

GEORGE WASHINGTON  
BICENTENNIAL EDITION  
THE WRITINGS OF  
GEORGE WASHINGTON



The Soldier's huts are to be of the following dimensions, viz: fourteen by sixteen each, sides, ends and roofs made with logs, and the roof made tight with split slabs, or in some other way; the sides made tight with clay, fire-place made of wood and secured with clay on the inside eighteen inches thick, this fire-place to be in the rear of the hut; the door to be in the end next the street; the doors to be made of split oak-slabs, unless boards can be procured. Side-walls to be six and a half feet high. The officers huts to form a line in the rear of the troops, one hut to be allowed to each General Officer, one to the Staff of each brigade, one to the field officers of each regiment, one to the Staff of each regiment, one to the commissioned officers of two companies, and one to every twelve non-commissioned officers and soldiers.

#### AFTER ORDERS

The army and baggage are to march to morrow in the time and manner already directed in the orders of the 15th. instant, Genl. Sullivan's division excepted, which is to remain on its present ground 'till further orders.

\*To BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM SMALLWOOD

Gulph Mill, December 19, 1777.

Dr. Sir: With the Division lately commanded by Genl. Sullivan, you are to March immediately for Wilmington, and take Post there. You are not to delay a moment in putting the place in the best posture of defence, to do which, and for the security of it afterwards, I have written in urgent terms to the President of the Delaware State to give every aid he possibly can of Militia. I have also directed an Engineer to attend you for the purpose of constructing, and superintending the Works, and you will fix with the Quarter Master on the number of Tools necessary

for the business; but do not let any neglect, or deficiency on his part, impede your operations, as you are hereby vested with full power to sieze and take (passing receipts) such articles as are wanted. The Commissary and Forage Master will receive directions respecting your Supplies, in their way; but I earnestly request that you will see that these Supplies are drawn from the Country between you and Philadelphia, as it will be depriving the Enemy of all chance of getting them; and in this point of view, becomes an object to us of importance.

I earnestly exhort you to keep both Officers and Men to their duty, and to avoid furloughs but in cases of absolute necessity. You will also use your utmost endeavours to collect all the straglers &ca. from both Brigades, and you are also to use your best endeavours to get the Men Cloathed in the most comfortable manner you can.

You will be particular in your observation of every thing passing on the River and will communicate every matter of Importance to, Dear Sir, etc.

### TO GOVERNOR PATRICK HENRY

Camp 14 Miles from Philadelphia, December 19, 1777.

Sir: On Saturday Evening I was honored with your favor of the 6th. Instant, and am much obliged by your exertions for Cloathing the Virginia Troops. The Articles you send shall be applied to their use, agreeable to your wishes.<sup>87</sup> It will be difficult for me to determine when the Troops are supplied, owing to their fluctuating and deficient state at present; However I believe there will be little reason to suspect that the quantities that may be procured, will much exceed the necessary demands. It will be a happy circumstance, and of great saving, if we

<sup>87</sup>Henry had sent nine wagonloads of supplies and would forward, shortly, he wrote, £15,000 of woolens for clothing for the Virginia troops.

## TO PRESIDENT GEORGE READ

Head Quarters, Gulf Mill, December 19, 1777.

Sir: I have received information, which I have great reason to believe is true, that the Enemy mean to establish a post at Wilmington, for the purpose of Countenancing the disaffected in the Delaware State, drawing supplies from that Country and the lower parts of Chester County, and securing a post upon Delaware River during the Winter. As the advantages resulting to the Enemy from such a position are most obvious, I have determined and shall accordingly, this day send off General Smallwood with a respectable Continental force to take post at Wilmington before them. If Genl. Howe thinks the place of that Importance to him, which I conceive it is, he will probably attempt to dispossess us of it; and, as the force, which I can at present spare, is not adequate to making it perfectly secure, I expect that you will call out as many Militia as you possibly can to rendezvous without loss of time at Wilmington, and put themselves under the Command of Genl. Smallwood. I shall hope that the people will turn out cheerfully, when they consider that they are called upon to remain within, and defend, their own state.

In a letter, which I had the honor of receiving from you some little time past, you express a wish that some mode may be fallen upon to procure the exchange of Govr. McKinley. As this Gentleman will be considered in the Civil line, I have not any prisoner of War proper to be proposed for him. The application would go more properly to Congress, who have a number of State Prisoners under their direction for some of whom Sir Wm. Howe would probably exchange the Governor. I have the honor etc.

P. S. Let the Militia March to Wilmington by Companies, or even parts of Companies and form their Battalions there; Because if the Enemy move, it will be quickly.

### PROCLAMATION

Head Quarters, near the Valley Forge,  
December 20, 1777.

By virtue of the power and direction to me especially given, I hereby enjoin and require all persons residing within Seventy miles of my Head Quarters to thresh one half of their grain by the first day of February and the other half by the first day of March next ensuing, on pain in case of failure of having All that shall remain in Sheaves, after the periods above mentioned, seized by the Commissaries and Quarter Masters of the Army and paid for as Straw.<sup>40</sup>

To REVEREND NATHANIEL WHITAKER<sup>41</sup>

Valley Forge, December 20, 1777.

Revd. Sir: Your favour of the 24th. of September inclosing a discourse against Toryism, came safe to my hands. For the honour of the dedication, I return you my sincere thanks, and wish most devoutly that your labour may be crowned with the success it deserves.<sup>42</sup>

<sup>40</sup>The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison. The printer's changes in capitalization and punctuation may be noted by a comparison of this draft text with the illustration facing next page. Tench Tilghman forwarded the text to John Dunlap, then in Lancaster, Pa., requesting him to strike off 300 handbills (see illustration) and to continue printing the Proclamation in his *Pennsylvania Packet* until the time limit mentioned therein expired. The quartermaster in Lancaster was to distribute the handbills. "If there is a German Paper printed in Lancaster be kind enough to have the proclamation printed in that also." Tilghman's letter to Dunlap, dated Dec. 22, 1777, is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>41</sup>A Presbyterian minister of Salem, Mass.

<sup>42</sup>Whitaker had delivered a discourse on Judges 5:23, and afterwards published it (34 pp. 12°, Newbury Port, 1777) under the title, "An Antidote of Toryism," and dedicated it to Washington.

## TO BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES POTTER

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, December 21, 1777.

Dear Sir: Major Clark has wrote to me several times about some provision that a Mr. Trumbull was sending into Philadelphia by his permission as a cover to procure intelligence. This provision was siezed by Colo. Ranking and has been since detained by him. I desire you will give orders to have it delivered, for unless we now and then make use of such means to get admittance into the City we cannot expect to obtain intelligence.

I think it of the greatest consequence to have what Hay remains upon the Islands above the mouth of Derby Creek destroyed, especially if what you heard of the former Magazine of Hay being spoiled is true. At any rate, as we cannot remove it, I think it should be done as speedily as possible, as we shall probably oblige them to come out into the Country to forage, which will perhaps give us an opportunity of cutting off a party. The mode I leave intirely to Colo. Morgan and yourself. I am informed that there are parties cutting wood every day on this side the Schuylkill. I do not doubt but they might easily be drove in, but I think destroying the Hay ought to be first attended to. I am &ca.<sup>54</sup>

## TO BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM SMALLWOOD

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, December 22, 1777.

Dear Sir: The Enemy marched out of Philadelphia this morning early with a considerable Body. Their intent is said to be to forage, but lest they may have something further in view, I think it proper to put you upon your guard. They encamp this Evening near Derby. I have this day received information,

<sup>54</sup>The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

that the Troops were embarked some days ago, and were said to be destined for New York are designed to land in the lower Counties and collect Stock and Forages there and upon the Eastern Shore of Maryland. But I cannot say the information is much to be depended upon. You may easily know the probability of this, by sending down to inquire whether the Transports yet remain in Delaware Bay. I shall be glad to hear what progress you make in fortifying yourself, and whether the Militia join you in any considerable Number. I am etc.<sup>55</sup>

### TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, December 22, 1777.

Sir: On Saturday Evening, I had the Honor to receive your Favor of the 17th Inst. with Its Inclosure. The next day I wrote to Genl. Burgoyne, upon the Subject of his Application, and transmitted him a Copy of the Resolution of Congress founded thereon. That the matter might not be delayed, I dispatched my Letter by the Express who brought yours, he having informed me, that you expected he would be sent with It.

It is with infinite pain and concern, that I transmit Congress the Inclosed Copies of Sundry Letters respecting the State of the Commissary's department. If these matters are not exaggerated, I do not know from what cause, this alarming deficiency or rather total failure of Supplies arises; But unless more Vigorous exertions and better regulations take place in that line, and immediately, this Army must dissolve.<sup>56</sup> I have done all in

<sup>55</sup>The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

<sup>56</sup>Extracts from letters (December 22) from Brig. Gens. Jedidiah Huntington and James Mitchell Varnum are typical:

"I received an order," wrote Huntington to Pickering, "to hold my Brigade in Readiness to march; fighting will be by far preferable to starving; my Brigade are out of Provisions nor can the Brigade Comisary obtain any Meat, it has several Times been the Case before though the Failure has generally been in Flour. I am exceedingly unhappy in being the Bearer of Complaints to Head Quarters. I have used every

be more guarded in future. They may not be so intimately acquainted with them as I am, But they may be assured there are none of a more fatal and injurious tendency. When rank is once given, no matter upon what principle, whether from mistake or other causes, the Party in possession of it, in most cases is unwilling to give it up, tho' the most obvious principles of Justice, or even the Public good should require it. Such is the general ambition of Men and attachment to their own private preferment. It is a truth, that it will even be found more easy to prevent than to remedy difficulties after they have happened. I do not mention these things from a wish or disposition to dictate, Nothing being farther from my intention; but because my feelings are every day wounded by the discontent, complaints and jarring of the Officers not to add resignations. All of great detriment to the service.

3 O'Clock P. M.

Just as I was about to conclude my Letter, your favor of the 20th with its several Inclosures came to hand.

It would give me infinite pleasure to afford protection to every individual and to every Spot of Ground in the whole of the United States. Nothing is more my wish. But this is not possible with our present force. In all wars, from the nature of things, Individuals and particular places must be exposed. It has ever been and ever will be the case, and we have only to pity and to regret the misfortune of those, who from their situation are subject to ravage and depredation. These facts are evident and obvious to all, and if that system of conduct is pursued by an Army, which is most likely to give the most general and extensive security, it is all that can be done or expected from it. I assure you, Sir, no circumstance in the course of the present contest, or in my whole life, has employed more of my reflection



or consideration than in what manner to effect this and to dispose of the Army during the [present] Winter. Viewing the Subject in any point of light, there was choice of difficulties. If keeping the Field was thought of, the naked condition of the Troops and the feelings of Humanity opposed the measure: If retiring to the Towns in the interior parts of the State, which consistently with the preservation of the Troops, from their necessitous circumstances, might have been justifiable, the measure was found inexpedient because it would have exposed and left uncovered, a large extent of Country. If cantoning the Troops in several places, divided and distant from each other, then there was a probability of their being cut off, and but little prospect of their giving security to any part. Under these Embarrassments, I determined to take post near this place, as the best calculated, in my Judgement to secure the Army, to protect our Stores and cover the Country; and for this purpose we are beginning to hut, and shall endeavour to accomplish it, as expeditiously as possible. I have also from a desire of preventing the Enemy from an intercourse with the Delaware State and from making incursions there detached Genl Smallwood with the Maryland forces to take post at Wilmington, which I had strong reasons to believe the Enemy intended. This However, I cannot but consider as hazardous, and shall be happy if it does not turn out so. I have it also in contemplation, to throw a Bridge over Schuylkill near this place,<sup>58</sup> as soon as it is practicable by means of which I hope we shall be able, in a great measure with the aid of the Militia to check the Excursions of the Enemy's parties on the other side. As to Jersey, I am sensible of her sufferings and exertions in the present contest, and

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<sup>58</sup> This bridge was defended on the west side of the Schuylkill by what was called "the Star Redoubt."

none at all; in addition to which as a proof of the little benefit received from a Cloathier Genl., and at the same time as a further proof of the inability of an Army under the circumstances of this, to perform the common duties of Soldiers (besides a number of Men confind to Hospitals for want of Shoes, and others in farmers Houses on the same Acct.) we have, by a field return this day made no less than 2898 Men now in Camp unfit for duty because they are bare foot and otherwise naked and by the same return it appears that our whole strength in continental Troops (Including the Eastern Brigades which have joined us since the surrender of Genl. Burgoyne) exclusive of the Maryland Troops sent to Wilmington amount to no more than 8200 In Camp fit for duty. Notwithstanding which, and that, since the 4th Instt. our Numbers fit for duty from the hardships and exposures they have undergone, particularly on Acct. of Blankets (numbers being [having been] obliged and [still are to] do set up all Night by fires, instead of taking comfortable rest in a natural [and common] way) have decreased near 2000 Men. we find Gentlemen without knowing whether the Army was really going into Winter Quarters or not (for I am sure no resolution of mine would warrant the remonstrance)<sup>65</sup> reprobating the measure as much as if they thought Men [the Soldiery] were made of Stocks or Stones and equally insensible of frost and Snow and moreover, as if they conceived it [easily] practicable for an inferior Army under the disadvantages I have describ'd our's to be wch. is by no means exagerated to confine a superior one (in all respects well appointed, and provided for a Winters Campaign) within the City of Phila., and [to] cover from depredation and waste the

<sup>65</sup>The Pennsylvania Legislature addressed a remonstrance to Washington against putting the Army into winter quarters. (See *Pennsylvania Archives*, First Series, 6, 104.)

## TO MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, December 29, 1777.

Dear Sir: Major Blackden<sup>94</sup> of Colo. Sheldons Light Dragoons goes to Boston to procure Cloathing and Accoutrements for the Regiment against the ensuing Campaign. As the prices of many articles have risen from there being too great a number of Bidders, I have directed the Major, if there are any persons purchasing for the Continent, not to interfere with them, but to apply to them for such Articles as he may want, and as he has the measures of the Men, he will have the Uniforms made up. There will be several things as Boots, sadlery &ca. for which he must contract himself, to pay for which I desire you will furnish him with money. If the Continental Agents should not have the Articles of Cloathing proper for Major Blackden, he is in that case to procure them on the best terms he can, and you will also be pleased to furnish him with Money for the Amount. We have found so many advantages from Cavalry in the Course of this Campaign, that I am determined to augment them as much as possible against the next, and enable them to take the Field in a respectable manner. I therefore hope you will give Major Blackden your Countenance and every assistance in your power. I am etc.<sup>95</sup>

[MS. H. S.]

## TO BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM SMALLWOOD

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, December 29, 1777.

Dear Sir: I was yesterday favd. with yours of the 27th. as I was with those of the 22d. and 25th. I imagine the Ships you

<sup>94</sup>Lieut. Col. Samuel Blackden [Blagden], of the Second Continental Dragoons. He had been promoted from major on Apr. 7, 1777; resigned in August, 1779.

<sup>95</sup>In the writing of Tench Tilghman.

saw going down, were only empty Transports and Victuallers for which having no use, they think it safer to send them away than let them lay crowded in the docks of Philada. where a single Vessel taking fire might prove destruction of the whole. The Enemy, who were only out upon a great Hay Forage, have returned to Philada. I was apprehensive that they would have paid you a visit, and altho they [we?] were not in a position to make a general attack upon them to advantage, I kept large parties of light troops near them to watch their motions and prevent their stragling into the Country and plundering.

