

Battle of Bunker Hill 240th Anniversary

at the

Harvey Farm

Epping, NH

May 30-31, 2015

Sponsored by:

H.M 9th Regiment of Foot

H.M. 10th Regiment of Foot

1st NH Regiment

Cherry's Co, 2nd NH Regiment

We welcome your group to join us in commemorating the 240th anniversary of the Battle for Bunker Hill and the Siege of Boston at this two-day battle reenactment and encampment.

The event is officially sanctioned as a Northern Department Continental Line/British Brigade event, though it is open to all national CL/BB units, BAR, and other insured units.

A full encampment is planned for the weekend, with battles and demonstrations each day:

Friday: Camp set-up (MA militia campaigner units may bivouac in the redoubt that night)

Saturday: The Battle for Bunker (Breed's) Hill & the Rail Fence, culminating in the Colonial forces being driven from the field, and British forces taking control of the redoubt (British campaigner units may bivouac in the redoubt Saturday night)

Sunday: British Occupation of Bunker Hill, tactical and battle scenarios commemorating the raids on Charleston Heights and the Siege of Boston.

The event site is located on over half a square mile of historic open farm land in Epping,

NH, all privately owned and maintained by generations of the Harvey family since 1755.

The battlefield area is a 250+ acre pasture, with a broad rolling hill and ridge, similar to the type of open ground that would have been seen at Breed's Hill 240 years ago. The hill rises about 50-60 feet above "ground level", so that from the perspective of the crowd and participants it is roughly the same height and scale as the real Breed's Hill.

The battlefield will include earthworks based on American accounts of the original Breed's Hill redoubt and a large portion of split-rail fence similar to what was used by the CT and NH troops during the battle.

There is also has a large expanse of varied terrain with woods, un-mowed fields, hills, gullies, streams, logging roads and trails which might be used for a Sunday morning tactical scenario.

While not necessarily near the original battlefield, the site has a strong connection to the men who fought there.

Many of those from the area were in Capt. Dearborn's Company of Col. Stark's NH militia who fought at the top of the rail fence that day.

Among them were notable men from Epping such as Henry Dearborn who wrote one of the most detailed accounts of the battle, Col. Joseph Cilley, John Simpson who is credited with having fired the first American shot that day, and John Harvey, a direct ancestor of the Harvey's who maintain the land today.

Unit Impressions:

As this is an early war 1775 event, we do ask that American units try to field in civilian clothes, or fielding without a coat is also acceptable as it is documented to have taken place at Bunker Hill.

For Crown Forces, Boston Garrison uniforms are ideal, but there are no restrictions on other British Army uniforms whether the unit was not at the historic battle or the uniform is more of a late-war British uniform.

We do ask, at least for Saturday, that any distinctively later-war uniforms not be worn such as Loyalist, Hessian/Brunswick, dragoons, etc. Those uniforms will be allowed for Sunday, though that day is commemorating the latter months of the Siege of Boston.

Please indicate in the section provided on the registration form what impression or type of troops your unit will be fielding as for each day, as we know many will be portraying a different unit from their official group designation.

Camp:

The main camping area sits across a historic country road from the battlefield, on a roughly 300 square yard plain, flat and level, with easy access for cars and trucks.

One or several other adjoining fields may be opened for camping if needed for extra space, or as alternates in case of muddy or wet conditions in parts of the main camp field.

Campaigner units who wish to set up brush bower camps, are free to cut trees and brush, provided they remove the brush from the fields at the end of the event.

We will not provide straw as it is not used often, so please plan accordingly.

Parking:

Main parking for public and participants will be in two large and flat fields on the same side of the road as the camps, with easy access.

Alternate parking areas will be available in case of heavy rain.

Access to the venue:

Though in a country setting, the event site is just three miles north of the Rt. 101 & Rt 125 intersection at Epping, NH where there are many modern stores, restaurants, and conveniences. The intersection (exit 7 on Rt. 101) is just 20 minutes from I-95.

The area is one hour north of Boston, 4 hours east of Albany, NY, and 40 minutes west of Portsmouth, NH.

The camp and parking areas are easily accessed from Nottingham Square Rd., and old residential road which runs north from the town.

For the event a number of sandwich board signs will be placed along the route to help promote the event and guide visitors.

Event site located at:

105 Nottingham Square Rd., Epping, NH 03042

Amenities:

The Milkroom at the Harvey Farm: Just around the corner from the camp site (about 1/2 mile up Orchard Rd.), is an active bakery offering freshly made doughnuts, bread, cookies and other baked goods, as well as locally made ice cream and sundaes. The farm also has a produce stand, and antiques shop.

On site there will be space allowed for modern camping in the auxiliary parking field.

Several fine restaurants are a short distance away in the town of Epping such as the Holy Grail pub & restaurant, Telly's Italian restaurant, with Goody Cole's BBQ restaurant just a few miles south on Rt. 125.

A drive north from the site, on the historic Nottingham Square Rd., brings you on a tour through several historic places--the birth site of Col. Joseph Cilley of the 1st NH Rgt., and old Nottingham Square where many of the NH soldiers who fought at Bunker Hill marched from, including the houses of Col. Joseph Cilley, Capt. Henry Dearborn, and John Simpson of the 1st NH Regt. who was credited with having fired the first American shot in the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Sutlers

A sutler area will be set aside near the entrance to the camp fields, all of who are welcome to attend without a fee.

There may also be one or more modern food vendors on site.

Saturday Raffle:

A large raffle for several quality reproduction items will be held Saturday afternoon. Tickets on sale during the day.

The funds raised will help pay costs for the event, use of the land, and a percentage to go to local historic sites.

Campaign Camps:

For the campaigner or "Model company" units who may wish to attend, Friday night the redoubt will be open for militia companies to bivouac in, where there will be one to two 50 gallon wooden barrels of water, and small cooking fires will be allowed.

For British campaigner units, at the end of the Breed's Hill battle on Saturday they will be welcome

to occupy the redoubt, bivouac for the night, and even use the standing fence line to improve the works.

Horses:

Horses are welcome, as it is fine riding country and there are miles of trails in the surrounding woods and fields.

There were no horse troops used during the battle of Bunker Hill, so mounted impressions on the field will be limited to a small number of couriers or field officers, or to help draw artillery on Saturday.

Horse troops can take the field on Sunday, as we commemorate the latter part of the Boston Siege and raids.

Anyone interested can contact the event coordinators for more info.

Liability Waiver:

As the site is all on private land, all participants must sign a standard liability waiver to protect the land owners.