



The Stow Minutemen

Issue 106 No. 1

March 2008

Captain's Notes...the view from the front

The past year has seen much growth for the Company. We've had many new enthusiastic members join our group and "hit the group running"! Arch procured the Unit our own Tax ID number so we are no longer using David's Social Security number. We also secured a corporate bank account so that as our leadership changes the Checking account transitions will be that much easier. We also have finished all the steps necessary for becoming an incorporated entity. All these things mean that the future of the Stow Minutemen will continue to grow and flourish well after all of us are long gone.

I am very proud of our Company and the direction we are going. We all seem to work well together, no matter our differences... this is not the case with others in the reenacting community. I hear tales of woe from the leadership and the rank and file of other units or I see things online about how dysfunctional other groups are run and it makes me proud to be with a group of people such as we have who work towards a common goal and a greater good.

There is still much more that we need to do, of course. One of my big goals for 2008 is to bring the "Stow Musket" home. This is something that speaks to our very being. This is not only a part of the Revolutionary War history, but it is truly a part of Stow's history. We need to figure out how to make this happen. Having this artifact come home for future generations would be good for not only the town, but also for the Company.

We still, as always, need to work on recruitment. If you know of anyone you think might be interested in the hobby, bring them to an event. While our music unit is as strong as its ever been, we're always looking to fill out the musket ranks more than we currently do. And that's not to say if you know of someone who is musically in-

clined you shouldn't bring them along as well. The more the merrier, I always say. The Company is in a constant state of flux with people coming and going, interests change, life gets too full... it happens to all of us. So always be on the look out for someone whom you think might like trying out what we do. You never know, they might end up to be an Officer one day.

We will have a fairly full Calendar of Events this year and there will be a lot of things that people can do to help make all those Events go as smoothly as possible. At our Encampments don't hesitate to offer a helping hand to those doing the cooking, see if we need more water or firewood, see if there are other things that could be done.

In closing I would again like to thank everyone who makes our unit happen and function. Everyone of you is an important part of our team and we are all equal in making the Company go forward for at least another four decades.

I remain your most humbled and obedient servant,

Rick Lawson, Capt.

Upcoming Events

(more details can be found on our website www.stowminutemen.org)

APRIL

Sat. 12th - Bedford Parade and Polecapping
Mon. 21st - Annual Patriots Day Trail March

Paymaster Notes Dues Are Due

By Arch Owen, Sgt. Paymaster

Although a number of members have paid up their dues, some dues are still outstanding. So please send checks payable to "Sergeant Paymaster" at the following address:

Sergeant Paymaster
Stow Minutemen
PO Box 174
Stow, MA 01775

Dues are only \$10 for an individual or \$20 for a family. Please include information on the names, addresses, and email addresses of all the members covered by the dues so that we can keep our membership rolls up to date.

If you are not sure if your Dues are paid up for the year, please do not hesitate to contact me at either
paymaster@stowminutemen.org or
aaowen@alum.swarthmore.edu.

If you do not send dues in a timely fashion... well... I will send the Sergeant Armourer to your house with instructions to.. to.. to.. to.. do something.

Stow Minutemen Company Scholarship

The Stow Minuteman Company wishes to recognize and encourage an active interest in and understanding of American colonial history. The Stow Minuteman Company is kept alive by many families and individuals who represent the people that lived in 1775, and we wish to reward and encourage this family tradition among our members by offering a scholarship for the pursuit of further education or training.

This year we will again offer a \$500 scholarship to any member who has been active for at least three years and is currently enrolled in a high school or college program, or is serving in the United States military. For further information and an application form, contact Linda Stokes, fiferlinda@comcast.net.

Reenactor Volunteer Workshop at Minute Man NHP

It's time again for the next Reenactor Volunteer Workshop at Minute Man, to be held on Saturday March 15, 2008 from 8a-4pm in the heated, weatherproof **Minute Man Visitor Center** on Rte. 2A in the park (across the street from Minuteman Tech High School).

There will be presenters, exhibits, and workshops there for new as well as for returning veteran park volunteers.

If you are interested, please contact Roger Fuller using the contact info below, and he will put you on the list of invitees for the workshop. Space is limited! Refreshments will be served, but bring a lunch.