I shall send you down a party of Light Horse as much with a view of refreshing them as any thing else, for while the Enemy remain quiet in Philada. you will not have occasion to keep out a single Vidette. If they at any time cross the Schuylkill, I shall give you notice by Express, and you may then advance a few Horse, some towards Chester and others up the Brandywine to keep a look out at other times I wish they may lay intirely still, and if you have occasion for Expresses hire them from the Country.

Or if you can take seven or eight of the Dover Horse into employ you may do it, they will serve for the purpose of bringing you intelligence from different parts of the Country and carrying dispatches when there is occasion.

I beg you will continue to urge the president of the Delaware State and Genl. Rodney to turn out part of their Militia to your assistance.

I approve of your proposal of setting one of the Mills to work to supply you with Flour and Horse Feed, but you should keep it intirely under your own direction, that no more may be ground than what you and the inhabitants may want.

I will order the Commissary to send you down some salt and liquor if he has any of the latter, and the Waggon shall make

up a load with intrenching Tools. As our stock of liquor is very small, your Commissary had better purchase some, up the Country, for the use of the Men upon fatigue.

Officers, on whom you can depend, should now be sent off to collect all the Straglers of your division and those who may have recovered in the different Hospitals, and you should inform the State of Maryland where you are that what Cloathing they collect for their Troops may be sent to you.

Inclosed you have a Resolve of Congress founded upon information that large quantities of Cattle have been driven down upon the Marshes of Kent upon Delaware which are exposed to the depredations of the Enemy or may be easily conveyed to them. I desire you will, in conjunction with the president of the State, have the fact inquired into, and if it be found true, endeavour to have them removed to a place of Safety, from whence they may be taken by the Commissary, and paid for as the Resolve directs.<sup>96</sup>

If the Weather should continue as severe as it promises, Vessels will not be able to go up to Philada. on account of the Ice, perhaps they may be obliged to put into Reedy Island. If they should and you can procure intelligence of it quickly, you may, by sending down a party and a single field piece make prize of them or oblige them to run down the Bay again. If they pass by you, they may probably not be able to get further up than Chester, where they must lay within the piers to avoid the Ice, and there they may be easily either destroyed or taken. I would have you endeavour to procure people who live at or near the places just mentioned to give you intelligence privately if any Vessels put in, that you may take measures to secure them. I am &ca.<sup>97</sup>

[M.L.]

<sup>96</sup> See *Journals of the Continental Congress*, Dec. 15, 1777.

<sup>97</sup> In the writing of Tench Tilghman.

# LETTERS

TO AND FROM

# CAESAR RODNEY

1756-1784

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*Member of the* STAMP ACT CONGRESS *and the* FIRST  
AND SECOND CONTINENTAL CONGRESSES; *Speaker of the*  
DELAWARE COLONIAL ASSEMBLY; *President of the* DELA-  
WARE STATE; *Major General of the* DELAWARE MILITIA;  
*Signer of the* DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

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*Edited by*  
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Hogs and three Barrels of Flour for the use of their several Families, all articles of Provision being exorbitantly dear in the City—

The Bearer assures me, and I entirely believe him, that the Enemy never takes any kind of provisions from poor persons who procure it by going out of the City—

Under these Circumstances I earnestly entreat you to give a Passport for the Bearer & his Companions to return to their Home, with their little vessel & Cargo,

[P.S.]

I desire you will be so kind as to dispatch the Bearer as soon as possible for as the Boat is small they will be in Danger of suffering great Harships, if a sharp spell of Weather should set in He tells me it is the general opinion of the Inhabitants of Philadelphia, that the number of the Enemy's Forces in Town does not exceed 12000—tho they say they are 20000 strong. He also says, the Fleet appears to be but poorly man'd—

[Rodney's Endorsement]

Decr. 21st 1777. As I cannot be Supposed to have so general a View of matters as to Justifie the Granting a pasport in this Case, must Decline it—Therefore would recommend an application to be made to his Excellency General Washington, who's advice and Direction I shall stricly observe—

Caesar Rodney  
M. General

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*From George Read*

Dover 21st. December 1777.

I have this moment received Information by Letter from His Excellency General Washington, that he has Reason to believe that the Enemy mean to establish a Post at Wilmington for the Purpose of countenancing the Disaffected in the Delaware State, drawing Supplies from our country, and securing a Post upon the Delaware River during the Winter; that he has detached General Smallwood with a respectable Continental Force to take a Post at Wilmington, but this he apprehended may not be adequated to the Business, therefore he expects that I will call out as many Militia of this State as I possibly can to rendezvous without Loss of Time at Wilmington, and put themselves under the Command of General Smallwood—In Consequence of this Application I must desire that you will forthwith issue your Orders to the Officers of the Militia, particularly of your County, to examine into the State of the Arms & Accoutrements of the Men, that the same be put into the

best Order that your Circumstances will admit and be prepared to march upon the first Notice—. The General Assembly have ordered that the Six Hundred Militia, directed to be raised by the Resolution of Council of the 29th October last, should be continued for other two Months in the Service of the State, therefore I desire that you would issue your Orders for compleating the Companies, particularly those of Kent County, as I expect that you will, upon the first Notice of the Enemy's Attempt to seize the Post at Wilmington order the march of that Corps of Men as well as such of the Militia of Kent as may be got together.—I rely on your paying a particular Attention to the State of the whole Militia and issuing such Orders as you may deem necessary for complying with the Requisition of General Washington; and in Case of ordering forth the whole Militia I would recommend the Mode prescribed in the Act for establishing a Militia in this State for making a Signal of Alarm, to be adopted, that we may have it in our Power to punish Delinquents—I have wrote to Brigadier Dagworthy mentioning the Purport of General Washington's Letter with Directions to examine into the State of the Militia, their Arms &c. and have them ready to march on the first Notice, and to proceed in the raising and compleating of the two Companies of the afsd. Six Hundred, that had been allotted as Sussex County's Quota.—I shall write to General Patterson to the same Purpose.

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*From William Smallwood<sup>1</sup>*Wilmington Decem. 22<sup>d</sup> 1777

His Excellency General Washington having it in View as much as maybe to cover the Country, & prevent the Depredations of the Enemy, has detached a Body of Troops under my Command to take Post at this Place, with Instructions to fortify it strongly, & to solicit your Aid in drawing together a Body of light Horse & Militia to co operate with the Continental Troops for its defence; & the construction of Works; this in either Instance cannot perhaps wholly be effected by the small Number of harrassed Cont.<sup>1</sup> Troops; & the Necessity of speedy & vigorous Exertions to frustrate the Enemys Designs must be obvious, therefore make no doubt but you will be induced to give every countenance & Aid in your Power, to promote & facilitate an Object of such Importance.

<sup>1</sup> Brigadier-General William Smallwood was ordered from New Jersey by General Washington (writing from Gulf Mill, Pennsylvania, December 19, 1777) to proceed to Wilmington, Delaware, and take measures for the defense of that town. He commanded troops of Maryland and Delaware of the Continental Line.



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*To Thomas Collins*

In virtue of the most Earnest Requisition of his Excellency General Washington, That the Militia of this State, if necessary, Should Join and Co-operate with the Continental Troops now within the State under the command of Brigadier General Smallwood—and in Virtue of orders from the Honorable George Read Vice President and Commander in Chief of said State directed to me for this purpose. You are Immediately to see that all the officers and Companies belonging to your Battalion, be forthwith equipped in the best manner that, in our present Circumstances, They possibly can, with Arms & accoutrements. And hold themselves in Readiness to March under Your Command and Rendezvous at such place, within the State, as shall be hereafter thought most proper to Cooperate with the Continental Troops sent here for the defence of the State under the Command of General Smallwood, for which purpose you Shall Have orders from me, in Case it should be found necessary.

CAESAR RODNEY  
MAJOR GENERAL.

Head Quarters. Dover  
decr. the 22d 1777.

To Coll. Thomas Collins Eqr.  
of the 1st Batta. Militia.  
[of Kent County]

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*To William Smallwood*

Dover decr. the 25th 1777—

Your letter of the 22d Instant, by Doct. Spencer Came to hand, and I am happy to find you have taken Post at Wilmington, a movement which, in its event, must tend to Secure the persons and property of the well affected in this State, Against the depredations and Insults of a cruel Enemy and their cruel abettors—Mr. Read the Vice President, left this town on Sunday last, a few hours before he set out, he received a Letter from his Excellency General Washington advising him of the design to take Post at Wilmington, and Requesting the aid of the Militia &c. He Immediately directed me to order the Militia of this County to hold themselves in Readiness to march at a moments warning in Case it should be found necessary—These orders have been issued, and am sorry to say that I believe they will be very little Regarded, A want

of Zeal in some and disaffection in others is so prevalent that little good is to be Expected of them in this way, it is a misfortune that our Militia Law is not calculated to bring them to the Field—I have issued orders to my Light-Horse to go Immediately to your Assistance and shall do everything in my power to get them there—I make no doubt but the Militia of Newcastle County, who are near at hand, will generally turn out—I have, in this Town & near it, about one hundred men what are engaged and under pay for two months, but they are constantly employed in keeping in awe and preventing the disaffected carrying on a Trade with and Supplying the Enemy with Provisions, I have many of those Traitors now in goal and should be glad of a place of greater safety for them than this is. Should therefore be pleased to know of you whether you'd approve of their being sent to your Camp. I shall be glad to hear from you by the bearer, and be assured I shall do every thing in my power to assist you.

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*To Captain Caldwell*

Dover decr. 28th 1777—

I Received your letter of this day's date—If the Commissary promised to Attend you he has done verry wrong, and upon presumption that he had Neglected his duty Sent for him, and he dinies your Ever Giving him Any Notice to Attend, But says he will attend to morrow morning—However be that as it may, You have by a Neglect of Your Orders, and Your possitive Engagement, occasioned Such a disappointment That in all probability there will not be a Single person left to do duty in the Town and that at a time when the prison is full of Offenders, and what may be the Consequence I Shall leave You to Judge—The people know their pay and Rations were sure to be had at any time therefore that Could not Justify their not attending as you Engaged—As to their pay if you had asked me for more money when in Town You Might have had it, and may have it when Ever You are pleased to Call for it—I dont Recollect What the pay is, and have not a list of it by me, or would send you one—Captain Delancy says that upon Your promise his Men have Stayed verry Patiently till now, but that they will now go home—If this is to be the Case the public money is bestowed to verry little purpose, and Patriotism at a Verry low Ebb with those I Expected to find it, which Give no Small Concern, as I always have and would Still wish to Encourage Such. I hope You will Exert your Self and Endeavour to be more punctual, for the future in Military Matters nothing is More Necessary.

# Wilmington

THE CITY AND BEYOND



Photography by Mike Biggs/Text by Dr. Barbara Benson

Designed by Bernard Ben Pearce

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POSTCARD HISTORY SERIES

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# *Wilmington*

IN VINTAGE POSTCARDS

Marjorie G. McNinch



THE COLONIAL DAMES HOUSE AND PARK DRIVE ON THE BRANDYWINE, WILMINGTON, DEL.



Continuing through Brandywine Park on Park Drive, the old First Presbyterian Meetinghouse, which was located on Market Street at Tenth Street and served for a time as the home of the Historical Society of Delaware, is found at the bottom of West Street. The Meetinghouse was moved in 1916 when the Wilmington Institute Free Library began construction at the Market Street site. It was moved to the park location, serving as the headquarters for the Colonial Dames.



Six dams are located between the end of the site of the DuPont Gunpowder Works and the tidewater end of the Brandywine River at North Market Street. This view is of the Third Dam, located just below Rattlesnake Run, and the B&O Railroad Bridge in Brandywine Park. These dams gave Brandywine its power, and its power is what drew so many millers and industrialists to its shores. The dam was constructed in the 1870s, and the sluice gates at this dam divert water to the race on its way to the Wilmington Pumping Station.



Brick row houses line Wawaset Street running parallel to Park Drive in Brandywine Park at Van Buren Street. The same location in the 21st century is nearly unchanged with the exception of a traffic light and the interstate overhead. This view of the park is around 1915. (Courtesy of the Hagley Museum and Library.)



This structure was known by several names, but when it was first completed in 1902 it was known as the Sugar Bowl. Theodore Leisen, the civil engineer for the Water Commission, proposed that the parks have open-air concerts and thus the elegant bandstand was built overlooking Brandywine Park from the north on the northwest side of the Washington Memorial Bridge. This structure was also known as the pavilion entrance to the Brandywine Zoo. The pavilion was demolished in 1954. (Courtesy of the University of Delaware Special Collections.)



