the Burning of Kingston – 232nd Anniversary Reenactment

Dear Friends,

On October 16, 17 and 18, 2009, the First Ulster County Militia and the City of Kingston, NY are sponsoring the 232th anniversary of the Revolutionary War event, the Burning of Kingston. Previous years' events were most successful with up to 10,000 spectators. Many of you are familiar with this event and have been a part of our success in years past.

This year we plan to present an event expanding on the format that was so successful for us 2007 and promises to be more convenient, more authentic and more fun that ever. Friday evening will start the weekend off with our popular Committee of Safety Meeting at a local historic tavern (an actual building that was burned during the attack in 1777), while the British Forces hold a council of war with the captains of the Fleet on the beach on the Shore of the Great North River. On Saturday morning the British troops will simulate a landing and repel the defending rebel forces. Last time (2007) we had 12 period wooden boats to support the attack and there is the possibility of even more this year. The time after the morning battle will be spent with the public touring both the sailor and land troops camps, with demonstrations and scenarios encouraged.

Later that afternoon the British forces will begin their push inland and the major battle of the afternoon will be held in the fields and woods behind the encampment. The area is easily large enough for anything we may want to do. At the same time, there will be waterfront activities for the boats and crews including competitions, maneuvers and demos with a possible staged naval battle n the Hudson River. On shore we are planning nautical demonstrations and tours.

Our new addition this year will be the actual landing of British troops on the beach for the final assault on the city on Sunday morning which will follow the reading of the Articles of War by the captains of the British Fleet and the punishment of those who have displayed conduct unbecoming a British Sailor. After the landing and the repel of the rebel defenders, the British army will secure the beach and begin to march to the waterfront area known as Rondout along the way they will meet with scattered resistance and deploy to protect the column and prepare to meet the American forces for the final battle. Simultaneously the pursuit of the rebel gunboat "Lady Washington" (portrayed by the First Ulster's vessel "Mercury") and battle between Lady Washington and the British vessels will take place on the Rondout Creek paralleling the street battle. We can promise exciting and non-stop action on land and sea.

Other activities will include demonstrations, candlelight tours of the encampment and of course a Grand Ball truly worthy of the name on Saturday evening with period music, dancing and refreshments during which the victorious General Vaughn and his Lady will be honored. In the encampment Saturday the victors will share the spoils of war in a makeshift tavern supplied with goods looted b the sailors from the burned Bogardus tavern in the devastated city. The night will ring with the singing of shanties and music . Musicians are encouraged to bring their instruments.

As last time, the encampments will be in the park near the river with the British and American camps separated, although within walking distance. Sailors will encamp on the beach as near to their boats as they may wish in an authentic setting on the North River, no more than 200 yards from the main encampment.

This year all events will be held in proximity of the Hudson River, this will allow more time to 'play' and less time spent transporting and waiting. We are expecting a larger turnout of visitors and we are hoping units will organize and run demonstrations, drills and scenarios they may wish to enact: court martials, duels, cooking demos, music, musket demos, etc. IF there is something you wish to do, please let us know so we can work it in.

The nearby Rondout district is but a 5 minute drive for those who wish to visit the numerous restaurants and taverns. During daylight hours there will be a trolley running along the river to the Rondout District. Vendors selling food will be available on the edges of the encampment for both the visitors and reenactors. We are expecting a large group of suttlers as well.

Wood, water and restroom facilities will be provided. A powder allowance for men at arms and artillery pieces, including swivels will be provided. A $10 per foot stipend will also be given to all period boats participating for the weekend.

This event is by invitation only. Your unit must register in advance to participate. Registration is due by June 30, 2009. You can register by mail with the enclosed form or download the forms at : **www. firstulster.org –** use the left navigation buttons to the Burning of Kingston and links there will provide you with schedules, maps and general information and registration forms. All new developments will be updated on the site as they come up so check it regularly.

This year's event is sanctioned by the **Age of Sail Maritime Alliance** who will be holding their annual meeting over that weekend. We are expecting even more boats than last time and the volume of requests for information suggests that the British Brigade Units will be showing in force.

Military units must provide proof of insurance coverage. Registered Units and boat captains will receive a second mailing by the end of August with detailed information and a schedule. The contact persons and Coordinators are Dean Barnes and Gene Tozzi and can be contacted by the numbers and emails below for more information or to send completed registration forms.

We look forward to your participation; we think this one will be the best ever.

Your Humble Servants,

Gene Tozzi (HD18thCent@aol.com) 845 338-2724; 927 Creek Locks Rd, Rosendale, NY 12472
Dean Barnes (theTavernkeeper@yahoo.com) 100 Hoffman St, Kingston, NY 12401 (845) 338-3590

For all Current Burning of Kingston Information and downloadable Registration Forms, visit:

www.firstulster.org/Pages/6_0_bok.html

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