse. Civil War combatants also participated in a separate battle.

The event organizer, Tim Hart, is hoping to expand this event to the entire weekend next year, with Sunday dedicated specifically to the Rev War reenactment of Cedar Bridge. The current area is too small, given the public size and close proximity to craft tents. By extending the event into Sunday, the entire knoll that craft tents previously occupied would be available to us for crowd control and tactical demonstrations. Although images of dogs and ponies usually coincide with Manahawkin, we were the first Rev War unit asked to participate in their festivities, giving us a foot in the door to all future events. Although this most likely will never be able to expand into a full Continental Line event, it is one we enjoy doing, and we often get free food and drink, press and radio coverage – and this year we even got free t-shirts.

Upcoming Events

Paoli / Brandywine: September 21-22

Units may arrive as early as Friday, Sept. 20, after 1 p.m. and establish camp. The program on Sunday will include two tactical demonstrations with the event ending at approximately 4:30 p.m.

The 225th Anniversary of the Battle of Paoli will be held on Saturday, September 21, at 7:00 p.m. Round trip bus transportation will be provided from Brandywine Battle field to the Paoli Battlefield for men-at-arms and musicians ONLY. Buses will depart from Brandywine at approximately 5:30 p.m. and will leave Paoli for the return trip at approximately 8:30 p.m. Campfollowers, family and friends are also invited but must provide their own transportation. Directions to the Paoli Battlefield will be available at Brandywine Battlefield on the day of the event.

As of this printing, this is all the information I have about the events. I will contact the unit with further information when and if it becomes available.

Directions to Brandywine:

Brandywine Battlefield Park is located in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania. The driving time from central Philadelphia is roughly 45 minutes.

From Philadelphia: Take I-95 South to Route 322 West. Roughly 8 miles later Rt 322 will terminate at Route 1. Turn left (west) onto Route 1 and continue to Chadds Ford. There will be signs on the right side of the road directing you to the park site.



Mitch commands the Burlington County Militia at Manahawkin



John Bacon's (Bill T.) dead body being carted off.



Several slightly soggy soldiers at Head of Elk