**GEORGE WASHINGTON**  
*and* **DELAWARE**

*Prepared for the*

**DELAWARE STATE GEORGE WASHINGTON  
BI-CENTENNIAL COMMISSION**

*By*

**The Public Archives Commission  
of Delaware**

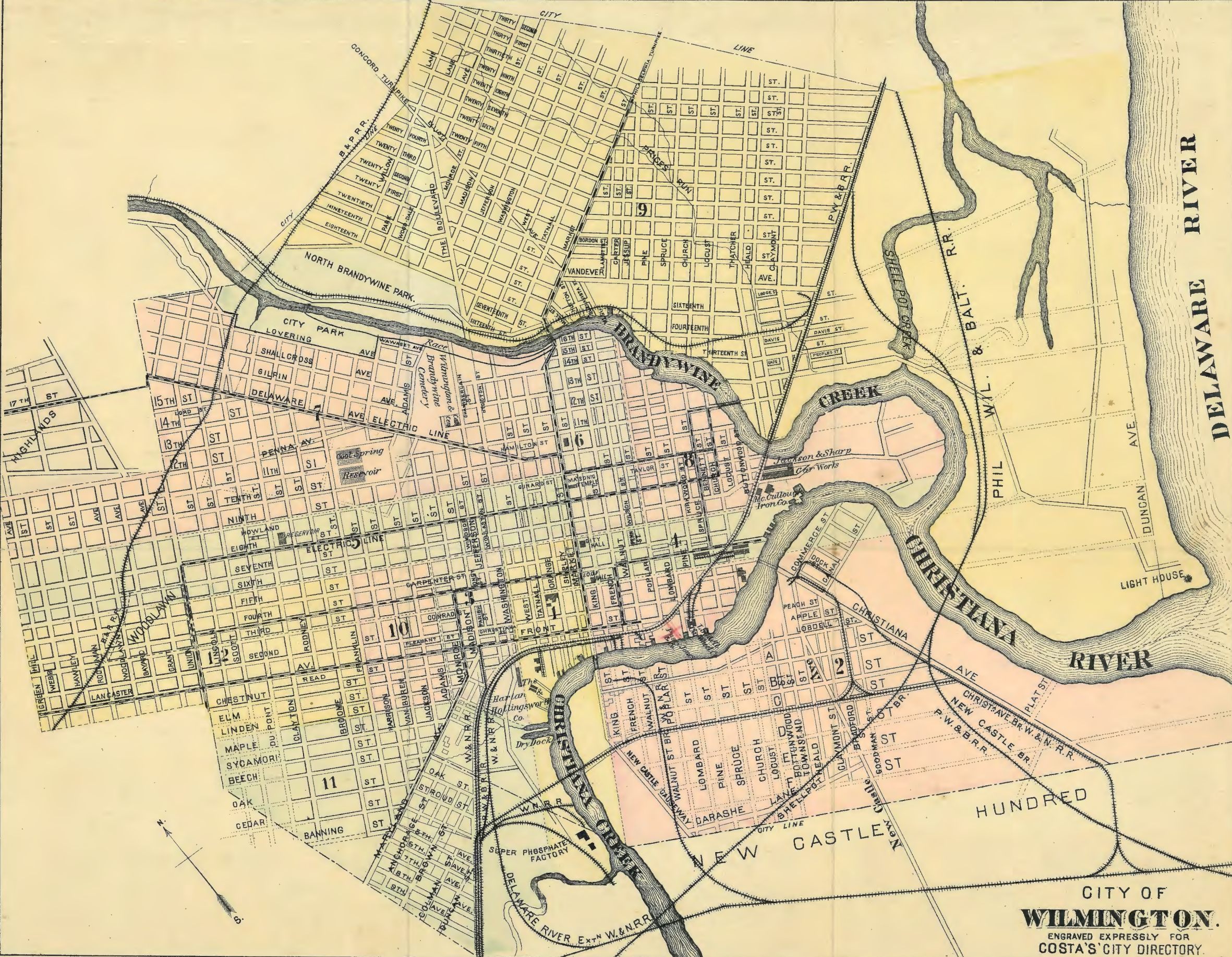


**DOVER, DELAWARE, 1932.**

It should be remembered, however, that Delaware's regular regiment under Colonel Hall was with Washington's army in the division of Major-General Sullivan. This regiment suffered losses at the Battle of Brandywine, and at the Battle of Germantown, which followed within a month on October 4, where its colonel was wounded so severely that he never commanded the regiment again. When General Washington took up his winter quarters at Valley Forge, General William Smallwood, who commanded the Maryland and Delaware brigade in Sullivan's division, was ordered to lead his brigade to Wilmington in order to protect the flour mills on the Brandywine. Contrary to popular opinion, therefore, the Delaware Regiment was not at Valley Forge in the winter of 1777-78, but at Wilmington together with the troops from Maryland. Before the British evacuated Philadelphia in July, 1778, General Smallwood was ordered to join Washington's army and so we find the Delaware regiment in the Battle of Monmouth on July 28, when Washington endeavored to capture General Clinton, who had decided to cross New Jersey instead of going by sea when he determined to evacuate Philadelphia and go to New York. With Washington's army the Delaware regiment then remained until ordered to march in a division under de Kalb to join General Gates in the Carolinas in 1780.

## ALLEN McLANE AND HIS PARTISAN COMPANY

Allen McLane was a man in such close contact with George Washington and was so trusted by the General, a fact readily ascertained from a cursory study of McLane's military career, that it has been deemed proper, in this bi-centennial year, to bring to the attention of Delawareans General Washington's military relationships with this son of Delaware, and to show how McLane fulfilled the trust placed in him. Allen McLane moved to Duck Creek Cross Roads, (now Smyrna) in Kent County, Delaware, from Philadelphia in 1774, and in the following year was commissioned as lieutenant in Colonel Caesar Rodney's regiment of Delaware Militia. In 1776, he went to New York and joined the army of Washington, later participating in the battles of Long Island, White Plains, Trenton and Princeton. In the last named battle he took a particularly distinguished part which resulted in his being commissioned a captain by General Washington in 1777, to serve in Colonel John Patton's Additional Continental Regiment. Following his promotion to a captaincy, McLane returned to Kent County, Delaware, to enlist a company of sixty-eight men,



DELAWARE RIVER

CHRISTIANA RIVER

CITY OF  
**WILMINGTON.**  
ENGRAVED EXPRESSLY FOR  
COSTA'S CITY DIRECTORY.

NORTH BRANDYWINE PARK.

CITY PARK

BRANDYWINE CREEK

CHRISTIANA RIVER

NEW CASTLE

HUNDRED

HIGHLANDS



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*Albion Noyes  
Dover, Del.*

*CF*

**WASHINGTON'S ARMY IN DELAWARE  
IN THE SUMMER OF 1777**

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**ADDRESS**

by

**JOHN P. NIELDS**

At Cooch's Bridge, New Castle County, Delaware on  
September 9, 1927, incident to the Celebration of the  
150th Anniversary of the Battle of the Brandywine.

**DELAWARE STATE ARCHIVES**

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YOUR EXCELLENCY, GOVERNOR ROBERT P. ROBINSON,  
YOUR HONOR, MAYOR GEORGE W. K. FORREST,  
MRS. EDWARD W. COOCH, Hostess at Cooch's  
Bridge,

MR. GERRISH GASSOWAY and Members of the  
Committee having charge of the  
150th Anniversary of the Battle  
of the Brandywine,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

### WASHINGTON'S ARMY IN DELAWARE IN THE SUMMER OF 1777

One Hundred and fifty years ago, in the summer of 1777, Sir William Howe, Commander-in-Chief of the British Army, planned a third expedition against Philadelphia, called by the Tories the "rebel capital." By capturing the city, routing the Congress and defeating Washington, he hoped to suppress the Revolution.

July 23rd, a magnificent fleet of "266 sail" under Admiral, Sir Richard Howe, brother of Sir William, passed Sandy Hook with 17,000 of the best soldiers of Europe aboard—an army of 36 battalions of light infantry, grenadiers, Queen's Rangers, dragoons and artillery. Generals Howe, Cornwallis, Grey and Grant were English noblemen, and with Knyphausen were seasoned veterans of the Seven Years War, having learned the art of war from Frederick the Great. July 31st, Caesar Rodney, Brigadier-General of Delaware Militia, sent a dispatch to Congress that the enemy's fleet had appeared at the Delaware Capes about four miles from the light-house. Because of the report of the defenses on the Delaware above the Christiana, the fleet put to sea and on August 22d Hancock informed Washington that "near 200 sail of General Howe's fleet were anchored in the Chesapeake Bay." This month, with the enemy at sea, was a time of tense anxiety to the Congress and of mild interest to London. "Where the scourge of God and the

plague of mankind has gone," wrote Adams to his wife, "no one can guess." Horace Walpole wrote to the Countess of Ossary: "The Howes are gone the Lord knows whither, and have carried the American war with them, so there is nothing to say on that head; which is a great drawback on correspondence in the shooting season." August 25th the Royal army was put ashore at Elks ferry. Within two days, Sir William Howe advanced with one division to the Head of Elk, four days' march from Philadelphia, and issued a "Declaration" to the inhabitants of Pennsylvania, the lower counties on the Delaware and the counties on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, promising "a free and general pardon to all such officers and private men as shall voluntarily surrender themselves to any detachment of his majesty's forces."

### March of Continental Army to Delaware

The day Washington learned the British fleet was in the Chesapeake, he set his troops in motion and encamped five miles north of Philadelphia. There he issued an order for a dress parade the following day:

"Head Quarters; at Stenton, near German Town  
August 23d, 1777

". . . The army is to move precisely at four in the morning. . . . The army is to march in one column thro' the City of Philadelphia, going in at and marching down Front street to Chesnut street, and up Chesnut street to the Commons. The divisions march as follows—Greene's, Stephen's, Lincoln's (Wayne's), Lord Sterling's. . . . if any soldier shall dare to quit his ranks, he shall receive Thirty-nine lashes at the first halting place afterwards. . . .

"The drums and fifes of each brigade are to be collected in the center of it; and a tune for the quick step played, but with such moderation, that the men may step to it with ease; and without dancing along, or totally disregarding the music, as too often has been the case."

Lafayette, recently nominated a major-general by Congress, at the age of 19, describes in his memoirs the

Continental Army on this Sunday parade. The men, he wrote, had long ago walked through their boot-soles. Their clothes were in rags and tatters, the least badly dressed among them wearing the hunting shirt of brown linen; the shorter men of each company in the front rank, the taller behind them—some with their hats cocked, some without, but each man with a sprig of green in his hat. "The drums and fifes did their utmost; and the Stars and Stripes in the regimental flags," says Trevelyan, "were, to many of the spectators, a new and deeply interesting sight. The crowd cheered lustily as the long column passed down Front Street and up Chestnut Street . . . nobly headed by George Washington on his most stately charger."

This army of 11,000 men, at least, shouldered their fire-arms with confidence born of ample experience and training. It was divided into five divisions commanded by Major-Generals Greene, Sullivan, Stephen, Lord Stirling and Brigadier-General Wayne. Second only to Washington was Nathaniel Greene, the Rhode Island Quaker anchor-smith, yet born soldier, equal to every responsibility imposed upon him; John Sullivan the brave soldier from Maine with the impetuous Irish nature; William Alexander, the thrifty New York store-keeper whose claim to be the Sixth Earl of Stirling was sustained by an Edinburgh jury and upset by the House of Lords, and yet always known as Lord Stirling—a good field officer and burly figure in the front of battle; Adam Stephen of Virginia, who had served under Braddock in the French and Indian Wars; and Anthony Wayne, the fiery warrior from Pennsylvania, who in one battle was bruised by a cannon ball, grazed by a bullet and rolled on the ground under a dying horse, yet assured his wife he had had a glorious day. These were some of the loyal officers under General Washington who rode with their divisions to Darby for the night.

On Monday the army marched down the Kings Highway to Naaman's and on Tuesday, August 26, 1777, encamped at Wilmington.

### Headquarters and Camp of Continental Army at Wilmington, August 26 to September 6, 1777

For the next ten days the Continental Army was encamped outside of the Borough of Wilmington, on ground now the center and northern part of the City, and on both sides of the Brandywine. Timothy Pickering, Adjutant-General of the army, entered in his journal: "August 25th—The army marched through Chester to Naaman's Creek, the General and family advancing to Wilmington (a pretty town and pleasantly situated)." Lieutenant James McMichael of the Pennsylvania Line wrote in his diary: "At 4 A. M. we marched from our encampment (Naaman's) to Brandywine Bridge, near Wilmington, then turning N.N.W. we proceeded a few miles and encamped near the east bank of the Creek." Sullivan's division with Smallwood's brigade and the Delaware regiment joined the army at Wilmington. Captain Robert Kirkwood wrote in his order book: "Tuesday, September 2nd. Struck tents and marched to Wilmington in the Delaware State & encamped about one mile west of the town." General Washington and his family, or staff, took headquarters on the top of Quaker Hill, now Third and West Streets, affording an open view of Iron Hill fifteen miles to the south. It was here the councils of war were held, general orders issued and many letters of importance written by Washington. An order of local color was:

"Head Quarters, Wilmington (Sunday) August 31st, 1777.

"A General Court Martial is to sit to morrow at 9 o'clock in the morning at Mr. Lawson's at the Cross Keys near the Academy"—the Cross Keys being on the east side of Market Street between Ninth and Tenth Streets.

#### Washington reconnoitering in Delaware

"A true Virginian, whether in war or in the chase," says Trevelyan, "Washington went fearlessly wherever a good horse could carry him, and on more than one

occasion Howe's skirmishers had a very near view indeed of a soberly dressed officer mounted on a powerful bay charger, who did not shirk his fences, and was closely attended everywhere by an aide-de-camp in a rich foreign uniform." On Tuesday, August 26th, the day after reaching Wilmington, General Washington had Jacob Broom, the town burgess and surveyor, draft him a road map of New Castle County, and with Greene and Lafayette rode through Christiana, White Clay Creek and Pencader Hundreds to reconnoiter the country between his own headquarters and Howe's outposts—at great risk to himself and his companions. They rode forward to two hills—Iron Hill and Gray's Hill—about fifteen miles south of Wilmington and six miles from Howe's camp. Night fell upon the little party as they turned their horses' heads homeward, together with a great tempest of wind and rain. Washington sought the shelter of a neighboring farmhouse at the foot of Chestnut Hill near the Welsh Tract Baptist Church in Pencader Hundred. The party with drenched clothes crowded the little rooms and feared that the enemy might capture Washington as they had General Charles Lee not twelve months before. There was in fact great peril, but the Delaware farmer was a patriot. Washington returned the next morning and wrote to the President of Congress:

"Wilmington, August 27th.

"I this morning returned from head of Elk which I left last night. The enemy remain where they debarked first; I cannot find out from inquiry what number is landed or form an estimate from the distant view I had of their encampment. But few tents were to be seen from Iron Hill and Gray's Hill, the only eminences about Elkton."

Having escaped capture, General Washington, a week later, suggested to General Maxwell the exploit of capturing a Hessian General, who may have been Knyphausen. In a letter from Wilmington he writes: "Several persons have mentioned that there is a Hessian General quartered at one Fishers, covered only by a small guard. This is well worth your attention and may

afford a glorious opportunity for a partisan exploit. Any of the country people can direct you, I suppose, where Fisher's is." And later on the same day General Washington writes: "Let me know by the bearer whether you have received such information, as to enable you to make the attempt to night (or rather in the morning)—if you have the parson will be an excellent hand to accompany you." The "parson" may refer to the Rev. Thomas Read, minister at Old Drawyers, who is known to have served at this time as a guide for Washington.

#### General Greene's Choice of Post for Washington's Army

General Washington ordered General Greene to examine the ground further and select a position upon which the army could be advantageously posted. Two days later, on August 28th, General Greene accompanied by Brigadier-General Weedon, after careful examination, selected the "cross roads near six miles distance from the Royal army" and close to Iron Hill. From an examination of old road maps, it is apparent that the only "cross roads near six miles distance from the Royal army" is the cross roads at Cooch's Bridge, and that the ground on which we are now standing is the post selected by a very great American general from which to battle with Howe. Greene's idea was to fight as close as possible to the landing place; so as to give Howe no room for developing his army. He thought the cross roads furnished an open country behind from which to draw assistance and good skirmishing ground in front to harass and annoy the enemy before they were organized and provided with horses, provisions, &c. General Greene wrote to the Commander-in-Chief acquainting him with the spot he had chosen, but the information was received too late. The same day, probably Thursday, August 28th, a Council of War held at Wilmington determined to take a position upon Red Clay Creek near Stanton, upon the Kings Highway, about half way between Wilmington and Christiana. Had Greene's report been accepted, one of the great battles of liberty would have been fought on Delaware soil.

#### Skirmish at Cooch's Bridge, September 3, 1777

Washington lacked scouts and a body of expert riflemen to harass the enemy. He regretted detaching Morgan's regiment to the northern army. Accordingly, he organized a corps of light infantry.

#### Orders

"Head Quarters, Wilmington, August 28th, 1777.

"A corps of Light Infantry is to be formed; to consist of one Field Officer, two Captains, six Subalterns, eight Serjeants and 100 Rank & File from each brigade" (there being eleven brigades).

"Head Quarters, Wilmington, August 30th, 1777.

"Brigadier Genl. Maxwell will take Command of the corps of light Infantry."

It is quite possible General Maxwell marched his corps to this spot where we stand, which had been selected by General Greene for the army. In a letter to General Maxwell, dated "Head Quarters, Wilmington, 2d Sept. 1777," 8.30 p. m., Washington wrote: "I do not know where the Sign of the Buck is, I therefore cannot say whether it will be proper for you to leave your present post to go and attack the party that is said to be thereabouts. If it is upon your left as I suppose it is, it will be by no means proper, because while you were gone down, the Enemy might advance from Grey's Hill to Christeen and cut you off from us."

