

July 22, 2010

## Sterling men will fight for the British at OSV reenactment

Local military reenactors from Sterling will be among more than 800 historic military reenactors from the northeast converging on Old Sturbridge Village Aug. 7-8 to take part in the eighth annual "Redcoats & Rebels" Revolutionary War reenactment. Named a "Best in New England" event by Yankee magazine, Redcoats & Rebels is one of the largest reenactments in the country.

Jon O. Mack of Sterling will take part in Redcoats & Rebels along with other military reenactors from the British 64th Regiment of Foot.

More than 40 units will conduct mock battles with musket, cannon and artillery fire, demonstrate marching and drilling, and entertain visitors with fife and drum music. British units and their Irish, Welsh and Scottish allies will camp the OSV common, and units portraying Colonial Minutemen and their French allies will be camped throughout the Village countryside.

"Why do reenactors decide to portray British troops? Often it's because they like the fancier and more colorful uniforms – and they get a kick out of depicting the 'bad guys,'" notes Jim O'Brien, coordinator of special events at Old Sturbridge Village.

Other units portray the British for historical accuracy. "To fully appreciate what the colonists achieved, you really have to see what a well-equipped, well-trained army they were up against," says Jim Murphy of Coventry, Conn., with the Ninth Regiment of Foot.

Redcoats & Rebels is free with museum admission and visitors may attend both days for the price of one admission. The Village will be open to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 8, for "Twilight Encampment," where guests can mingle with the troops around the campfires. Admission: \$20; seniors \$18; children 3-17, \$7; children under 3, free. Details: osv.org, 800-733- 1830.



REDCOAT FROM STERLING: Jon O. Mack, a reenactor with the British 64th Regiment of Foot, will take part in the eighth annual "Redcoats & Rebels" Revolutionary War reenactment at Old Sturbridge Village on Aug. 7-8. Submitted photo