



The Third Continental Light Dragoons

A Progressive American Revolutionary War Enacting Group

Dragoons! Have a care!

Subject: 230th Cowpens Anniversary Event AAR

Our thanks to "Mother Nature" for providing a reasonably pleasant weekend at Cowpens. With plenty of snow on the ground and ice on the roads from a week prior, we saw teamwork prevail as Bob picked up Joel and Don got Ron's horse to the event ... huzzah! In attendance were Bert, Bob, Don, Ed (sans mount), Gene, Henry, Joel, and Ron. Gene Hough is known to most of you as he has worked with us a handful of times since the Cowpens 225th event. He wins the long distance award for coming down from Pennsylvania and rode a mount borrowed from Henry. This gave us, once again, the magic number of seven dragoons who were well received by the park and the spectators.

The weekend started for some when Don, Ron, and Hunter dropped by the site to set up the cavalry tent, grab some straw and firewood, and establish the picket line. The Fayetteville Troop arrived about 9:30 that evening and got the rest of the 2d camp set up and settled in for the evening. The next morning, the other dragoons arrived and (with some difficulty) managed to get mounted just as the first demo began. Joel took the troop out while Ed orated and narrated for the crowd. A note about Ed, he is completely unrecognizable with a beard, and he has incredible podiatric (my word) endurance as he stood for over three hours in wet snow. Thanks Ed! Joel ably commanded the group but due to ground conditions we skipped a head post demo. Two more demos followed with Ron leading the drill and we made several successful, although wary, runs at the heads. Additional thanks to the Cabbage Squad consisting of Hunter, Thomas, and Taylor. Our final demo culminated in a possibly foolish charge into the crowd with resulted in some excellent photos taken by Liz.

The 2d Distaff provided breakfast and lunch both days and the park served chili for Saturday evening. But it obviously was not enough and a detail was sent to forage for Hardee's (isn't he from the other war?) Thick-burgers and fries. The remainder of the evening was uneventful by Dragoon and 2d standards as the group lounged by the fire and consumed what beverages were available. At one point, however, a dragoon foray located two bottles of snake oil in a snow bank in front of the visitors center, and a new Cobra brother was born. We cannot divulge his name lest someone gets placed on double secret probation ... ah, I have said too much already. Anyway, we settled in for the night.



The next day, we participated in the Annual Meeting of the 2d SC as Ron (1st VP) lead the meeting. Not much from a cavalry perspective other than the schedule and the unopposed re-election of Lt Dan as our commander and representative on the board. Henry was also re-elected to 2d VP for Finance as Ron escaped further service. Joel once again took the troop out for the morning demo while Bert spoke to the crowd. Several news agencies were there on Sunday, including News Channel 4 from Greenville who posted this video:

<http://www.wyff4.com/r/26512018/detail.html>

Don came up lame (personally I suspect it was "riding" at home that evening and not at the event that caused it) but returned to mind Tally for the final demo and to take the horses home. The final demo was a Ron speaking / Joel commanding affair and we were joined at the end by about 8 horsemen who participated in the last leg of the 25 mile Morgan's March. The day's activities culminated in a short drill and pleasure ride across the battlefield. The camp was dismantled and everyone was on the road by about 4:00 pm.

Again, many thanks to the people like Bob, Don, Ed, Joel, and our younger troopers for jumping in working to make the weekend a success. Looking forward to Guilford!!!

Submitted,
RON CRAWLEY
POC, Cowpens Anniversary LH

"the sword is the most destructive and almost only necessary weapon a dragoon carries"

-- Major Richard Call, 3d Dragoons