Chief Justice John Marshall, then serving as a captain in the Eleventh Virginia Regiment of Woodford's brigade, describes the skirmish at Cooch's Bridge in his "Life of Washington" in these words: "On the morning of the 3d . . . two divisions under Lord Cornwallis and General Knyphausen moved forward, forming a junction about Pencader (Glasgow), their left extending across the Christiana towards Newark. On their way the column under Lord Cornwallis fell in with and attacked Maxwell, who made a short resistance and then



retreated over White Clay Creek with a loss of about forty killed and wounded."

Washington reported the skirmish to Congress as follows:

"Wilmington, 8 p. m. September 3.

"This morning the enemy came out with considerable force and three pieces of artillery against our light advanced corps; and after some pretty smart skirmishing, being far superior in numbers, obliged them to retreat. The loss on either side not yet ascertained; ours though not exactly known, is not very considerable. Theirs, we have reason to believe, was much greater, as some of our parties, composed of expert marksmen, had opportunity of giving them several close, well-directed fires, more particularly in one instance when a body of riflemen formed a kind of ambushade.

"They advanced about two miles this side of Iron Hill, and then withdrew to that place, leaving a picket at Cooch's Mill about a mile in front."

Sir William Howe reported the skirmish to his government: "On the third the Hessian and Anspach chas-seurs and the Second battalion of light infantry who were at the head of Lord Cornwallis' column, fell in with a chosen corps of one thousand men (Maxwell's) advantageously posted, which they defeated with the loss of only two officers wounded, three men killed and nineteen men wounded."

Thus the respective commanders described the only "battle" ever fought on Delaware soil. We learn that in the skirmish Lord Harris, a British officer, was shot through the leg and was reduced to follow the Royal army in a chaise.

### The Stars and Stripes at Cooch's Bridge

On yonder stone are inscribed the words, "The Stars and Stripes were first unfurled in battle at Cooch's Bridge, September 3, 1777." We are reasonably certain that the Stars and Stripes were carried by Maxwell's corps in the engagement here on September 3d. Certain facts are definitely known: (1) On June 14, 1777 the Con-

gress resolved, "that the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars white in a blue field representing a new constellation." (2) On July 24th the Stars and Stripes were carried by Washington's army when it paraded through Philadelphia. (3) That Maxwell's corps was formed by Washington to replace Morgan's regiment of 500 riflemen. It consisted of 1100 men drawn from each brigade, equal in number to one-tenth of the entire army or to any one of its brigades, and was commanded by a brigadier-general. (4) That Maxwell's brigade was ordered to engage the enemy fifteen miles below the camp of the army. (5) That on September 3d Maxwell's corps had taken a definite post at this place. (6) That in such an engagement it was appropriate that a standard with colors be carried.

Montresor, Chief Engineer of Howe's army, notes in his journal that at daybreak on September 3d the whole British army was under march to Christiana by way of Aikin's Tavern (Glasgow). About nine o'clock the skirmish at Cooch's Bridge began.

Thereafter for five days, from September 3 to September 8, the British army was encamped with its right wing near Glasgow and the left wing extending towards Newark. Washington was certain that Philadelphia was Howe's objective and assumed he would take the King's road leading from Cooch's Bridge through Christiana, Stanton, Newport and Wilmington to Philadelphia. Accordingly, he chose the heights of the east bank of the Red Clay Creek to entrench his army and "to repel the invader." With the center of his army at Stanton, he extended his left wing at Newport and his right wing towards Marshallton. Apparently Washington was right about the road that Howe originally intended to take. Howe changed his plans and pursued his accustomed strategy and flanked his opponent. On September 8th he moved certain forces to Mill Town as though to attack, but in reality to cover the movement of his main army through Newark to Kennett Square.

### Washington's Army at Newport, Delaware

The position of Washington's army, near Stanton, on the east bank of the Red Clay Creek, with the left wing at Newport and the right wing at Marshallton, is best described in the orders, diaries and letters of that day.

#### General Order

“Head Quarters, Wilmington (Tuesday) Sepr. 2nd, 1777.

“. . . A General Court Martial is to sit tomorrow morning at nine o'clock at Newport, at Conradt Gray's tavern, for the trial of all prisoners which shall be brought before them.”

#### General Order

“Head Quarters, Wilmington (Thursday) Septemr 4th 1777

“. . . The tents of Genl. Sullivan's, Lord Sterling's and Wayne's divisions, and Nash's brigade, are to be struck and packed by five o'clock tomorrow morning; . . . these corps, together with Genl. Potter's brigade, are to hold themselves in readiness to march at a moment's warning afterwards upon receiving orders. For which purpose, each brigade should be paraded, their arms grounded, and the men ready to take them up at the first call. The Quarter Master General will shew the ground they are to encamp upon, in the following order—Genl. Sullivan's on the right, Lord Sterling's on the left, Genl. Nash's on the left of Genl. Sullivan's; and Genl. Potter's on the right of Lord Sterling's; but as General Potter's brigade is without tents, it will be quartered in Newport. Genl. Stephen's division and Genl. Irvine's brigade, when it leaves this place, are to form a second line—Stephen's on the right. The division commanded by Genl. Wayne is to form a third line—Genl. Greene's division remains where it is.

“General Knox will fix upon a proper spot for the park of artillery, in this encampment, and direct such spare ammunition as he shall think absolutely necessary,

to attend the park & respective divisions; the residue to be left together with all the baggage that can possibly be spared, on the east side of Brandywine, under a small guard from each brigade, &c.

“General Armstrong will recall the troops posted at the different fords on Brandewine, and order them to join their respective brigades.

“General Irvine's brigade is to remain in Wilmington 'till further Orders; and to expedite the works there carrying on, as much as possible.”

#### (General Order)

“Head Quarters, Wilmington (Friday) Septemr, 5th, 1777

“. . . From every information of the enemy's designs, and from their movements, it is manifest their aim is, if possible, to possess themselves of Philadelphia. This is their capital object. 'Tis what they last year strove to effect, but were happily disappointed. . . . But the General trusts, they will be again disappointed in their views—should they push their design against Philadelphia, on this route. Their all is at stake—they will put the contest on the event of a single battle. If they are overthrown, they are utterly undone—the war is at an end. Now then is the time for our most strenuous exertions &c. . . . Ours is the main army; to us our Country looks for protection. The eyes of all America, and of Europe are turned upon us, as on those by whom the event of the war is to be determined. And the General assures his countrymen and fellow soldiers, that he believes the critical, the important moment is at hand, which demands their most spirited exertions in the field” &c.

#### (General Order)

“Head Quarters, Wilmington (Saturday) Sepr. 6th, 1777

“. . . The General officers are to meet at 5 o'clock this afternoon at the brick house by White Clay Creek,

and fix upon proper picquets for the security of the camp."

(Journal of Timothy Pickering)

"September 6th, marched to Newport, three or four miles beyond Wilmington."

(Regimental Orders)

"Camp near Newport Sepr 6th 1777

"The Commanding officers of Companies are Requested to have their men Clean & hair powder'd to morrow at 2 O'clock with their Arms & Accoutrements in good order, fit to bear Inspection by the Commander in Chief, any person appearing Contrairy to this order it will be looked on to be the officers Neglect for which they will have to Acct, any Soldier absent from the parade at the above mentioned time, Shall assuredly Suffer Agreeable to the Articles of War, unless a Reasonable excuse be given for the Same.

CHAS POPE

Lt. Coll. D R'' (Delaware Regiment)

(Letter, General Washington to General Heath)

"Head Quarters Wilmington (endorsed Newport)  
(Sunday) 7th Sept 1777

". . . Since General Howes debarkation in Elk River he has moved on about seven Miles, his main Body now lays at Iron Hill and ours near a Village called Newport. In this position the Armies are from eight to ten Miles apart. It is yet very uncertain what Genl. Howe's plan of operations will be. . . . A few days past he advanced two or three Miles forward, during which there was pretty sharp skirmishing between our light Troops and his Van. We had about forty killed and wounded, and I imagine the Enemy had considerably more as ours were thinly posted behind cover and they were in Column."

According to a statement of Caleb Byrnes to his son Daniel Byrnes: "A few days previous to the Battle of Brandywine, General Washington with all his American Army were camped on the rising ground before our door, round to White Clay Creek Bridge and farther westward; the cannon were placed on this rise of ground for half a mile as thick as they could stand. General Washington's headquarters were at Wm. Marshall's about the center of his army (near the present Meeting House in Stanton)."

(Letter of General Washington to Governor Trumball of Connecticut)

"Head Quarters Newport 8th Sept 1777

". . . Genl. Howe's plans are yet very mysterious, a few days ago he sent all his Tents & Baggage on Board again and his ships have fallen some distance down Chesapeak Bay. . . . A little time must unfold his true designs, which I trust we shall be able to baffle, as the Troops are in good spirits and the people of the Country shew an universal good will to oppose the common Enemy."

(Diary of Lieutenant McMichael)

(Monday) "September 8—At 3 A. M. the General was beat and all tents struck. All the regiments were paraded, the men properly formed with an officer at the head of every platoon, and after wheeling to the right, we remained under arms until 9 o'clock. Then the alarm guns were fired and the whole army drawn up in line of battle, on the east side of Red Clay Creek, with Gen. Greene's division to the right. Here we remained for some time, when Gen. Weedon's brigade (of which my regiment was a part), was detached to the front to bring on the attack. We crossed the creek and marched about a league to an eminence near Mr. McCannon's meeting house, and there awaited the approach of the enemy, who were within half a mile of us. They however, encamped, which occasioned us to remain under arms all night, the sentries keeping up a constant fire."

**(Letter of General Washington to Congress)**

“6 Miles from Wilmington (Tuesday) 9th Sept 1777

“The Enemy advanced yesterday with a seeming intention of attacking us at our post near Newport. We waited for 'em the whole day, but in the eveng they halted at a place called Mill Town, about Two miles from us. Upon reconnoitring their situation it appeared probable, that they only meant to amuse us in Front, while their real intent was to march by our right and by suddenly passing the Brandywine and gaining the Heights on the North side of that River get between us & Philadelphia & cut us off from it. To prevent this it was judged expedient to change our position immediately, the army accordingly marched at 2 OClock this morning and will take post this Evening on the High grounds near Chads Ford. We have heard nothing circumstantial of the Enemy today, when I do I shall immediately transmit you an Account.”

**(General Order)**

“Head Quarters, Burmingham, Septmr 9th 1777

“Intelligence having been received that the enemy, instead of advancing towards Newport, are turned another course, and appeared to have a design of marching northward—this rendered it expedient for the army to quit Newport and march northward also; which occasioned its sudden movement this morning.

“Such of the troops as have not been served with Rum today, are as soon as possible to be served with a gill a man.”

**(Journal of Timothy Pickering)**

“September 9th. Left Newport in the morning before daylight, and marched to Chad's Ford; crossed it and encamped on the east side of the Brandywine, having information that the enemy had marched to the north of Newport.”

**(Diary of Lieutenant McMichael)**

“September 9—At A. M. we received marching orders and proceeded E.N.E. to the Crooked Billet, on the great road from Wilmington to Lancaster; thence thro' Kennett township, Chester country, crossed the Brandywine and turning S.E. encamped in the township of Birmingham, being extremely fatigued for want of rest and severe marching.”

**(Order Book of Captain Robert Kirkwood of the Delaware Regiment)**

“Mouday Sepr 8th 1777 (Near Newport) Struck tents & went to work in the lines, lay there till 3 OClock Tuesday morning the 9th then March'd about 10 miles to Chadds ford & forded over & there encamped.”

**Route of Washinton's Army from Newport to Chadd's Ford.**

“The Crooked Billet” mentioned by Lt. McMichael was a tavern (now the residence of Edward G. Bradford, Jr.) at the intersection of the Brindley Road with the old bed of the Kennett Road or Pike. Probably Green's division at the extreme right wing of the army at Newport moved first and was followed by the other divisions or brigades. An examination of the Jacob Broom map and of other early county maps has led to the conclusion that Washington led his army from Newport along the Center Road to the Lancaster Pike, thence along the Brindley Road to the Crooked Billet, thence up the Kennett Road to the foot of the hill beyond the Brick Church, and thence by the road leading to Chadd's Ford up the west bank of the Brandywine to the battle ground.

**In Conclusion.**

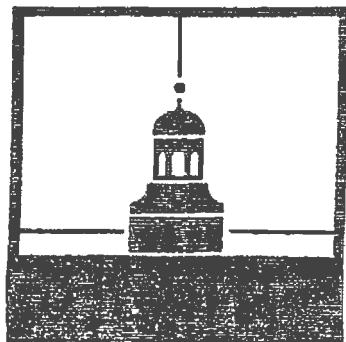
The documents giving the foregoing facts in detail are in the manuscript departments of the great libraries of the country. Many of the orders and letters quoted above are not in print but are still in manuscript and are to be found in the manuscript department of the Library of Congress. They show that before the Battle of the

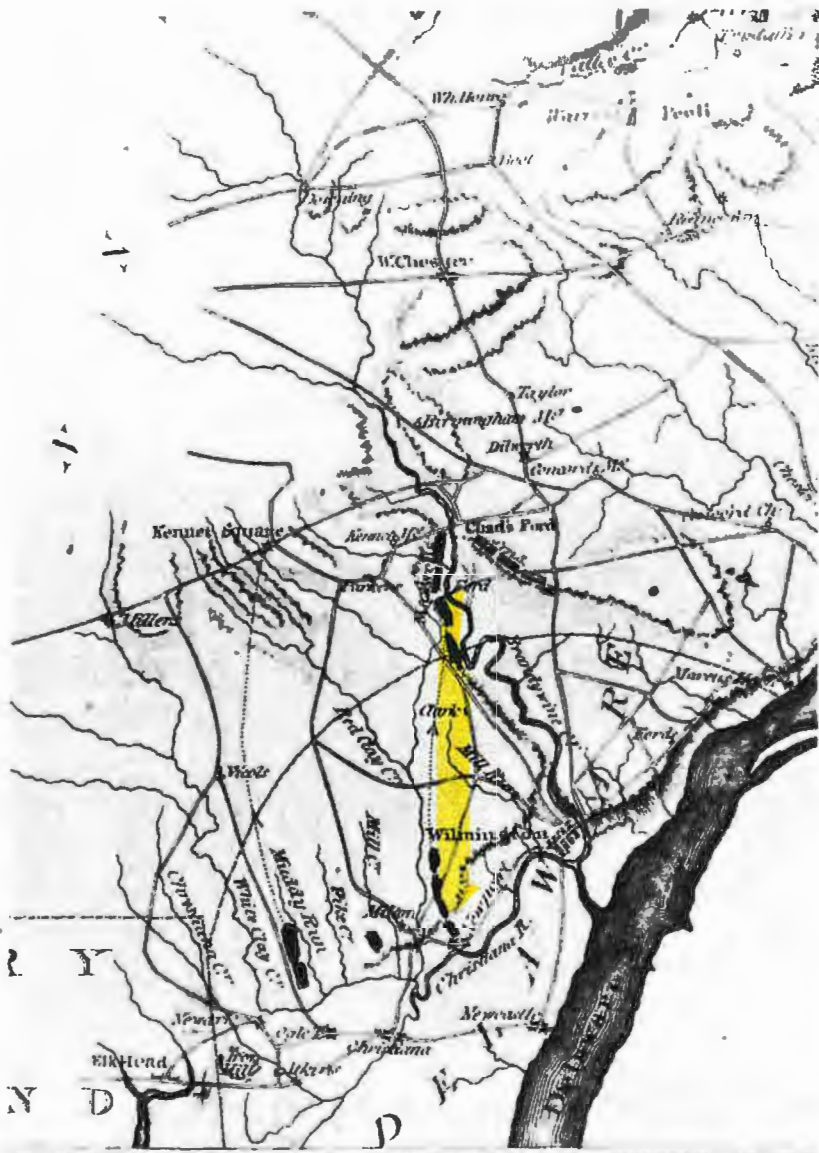
Brandywine, Washington's army was encamped for ten days in Wilmington preparing for the great conflict and that for three or more days his army lay entrenched near Stanton, behind the east bank of the Red Clay Creek, offering battle which Howe declined, preferring a flank movement through Newark and Kennett Square to the Brandywine.

