

FAYETTEVILLE INDEPENDENT LIGHT INFANTRY
A GUIDE FOR THE NEW GUARDSMAN
June 2022

INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your appointment as the newest member of the oldest military unit in the Southern States. During the course of each year, only a select, few people are chosen to serve in North Carolina's Historic Military Command. Service in the Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry is an honor and a privilege. In order to provide a basic orientation to the F.I.L.I., a new member's guide book has been developed. This guide book is intended to provide a basic layer of information that a new member needs to know; it is not a detailed account of the history, traditions, customs, and operations of the F.I.L.I. Company. With the passage of time and involvement, the new member will gain a broader frame work of knowledge. I wish to extend to you my utmost appreciation for your service in the Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry Company.

Bruce J. Daws
Major Infantry
Commanding

YOUR MENTOR

Your primary sponsor for membership in the Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry is your appointed mentor. The mentor should be able to answer any questions you may have. If the mentor is unable to answer your question, please refer to the section listing the responsibilities of the Staff Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers, and seek advice accordingly.

MENTOR'S NAME: _____
HOME PHONE: _____
WORK PHONE: _____
CELL PHONE: _____
EMAIL: _____

MISSION

The F.I.L.I. Company serves as North Carolina's Historic Military Command and is charged with the following duties;

- Perpetuate the ancient traditions and customs of the militia.
- Serve as an Honor Guard or Color Guard at appropriate ceremonial occasions.
- Provide public education and programs related to the militia, which includes the operation of the F.I.L.I. Museum.
- Foster patriotism and public support for the Armed Forces of the United States serving in defense of the freedom and independence of the nation.
- All other duties as assigned by higher authority.

INFORMATION FOR THE ROSTER

Please insure that you have provided the Orderly Sergeant with all necessary contact information for the unit roster and email. Most functions and activities are communicated by the Orderly Sergeant via email.

STAFF OFFICERS & NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

The Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry was organized in 1793, and in accordance with the militia laws was authorized three commissioned officers: the Commander was commissioned a Captain; the Executive Officer was commissioned a Lieutenant; and the Color Officer was commissioned an Ensign. The non-commissioned officers consisted of four sergeants and three corporals, which were appointed by the Commander. By a special act the State Legislature in 1819, authorized the F.I.L.I. to be commanded by a Major and four staff officers who were commissioned in the grade of Captain. This rank structure is still in effect today. A commissioned officer must first serve as a non-commissioned officer in the F.I.L.I. before he can be considered for election to officer grade. In accordance with the old militia customs, officers are elected by the members of the unit. The election of officers occurs each year at the Annual Muster held on 23 August. The Commander appoints a First Sergeant and all other non-commissioned officers at the October monthly muster. The commissioned officers and non-commissioned officers consist of the following:

Commander: Major Bruce J. Daws

The Commander is responsible for all that the unit does or fails to do. Whereas, the Commander delegates certain responsibilities to staff officers and non-commissioned officers; he remains accountable for all actions and decisions. Therefore, the Commander has the authority to make all final decisions relating to the operation of the unit.

Adjutant: Captain Edward Schowalter

The Adjutant serves as the Executive Officer (second-in-command) and is responsible for the administrative and business functions of the unit.

Curator: Captain Craig Harmon

The Curator is responsible for the museum, collections, archives, library and public education.

Color Officer: Captain Link Campbell

The Color Officer is responsible for the color guard/honor guard, and all associated equipment, weapons, uniforms and supplies.

Quartermaster: Captain Mike Moose

The Quartermaster is responsible for the Armory and all assets except those assets assigned to the Curator or Color Officer. Also, the Quartermaster is responsible for the operation of the kitchen, mess, and the Grand Olde Company Club.

First Sergeant Kelly Rosser

The First Sergeant is responsible for assisting the Commander as directed and is also tasked with uniform procurement, awards and decorations, and maintenance of personnel records.

