



Good Times

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THE Shrine was founded so that Masonic Brethren could enjoy spirited fellowship while performing prodigious charitable works. It is obvious that the Minutemen Unit members and their Ladies have captured that central founding ideal as demonstrated in the accompanying photos taken at the Northeast Shrine Association Field Days, held in Burlington, Vermont, from September 23rd through the 27th, 2009. We had hoped to have a better showing at Burlington, but more than a few of our stalwarts were afflicted with that terrible four-letter disorder: Work. Still, those who attended obviously were having a very good time, reporting later how much they enjoyed the dinner cruise on the good ship Ethan Allen. It will be a wondrous thing to see how the lads will turn out once they have successfully passed through puberty.

Illustrious **Robert F. Smith** was a gracious host at the Unit visit with in the Potentate's Suite at the Aleppo Shrine Center on October 1, 2009, giving equal time to both us, and our fellow Nobles of the Motor Patrol when we met with him on our regular Muster Night. These annual get togethers, which started only in the last few years, should become an Aleppo tradition as they provide a direct link between Uniformed Unit members and the leadership in a relaxed social setting that is also appreciated by our Ladies.

Following our last Muster of the current year on December third, and our Holiday Party shortly thereafter, we are about to start a new season. We hope to recruit incoming Candidates or Nobles who have already crossed the sands into our ranks at the January 23, 2010 Ceremonial. Those we recruited at the November Ceremonial, as well as those who enlist in January, will then have just

enough time to purchase and receive their authentic Revolutionary War style Unit Uniforms from our supplier (Jas. Townsend & Son of Pierceton, IN) before our first traditional event; The Bedford Pole Capping, which should take place on Saturday, April 10, 2010. The Pole Capping is also where Suttlers (Rev War vendors) congregate with all the additional necessities that are not supplied by the Unit.

Of our three sections, Flags, Music, and Muskets, those choosing to be Musketmen are required by the Adjutant General of the Commonwealth to take a Black Powder Safety Course. The venerable course that we have historically attended is that provided by the Massachusetts Council of Minute Men & Militia, an organization in which we are members, held once each year, usually on the last Saturday in March at the headquarters of the Wilmington Minutemen. Incoming recruits will be fully apprised of this training in ample time before it is held. Recruited Musketmen agree to serve as Flag Bearers during their first year of service in our company.

We get a big break on purchasing muskets (our standards are either the British Brown Bess 2nd or 3rd Model or French 1763, 1766 or 1777 Charleville models). Arms of this type manufactured in Europe or Japan presently cost more than \$1,000. However, we shop only with that superb friend of the re-enactor and lover of history, **Peter Plunkett**, founder of the Middlesex Trading Company, now located in Charlestown, NH. Peter imports period-correct Black Powder long arms and pistols from manufacturers in India. The materials used throughout are much superior to those originally used by 17th, 18th, and 19th Century soldiers (and if it was good enough for the British Army,



PAST CAPTAIN **Harry G. Orcutt** picked up a newly repaired Ultra HI post-Rev. War Hawken-style flint lock musket from **Peter Plunkett**, founder of Middlesex Trading Company of Charlestown, NH, November 18, 2009

we'll gladly use it as well). Anyway, Peter's public prices are half of those at places where we previously shopped for our boom toys.

So what are you waiting for? If you are already a Noble and desire to relive the history of your nation in the region where it all began, check us out at any of the following Musters held in the first months of 2010: January 7th or February 4th (always on the 1st Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m., in our Unit Room on the 2nd Floor of Aleppo Shrine Center).

Adieu!



THE MINUTEMEN UNIT and their Ladies, with Illustrious Potentate **Robert F. Smith** in the Potentate's Suite at the Aleppo Shrine Center, October 1st, 2009.



MEMBERS of the Minutemen and their Ladies enjoyed a light moment before dinner at the Northeast Shrine Association Field Days in Burlington, VT, September 23rd to 27th, 2009. From left to right are: P.C. **Paul Winam**; Lady **Carol** and P.C. **Robert Vere**; Lady **Randy** and P.C. **John Ralston**; and Musketman **Lester** and Lady **Linda Davis**.

Shriners Hospitals for Children Opens New Pediatric Research Center

SHRINERS Hospitals for Children—Philadelphia has opened its new Pediatric Research Center in the Temple University Medical School Education and Research Building, located just across the street from the hospital.

The basic science laboratory has approximately 23,000 square feet of office and laboratory space that will be used to carry out research focusing in the repair of injured brain, spinal cord and peripheral nerves. The new center has the capacity to accommodate up to 15 more investigators.

Michael Selzer, M.D., Ph.D., will lead the Pediatric Research Center. He was previously with the University of Pennsylvania and for the past two and half years also served as director of rehabilitation research and development for the Department of Veterans Affairs. A leader in spinal cord injury research, Dr. Selzer is president of the World Federation for NeuroRehabilitation.

Dr. Selzer will be teaming up with **Randal Betz**, M.D., Chief of Staff of Shriners Hospitals for Children—Philadelphia; Spine Surgeon **Amer Samdani**, M.D., and **Mary Jane Mulcahey**, Ph.D., director of physical therapy research and the hospital. This team combines new basic science research with the clinical research that has been ongoing at Shriners Hospitals for Children for more than 20 years. The goal is to develop more effective treatments for children with spinal and neuromuscular disorders.



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