A great battlefield is an asset to any State. If it is the fate of the race to fight on until the end, as I believe, it is well to cherish ground hallowed by heroic action. Rob Massachusetts of Lexington and Bunker Hill, or New Jersey of Princeton and Trenton, or Pennsylvania of Brandywine and Gettysburg, and the loss would be irreparable. Delaware has no battlefield. It has, however, intimate associations with the Battle of the Brandywine precious to the people of Delaware.

(This pamphlet is circulated in the hope that it may inspire some real student of history to write a fully documented story of Washington's Army in Delaware in the Summer of 1777.)

DELAWARE ARCHIVES





*Survey made by Orders of Washington.*

American map, showing encampments along White Clay Creek and Red Clay Creek, 1777. From John Marshall's *Life of George Washington*, 1807. Drawn by S. Lewis from surveys made by orders of Washington.

visited the camp at White Clay Creek, but for another day at least maintained his headquarters in Wilmington. A detachment of 150 men from Weedon's brigade was sent out to observe the movements of the enemy.

The encampment at White Clay Creek lasted only one day. On August 29 the army marched to the east side of Red Clay Creek near Kiamensi where their camp extended nearly to Newport. It was on this occasion that earthworks were thrown up along the east side of the Red Clay Creek. McMichael records: "Our scouting party returned with 14 regulars, prisoners. They gave us to understand that their army was not advancing, but that they intended shortly to attempt the conquest of Philadelphia. Our encampment here was exceedingly beautiful, and being chiefly surrounded by Whig inhabitants, was to us very agreeable."

Washington continued to reconnoiter the country on August 29 and again on August 30, reporting the same to Congress as follows:

"The enemy advanced a part of their army yesterday to Grey's Hill about two miles on this side of Elk; whether they intend to take post there or to cover while they remove what stores they found in the town, I cannot yet determine. I do not know what quantity of private property remained, but of the public there were (several) thousand bushels of corn and oats, which might have been removed also, had not most of the teams in the country been employed by private persons in bringing off very valuable goods. Our light parties yesterday took between thirty and forty prisoners, twelve deserters from the navy and eight from the army have already come in, but they are able to give us very little intelligence."

On August 30 he reported: "Since I had the honor of addressing you yesterday, nothing of importance has occurred, and the enemy remain as they were. I was reconnoitering the country and different roads all yesterday and am now setting out on the same business again."

Montresor records on August 30: "The Jagers who are forward fired two cannon shot at some officers with their escort, reconnoitering." Montresor probably did not know who the officers were, and Washington seems to have thought best not to mention the incident at all.

Generals Greene and Weedon also went forward to reconnoiter. After careful examination, Greene recommended the cross-roads near Iron Hill, about six miles from Elk, as having an open country behind, from which to draw supplies and reinforcements, and good skirmishing ground in front. The cross-roads was the name applied by both armies to Cooch's Bridge. Old maps show two roads crossing at the west end of the bridge. At that time the road from Glasgow did not end at the bridge, but continued northwardly along the west side of the creek by a semi-private road to the Baptist Meeting House. Traces of this road are still visible. Greene's biographer states that Greene's report did not reach headquarters until a council of war had decided upon another position. It seems also that the plan to resist the enemy on Iron Hill met with disfavor in Philadelphia. The Pennsylvania Evening Post of August 30 voiced the objection: "It is laughable, says a correspondent, to hear some people talk about Iron Hill. What have we to do with Iron Hill? It commands no pass into the country, and is of no other use to an army than a church steeple to make observations from." Greene surrendered his views with reluctance, insisting that the cross-roads



was superior to the Red Clay Creek. "You cannot hold your ground", he said, "if they advance."

Washington realized fully that the inevitable conflict was close at hand, that a major battle must soon take place. Just where that would be was uncertain. It was natural to suppose that the enemy would advance along the road through Christiana, Stanton, and Newport. He, therefore, encamped near Newport, fortified a ridge west of Stanton, and posted a detachment on the heights near Christiana. He also gave serious consideration to Iron Hill.

Caleb Byrnes, then one of the owners of Red Clay Creek Mill near Stanton, told his son, Daniel Byrnes, that Washington's headquarters was then at William Marshall's, near the present meeting house in Stanton, and that "cannon were placed on this rise of ground for half a mile as thick as they could stand".

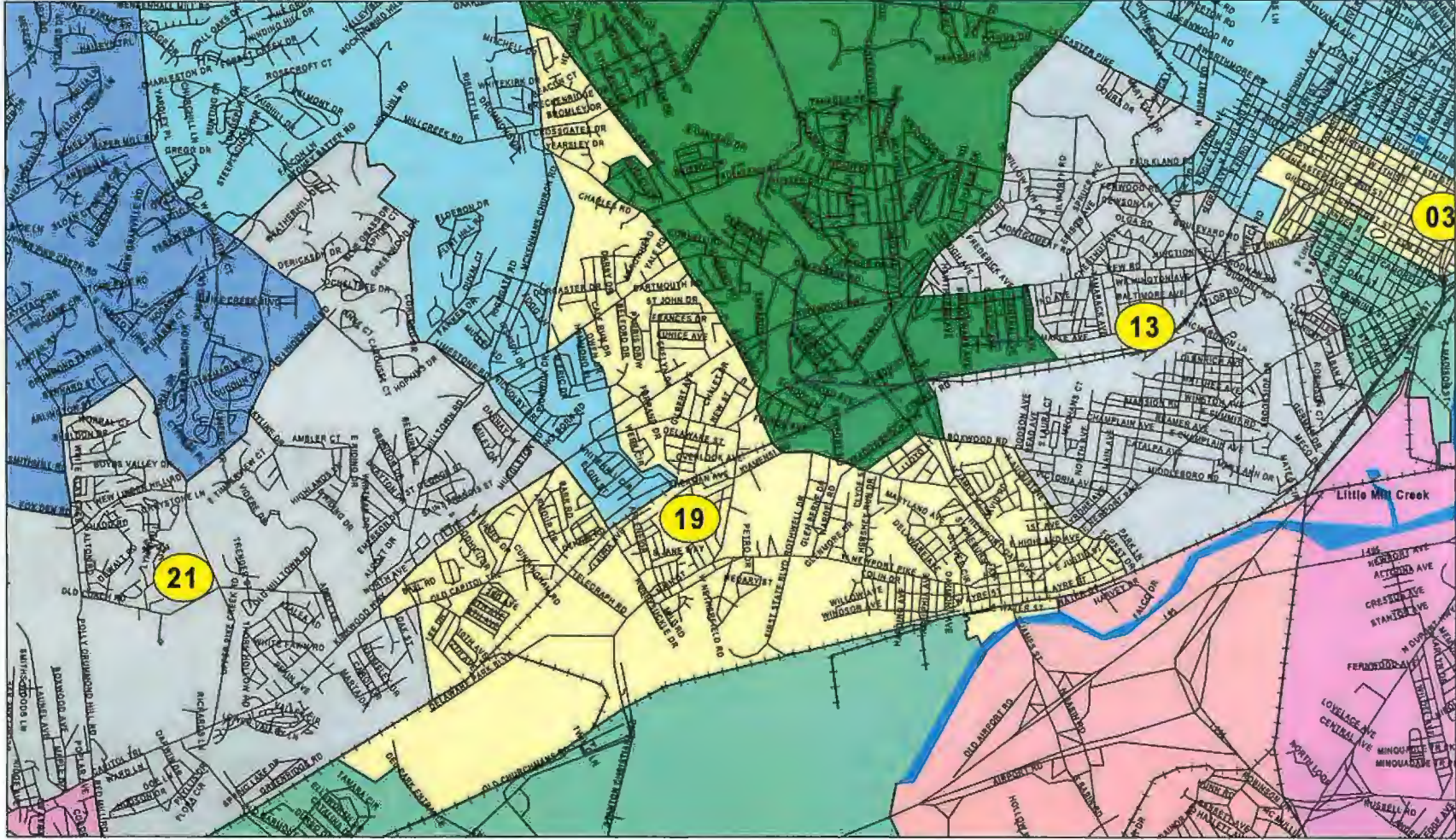
Battle of Cooch's  
Bridge

by - Edward Cooch

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Delaware House of Representatives  
19th District - HB 556



thro' this place, over Brandywine Bridge entrenched themselves very well on the Eastern bank of Red Clay creek, about a mile westward from Newport, where they had moved the day before & waited their approach in the highest spirits imaginable; but the enemy has for the present given them the slip, having moved farther north to pass Brandywine, at a Place called Chad's Ford, about 9 or 10 miles above this place, but were pursued, or rather attempted to be outmarched, head[ed] & interrupted, in their rout by the whole Continental Troops under Genl Washington who set off for that purpose from their lines at four o'clock this mornng accompanied by his excellency, the commander in chief, & the other general officers, & hope they will accomplish their intention, & that victory will be ours. The Enemy I suppose by way of decoy, & to amuse our Troops from pursuits, have left a body of their's on a high hill,<sup>1</sup> about 3 miles west of Newport, who shew themselves very freely both last Evng & this day on the skirt of a piece of Woods. Various opinions are Entertained concerning their numbers, some alledging them to be only 150 others vastly more—Nothing would please me more, than that they would be made prisoners by the militia of this state, & I have no doubt had the numbers, which first marched to the Head of Elk of the first & 2nd Battalions of this County, been now under arms, they could Easily have accomplished that desirable service by to morrow mornng; but they are dispersed, taking care of their Effects which lay directly in the Rout which it was supposed the Enemy w'd take, so that I have no hopes from them at present, unless you could bring immediately, what Troops you mentioned in your last, to have under your command at your present station, to join with such as Could be readily convened here of the 1st & 2nd Battalions, & then I think there would be no danger of succeeding. There are two Brigades of Militia from the state of Pennsylvania, under the command of Brigadiers Potter & Irvine now lying here—But they must wait the command of Genl Washington, who it is possible may order them forward—As the fleet of the enemy is sailed & no danger from them or their army at present in the neighbourhood where you are; & Genl Washington has now left this state, perhaps it w'd be very agreeable to your officers & men, to perform this piece of service which would redound so much to their own Honor, & the credit of the state—I have the Cartridges you wrote for, but the waggons are so much engaged with the movements of our Army, that I could not procure any to forward them to you—No news from the Northward—My best respects to all friends, particularly your privateer, Mr. Dickenson<sup>2</sup>—  
[P.S.] Should you think proper to come, the sooner the better

<sup>1</sup> Near Mill Town.

<sup>2</sup> John Dickinson, the well-known statesman, was at this time a private in the Kent County Militia.

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From George Washington

Head Quarters near Chads Ford 10th Sept. 1777

I am favd. with yours of Yesterday, and am sorry to find that so irregular a Spirit and temper prevail among your Militia. The New Castle County people have no excuse for not joining you now, as the Enemy has in a manner left good part of the Country. I have recd. Advice that their advanced Guards are within five miles of this place. I wrote to you Yesterday to follow upon their Rear with all the Force you could collect, and I now press it upon you in the most urgent Manner, because if we Should be lucky enough to give them a Stroke at this distance from their Ships, you will be ready to intercept them. You will also be in the way of intercepting Convoys going to and coming from their Shipping. I desire you will be very particular in keeping the Returns of what militia are in Service and the time of Service, because when the Rolls are brought in for pay, I shall expect them to be certified by you. For want of a little Care in this respect the public has suffered monstrous impositions.

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From John McKinly

Wilmington Sepr 10. 1777

I wrote you yesterday by Express, informing of the movements of the Enemy & that a party remained behind which I was desirous should be made Prisoners by the Militia of this state under your command, since which I have had authentic intelligence, that the sd party have moved on after the main body. Our Army is on the East side of Chad's Ford, in a strong post, & so have baulked Genl How who tho't to have stolen a march & passed that ford, before Genl Washington could have reached it. Genl. How's army Encamped about 5 miles west of the aforesaid Ford last night—No news this mornng but what the bearer can inform you. It is generally tho't that How must alter his rout, & perhaps endeavor to get into the great road from Lancaster to Philada. But I hope our army will still keep ahead of them. Our Army are in the Highest spirits & seem most Eager for an attack, & I am well persuaded that if How does not make one, Genl Washington will.<sup>1</sup> One Jacob Hollingsworth, a credible person saw the whole English Fleet evening before last off Spesuti

<sup>1</sup> The Battle of the Brandywine was fought on September 11, the day after this letter was written. McKinly was captured by the British when a detachment from Howe's army occupied Wilmington two days after the battle, September 13.

ceiving certain Intelligence that McGarmant is not at home, he is some where upwards with his Drove of Cattell, therefore thought it Needless my Going unless I could purchase the Arms, however I have wrote to Mr. Banning, to inquire the certainty of the Arms being there, how many there are and what kind they are of, and likewise to send all the publick Arms at Dover to Cross Roads in Order that they may be Repaired by the two Deserters you sent here yesterday, they are giting in Order at Rees Shop to do this kind of business, and seem very thankful they can be of use in this way and Promise to be very assiduous in their business. I shall take care to collect all the publick and private Arms and send to them for immediate reparation, which shall be sent to you as soon as done—Cambell the other Deserter I have with me—I also Received yesterday from two Negroes, [be]longing to Moses Coughran a small cart, to horses, and some other Articles taken by them—I was . . . to set out this day to your Quarters before I received . . . ter, but shall Decline Coming until I have the Necessary business of Repairing the Arms done or in a fair way of being done, more Especially as our Battalion with you is week and seems to be well officered with field officers as Col. Battell & Major Raymond is there. However when you think my presence is necessary with you youl please to Order it—as I am ready on the shortest Notice to give my Attendance I cincerely wish you Success in your Progress

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From George Washington

Head Quarters Wilmington 5th Sept. 1777

Your's of yesterday reached me last night. I hope as the Enemy have moved further towards the Head of Elk that the New Castle Militia will find an Opportunity of joining you with safety. I last night sent an Express to Colo. Richardson of the 5th Maryland Battalion to march up from Lewis Town & join you, but as there is a possibility that the Letter may have miscarried, I enclose you a Duplicate, which I beg you will be kind enough to forward to him. For the present you can do no more than keep Scouts and Patroles towards the Enemy to watch their motions, but as soon as you are joined by more force from this State, by the Militia of the Eastern Shore of Maryland and by Richardson's Battalion, I would have you move as near the Enemy as you can with safety, that you may, if they move on towards Philadelphia, get between them & their Shipping and cut off their Communication with them or at least render it difficult. You will endeavour to check any parties that the Enemy may send out to collect Horses, Cattle or Forage; and give me intelligence of any Occurrences that may come to your Knowledge—

P.S. The light Horseman who brought your letter informs me that the Enemy's Shipping all fell down from Cecil Court House last Tuesday and were out of Sight, be pleased to inform me whether this be true, and if it is, endeavour to find out how low they have fallen down. If you advance toward the Enemy always keep your Baggage well in your Rear that you may not be encumbered by it.

