On a Hill Far Away! By Stu Hoyt

On a hill far away stood an old group of guys, the remnant of what they once were. They were ready at the command, eager for the call, and excited to be back in the game. The brainstorm of Blair Rudy, the TX SAR Color Guard Commander mustered members together for the first time in over a year. On that hill in the small town of Wimberley about twenty mile southwest of Austin is a Veterans Memorial Park, set above the grounds of the Emily Ann Theater behind the local high school. This was the location of the muster call for the Texas SAR Color Guard at 11 am on Saturday 10 April 2021. There were over thirty-five members who responded to that call, plus wives and children. It was like a picnic. After being shut out for over a year, compatriots were chomping at the bit to dust off the continentals and oil up the muskets. Many drove over 250 miles and when it was over they were glad that they made the effort.

Starting early, the lower parking lot was a bustle. Voices rose as those who had only seen each other virtually were giving fist bumps and a “Huzzah!”. The climb to the top was a little steep so a shuttle was made available. The day before, the temperature was steadily climbing into the nineties so there was a concern about wearing those wool coats. But God was good and provided a cool front, which kept it in the low eighties. There was a feisty wind, which made us tighten down on the Tri-corn or Cocked Hat. After signing the muster roll, we were treated to some homemade cookies and cool water. We were divided into two groups, the Musketeers and the Color Bearers. The Color Bearers had their hands full with those popping banners but knew that they had chosen the better when they saw the drills that the Musketeers were put through.

They saw a lot of marching, pomp and circumstance, flags up and down, muskets up and loaded, and an occasional cloud of black powder smoke that covered the field. No one seemed to mind that we weren’t young men any more because the adrenaline was rushing. It was over all too fast but not before a musket volley and a charge across the field. Would we do it again? -------------- In a heartbeat!

Below is a picture of the Color Guard lined up for one of our drills. There are too many to name but who cares, we know that we were part of the “Wimberley Muster”. Many thanks to Blair Rudy, TX SAR Color Guard Commander and his lieutenants, Shiidon Hawley and Bob Kubin for leading us around and to Jim Clements who arranged for the venue and alerted law enforcement of the noise and crowd control.

