

Revolutionary War Field Days

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CAMDEN'S REVOLUTIONARY WAR FIELD DAYS MOVES TO NEW LOCATION

Event remains in Kershaw County

CAMDEN, SC, June 24, 2020 — Camden's Revolutionary War Field DaysSM announced a new location for its annual reenactor event scheduled for November 7th and 8th, 2020. This year's Field Days will be held at The Meeting Place, a 37-acre private property owned by The Meeting Place on Keys Lane, LLC, and Fred (Cab) and Kathy Stitt. The site is near North Central High School in Kershaw County. Kathy Stitt commented, "We are delighted to be able to offer our property for Revolutionary War Field Days and keep this Kershaw County tradition alive." Kathy, herself, has a very special and deep relationship with Kershaw County history. She is a direct descendent of Richard Drakeford, the Drakeford namesake of one of Historic Camden's early buildings. Until recently, it served as a museum display area until it was emptied to move to its new location last year. Ironically, it is one of the structures now limiting space contributing to the necessity to find a new site for Field Days.

Alexis DeKeyser, Commander/Treasurer of the British Legion/63 Regiment stated, "We have been at Historic Camden's campus for 49 years but as Field Days has grown over the years, we've simply outgrown the old location. Historic Camden's fantastic plans for the future have moved buildings into areas we've previously used, and the planned brickyard construction will significantly limit space available for reenactors and the public. In planning this year's event we are paying close attention to social distancing. It was a difficult but necessary decision to move. But we knew that remaining at Historic Camden would make some people uncomfortable, especially with the increasingly restricted space for the event. Frankly, with the pandemic, if no vaccine or treatment is available by November and a surge of infection occurs, we may be forced to postpone in interest of public safety. We'll see where we are in the autumn but today, we are well underway with our planning. With the uncertainty Covid-19 brings, we will keep our options open and plan accordingly as more information becomes available."

The new location offers larger fields for observers, encampments and battles. Kirk Smith a Lee County NC Commissioner who is also a multi-decade devoted veteran reenactor with the 71st Highland Regiment of Foot, enthusiastically endorsed the new location and recounted, "We hate

leaving our traditional site, particularly the historic buildings. But with Covid-19 concerns, we would not have been using any indoor space this year anyway. Here it's all open with fresh air. This location also gives spectators a huge open area to have an unobstructed view of the reenactment battles. We'll customize the battleplans so spectators will easily see the fields and stands of pines in a variety of ways we could not in the past. This year will give us room to expand our camps, so we won't be as compressed. And after doing a site visit in a rainstorm, we found the soil was well drained with no puddles, it's just beautiful." Organizers for the event are also working on a "no touch" system for admission so once guests leave their private vehicles, there will be no contact and no "touchscreens" necessary for entry. If guests opt for pre-event ticketing options, they won't even have to roll down a vehicle window.

This year's Field Days could be an even larger event as it is Camden's 50th Anniversary of British and Patriot reenactments. Dr. Erick Nason, American Commander and Provost of the South Carolina 2nd related "We already have commitments from reenactment units from Delaware, Virginia, North and South Carolina, and Georgia that will include infantry, artillery, and cavalry units. This year is the 240th anniversary of the Battle of Camden and the beginning of South Carolina's 250th Revolutionary War remembrance. South Carolinians have displayed growing interest to learn more about their Colonial and Revolutionary history. Revolutionary War reenactments are an effective way to communicate South Carolina's pivotal role in the American Revolution. After considering offers for a number of alternative sites in South Carolina and Virginia, we were really pleased to keep this special event in Kershaw County."

Jimmy and Beth Webb, merchant coordinators for the Field Days, has an unusually large number of purveyors of reproduction 18th C. clothing, accoutrements, fabrics, patterns and handcrafted items who will attend the November event. Webb reports "At present we anticipate at least 15 to 18 with vendors coming from as far away as Indiana, Kentucky and Pennsylvania. We love these reenactments, they are not only educational and entertaining for children and adults alike, but also inspirational to learn, or relearn, about the founding of the United States. This year extra space for expansion of troops, merchants and spectators will make the event even better. We even have the opportunity to hire Faire Wynds, to help us connect our guests to fully researched historic entertainment. We very much appreciate the efforts to keep the public, as well as reenactor participants, safe. It will be great to have an open-air event everyone can breathe easier about and really enjoy themselves immersed in 18th C. history. Being on land unobstructed by buildings and bright lights really makes this feel more authentic."

A website, www.revwarfielddays.com, and a Facebook site, @revwarfd will be kept current with plans as they develop.

Revolutionary War Field Days is a non-profit corporation that advocates, promotes, and produces American Colonial and Revolutionary era living history events that educate, entertain, and inspire.

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If you would like more information about this event, please call Dr. Tray Dunaway at (803) 427-7321, or email tray@revwarfielddays.com.