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To George Washington

Middletown Sept<sup>r</sup> 6th 1777

Immediately on the Rect of Your Letter of Yesterday I dispatched one of my Light-Horse with yours to Col! Richardson who he fortunately found at the Head of Sarsafress—by the Same hand I wrote to Col! Gist to obtain and Give me the best Information of the movements of the Enemy's Fleet, and have Inclosed You his Letter to me on that head—He mention's the rising & Embodying of Some Tories, and Refers to another Letter sent here with. As to those mentioned to be in Kent on Delaware. I am apprehensive it must be without foundation, because I have Verry Good Intelligence from that Quarter Every day and have heard nothing of it—When I arrived here yesterday was informed by a number of people that four hundred of Enemy had Landed that morning at Town Point, the farthest point of Land between the Rivers Elk & Bohama.<sup>1</sup> I Immediately sent a party off that way. The officer has Returned and Reports that he was down on the point and all through that neck, and that there were none of the Enemy to be seen—I have a party of foot Just Setting out to take a View of the Enemy about Aitkins's Tavern, where I am Informed they still Lye—I had forgot to tell you that the Officer of the Horse informed me he took a View of the Elk River and that he saw but three or four Veshels, small Veshels of War—Before I left Wilmington I Drew five Boxes of Cartridges, Could not then obtain a Waggon to bring them. The President<sup>2</sup> promised to have them sent Immediately. However by Some means or other they are not Come—for want of them I am much distressed, not having more than four Rounds—I think the Newcastle Militia now may, and hope they will, Join me—

P.S. A person Just Come from Kent on Delaware Says, there is a Report there that a Number of Tories on the Borders of that County and Maryland have Embodied, that Some of them are taken, and that it is believed they were encouraged to it by the Methodists, Many of whose preachers are in that Quarter.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Bohemia River in Maryland.

<sup>2</sup> President McKinly of Delaware State.

<sup>3</sup> This postscript does not appear in the original draft.

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*From Tench Tilghman*Head Quarters Newport<sup>1</sup> 7th Sept. 1777

His Excellency, being called out to the lines this morning, commands me to acknowledge the Rect. of your favr. of Yesterday. We have undoubted information that the Enemy have sent all their Baggage and Tents on Board, and have drawn their whole force on this side the Town of Elk, having destroyed all the Grain which they found in Store there. This being the Case, the General desires that you would keep Strong parties nearer the Enemy than you are at present, in order to keep them from making excursions to collect Horses of which I fancy they are in great want, to move their Artillery with expedition. If you find, upon a Consultation with the other officers, that you can, consistant with the Safety and Conveniency of your men, move your whole Force nearer the Enemy than you are at present, it will answer two Valuable purposes. You will effectually check all but large Parties from coming out, and you will be ready to fall upon their Rear should they move towards us. In this the General wishes you to consult and cooperate with Coll. Gist, Coll. Richardson and Gen. Cadwalader, who, altho' he bears no rank in Maryland, has been very active in collecting the militia, and is a Gentleman upon whose Judgment you may rely. I hope if any Spirit of disaffection Should appear below that it will soon be checked by making a severe example of the Ringleaders.

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*To George Washington<sup>2</sup>*

Noxonton Sept. the 9th 1777—

I am here in a disagreeable Scituation unable to Render you and the States those Services I both wished & Expected—A few days ago I moved from hence to Middletown in order to induce the Newcastle Militia in this Quarter, Who had Shown great backwardness, to turn out—Especially as by that Move, Most of their farms & property Were Covered. However all this has answered no purpose, for tho' I believe most of their Officers have been Vigelant, but verry few have Come in at all, and those few who made their appearance in the

<sup>1</sup> A few miles west of Wilmington, Delaware.

<sup>2</sup> Howe's army having on September 8 marched through Newark with the evident intention of flanking Washington's right wing near what is now Marshallton, Delaware, the American commander had led his army in the early morning hours of the ninth in the direction of the Brandywine River, crossing it at Chad's Ford and at fords below on the tenth.

Morning took the Liberty of Returning, Contrary to<sup>1</sup> Orders, in the Evening. There [Their] increasing the duty of, and Setting so bad an Example to the Troops from Kent, about four hundred in number, and the only Troops I had with me—brought about so General discontent and Uneasiness, Especially as they were more Immediately defending the property of those people, as Caused them in great Numbers. to leave me, Tho I Must Say the Officers did all they Could to prevent it—

Finding this the Case paid Coll. Gist a Visit myself to know his Scituation and when it might be possible for him to Move forward with Coll. Richardsons Battalion and the Militia of the Maryland Eastern Shore, Who let me know he was doing all he Could to Collect them and would move forward as soon as he Should have it his power—the two Upper Battalions of Newcastle County have never Even Assignd me a Reason Why they have not Joined me—Under these Circumstances I Removed to Noxontown Where the Camp duty, on the few I have with me is less Severe, Untill the other Troops Mentioned Shall be Ready to Move forward, and have Wrote this day to Coll Gist on that Head—Yesterday Evening I Sent a party of my Light Horse to take a View of the Enemy and Gain In[telli]gence. The Officer with his Men Returned this Morning and Reports, That he was in Aitkin[']s] Tavvern-House, passed Some Miles through the late Encampment of the Enemy Round about that place, Saw, and was among the fires they had left burning. That the Extreem part of their Right Wing Was at Cooch's Mill, Their left toward Newark—This Inte[lli]gence Makes me the More Anxious to Collect and Move forward Such a Body as would be able to Render you Signal Service by falling upon and Harrassing their Right Wing or Rear—Be assured all I Can do Shall be done—But he that Can deal with Militia may allmost Venture to deal with the—. As Soon as I Can Set forward Shall advise you—God Send you a compleat Victory<sup>2</sup>—

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*From John McKinly*

Wilmington Septr 9 1777.

Yesterday morning, the British Army made a general movement from the place of their Encampment on the Iron hill, proceeding northward thro' Mill creek Hundred. Our Army at that time expecting they would take their rout

<sup>1</sup> In the letter sent to Washington, the word "their" was inserted between the words "to" and "orders."

<sup>2</sup> Rodney wrote this letter two days before Washington was defeated at the Battle of the Brandywine.

Letters to & From  
Caesar Rodney  
1756 1784

pub. by HSD

edited by Ryden

reinforcements of Militia, to repel the threatened invasion by the Enemy, who have arrived high up in the North East part of Chesapeak Bay. Such as respect the Militia of Maryland and which make the Subject of this Letter, you will find inclosed. I request, that immediately after receipt of them, you will communicate the Contents to Colonel Gist and that you and he repair to Maryland without loss of time, for the purposes therein mentioned. I need not urge the necessity of expedition upon this interesting occasion and flatter myself nothing in either of your powers, will be omitted to answer the views of Congress in this instance and the important calls of the States at large at this crisis. I am etc.<sup>64</sup>

#### GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, at Derby, August 24, 1777.

Parole Chester. Countersigns Derby, Easton.

General Greene's and Genl. Stephen's divisions are to march to morrow morning at four o'clock precisely, if it should not rain, towards Wilmington, and encamp on the first good ground beyond Naaman's creek. All the horse are likewise to march at the same time, and proceed to Wilmington, and encamp on the first good ground there, or in their neighbourhood thereof.

Genl. Lord Stirling's division, and that commanded by Genl. Wayne, with the park of artillery, will remain to morrow at their present encampment, and on Tuesday follow the other divisions, beginning their march at four in the morning, if it should not rain. The Commander in Chief positively forbids the straggling of soldiers of the two divisions which remain behind, from their quarters; and the General Officers commanding these divisions will take every precaution in their power effectually to prevent it; and likewise to prevent an

<sup>64</sup>The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

Writings of Washington  
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by pressing them too hard in their march to join me. I would therefore wish you to spare them, as much as may be necessary to avoid that inconvenience; at the same time, there ought to be no delay but what a proper attention to the health and accommodation of the Men really demands. I am &ca.<sup>3</sup>

TO BRIGADIER GENERAL PHILEMON DICKINSON

Wilmington, August 27, 1777.

Dear Sir: I was favoured with your Letter Yesterday by Mr. Hindman. The measure you recommend respecting the Militia is extremely necessary and what I much wish to be done. It came under the consideration of Congress when the Fleet first came up the Bay and dispatches were sent by their Order to Genl. Smallwood and Colo. Gist to repair to Maryland to command them, at least the Quota called for by Congress. I expect these Gentlemen are now on their way for this command, but I shall be extremely obliged to you and Genl. Cadwallader, if in the mean time you will give your advice and assistance about forming and arranging such as may assemble previous to their arrival. Your interesting yourself upon the occasion, I think will be well accepted and may be attended with happy effects. I am etc.<sup>4</sup>

TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Wilmington, August 27, 1777.

Sir: I this Morning returned from the Head of Elk, which I left last night. In respect to the Enemy, I have nothing new to communicate, they remain where they debarked first. I could not find out from inquiry what number is landed, nor form

an estimate of it, from the distant view I had of their Encampment. But few Tents were to be seen from Iron Hill and Grey's Hill, which are the only Eminences about Elk. I am happy to inform you, that all the Public Stores are removed from thence, except about Seven thousand Bushels of Corn. This I urged the Commissary there to get off, as soon as possible, and hope it will be effected in the course of the few days if the Enemy should not prevent, which their Situation gives them but too easy an opportunity of doing; The scarcity of Teams, in proportion to the demand, will render the removal rather tedious, though I have directed the Quarter Master to send some from hence, to expedite the Measure. A part of the Delaware Militia are Stationed there and about nine hundred more from Pennsylvania are now on the March [that way]. I also intended to move part of the Army that way to day, but am under the necessity of deferring it, till their Arms are put in order and they are furnished with Ammunition, both having been greatly injured by the heavy rain that fell yesterday and last night. I have the Honor etc.<sup>5</sup>

TO SAMUEL CHASE

Wilmington, August 27, 1777.

Dr. Sir: I am favored with yours of yesterday. Colonel Richardson's Battalion was left in Maryland, by order of Congress, to keep the disaffected in the lower Counties in order, if their presence was necessary before, it is certainly much more so now. The Enemy are in want of many necessaries, with which those people would undoubtedly supply them, if a Watch is not kept over them. I do not therefore think myself

<sup>5</sup>In the writing of Richard Kidder Meade. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

<sup>3</sup>The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

<sup>4</sup>The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

will henceforth keep a horse, but (as his baggage is carried for him) march on foot with his men: This, at the same time that it testifies a real regard to the service, will be setting a good and commendable example to the men; which in every instance ought, and it is hoped will be, the first object of a good and valuable officer.

Five waggons from each brigade are to be delivered immediately, to the Deputy Quarter Master General.

Genl. Greene's division is to march to morrow morning, and take post, on a piece of ground, which will be marked out for him, on White Clay Creek. And the militia from Chester (under the command of Col. Evans) is to march to Christiania Bridge, and there take post 'till further orders.

As the weather has been wet, and the ground damp, the men may be served with a gill of rum each.

#### AFTER ORDERS

General Stephen's division is to march to morrow morning, immediately after General Green's.

To COLONEL JOHN D. THOMPSON<sup>10</sup>

Head Qurs., Wilmington, August 28, 1777.

Sir: I have your favour of Yesterday by Lieutt. Veary<sup>11</sup> and it gives me pleasure to hear that your people are so unanimously bent upon giving opposition to the Enemy. I wish it was in my power to furnish every man with a firelock that is willing to use one, but that is so far from being the Case that I have scarcely Sufficient for the Continental Troops.<sup>12</sup> As it is needless to keep

<sup>10</sup>Of the Maryland Militia.

<sup>11</sup>Lieut. William Veary, of the Maryland Militia. Johnston's *Campaign of 1776* states that Capt. Edward Veazy, of an Eastern Shore independent company, was present in this campaign.

<sup>12</sup>This same day Tilghman wrote to Col. Benjamin Flower, ordering him, by Washington's direction, to forward from 500 to 1,000 muskets "as the bad weather has damaged many of late and there is no getting them put in order here with any expedition."

Men together without Arms, I would advise you to collect as many Arms as you possibly can and then class your Battalion; let the unarmed go home and at a certain period relieve their Companions. It is to be wished, that every Man could bring a good Musket and Bayonet into the field, but in times like the present, we must make the best shift we can, and I wou'd therefore advise you to exhort every Man to bring the best he has. A good fowling Piece will do execution in the hands of a Marksman.

As the Congress have ordered down Genl. Smallwood and Colo. Gist, to arrange the Militia of Maryland, they ought to be drawn together at some certain place, that these Gentlemen may meet them embodied and the more readily form a disposition. The Militia of Kent and below it, will Assemble at George Town and the Head of Sarsafra, from whence I shall advise parties to be sent down into Sarsafra Neck, to prevent the disaffected inhabitants from Trading with the Enemy and supplying them with Stock &ca. I think yours had as well assemble at the Head of Bohemia,<sup>13</sup> or any other place that you may think more convenient, from whence you may keep small parties along shore under intelligent Officers, not only to keep Boats from landing, but to observe the motions of the Enemy. Horses and Cattle, but Horses in particular should be removed from the Shores, and for this purpose some of the unarmed may be employed.

The intent of Assembling the Militia of Maryland near the Head of the Bay, is to be ready, to fall in upon the Rear of the Enemy shou'd, they move towards Philadelphia and to

Also, Harrison wrote to Flower to forward all the rifles in store, complaining that many of the cartridges Flower sent were too small for the bore of their muskets. "All belonging to the public are of the French and English bores and the Cartridges must be made to fit those sizes. If you have any 16 and 18 (Viz: Cartridges which require so many to the pound) now ready you are to transmit them without a Moments delay." The letters of Tilghman and Harrison are in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>13</sup>Bohemia Manor, Delaware.

pleaded guilty; sentenced to receive one hundred lashes on his bare back.

James McCracken, of Col. Proctor's<sup>53</sup> regiment, charged with "Desertion from Trenton Camp." The court released the prisoner from confinement for want of evidence.

George Leard of Capt. Bower's<sup>54</sup> Company in the 6th. Pennsylvania regiment, charged with "Desertion," pleaded guilty, sentenced to receive one hundred lashes on his bare back, and to be sent on board one of the Continental frigates, to serve during the war.

Matthew Smith Esqr. is appointed Deputy Adjutant General in the Continental Army; and he is to be respected and obeyed as such.

A General Court Martial is to sit to morrow morning at nine o'clock, at Newport, at Conradt Gray's tavern, for the trial of all prisoners which shall be brought before them. Col. Lawson<sup>55</sup> is appointed president of this court.

### GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Wilmington, September 3, 1777.

Parole Oxford. Countersigns Norton, Nottingham.

John Parker Esqr. is appointed paymaster to the 8th. Pennsylvania regt. in the room of John Boyd Esqr. resigned.

As the enemy's motions will be sudden, and perhaps rapid, the General positively orders the commanding officers of corps to keep their men in camp, by no means suffering them to ramble about, out of the verge of it. The discharge of two field

<sup>53</sup>Col. Thomas Proctor, of the Fourth Continental Artillery. He resigned in April, 1781.

<sup>54</sup>Capt. Jacob Bower (Bauer).

