

The firing of a half-pounder muzzle-loading cannon at midday on Tuesday 16 June was the highlight of an historic weekend at Waterloo Farm outside Grahamstown.

Basil Mills, along with members of Sabre (the South African Battle Re-enactment Society), provided the perfect colourful and noisy finale to a reunion of the Beadle family.

The four-day event featured a series of talks by members of the Grahamstown Historical Society, centred on 1820 Settler experiences, as well as the 18 June 1815 Battle of Waterloo in Belgium, in which Napoleon was defeated by the British.

The connection is that the family's ancestor, Sir William Beadle, fought at Waterloo, then came to Grahamstown and established Waterloo Farm as it stands today.

Tuesday was an open day for the public at Waterloo Farm and visitors were given tours of the impressive three-storey stone structure, along with tea and cake in exchange for a donation to the SPCA.



Gunner Number 1, Benjamin Coetzee, part of SABRE at Waterloo Farm.



Moving the cannon in to position at Waterloo Farm.



Basil Mills explains the mechanics and history of the cannon to a fascinated gathering .



Loading the cannon at Waterloo Farm.



'Prepare!' - ready to ignite.



'Fire!'. SABRE fire their cannon at Waterloo Farm.