



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE BRIGADE OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
NORTHWEST DEPARTMENT

# ***B.A.R. SHOT***

***Commander: Bob Cairns (330) 455-9722***

***B.A.R. SHOT Editor: Karen Kashary (330) 523-0629***

## **Commander's Corner**

I am **VERY** excited about the first event of our 2025 season, "**LEXINGTON GREEN 250**", being held at Burton, Ohio's Century Village. The NW Dept. has, in the past, held several of our events at this site, and it will be just the place to stage our tribute to the Lexington Green and Retreat from Concord. We are holding our Lexington event a week after the actual 250th anniversary so we don't conflict with the event being held on the actual site. In addition to our NW Department units, we have, with the permission of Jim McGaughey and Michael Grenier of the British Brigade, invited an h of their members that would like to attend, and have sent the same information to the NWTA. In addition, we have contacted the Lexington Minutement who have shared information on how they portray the actions of April 19th, 1775. With those things being said, the biggest key to this being a successful even is **YOU**. With **YOUR** help, and the more of **YOU** we have attending/participating, the better this event will be. All our men can play a part as British regulars, Massachusetts Militia, and civilians, and our ladies are also needed for the scenario on the Green to help their husbands/brothers/neighbors after the conflict. If every member of the NW Department attends it will truly be an event to remember, and a wonderful way to "kick off" our 250<sup>th</sup> celebration/commemoration of the American Revolution and the birth of our nation. And while it seems like a difficult thing to get ALL of us out, in reality, each one of you only needs to get THEMSELVES to the event, and "ALL" will take care of itself. The event notice appears elsewhere in this BARSHOT, and I hope you will read it carefully and decide that you will come and contribute to an event that will teach the public about the beginning of the Revolution and be rewarding to all of us.

Something special about our "**Lexington Green 250**" event is what we will be doing to increase the number of British troops. Our regular turn-out of red coats won't do for the events we wish to portray, although our Crown units will do their best for a maximum attendance. It seems that some of our Continentals (including your truly) have British kits and can fall in with the British regulars for the Green and Retreat scenarios. Additionally, our Crown units have a supply of extra red regimentals. Since it won't do to have our Militia out-number our regulars on the Green, I am asking for volunteers who are not normally British soldiers to help portray British musketmen. These volunteers need to have white smallclothes (preferably breeches & waistcoats) and black cocked hats (preferably with white tape).

You can wear your own cartridge box, bayonet carriage and haversack. We have the coats by size, and you'll need to fit into one. Please contact me about this ASAP, and you can join me and other "Americans" fielding for the scenario as Crown troops. For the afternoon, you can go back to your regular kit if you like and participate in the demos and interpreting as you regularly would. We have right now 5 Congressionals with full British kits (B. Cairns, B. Jarrard, T. Reihle, J. Forte, and D. Weidner), and 10 coats, so we can make up a platoon if we fill all the empty coats. With even a handful of Crown troops from the British Brigade and NWTA, we should be able to have a group of regulars that are sufficiently intimidating to the militia. Your help is essential in this effort.

Again, read the event notice carefully, and decide what you'd like to do to make this event a success. The rest of the events so far scheduled for the 2025 season are:

**3-4 May**                      Ohio Civil War Show, Richland County      Fairgrounds, Mansfield, Ohio

**31 May-1 June**      Fort Laurens State Memorial, Bolivar, Ohio.      Please note that this is a change from our past events there, which took place in mid-July.

**28 Sept.**                      Brecksville Fallfest, Brecksville Municipal Parks, Brecksville, Ohio

In addition, the NW Dept. Board will schedule a School sometime in mid-July-mid-August, to be held at Zoar Village, and a Firelock Match, date and site to be determined.

I hope to see you ALL at Burton' Century Village,

Bob Cairns, 8<sup>th</sup> Pa., Ft. Laurens Det.  
Commander, NW Dept. B.A.R.



# LEXINGTON GREEN 250

**What: 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration of the Battles of Lexington Green & The Retreat from Concord**

**When: Saturday and Sunday, 26-27 April, 2025**

**Where: Century Village, Burton, Ohio**

The Brigade of the American Revolution's NorthWest Department is sponsoring an event to commemorate the actions that began the American Revolution. The site, Century Village, in Northeastern Ohio, is very conducive to portraying both Lexington Green and the British retreat from Concord. Both mornings of the event will concentrate on portraying the events of April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1775. In the afternoon there will be programming on more general topics of the period of the Revolution.