Company Sergeants:

Sergeants are appointed by the Commander and assigned to the Company Staff Officers.

Company Corporals:

Corporals are appointed by the Commander and assigned to the Company Staff Officers.

The Grand Olde Company Club is located upstairs in the Armory building. It is designed as a gathering place for members and guests to socialize. The unit does not operate a bar; however you may bring a bottle(s) of your favorite adult beverage which will be placed behind the bar for your exclusive use. All bottles must be identified with your name on the label. The Grand Olde Company Club is open before and after Monthly Musters, and at other times for members and guests to socialize. We encourage members to utilize the club, but always remember you are strictly charged with conducting yourself as a gentleman. Also, you will be held responsible for the conduct of your guests. In order to gain more information on the club rules, contact the Quartermaster Captain or one of the Quartermaster Sergeants.

PROTOCOL, DECORUM & MILITARY DISCIPLINE

The Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry is a Historic Military Command and is charged with following military procedure. During Monthly Musters, the Annual Muster, Color Guard functions, Burial Details, while in uniform, or other military functions, standard military discipline and protocol will be followed. Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers will be addressed by rank and last name. At all other times, to include social events all members are on a first name relationship. Before taking the Guardsman's Oath of Office, you were strictly charged by the Chaplain with the words from the 133rd Psalm; "Behold, how good and joyful a thing it is, for brethren to dwell together in unity!" We strive to always be a corps of like-minded gentlemen. There is no place in our ranks for a breach in unity. There shall always be harmony at our musters, functions, socials, and in the mess. Violations of this mandate may result in a member being discharged from our ranks.

ANNUAL MUSTER

The Annual Muster is the most important F.I.L.I. function during the calendar year. Please make note that the Annual Muster is held each year on August 23rd, beginning at about 1800 hours. Your attendance is required. So you're asking yourself; "what is the annual muster, and why is it so important?" The Annual Muster is the birthday of the F.I.L.I. Company which was organized on August 23, 1793. Tradition holds that the F.I.L.I. shall muster each year on the 23rd of August for the election of militia officers, awards and decorations, dinner, toasts, special guests, and remembrance of our departed brothers. The Annual Muster takes place both on our original parade grounds as well as our Armory.

MONTHLY MUSTERS

The F.I.L.I. Company musters once each month at the Armory located at 210 Burgess Street. The Monthly Muster occurs at 1800 hours on the first Monday night of each month. The doors of the Armory are usually open by 1700 hours and members are encouraged to socialize in the Grand Olde Company Club. Following the social hour is the evening meal, which cost \$10 per person. About five (5) minutes before the Muster the First Sergeant will make the announcement. All adult beverages will be consumed and removed from the Grand Hall before the commencement of muster business. The Monthly Muster is always opened and closed in prayer by the unit chaplain. During the muster meeting, officer and non-commissioned officer reports are delivered, business matters, projects, and upcoming events are discussed, and a military program is provided. Following the muster meeting, the Grand Olde Company Club is open for the pleasure of the members and guests. Members are encouraged to wear the Blazer Uniform to Monthly Musters; however, slacks and a collar shirt are acceptable.

CHAPLAIN'S PROGRAMS

During the fall of the year, the Chaplain conducts the Annual Heritage Worship Service, which is usually offered at the historic Old Bluff Presbyterian Church located near Wade. Also the Chaplain hosts an annual Christmas party at the Armory. At both functions the Chaplain takes up an offering which is presented to a person(s) in need of charitable assistance. Wives and guests are encouraged to attend both of these events. Members are expected to attend these important functions.

