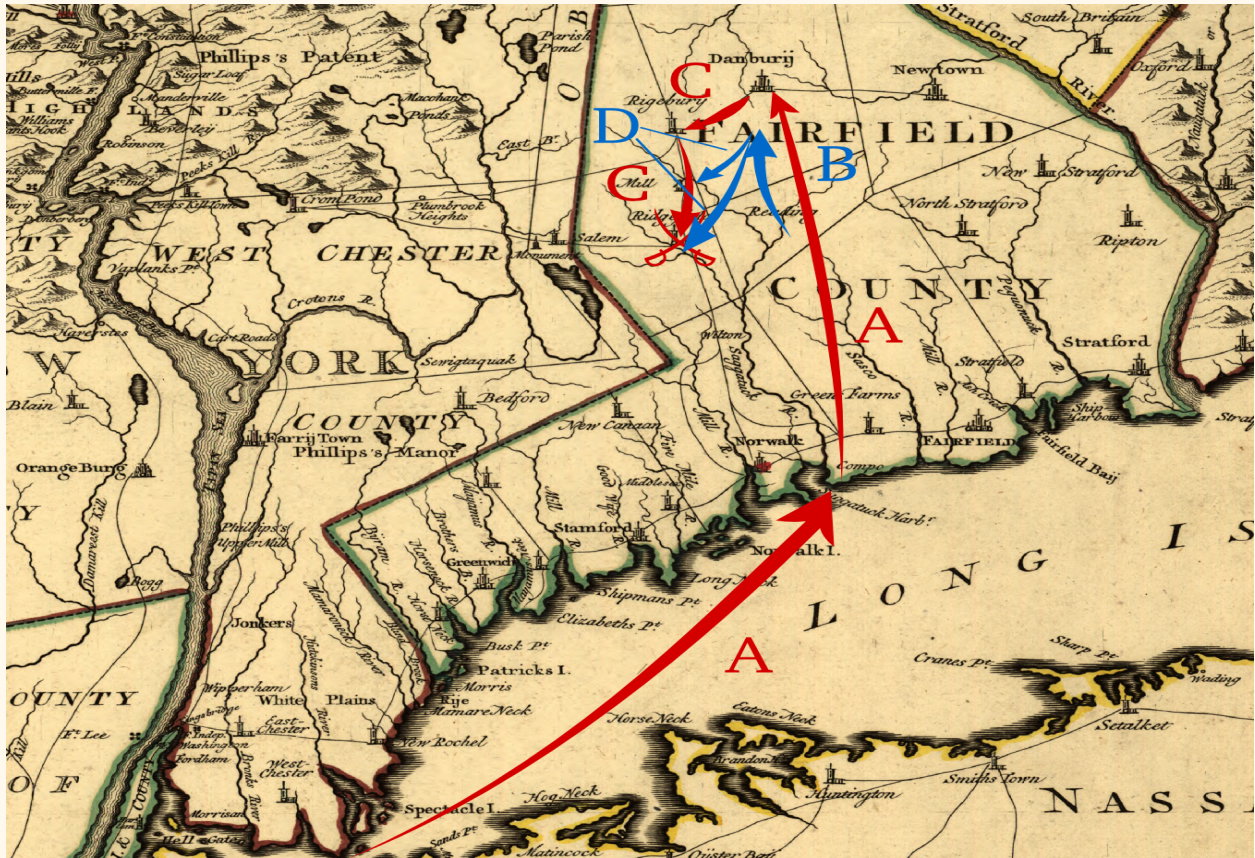


Invitation to: April 29th-May 1st 2022

The Battle of Ridgefield CT

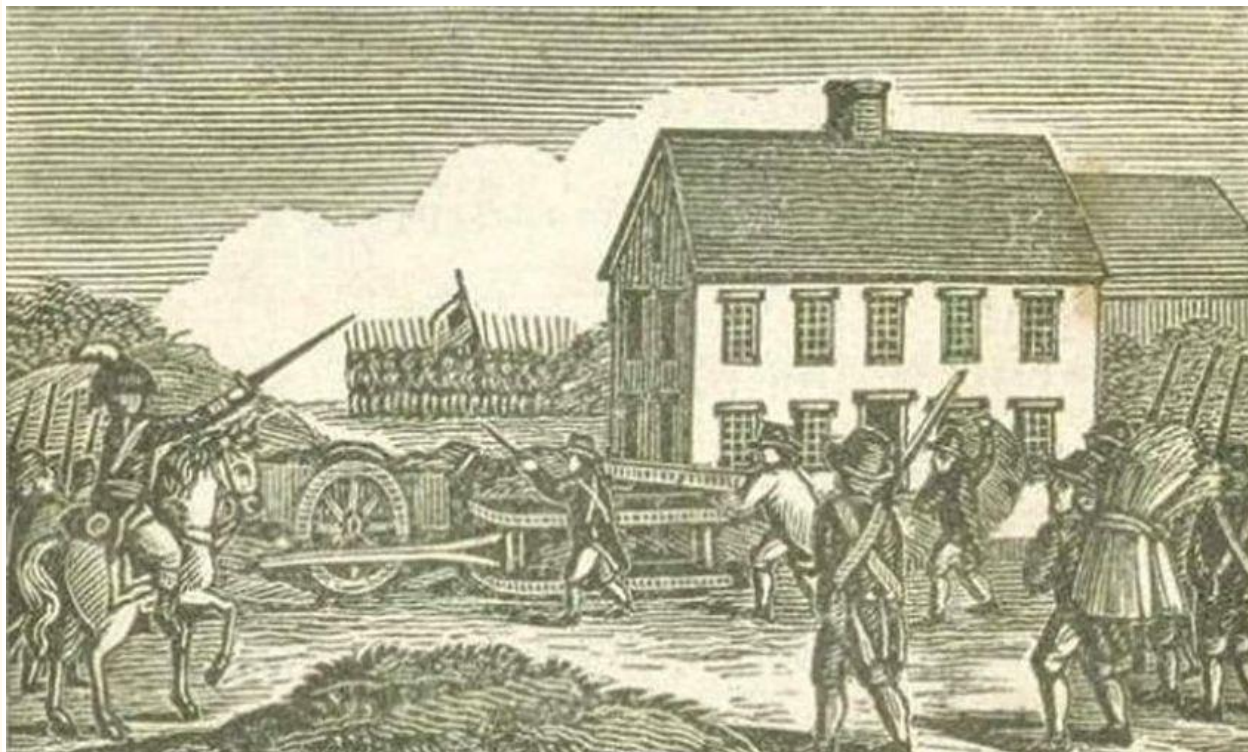


The Battle

The Battle of Ridgefield was a battle and a series of skirmishes between American and British forces during the American Revolutionary War. The main battle was fought in the village of Ridgefield, Connecticut, on April 27, 1777. More skirmishing occurred the next day between Ridgefield and the coastline near Westport, Connecticut.

On April 25, 1777, a British force landed between Fairfield and Norwalk (now Westport) under the command of New York's Royal Governor Major General William Tryon. They marched to Danbury, where they destroyed Continental Army supplies after chasing off a small garrison of troops. Word spread concerning the British troop movements, and Connecticut militia leaders sprang into action. Major General David Wooster, Brigadier General Gold Selleck Silliman, and

Brigadier General Benedict Arnold raised a combined force of roughly 700 Continental Army regular and irregular local militia forces to oppose the raiders, but they could not reach Danbury in time to prevent the destruction of the supplies. Instead, they set out to harass the British on their return to the coast.



The company led by General Wooster twice attacked Tryon's rear guard during their march south on April 27. Wooster was mortally wounded in the second encounter, and he died five days later. The main encounter then took place at Ridgefield, where several hundred militia under Arnold's command confronted the British; they were driven away in a running battle down the town's main street, but not before inflicting casualties on the British. Additional militia forces arrived, and the next day they continued to harass the British as they returned to Compo Point on the beach in Westport where the fleet awaited them. Arnold regrouped the militia and some artillery to make a stand against the British near their landing site, but his position was flanked and his force scattered by artillery fire and a bayonet charge.