## **Information for Reenactors Wishing to Attend**

- All members in good standing of the Brigade of the American Revolution may attend.
- Members of other organizations may also be invited with the following criteria;
  - All B.A.R. and commonly accepted safety rules will be used
  - non-B.A.R. units will provide verification of insurance
  - All participants will, for the Lexington/Concord portion of the program, agree to dress as either British regulars in red regimentals, or New England militia
  - All participants will pre-register: no walk-ons will be permitted

### **Dress for Militia**

Since we will be portraying New England militia, no fringed hunting shirts, no blanket "Indian" leggings, and no moccasins will be permitted for the morning scenarios. It is also encouraged to bring only smoothbore firelocks, as rifles were not common to the area.

Common coats, jackets, sleeved waistcoats of wool or linen, as well as a pullover workman's shirt/smock, are acceptable. Breeches are preferred, trousers are acceptable, and overalls (gaitered trousers) should NOT be worn for militia. Bi-corns, tricorns and round hats are all acceptable. Please, no deer tails, feathers or other adornment.

### **Dress for Crown Troops**

Use the Clothing Warrants of 1768 for center and grenadier companies, and the documentation particular to your unit for light infantry dress. Please use an early-war impression.

### **Amenities for Reenactors**

The site will provide breakfast and lunch each day. The breakfast will be a pancake breakfast, attended by the public, where they can "have breakfast with a militiaman/red coat".

Supper Saturday evening will be provided by the NW Dept., B.A.R. for ALL registered participants

Straw for bedding and firewood will be provided for those participants camping, both 18<sup>th</sup> c. and modern

Potable water, restrooms and port-a-johns will also be on site

Areas for both 18<sup>th</sup> c. and modern camping will be available

There will be space for indoor sleeping, (barrack-style). Gear/bedding may need to be moved (not removed) during the day to make use of the space for other purposes

Burton is a small town, with limited lodging, but there are many hotels/motels within 15-20 miles. A list of those accommodations may be found at the end of this event notice

## **Schedule**

A schedule with specific times will be posted at a later time, but here are points that will be included;

Both Saturday and Sunday the morning activities will focus on the Lexington Green and Retreat from Concord scenarios. For those scenarios all participants will portray either Massachusetts militia or British regular infantry. There will also be an 18<sup>th</sup> c. church service in the church on the village green on Sunday morning. The Lexington Green scenario will begin approximately 9:30 AM each day, with breakfast and safety/officers call prior, starting approximately 7:15 AM. Activities after lunch will be more general, with lecture/demos on firelock operation, artillery, clothing, and many other topics. You will also be free and encouraged to display your own camp life scenarios. At least one tactical weapons demo will take place in the afternoon, and you can portray your own unit.

## **Registration**

Anyone wishing to participate MUST REGISTER BEFORE THE EVENT. No "walk-ons" will be permitted. To be sure you are included for meals and other amenities, you should register **no later than Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>**. You can **register by telephone or email** with the following persons;

### **Crown Forces**

Todd Harburn, 60<sup>th</sup> Regt. of Ft.  
P.O. Box 68, 6685, MacDonald Ave.  
Twin Lake, Mich. 49457  
(517) 256-1950  
[teharburn@gmail.com](mailto:teharburn@gmail.com)

### **Militia**

Bob Cairns, 8<sup>th</sup> Penna. Regt.  
1919 Yale Ave. NW  
Canton, Ohio 44709  
(330) 455-9722  
[robtcairns@cs.com](mailto:robtcairns@cs.com)

### **-Information needed to register includes:**

Your name, first and last

Will you be camping? Modern or 18<sup>th</sup> c.

If 18<sup>th</sup> c. camping, will you need straw?

Your unit's name

Will you want meals?

Will you want indoor sleeping accommodations?

Number in your party (unit)

Insurance verification, if not a B.A.R. member-unit

Any other special needs or requests.

The NorthWest Department of the Brigade of the American Revolution hopes you will decide to join us and participate in this event to honor the beginning of the American Revolution and the birth of our nation.

Sincerely,

Bob Cairns, Commander, NW Dept. B.A.R.

## **Hotels/Motels for Burton, Ohio B.A.R. Program**

Punderson Manor Lodge - 6 miles from Burton  
11755 Kinsman Road, (Route 87), Newberry, Ohio  
1-440-564-9144 (Rooms and nice multi Bedroom cottages)

Holiday Inn - 14 miles from Burton  
11200 Gold Court, Painsville, Ohio  
1-440-898-0000

Comfort Inn - 14 miles from Burton  
7581 Auburn Road, Painsville/Concord, Ohio  
1-440-579-0300

Comfort Inn - 16 miles from Burton  
1421 Golden Gate Blvd., Mayfield Heights, Ohio  
1-440-442-8400

Hilton Garden Inn - 17 miles from Burton  
700 Beta Drive Mayfield Heights, Ohio  
1-440-646-1777

Staybridge Suites - 17 miles from Burton  
6103 Landerhaven Drive Mayfield Heights, Ohio  
1-440-442-9200