YOUR ROLE AS THE NEW MEMBER

So. . .now you're the newest member in the oldest military unit in the South. . . a Historic Military Command. . .steeped in tradition and venerable in age. You may be wondering "How do I fit in?" or "What do I do next?" First, keep in mind that the F.I.L.I. is very select in its membership. You were voted into our ranks because we deemed you to be a like-minded gentleman; therefore, we are interested in getting to know you better. Your first step is getting to know the members, and figuring out how you best fit into the unit. Where are you best suited to serve . . . the Color Guard . . . the Historical Committee . . . the Quartermaster section . . . or perhaps the Administrative section? Talk with your fellow members, learn as much as you can and get involved. One of the first things you need to consider is the purchase of an F.I.L.I. blazer patch. In order to obtain the blazer patch, see the First Sergeant and he will instruct you on how to put together the blazer uniform, which is appropriate to be worn at most F.I.L.I. functions.

WORK DETAILS

The Quartermaster Officer will on occasion call a Work Detail to accomplish projects at the Armory. These work details are usually scheduled after regular business hours. We all benefit from the use of the Armory, and we are each responsible for its up-keep, repair, and maintenance. Members are expected when called upon to assist in the Quartermaster's work details.

THE OLD PARADE GROUNDS

The F.I.L.I. Company was organized in 1793 on the Old Parade Grounds, located at the corner of North Cool Spring and Meeting streets. This is the historic site of the F.I.L.I. Bicentennial Monument, and the location where the militia officer elections take place each year at the Annual Muster. The stones used in the construction of the Bicentennial Monument, smaller monuments, as well as the stones bordering the field are building material from Cumberland County's old courthouse, which once served as our Armory.

THE CENTENNIAL LEGION OF HISTORIC MILITARY COMMANDS

The Centennial Legion of Historic Military Commands (CLHMC) was organized at the Nations Centennial Celebration in Philadelphia on July 4th 1876. One historic military command was selected from each of the 13 original colonies. The F.I.L.I. was selected to represent the State of North Carolina, as a charter member of the CLHMC. The F.I.L.I. has represented the State of North Carolina in the CLHMC since 1876. Our sister unit in the CLHMC is the Washington Light Infantry of Charleston, South Carolina. The F.I.L.I. is the only Historic Military Command in North Carolina, therefore, the State Director position for the CLHMC comes from the ranks of the F.I.L.I. An Annual Meeting of the CLHMC is hosted by different Historic Military Commands located in one of the 13 original colonies. Also various other CLHMC unit functions take place during the course of the year. These functions are open to members of the F.I.L.I. Company.

PROPOSING A NEW MEMBER

The protocol to follow in proposing a new man for membership is to first talk with the Commanding Officer. The Commanding Officer is responsible for processing prospective new members. You will need to provide the Commander with background information on the proposed member. The Commander will then advise you on the next steps to be taken. It may be that the F.I.L.I. is at full strength, and the prospective member would have to be placed on the waiting list. The First Sergeant issues applications to prospective members upon approval of the Commander. When recommending a prospective member . . . always remember that they are a direct reflection upon you.

MOTTOS

When the F.I.L.I. was organized in 1793, they adopted the following motto:

“HE THAT HATH NO STOMACH TO THIS FIGHT LET HIM DEPART”. The motto is taken from Shakespeare’s play Henry V, written in approximately 1599. It tells the story of King Henry V of England, focusing on events immediately before and after the Battle of Agincourt (1415) during the Hundred Years’ War. Our original motto reflects the status of the F.I.L.I. as an active component of the state and national defense system. When the role of the F.I.L.I. changed to a Historic Military Command, we adopted a secondary motto, which reflects our mission:

“REMEMBER WHO WE ARE”

The F.I.L.I. is strictly charged with the mission of perpetuating the ancient customs of the militia. In the furtherance of our mission, the F.I.L.I. operates a museum at the Armory and is engaged in public education concerning the F.I.L.I. in its role as a militia unit.