Roger Fuller, Park Ranger,
Volunteer Programs Coordinator,
Minute Man National Historical Park,
174 Liberty Street,
Concord, Massachusetts, 01742,
(978) 318-7824
Roger_Fuller@nps.gov

Member Notes

There are many talented artists among the Fifers and Drummers of the Stow Minutemen. Here are some of the NON fife and drum activities in which some are engaged, and which are open to the public. We plan to expand this section for the next issue!

Music Master **Matt Brench** graduates from U.Mass. Amherst this year with a B.A. (History), B. Mus. (Music Composition) and a Certificate in Medieval Studies. His Senior Composition Concert will be held on Wednesday, April 2nd, at 8:15pm in the Fine Arts Center, Bezanson Recital Hall. It will include nearly an hour of original music written over the past couple of years and performed by U. Mass. colleagues. Matt hopes to be in the audience for the entire concert, but may need to wave a baton on stage for one piece.

Brittany Owen and **Alana Toabe**- Thoroughly Modern Millie (musical)- Nashoba Regional HS, Friday, Sat. March 28 and 29 - 7:30 pm, Sunday, March 30 - 2:00

Alana Toabe and Brittany Owen, MICCA Festival, April 9 (High School Band Competition)

Arch Owen, vocal performances daily... All are welcome to attend... at around 7:30 AM in his shower. (The editor presumes that Debbie has given permission.)

Debbie Owen, Orpheus Chamber Ensemble, Sat. March 22, 8:00 pm, Brandeis Music building
A cappella works by Fine, Merryman, Martino

Debbie Owen, Handel & Haydn Society - Symphony Hall, Friday, April 4, 8:00 pm, and Sunday, April 6, 3:00 pm, Haydn - Symphony No. 44, "Trauer", Haydn - Mass No. 14, "Harmoniemese"
http://www.handelandhaydn.org/calendar/concert_sched/concert_sched_07-08.htm

Debbie Owen, Cantata Singers, Friday, May 9, 8:00 pm, Jordan Hall (New England Conservatory, Boston), Kurt Weill, Symph. No. 2, Charles Fussell, High Bridge - A Choral Symphony - first Boston performance,
<http://cantatasingers.org/concerts.html>

Christian Owen - Fiddler on the Roof (musical)- Hale Middle School, Stow, Friday, March 14, 7:30, Sat. March 15, 2:00, 7:30 and Sun. March 16, 2:00

Eliot Littlefield, March 9, BYS Junior Repertory Orchestra, Symphony Hall, Boston, 3:00 pm, Dvorak Festival March (Celebrity Series Concert to include performances by Richard Stolzman and the Boston Youth Symphony playing Mahler 1)

Eliot Littlefield, Other Boston Youth Symphony concerts on April 27 (BU), May 11 (percussion ensemble, BU), June 15 (Sanders Theatre),
<http://www.bysoweb.org>

Malcolm Littlefield, Boston Ballet School performances, Fri., Sat., Sun., May 31-June 1.

Dan Crosby's youth choir will be singing with the American Boy Choir on Thursday, April 3 at 7:00 at the First Parish Church in Stow. Tickets are \$15.

Michele Crosby is singing with the Stow Festival Chorus on Sunday, March 30 at Hale at 3:00. They are doing a Beethoven elegy and Cherubini's Requiem in C Minor. Tickets are \$20, \$15 for students and seniors. They are also doing a concert with the Master Singers of

Worcester on Sunday, April 13 at 4:00 at the Cathedral of St. Paul in Worcester. The piece is Louis Vierne's Messe Solenelle. Tickets are \$20, \$18 for students and seniors.

Helen Crosby will participate in Miss Tricia's dance recital on Saturday, May 31 at 6:00 at the Acton-Boxborough High School. Tickets are \$15. Helen's end of the year piano recital will be Sunday, June 8 at 1:00 at the First Parish Church in Stow.

Gary Langenwaller will be presenting a 1-day workshop on Sustainability in Manchester, NH, on April 8. He "explain what Sustainability is and what it isn't, how it works in a company leveraging lean, and specifically how it affects engineering. He will conclude with the Seven Steps to Successful Sustainability, a road map for rapid, low-risk implementation. Langenwaller recently authored The Squeeze, a business novel about sustainability, published by SME. Gary has 30 years of experience in manufacturing." More information can be found at <http://www.sme.org/>

Special note from **Bonnie Brench**:

In my home-away-from-home, I have found a group of folks who dislike those redcoats as much as we do - the Spanish!!! Yes, Spain did get involved in our little spat with olde England!