<sup>55</sup>Col. Robert Lawson, of the Fourth Virginia Regiment. He resigned in December, 1777, and served, subsequently, as brigadier general of Virginia Militia.

pieces is to be considered by the Brigadiers and officers commanding brigades as an alarm, and as a signal for getting the men under arms; and to the waggon-masters for putting to their horses. Upon the firing the alarm guns, the general officers, after giving the necessary orders for parading their men, are to repair immediately to Head Quarters.

The division commanded by Genl. Wayne, is immediately to incamp on the left of Genl. Sullivan. Genl. Nash to encamp on the left of Genl. Wayne, and Lord Stirling's division on the left of the whole. Genl. Knox will fix on a proper place for the park of artillery in this encampment. The Quarter Master General and Engineers will mark out the whole without loss of time. All the waggons that are not absolutely necessary are to be kept on the east side of the Brandewine.

A subaltern and 25 men are to mount guard daily at the Fort at Christiana. Genl. Knox will see what artillery men are necessary to place there and give orders accordingly.

It is expected that the officers of every Corps will immediately inspect the men's arms and ammunition, to see that every thing is in order. If any of the Continental troops are without arms, the commanding officer of the Corps to which they belong, is to apply to the Adjutant General, for orders on the Commissary of military stores, for such as are wanted.

A detachment of men properly officered are to parade at sun sett this afternoon at with at least twenty four rounds of ammunition two days' provision ready dressed and their blankets.

The officers appointed to overlook the fatigue parties are earnestly exhorted to keep the men to their duty and see that the work goes on briskly.

The Commander in Chief approves the following sentences of a General Court Martial, held August 30th 31st and Sept. 2nd whereof Col. Johnston was president.

Peter Linch a Matross in Capt. Gibbs Jones's company of artillery, charged with "Desertion"; found guilty and sentenced to have the hair on the front part of his head shaved off without soap, and a quantity of tar and feathers fixed on the place as a substitute for hair, then to run the Gauntlope in the company to which he belongs, provided nevertheless that the stripes which he shall receive while running the gauntlope, shall not exceed one hundred; and then to be sent on board one of the Continental frigates to serve during the war.

Daniel Fennel of Col. Proctor's regt., charged with "Deserting from the said regiment," found guilty, and sentenced to receive one hundred lashes on his bare back, and to forfeit one month's pay for the use of the sick.

Daniel Hailey of the 11th. Virginia Regt. charged with "Abetting the cause of a deserter from Col Proctor's regiment of artillery, and with collaring Col. Proctor"; found guilty, and sentenced to receive one hundred lashes on his bare back.

James Martin of the 2nd. Pennsylv. regt. charged with "Being drunk and asleep on his post while sentinel over prisoners," found guilty, and sentenced to receive one hundred lashes on his bare back; and to have the hair from the front part of his head shaved off without soap, and tar and feathers substituted in the room of the hair.

Henry Hargood charged with "Desertion from the German regiment"; found guilty, and sentenced to suffer death: But for the reasons mentioned by the court, they recommend him to the Commander in Chief's clemency and mercy. The Commander in Chief pardons the offender.

Godfrid Oxford of the 14th. Virginia regt. charged with "Desertion, getting drunk and loosing his arms"; found not guilty of desertion; but guilty of getting drunk and losing his

arms; and sentenced to receive one hundred lashes on his bare back, and to pay for his arms lost.

AFTER ORDERS

The several divisions of the army are to remain in their encampments, as they were this morning, but to hold themselves in readiness to march at a moment's warning; and neither officer nor soldier is to be out of hearing of the drum of his brigade, And the more certainly to get and keep the men in their quarters, the rolls are to be regularly called, and all absent men looked up and brought to their regiments.

TO BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM MAXWELL

Head Qurs., Wilmington, September 3, 1777.

Sir: Yours of three O'Clock this morning I have received. I do not think you have much to fear from the party that has been sent over to Bohemia, who lie greatly to the Southward of you and too remote from where you now are, easily to injure you. It is imagined the design of their going there is to extend across from Bohemia River to Apoquiminy, by which means, they will prevent the Eastern Shore people from coming to our assistance, and will have the command of an extensive country to collect supplies in. But this is conjecture; and it is not impossible, they may attempt to throw a party in your Rear by way of Christiana bridge; though to do it, they must make a forced march of thirteen or fourteen Miles. As this however, is practicable enough, I would not wish to discourage the idea of your retiring to take possession of that bridge; where your left will be secured by Christiana Creek, and you will have nothing to fear except in front. My only objection to this is,

that being so much farther off [from] the Enemy, you will have it the less in your power to watch and harrass them.

I wish you very much to have the situation of the Enemy critically reconnoitred, to know as exactly as possible how and where they lie, in what places they are approachable; where their several guards are stationed, and the strength of them; and every thing necessary to be known to enable us to judge, with precision, whether any advantage may be taken of their present divided State. No pains should be omitted to gain as much certainty, as can be had, in all these particulars. I am etc.

P. S. By a Gentleman just arrived at Head Quarters, I learn the Enemy from Bohemia have advanced some distance on the New Castle road, and were last night about 10 Miles from Christiana Bridge. This makes your retreat to that place advisable and necessary.<sup>56</sup>

#### TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Wilmington, 8 O'Clock P. M., September 3, 1777.

Sir: I this minute returned to Head Quarters, where I found your favor of this date with the Resolves respecting Genl. Sullivan and Colo Richardson's Battalion.

I had conversed with General Sullivan upon the Subject and observed to him, that it was necessary an inquiry should be had relative to the Affair of Staten Island, as his conduct was censured and much dissatisfaction prevailed. He was sensible of the propriety of the measure and expressed a desire that it should take place, provided he could have the benefit of Genl Smallwood's Testimony, who was on the expedition. [Unfortunately] That Gentleman happens, at this time, to be in Maryland which must necessarily delay the inquiry, unless

<sup>56</sup>The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

some mode can be agreed upon for obtaining his Sentiments upon the matter.<sup>57</sup>

This morning the Enemy came out with considerable force and three pieces of Artillery, against our Light advanced Corps, and after some pretty smart skirmishing obliged them to retreat, being far inferior to them in number and without Cannon. The loss on either side is not yet ascertain'd. Ours, tho' not exactly known is not very considerable; Their's, we have reason to believe, was much greater, as some of our parties composed of expert Marksmen, had opportunities of giving them several close, well directed Fires, more particularly in one instance, when a body of Riflemen formed a kind of Ambuscade. They advanced about two Miles this side of Iron Hill, and then withdrew to that place, leaving a Picket at Couch's Mill about a Mile in front. Our parties now lie at White Clay Creek, except the advanced Pickets, which are at Christiana Bridge.

On Monday a large Detachment of the Enemy landed at Cecil Court House and this Morning I had advice of their having advanced on the New Castle Road, as far as Carson's Tavern. Parties of Horse were sent out to reconnoitre them, which went Three Miles beyond the Red Lion, but could neither see nor hear of them, Whence I conjecture, they filed off by a Road to their left and fell in with their Main body. The design of the Movement this Morning, seems to have been to disperse our Light Troops, which had been troublesome to them and to gain possession of Iron Hill, to establish a post most probably for covering their Retreat in case of accidents. I have the honor etc.<sup>58</sup>

<sup>57</sup>Sullivan's expedition against Staten Island had miscarried, and rumors had circulated to his disadvantage. Congress directed Washington to appoint a court of inquiry, which acquitted Sullivan with honor. His letter to Washington, dated Aug. 24, 1777, giving an account of the expedition, is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>58</sup>In the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison. The word in brackets is in the draft and not in the letter sent.

with more punctuality than they have done. The Commander in Chief can no longer excuse the neglects in that department.

Much injury having been done to the soldiers, and some lives lost, by their being taken by their officers from the hospital too soon, and without the concurrence of the superintending physician; that practice is absolutely forbidden; and henceforward not a man is to be taken from the hospital, 'till regularly discharged by the directing physician, in writing under his hand.

Notwithstanding all the cautions, the earnest requests, and the positive orders of the Commander in Chief, to prevent *our own army* from plundering *our own friends* and *fellow citizens*, yet to his astonishment and grief, fresh complaints are made to him, that so wicked, infamous and cruel a practice is still continued, and that too in circumstances most distressing; where the wretched inhabitants, dreading the enemy's vengeance for their adherence to our cause, have left all, and fled to us for refuge! We complain of the cruelty and barbarity of our enemies; but does it equal ours? They sometimes spare the property of their *friends*: But some amongst us, beyond expression barbarous, rob even *them*! Why did we assemble in arms? Was it not, in one capital point, to protect the property of our countrymen? And shall we to our eternal reproach, be the first to pillage and destroy? Will no motives of humanity, of zeal, interest and of honor, restrain the violence of the soldiers, or induce officers to keep so strict a watch over the ill-disposed, as effectually to prevent the execution of their evil designs, and the gratification of their savage inclinations? Or, if these powerful motives are too weak, will they pay no regard to their own safety? How many noble designs have miscarried, how many victories been lost, how many armies ruined, by an indulgence of soldiers in plundering? If officers in the least connive at such practices, the licentiousness of some soldiers will soon be without bounds: In the most critical moments, instead of

attending to their duty, they will be scattered abroad, indiscriminately plundering *friends* and *foes*; and if no worse consequences ensue, many of them must infallibly fall a prey to the enemy. For these reasons, the Commander in Chief requires, that these orders be distinctly read to all the troops; and that officers of every rank, take particular pains, to convince the men, of the baseness, and fatal tendency of the practices complained of; and that their own safety depends on a contrary conduct, and an exact observance of order and discipline; at the same time the Commander in Chief most solemnly assures all, that he will have no mercy on offenders against these orders; their lives shall pay the forfeit of their crimes. Pity, under such circumstances, would be the height of cruelty.

#### AFTER ORDERS

The tents of Genl. Sullivan's, Lord Stirling's and Wayne's divisions, and Nash's brigade, are to be struck and packed by five o'clock to morrow morning (if the weather permit) these corps, together with Genl. Potter's brigade, are to hold themselves in readiness to march at a moment's warning afterwards upon receiving orders. For which purpose, each brigade should be paraded, their arms grounded, and the men ready to take them up at the first call. The Quarter Master General will shew the ground they are to encamp upon, in the following order: Genl. Sullivan's on the right, Lord Stirling's on the left; Genl. Nash's on the left of Genl. Sullivan's; and Genl. Potter's on the right of Lord Stirling's; but as General Potter's brigade is without tents, it will be quartered in Newport. Genl. Stephen's division and Genl. Irvine's brigade, when it leaves this place, are to form a second line; Stephen's on the right. The division commanded by Genl. Wayne is to form a third line; Genl. Greene's division remains where it is.

attempt to make, and if so, that Barracks need not be provided for the whole, or for more, than will be fully sufficient to guard and defend the several passes. Care and attention should be had to placing them. They shou'd not be fixed, where they will be exposed to the Enemy or be liable to be burnt by them on a sudden push, as those were at Peek's Kill in the beginning of the Spring. We must remember the event and profit by it.

Since the Enemy landed, there have been several small Skirmishes between our light parties but without any great damage to either side. We have made between seventy and eighty British prisoners, and have had several deserters, chiefly from the Ships. Their main Body lies about eight or Nine Miles from ours, but our parties are much nearer. I suppose in a little time, probably in the course of a few days, the scene will be more active and very interesting. I am etc.<sup>74</sup>

### GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Wilmington, September 6, 1777.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

The General has no doubt, but that every man who has a due sense of the importance of the cause he has undertaken to defend, and who has any regard to his own honor and the reputation of a soldier will, if called to action, behave like one contending for every thing valuable; But, if contrary to his expectation, there shall be found any officers, or soldiers, so far lost to all shame as basely to quit their post without orders, or shall skulk from danger, or offer to retreat before order is given for so doing, from proper authority, of a superior officer, they are to be instantly shot down, as a just punishment to themselves, and for examples to others. This order, those in the rear, and the Corps of reserve, are to see duly executed, to

<sup>74</sup>The draft is in the writing of Richard Kidder Meade.

prevent the cowardly from making a sacrifice of the brave, and by their ill example and groundless tales (calculated to cover their own shameful conduct) spreading terror as they go.

That this order may be well known, and strongly impressed upon the army, the General positively orders the Commanding officer of every regiment to assemble his men and have it read to them to prevent the plea of ignorance.

The General begs the favor of the officers to be attentive to all strange faces and suspicious characters which may be discovered in camp; and if upon examination of them no good account can be given why they are there, to carry them to the Major General of the day for further examination; this, as it is only a necessary precaution, is to be done in a manner least offensive.

The General orders the officers to meet at 5 O'Clock this afternoon at the brick house by White Clay creek, and fix upon proper picquets for the security of the camp.

John Laurens and Peter Presly Thornton Esqrs. are appointed Extra Aids du Camp to the Commander in Chief; all orders therefore thro' them in writing, or otherwise, are to be regarded in the same light as if proceeding from any other of his Aides du Camp.

Notwithstanding the orders relative to slaughter houses, they are still often great nuisances to the army. The Quarter Masters of divisions therefore are to see that they are fixed at proper distances, and that all offal be well buried once a day. The Commander in Chief will look to these Quarter Masters for the execution of this order, and no excuse can be admitted for the neglect of so necessary a duty.

### AFTER ORDERS

Information has been given that many of the waggon horses are suffered to go loose in the fields: the Commander in Chief

strictly orders, that every night, all the waggon-horses be put to the waggons, and there kept, and if it be necessary at any time for them to go to grass, that it be only in the day time and then the waggoners must stay by them constantly; that they may be ready to tackle at the shortest notice. The waggon masters are required to see this order carefully executed. The enemy have disincumbered themselves of all their baggage, that their movements may be quick and easy. It behoves us to be alike ready for marching at a moment's warning: And for the same reason it is absolutely necessary, and the Commander in Chief positively orders, that both officers and men remain constantly at their quarters. Tattoo is no longer to be beat in camp.

#### TO CAPTAIN BENJAMIN POLLARD

Head Qurs., New Port, September 6, 1777.

Sir: By the time this reaches you, you will have made a considerable progress in blocking up the Bridge which you had begun to lay over the Brandywine, and blocking up the Road leading to it, as soon as this business is effectually done, I should be glad to have a proper Bridge thrown over that part of the Creek and adjacent Mill Races which the Engineer pointed out to you this morning, provided the execution of such a Work would not require too long a time: this you will consider and let me know by the return of the Bearer in how little time you could undertake to perfect the Bridges in question. I am etc.<sup>76</sup>

#### GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newport, September 7, 1777.

Parole Cambridge. Countersigns Dartmouth, Granby.

The Commander in Chief approves the following sentences of a General Court Martial, held the 3rd. instant whereof Colonel Lawson was president.

<sup>76</sup>The draft is in the writing of John Laurens.

Capt. Lipscomb<sup>76</sup> of the 7th. Virginia regiment, charged with "pillaging an orchard near General Weedon's quarters, and with abusing the guard which Genl. Weedon had set to protect it."

The Court unanimously acquitted him.

Lieut. Whiting<sup>77</sup> of the 11th. Virginia regt. and Ensign Jouett<sup>78</sup> of the 7th. Virginia regt. charged with "pillaging an orchard near General Weedon's quarters, and with abusing the guard Genl. Weedon had set to protect it." The Court unanimously acquitted them.