Best Western Plus - 17 miles from Burton  
8434 Mentor Ave. Mentor, Ohio  
1-440-205-7378

Red Roof Inn - 17 miles from Burton  
4166 State Route 306 Willoughby, Ohio  
1-440-462-8540

## Adjutants Freshest Advices

Winter Quarters... the NWD Board is busy with next years' schedule which will be the beginning of the 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration of the American Revolution and War for Independence. While you are doing your normal winter kit repairs, think about our first NWD Event at the end of April. Burton Century Village and our tribute to Lexington and Concord 250<sup>th</sup>. Men at Arms will be civilian attire only or British Uniforms. We are putting together a list of "loaner Crown Regimentals" sizes. If you have any questions, please Contact Bob Cairns and see his article in this issue.

This is an Election Year, and the Nomination Cycle has begun. The Nominating Committee has done its job and now Nominations are OPEN from the Floor. This means that any NWD Unit in good standing can put forth a candidate(s) nomination to run for any Office with a Second from another NWD Unit in good standing. See Election 2025 Article.

UNIT MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS: To All NWD Unit Commanders and/or Adjutants: It is time to get your 2025 Unit Roster together and submitted to Dianne Miller Email: [Dianne2510@gmail.com](mailto:Dianne2510@gmail.com). As the NWD Membership Clerk, Dave and Dianne will build a NEW NorthWest Dept. database to send to the MAIN Dept for B.A.R. 2025 dues calculations and assessment. A new BAR roster Form can be found on the BAR Website: [www.Brigade.org](http://www.Brigade.org). Click the **Membership** tab, scroll down to APPLICATIONS and Click on the underlined HERE tab. Print as many forms as needed for your unit. Once completed, they may be emailed to Dianne Miller's Email above or U.S. Mail to: Dianne Miller 2851 Fleger Dr. Parma Ohio 44134-6439. Once entered into the NWD DATABASE Dianne will forward your unit roster to the Main Dept and you will be sent a Unit Renewal Bill which will be paid directly to the Main Dept. Treasurer. PLEASE follow this procedure ASAP if you have not already done so .

Bob Kashary, 5<sup>th</sup> Va. Reg't.  
NWD Adjutant



## MINUTEMEN, 1775

In October 1774, the Royal Governor, Major General Thomas Gage, refused to call the Massachusetts legislature into session, part of a plan to completely remake the government, down to the local level, into a more loyal form. The legislature promptly declared itself the Provincial Congress and moved out of the governor's reach. Gage soon found that his authority extended no farther than the British regiments in Boston.

The Congress quickly acted to become the de facto government of Massachusetts, removing "loyalist" officials and appointing reliable "patriots." It then acted to strengthen the colony's military forces. British raids to seize stores of weapons and ammunition caused them to be dispersed among local towns. Towns, including the surrounding countryside (the principal units of local government), were "recommended" by the Congress to bring their militia companies, men aged 16 to 50, up to strength and to form one quarter into "minute companies" of younger, fit men "ready to march on the shortest warning." Older men from 50 to 70 were placed on the "alarm list" for dire emergencies. Minutemen especially were to have a good firelock, bayonet, thirty rounds of powder and ball, [cartridge] pouch and knapsack. Most were unable to meet all of these standards. Firearms included old Queen Anne doglocks, long fowling pieces, old French muskets taken at Louisbourg, and Long Land British muskets, some obtained from British deserters. Rifles were unknown in New England. All of these units, surprisingly, were volunteer.

Different towns went their own way in carrying out these recommendations. Lexington kept all its men in one large militia company, without a separate minute company. In Acton, Capt. Davis, a gunsmith, exercised the minute company twice a week, often by firing at targets. He also made cartridge pouches and bayonets for his men. Most men had only powder horns and bullet pouches, some carrying bullets in pockets, and one man with "a dozen ball tied up in a handkerchief under my hat." Sudbury, a larger town, organized five militia companies and set aside wagons loaded with supplies to follow them when they marched. Companies had designated "alarm posts" to assemble at, often a literal wooden post where public notices were hung, or before the meetinghouse.

When the carefully organized alarm was raised on April 18/19, minutemen and militia mobilized with astonishing speed. Years later a historian asked Capt. Preston of Danvers why he went to war: "Young man, what we meant in in going for those Redcoats was this: we had always governed ourselves and we always meant to. They didn't mean we should."

For more, read: David Hackett Fischer. Paul Revere's Ride. NY, Oxford, 1994. Good reading for Redcoats and Rebels!

Bruce Egli, Westmoreland County Militia

## Inspector Report

Below are excerpts from an extensive and well written article regarding reenactors portrayal of Militia Units during the War for Independence. The article was written by Todd Post for the Fall 1999 issue of The Colonial Chronicle published by Phil Weaver.