The group is called The Order of Granaderos De Galvez, and they actually have a fife and drum corps, albeit quite small. In fact, in less than a week after meeting them at one of their rare practice sessions, I was recruited to join them in a ceremonial gig in San Antonio - I was to be their only fifer (gasp). I was loaned a uniform (Linda Sheff, you would love the lace!), and you can see me in the attached photo.

<http://www.granaderos.org/>

General Galvez was actually based in Louisiana, but was stationed for a time in San Antonio. From 1779, he led the Spanish military campaign against the British along the Gulf Coast and the upper Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. From San Antonio, there was a huge cattle drive of long horns to Louisiana and Florida to help feed all of the troops fighting the Brits.

I have lots more to learn, and lots of sewing to do! Amazingly they do play much of the same music we do, but have found a few Spanish

tunes that I should start learning. So, this will help to keep me fifying, anyway!

Cheers,
- fifer Brench, the elder.



Special Notice

2008 brings us two big encampments - Hartwell tavern (likely in June) and Old Sturbridge Village in August. These encampments really are high-lights of our season and great fun for all involved, so make time to attend, even if just for one of the days.

Hartwell's encampment, where we're the main event, will feature our music skills, as well as weekend long demos of Colonial games, cooking, school in the Colonial times, and uses of herbology. Musket firing will also take place, and it's sure to draw a crowd.

The OSV encampment places use amongst a great many other groups, from all over New England, and from farther reaches of the country. Despite the large number of groups, we're a great favorite with both the OSV organizers and attendees. In addition to the usual encampment items, OSV features a parade each day, and this year it seems likely we'll actually be on schedule for 'formal' music performances. There are a battle each day, in which our muskets (and their handlers!) and sometimes music take part.

Passings

On February 24, 2008, Grace Gillespie Baker of Littleton, MA passed away at Emerson Hospital in Concord, MA. She was 76 years old and had suffered from complications of smoking.

Grace was born in Illinois, earned a bachelors degree in Music at the Eastman School of Music, and her Masters degree in art at Georgetown University. It was in Rochester, NY she met her future husband, Lt. Cdr. Kenneth Baker.

As U.S. Navy service brought Ken to Lexington, MA, the family relocated first to Bedford, then to Stow, MA. From 1964 to 1975 the Bakers resided at 274 West Acton Road and farmed what is now Town of Stow Conservation land. In addition to breeding and raising Great Danes, horses, sheep, goats, and 4 children, Grace ran a popular pet grooming outlet called the Bark House. She also worked for many years as a layout and copy staff member of the Assabet Valley Beacon.

Grace was a stalwart supporter of the Stow Minutemen in the late 1960's and 1970's. She frequently performed the role of alarm rider William Dawes, often riding her quarter-horse/thoroughbred cross "December Dream" from Boston and Arlington through Stow and on to Bolton or Harvard in the annual reenactment of the April 19 alarm ride.

Egged on by close friends Jack and Bobbie Head, in 1973, Mrs. Baker give her son Jeff a plastic fife and urging him to join the Stow Minutemen Music Corps. Jeff performed with, lead and taught the corps for more than 20 years.

Grace is survived by Kenneth, her husband of 55 years; Jeff of Wilton, New Hampshire; Kristina and Melissa of San Diego; and Christopher of Ft. Lauderdale. She was cremated in Littleton, MA.

Contributions may be directed to the Stow Minutemen, the Stow Historical Society, and the Assabet Valley Beacon Santa Fund.

Future Events

(More detailed event info can be found at www.stowminutemen.org)

MAY

Sat. May 2 - Lexington, MA - Diamond's Music Tattoo and Muster

Sun. May 18 - Newton, MA - Veteran's Memorial Parade

Mon. May 26 - Boylston, MA - Memorial Day Parade

Mon. May 26 - Stow, MA - Memorial Day Parade

JUNE

Sat. June 21 - Boxborough, MA - Fifer's Day Parade

JULY

July 4 - Needham, MA - 4th of July Parade

AUGUST

August 2-3 - Sturbridge, MA - OSV's Rebels and Redcoats weekend

August 10 - Stow, MA - West School Event

Stow Minutemen Company
PO Box 174
Stow, MA 01775