The expedition was a tactical success for the British forces, but the raid galvanized Patriot support in Connecticut.

Recreation of the Battle

The Town of Ridgefield CT does a recreation of this battle every 5 years or so. This will be the 245th Anniversary of the Battle. The Town has selected the 5th CT Regiment as its Reenactors and event planners for this upcoming event and in turn we would like to invite your unit to participate. This event will be open to all BAR member units and selected invited units. A healthy Stipend for your unit, will be based upon the number of Muskets and demonstrations you can provide. Everything from food to firewood will be provided to you by the event host and sponsoring units. Come be our guests.



The Event itself

The event will be held on April 29th thru May 1st of 2022. It will consist of encampments for both sides, one at Ballard Park in Ridgefield and the other at Jesse Lee Church at the other end of Main Street. Arrival and set-up will begin Friday afternoon for those who wish and again on Saturday morning prior to event start time. YTD. Friday evening will consist of an evening meal for those who wish to partake. The town has graciously agreed to provide all essentials such as wood, water, portajohns, and all emergency services. Saturday will start with Breakfast provided for all reenactors at either a central location or near each encampment, sponsored by local community groups. Each camp will provide demonstrations for the public throughout the

1. Additional activities

*Before the battle the Generals will make an appearance. General Arnold, General Wooster, and General Sillimen. We will also have a portrayal of Syble Luddington, all on horseback and they will parade down main street.

*Evening VIP Camp tours on Saturday night.

*Sat Evening combined Tavern for all .

*reinterment ceremony for all to participate in on Sunday

2. Artillery

The British will have mobile Artillery in their column. Part of the local history is that during the battle a British cannon was fired and the ball struck the keeler tavern where it lodged itself into the corner post of the building. It remains there still to this day.

Great Honor

To close this event all reenactors will have the honor and privilege to partake in a once in a lifetime event. Let me preface this with the *discovery of Human skeletal remains that possibly belong to Revolutionary War soldiers who fought in the Battle of Ridgefield in 1777. They were discovered under the foundation of an early 18th-century house on Main Street.*

The Connecticut Office of State Archaeology was notified by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner about the find on Dec. 2. Subsequent excavations by state archaeologist Nicholas Bellantoni, with assistance from the Friends of the Office of State Archaeology, Inc. and University of Connecticut graduate students, have yielded two more skeletons. A total of 4 Skeletal remains were unearthed.

The plan is to bury these soldiers on Sunday with both sides represented, as it is unlikely that they will definitely discover which side they were on. The town is currently building wagons and has horses to pull caskets. We will provide a military honor guard for this historic event.

Conclusion of the weekend

The event will conclude directly after the funeral. Camps may be struck and ***for those who participate in the whole weekend and funeral will receive a momento.***
(YTD)

Event planning committee

- Douglas Crawford Chair- Continental Forces Commander -Cmdr 5th Connt Regt
- Thomas Traue- Adjutant
- Thomas Castrovinci -Paymaster
- Thomas Angles- Past Cmdr
- Steven Gardner -British Forces Commander - Cmdr 54th Regt afoot
- Keith Jones-Historian -Author Farmers against the crown
- Tracy Seem -Ridgefield Historical Society- Town Liaison

We hope that you can attend this historic event and please feel free to contact me with any and all questions you may have . DCrwf11@yahoo.com

*Everything is subject to change depending on any and all circumstances , weather, and so on. This is an outline of what is planned and not a contract; all units will be expected and required to be covered by a liability Ins policy of no less than 1,000,000.00 . All Units will abide by current BAR Safety Rules . All encampments and demonstrations will strive to be as historically accurate as possible. Any units participating in the Tavern agree that no minors of any unit will consume any alcoholic beverages and it will police that for their own unit.