### HONORING YOUR MILITIA IMPRESSION

Edited by David Weidner

Both historically and in the hobby, militia is given a bad name. This is not entirely without reason, for the militia impression certainly appeals to a certain mind set. As a result, militia units tend to become provincial little groups which do not realize the rewarding challenges that a militia impression can provide.

It is my opinion that a militia impression, done properly, is the hardest impression one can choose for themselves. With no orderly books, no general orders, no equipment return for the most part, those who take doing militia seriously have a difficult path to finding out what they should look like. Unfortunately, most units do not take up the challenge, instead they are content to *wing it* and slap together a generic hodgepodge of equipment that rarely gives a true portrayal of those we hope to represent. When the work is done and acted upon, a well done militia impression can outshine the most lavishly dressed light infantryman or grenadiers, because they are that rare.

The problems begin when people take the attitude of "*We're militia!*" and think that phrase will get them out of doing research, drilling, etc. You do not have to be crisp in your drill, because "*Hey, you're militia.*" Those breeches are too baggy? Well, have no fear, because know what? "*You're militia.*" That excuse is totally unacceptable. Because you are militia, you have to work that much harder and dig that much deeper to do it right.

First of all, standards are usually lacking in a militia group. While Continentals and Regulars have uniformity and a martial air to impart esprit de corps, militia thrives on individuality and fraternity. They revel in their independence from standards and rules, and are in it just for the fun. However, standards are just as important for a militia unit and they are harder to achieve.

Because militia units do not have orders for uniformity to base their impression on, they often think that *anything goes*, but that could not be further from the truth.

## CLOTHING:

By looking at wills, newspaper advertisement for run-away slaves and servants as well as lost or stolen clothing, and damage claims submitted to both sides of property losses, I know that these articles of clothing were very common. Those same sources make no references to the too-popular *hunting-frock*, so we know that is out of the question. Too many militia units assume that frocks were universal, but this is far from true. Conversely, this is not to say that they are not appropriate for your particular unit, but it should not be assumed.

## EQUIPMENT & ARMS

Equipment is the next area you have to look to. For this, militia laws are invaluable. The outline what each man was supposed to have for service. The following Militia Ordinance was passed by the New Jersey Provincial Congress in 1777:

That every person...shall, as soon as possible, furnish himself with a good Musket, well Fitted with a Bayonet, Steel Ramrod, Canteen, twelve Flints, Cartouch-Box, and twenty-three Rounds of Cartridges suited to hid Gun...

A great deal of thought has to be given to the choice of musket, and the proper firelock can often cost you some money. The Charleville is totally inappropriate because these muskets were going directly to Continentals, not militiamen. The Short land British Pattern is the safest.

Those who put thought and research into their militia impressions show it. The phrase "*We're militia!*" should not be an excuse but if you do your work, an expression of pride.

David Weidner, Delaware Reg't  
Inspector,

# ALL TAKE NOTICE

## John Campbell's



## Tavern

As the Repeal of the **Townsend Act** gave us relief in certain taxes, those British scoundrels let the **Tea Tax** remain. For us to avoid the outrageous levy, coffee has been the new beverage of late in the colonies.

The renowned proprietors of

### **Blue Lion Coffee Roasters**

will be characterizing and offering for taste comparison their most

exceptional blends of coffee at

### **John Campbell's Tavern**

at 1 o'clock post meridian the first day of March, 2025.

Accompanying the hot potatoes each will be toothsome morsels for your delectation. Blue Lion Coffee Roasters also will be offering many blends for your beneficial gain at very reasonable fare.

As always, the tap room will be open at 11 o'clock post meridian for hard cash or barter.

Reserve R.S.V.P. now your \$30 subscription for this capital social fete.

**The NWD B.A.R. SHOT**

**Editor: Karen Kashary**

**9390 Brecksville Road**

**Brecksville, OH 44141**

The NWD B.A.R. SHOT is the newsletter of the North West Department, Brigade of the American Revolution (NWD-BAR) and has been in publication since 1977. It is sent to subscribers and member families throughout the U.S. Subscription rates are \$10 per year for non-members of the NWD-BAR. Visit our website at [nwdbarshot.com](http://nwdbarshot.com). Cutoff dates for submissions:

Winter Issue—Jan. 15 Spring Issue—April 15 Summer Issue—July 15 Fall Issue—Oct. 15

Contact the editor for advertising rates (\$7-\$40, depending on size and placement). The Brigade of the American Revolution was established in 1962 as a not-for-profit association dedicated to recreating the life and times of the common soldier of the War for Independence, 1775-83. The NWD was established in 1973. Extracted passages are scholarly comment only.