

Brattonsville AAR: Greetings Dragoons and friends.

We held a muster at the Brattonsville historic site from Friday evening to Saturday. Many thanks to Stacey Brogden who opened the site to us. We stayed in a reconstructed slave cabin which was very comfortable. We were able to keep the horses in a paddock with two of the site's horses. This was very low key and easy to get in and out.

We did have some attrition. Austin was sick with the creeping crud, so he did not want to ride. He did make an appearance with his brother to say hello. Bob and Sarah were loading horses when they discovered Roz was completely lame. They think Roz has a suspensory ligament injury and will be on stall rest for at least two weeks. We hope everyone will be on the mend.

In attendance were Ron Crawley, Joel Anderson, Stacey Brogden, Darryl Brown, Ed Harrelson and Stacey's step son Ryan. Ryan is not riding yet but is interested in starting with some lessons. Stacey had to plow for a couple of hours Saturday before he could play, but he used the same horse for both and this 22 year old gelding was still full of pep for a day's worth of riding. I was able to let Darryl ride Rhapsody for the morning drill, and I think he really enjoyed getting his appetite whetted. Joel was drafted by the SCETV crew to portray Patrick Ferguson, so he's dead now. Plans to die again at the May national event when they do Kings Mountain battle. Joel drilled the section in the morning. Then, Stacey had some of the site's lady interpreters to feed us a nice lunch and we rode the battlefields and drilled some more in the afternoon. We closed up shop around 5 and drove home.

We are mostly familiar with this site. I think this is a great place to muster. The site was accommodating with putting us up in housing. While not necessary, it was pretty nice. There is a tremendous amount of land to use. It is a little farther for the Fayetteville contingent to drive to, but it is at least between Fayetteville and the western part of the state. It is convenient for all coming south on I-77. If we are in period costume, we are a benefit to the site in terms of interpretation, rather than a distraction. I think we should plan on using this site as a regular muster location throughout the year.

We put in dibs for the McConnell house for the national event. So, we'll want to snag that early and keep our horses in the nearby paddock. We can even cook indoors like civilized folk.

So, a big Thank You to Stacey and the Brattonsville Site. We had a great time.

Remember that Guilford Courthouse is 3/17-3-19.

Also, Ron needs to complete a Unit Census for the Continental Line. While we have your email address, it would be helpful to have full name, mailing address and phone number (cell is preferable) for our unit records.

Thanks everyone. I think we will be on the hill near the dog exercise area at Guilford, see you Friday night.

Edward L. Harrelson