A CORPS OF GENTLEMEN

Throughout its history the F.I.L.I. has remained a “Corps of Gentlemen”. When a member is no longer deemed worthy of his status as a Gentleman, he is expelled from the ranks. In 1796, a few years after the organization of the F.I.L.I., a member committed an act not becoming a gentleman, was fined, made to write a letter of apology, and allowed to resign. It was recorded in the unit records; “that the objects of our association being of the most praiseworthy character ought not to be defeated by wantonness nor obstructed by malignity.” Thus affording testimony to their successors, that the reputation of the F.I.L.I. depends on the character and deportment of the members while on duty as well as off duty. This example has been followed throughout the history of the F.I.L.I. Company.

GORDON TARTAN

In order to commemorate Fayetteville’s early Scottish heritage the F.I.L.I. authorized a Tartan Uniform which is prescribed by unit uniform regulations. The official tartan is Clan Gordon, which honors our first commander, Captain Robert Adam, a native of Greenock Scotland. Adam is a sept of Clan Gordon.

DRAMBUIE

The official drink of the F.I.L.I. is Drambuie, a Scotch liqueur, which was the private recipe of Charles Edward Stuart, known as the Bonnie Prince Charles. After the defeat of the Scottish Army at the Battle of Culloden Moor in 1746, the Bonnie Prince Charles escaped captivity as a result of the daring efforts of Flora McDonald. Cross Creek (Fayetteville) was briefly the home of Flora McDonald, the great Scottish heroine. When we toast with Drambuie, we are reminded of all the great women throughout our history who have supported the efforts of the F.I.L.I.

THE F.I.L.I. MARCH

The official march of the F.I.L.I. is “Scotland the Brave”.

THE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

When a member of the F.I.L.I. dies, the Commander is responsible for composing a Resolution of Respect concerning the deceased. The Resolution of Respect is placed in the Book of Remembrances which is maintained by the Chaplain. All members who have died during the year, will have a Resolution of Respect read at the Annual Muster. At the end of each muster the Chaplain will randomly select a Resolution of Respect to be read to the members prior to closing prayer.

POLITICAL ACTIVITY PROHIBITED

The F.I.L.I. is not a political organization; therefore during any official function or muster politics will not be discussed. The F.I.L.I. does not endorse candidates for public office. Conversations of a political nature are allowed in the Grand Olde Company Club before or after the official muster.

F.I.L.I. SEAL

The F.I.L.I. Seal is used as the official Blazer Patch. Members wearing the F.I.L.I. Blazer in public may be asked to explain the meaning of the Blazer Patch, which is rich in symbolism.

- The 13 stars represent the 13 stars on General George Washington's Flag, which is now the official flag of the Centennial Legion of Historic Military Commands (CLHMC). The F.I.L.I. representing North Carolina was a charter member of the CLHMC, during the Nation's Centennial Celebration held in Philadelphia on 4 July 1876.
- The F.I.L.I. still represents the State of North Carolina in the CLHMC.
- The Latin at the bottom of the Blazer Patch is the F.I.L.I. motto; "He that hath no stomach to this fight let him depart."
- The "Crossed Rifles" represent the Infantry branch.
- The "Pine Cone" represents our loyalty to the sovereign State of North Carolina.
- The "Thistle" represents our ties to Scotland.
- The "American Flag" represents our service in the various wars in which we fought under the Flag of the United States.
- The "Confederate Flag" represents our service to the Confederate States of America during the War Between the States.
- The letters "FILI" represents the official designation of the unit; "Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry."
- The year "1793" represents the year in which the F.I.L.I. was organized. The official organizational date is 23 August 1793.

DISMISSAL FROM THE RANKS

Members of the F.I.L.I. are subject to dismissal from the ranks upon conviction of a crime, or for ungentlemanly and dishonorable conduct, or acting in any way or manner derogatory to the respectability and discipline of the F.I.L.I.

CONCLUSION

The Officers and Men of the Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry welcome you to our ranks. We encourage you to become involved in the affairs of the unit beyond the monthly musters. You are also encouraged to participate in the social functions and share in the fellowship before and after the monthly musters in the Grand Olde Company Club. Again, congratulations and best of luck.

Respectfully,
Major Bruce J. Daws,
Commanding