Quarter Master Rhea<sup>79</sup> of the 7th. Virginia regiment, charged with "Making a partial distribution of provisions." The Court unanimously acquitted him.

The Commander in Chief also approves the following sentences of the same court martial, held the 5th. instant, and orders them to be put in execution.

Lieut. Alexander Houston of Colo. Patton's regimt. charged with "Absenting himself from the regiment from the 8th. to the 12th. of August without leave"; pleaded guilty; sentenced to be reprimanded by the Colonel of the regiment he belongsto.

Lieut. Bradford<sup>80</sup> of Col Pattons regt. charged with "Ordering a soldier to pull apples contrary to General orders." It appearing to the Court the prisoner had been under arrest thirteen or eighteen days, and no witnesses appearing against him the court are of opinion he should be released from his arrest.

<sup>76</sup>Capt. Reuben Lipscomb. He was transferred to the Fifth Virginia Regiment in September, 1778; died Oct. 3, 1778.

<sup>77</sup>Lieut. Henry Whiting.

<sup>78</sup>Ensign Robert Jouett. He was promoted to lieutenant September 28; transferred to the Fifth Virginia Regiment in September, 1778; transferred to the First Continental Artillery in January, 1779; wounded at Eutaw Springs, S. C.; served to end of the war.

<sup>79</sup>Lieut. John Rhea seems to have been acting as quartermaster for the Seventh Virginia Regiment.

<sup>80</sup>Lieut. James Bradford, of Patton's Additional Continental regiment. He was taken prisoner at Monmouth, N. J.; became aide to Lord Stirling in June, 1781; adjutant of the Second Continental Artillery; and was captain of United States Artillery when killed in 1791 by Indians on the Miami.



The General has received a confirmation of the intelligence mentioned in the after orders of last night that the enemy have disincumbered themselves of all their baggage, even to their tents, reserving only their blankets, and such part of their cloathing as is absolutely necessary. This indicates a speedy and rapid movement, and points out the necessity of following the example, and ridding ourselves for a few days of every thing we can possibly dispense with. As a very imperfect obedience has been paid to former orders on this subject, it is now **Once More** strictly enjoined, that all baggage, which can be spared both of officers and men be immediately packed up, and sent off this day to the other side of the Brandywine. This order having heretofore been eluded, by a too indulgent construction of the general terms, in which it has been couched. The General is obliged to be more explicit, and to declare, that it is his intention the officers should only retain their blankets, great coats, and three or four shifts of under cloaths, and that the men should, besides what they have on, keep only a Blanket, and a shirt a piece, and such as have it, a great coat. All trunks, chests, boxes, other bedding and cloaths, than those mentioned, to be sent away, 'till the elapsing of a few days shall determine whether the enemy mean an immediate attack, or not. It is hoped, that none will have so little sense of propriety, as to deem a measure, so obviously for the good of the army, and the service, a hardship. It would be folly in the extreme, to hazard the loss of our baggage, for the sake of a little present convenience; a loss, which at this time would be irreparable. This disadvantage of having that to take care of, at the moment of attack, when we should be preparing for defence, is evident. The attention of both officers and men will then be wholly engrossed for it's safety and the enemy will have time to be upon us before we are ready to receive them; the consequence

of this will be bustle, confusion and perhaps defeat and disgrace, the loss of our baggage, and not improbably the ruin of the army. The Commander in Chief in a particular manner looks to the General Officers for the execution of this order in their respective divisions and brigades.

The whole army is to draw two days' provisions exclusive of to day and have it cooked, and deposited with the regimental Quarter Masters, provided salt provisions can be drawn; otherwise one day's fresh provisions to be cooked, and deposited as aforesaid, and two day's hard bread, if to be had.

All the horse, except Capt. Lewis's troop,<sup>81</sup> are to take post on the right of the army.

The tents of the whole army are to be struck and packed up in the waggons, to morrow morning, an hour before day; and the horses tackled. All the Corps of horse are to be saddled at the same time; and the whole Army drawn up in their respective lines.

The Qr. Mr. Genl. is to spare no pains immediately to provide waggons to carry the men's packs, that they may be perfectly light and fit for action.

No more sick to be sent to Concord, but to Birmingham.

#### TO MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Qurs., Wilmington, September 7, 1777.

Dear Sir: I am to acknowledge the receipt of your favours of the 13th. and 20th. August. I should have answered the former before this time, but as I received it upon my march to this place, I had not an opportunity of doing it sooner.

As the expedition to St. Johns was set on foot by order of Congress, you should apply to them for directions about the

<sup>81</sup> Capt. Charles Lewis's troop was attached to the Commander in Chief's Guard.

payment of the Officers for the time they were engaged in that Service. I do not know any thing of the terms on which they set out and therefore cannot properly give order in the matter.

If you will send a list of the Officers of Henley's Lee's and Jackson's Regiments<sup>82</sup> with the exact times of their appointments, I will have their Commissions forwarded to them. After Capt. Trescot<sup>83</sup> was disappointed of a Majority, by Cornel's<sup>84</sup> Regiment falling thro', he agreed to accept of the eldest Captaincy in Henley's Regiment, by which means he would get the Majority whenever a Vacancy should happen. More than this I cannot do; for if the Custom of granting Brevets is once introduced into the Army, there will be no end to applications for them.

If the intrenching Tools that came in the Amphitrite are of so ordinary a quality the expence of removing them to Springfield will be more than their Value, you had therefore better have them carried for the present to some place in the Neighbourhood of Boston. The Grenades may be also left.

Since General Howe's debarkation in Elk River he has moved on about Seven Miles, his main Body now lays at Iron Hill and ours near a Village called Newport.<sup>85</sup> In this position the Armies are from eight to ten miles apart. It is yet very uncertain what Genl. Howe's plan of operations will be. Some imagine that he will extend himself from the Head Waters of Chesapeake

<sup>82</sup> Cols. David Henley, William R. Lee, and Henry Jackson's Additional Continental regiments.

<sup>83</sup> Capt. Lemuel Trescott, of the Sixth Continental Infantry, and Henley's Additional Continental regiment. He was major of same regiment in May, 1778; transferred to Jackson's Additional Continental regiment (designated the Sixteenth Massachusetts Regiment in July, 1780) in April, 1779; transferred to the Ninth Massachusetts Regiment in January, 1781; to the Seventh Massachusetts Regiment in January, 1783; to the Fourth Massachusetts Regiment in June, 1783; served to November of that year.

<sup>84</sup> Ezekiel Cornell, brigadier general of Rhode Island Militia. He was to have commanded an Additional Continental regiment; inspector in the Continental Army in September, 1782; served to close of the war.

<sup>85</sup> Newport is three or four miles southwest of Wilmington, Del.

to Delaware and by these means not only cut off the Counties on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and two of those belonging to the Delaware State from affording us any assistance, but will secure the Horses, Cattle and Forage, of which there are considerable quantities in that Country. This in my opinion, considering how far the Campaign is already advanced, would take up more time than he could spare. For supposing him able to form such an extension, he would be full as far from Philadelphia as he is at present, and he would be subject to an attack upon some part of his line which from its length could not be properly supported. A few days past he advanced two or three Miles forward, during which there was pretty sharp skirmishing between our light Troops and his Van. We had about forty killed and wounded, and I imagine the Enemy had considerably more, as ours were thinly posted behind cover, and they were in Column. I am &ca.<sup>86</sup>

#### TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

New Port, September 7, 1777.

Sir: His Excellency being out reconnoitring and busily engaged in the Affairs of the Army, I have the honor to acknowledge his receipt of your Letter of the 6th, with the Resolutions inclosed, which came to hand yesterday Afternoon.

<sup>86</sup> The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

On September 7 Tilghman wrote to Brig. Gen. Caesar Rodney, by direction of Washington, requesting him to move nearer to the enemy and fall on his rear should he move toward the Continental forces: "I hope, if any Spirit of disaffection should appear below, that it will soon be checked by making a severe example of the Ring-leaders."

Robert Hanson Harrison wrote to Capt. William Barnet, of the Second Continental Dragoons: "It is General Washington's most positive and peremptory order, that immediately after receipt of this, you repair to His Head Quarters, with all the Men, Horses and Accoutrements under your direction; belonging to the United States. This you are to comply with, without the least possible delay, on pain of being tried and dismissed the service for disobedience of orders."

In respect to the Militia requested of Jersey, His Excellency is doubtfull whether they can be obtained; For Governor Livingston, by a late Letter, informed him, that he had no expectation, that more than Three Hundred of the Thousand called for to garrison the posts in the Highlands, would march, notwithstanding he had Issued Orders for that purpose; And, that three Weeks would probably elapse, before that Number went. If the requisition can be complied with, he has no doubt of Genl. Dickenson's exertions and is satisfied of the propriety of appointing him to the Command. This, he imagines, would have followed of course, as he is Major General of all the Militia in the State, and has given ample testimony as well of his capacity, as of his firmness and bravery.

By deserters and other intelligence, His Excellency was informed last night, that the Enemy's whole force left Elk yesterday, and advanced on the Road towards Christiana. The Deserters added, that they had disincumbered themselves of all their Tents and Baggage and had them back and reim-bark'd them. All their Ships, except two or three, which are Ships of War are said to have fallen down the Bay below the Mouth of Sassafras. We have had no information to day, of any further movement and I beleive their Main Body lies about Iron Hill. I have the honor etc.

P. S. The deserters said, they had destroyed a good deal of the Corn &c. they found in Store.<sup>87</sup>

#### TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, New Port, September 8, 1777.

Sir: I was yesterday honored with yours of the 1st. Instant. You have my thanks for your ready compliance with my requisitions, thro' Genl. Putnam, for a Reinforcement to the

<sup>87</sup>This letter is signed "Robt. H. Harrison," and the text is in his handwriting.

important posts at Peekskill, and it is an additional pleasure to me, to find that you have also sent a Reinforcement to the Northern Army. Since General Howe's debarkation at the Head of Chesapeak Bay, he has made very little progress, having only moved five or six Miles from the Shore, with strong grounds in his front; Our advanced parties have had a Small Skirmish with his, but the damage on either side is inconsiderable. General Howe's plans are yet very mysterious, a few days ago, he sent all his Tents and Baggage on Board again and his Ships have fallen some distance down Chesapeak Bay. This can be for no other purpose, but to go round to Delaware and meet him there, as he can easily extend himself across the Isthmus which is narrow. This will be a Strange Manœuvre indeed, as it will be exposing his Ships to some danger upon the Coast, at this tempestuous Season, and should an accident happen to the Fleet he must be ruined. A little time must unfold his true designs, which I trust we shall be able to baffle; as the Troops are in good Spirits and the people of the Country shew an universal good will to oppose the Common Enemy. I have the honor, etc.<sup>88</sup>

#### TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

6 Miles from Wilmington, September 9, 1777.

Sir: The Enemy advanced Yesterday, with a seeming intention of attacking us at our post near New port. We waited for them the whole day, but in the Evening they halted at a Place called Mill Town about two Miles from us. Upon reconnoitring their Situation, it appeared probable, that they only meant to amuse us in front, while their real intent was to march by our Right and by suddenly passing the Brandywine and gaining the heights on the North side of that River, get between us and Philadelphia and cut us off from that City. To prevent

<sup>88</sup>The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

Pay Roll of Capt. Rob<sup>t</sup> Kirkwood's Comp<sup>y</sup> in the Delaware Reg<sup>t</sup> of Continental Forces, in the  
of the United States of America Commanded by Col: David Hall for the month of December 1777

Names	Rank	Commence- ment of pay	Days of Service No. D.	Pay per month Dollars	Amount of			Casualties
					£	s	d	
1 Robert Kirkwood	Capt.	December 1 <sup>st</sup>	1	40	15			
2 Alex <sup>r</sup> Stewart	1 <sup>st</sup> Lt.	d <sup>o</sup>	1	27				on Burlington
3 Paul Quenouault	2 <sup>d</sup> Lt.	d <sup>o</sup>	1	27	10	2	6	
4 John Beaman	Enr.	d <sup>o</sup>	1	20	7	10		
5 Daniel Cochran	Serjt.		1	0	3			
6 James Dougherty	1 <sup>st</sup> Lt.		1	0	3			
7 W <sup>m</sup> Dwyer	d <sup>o</sup>		1	0	3			
8 Archibald McBride	Corporal			7 1/2	2	15		
9 Charles Hamelton	d <sup>o</sup>			7 1/2	2	15		
10 William Seymour	d <sup>o</sup>			7 1/2	2	15		
11 Thomas Clark	Drummer			7 1/2	2	15		
12 J <sup>n</sup> Carry	Private			6 2/3	2	10		
13 J <sup>n</sup> McDowell	d <sup>o</sup>			d <sup>o</sup>	2	10		
14 Dennis Kearney					2	10		
15 J <sup>n</sup> M. Smith					2	10		
16 J <sup>n</sup> Walker					2	10		
17 J <sup>n</sup> Carr					2	10		
18 Pat <sup>t</sup> Dunn					2	10		
19 Rob <sup>t</sup> Ferguson					2	10		
20 W <sup>m</sup> Haigman					2	10		
21 Hugh Coffey					2	10		
22 Sam <sup>l</sup> Miller					2	10		on command as wagoner
23 J <sup>n</sup> Moore					2	10		
24 Pat <sup>t</sup> Coleman					2	10		
25 Pat <sup>t</sup> Croft					2	10		
26 An <sup>d</sup> Pollard					2	10		
27 Valant <sup>e</sup> Campford					2	10		
28 J <sup>n</sup> Stevenson					2	10		
29 Cornelius Grince					2	10		

30 Rich <sup>d</sup> Taylor					2	10		
31 J <sup>n</sup> Wightwright					2	10		
32 J <sup>n</sup> Dool					2	10		
33 J <sup>n</sup> Proton					2	10		
34 J <sup>n</sup> Brown					2	10		on command as waiter
35 W <sup>m</sup> Luce					2	10		
36 Henry Willet					2	10		
37 J <sup>n</sup> Pemberton					2	10		
38 J <sup>n</sup> Miller					2	10		
39 W <sup>m</sup> Alcorn					2	10		
40 Isaac Carvel					2	10		on command as wagoner
41 Abram Meers					2	10		
42 Sam <sup>l</sup> Lindsey					2	10		
43 Christ <sup>l</sup> Willet					2	10		
44 Geo <sup>rge</sup> Bink					2	10		
45 J <sup>n</sup> Clark					2	10		
46 J <sup>n</sup> M. Conoughy					2	10		
47 Benth Bennett					2	10		
48 J <sup>n</sup> Campbell					2	10		
49 Moses Joab					2	10		
50 Pat <sup>t</sup> M. Callahan					2	10		
51 J <sup>n</sup> Corner					2	10		
52 W <sup>m</sup> Kelly					2	10		
53 J <sup>n</sup> Justice					2	10		on command as waiter
54 W <sup>m</sup> Fish					2	10		on command as waiter
55 J <sup>n</sup> M. Caw	December 1 <sup>st</sup>		19		1	9	0	Departed December 27 <sup>th</sup>

Total  
Officers - 3  
Sergts - 3  
Cops - 3  
Drum - 1  
Private - 43 for Number 53

Pay Roll of Capt. Robt. Sherwood's Company in the Delaware Reg<sup>t</sup> of Continental Troops in  
of the United States of America, Commanded by Col. David Hall for the month of January 1778

Names	Rank	Continu- ment of Pay	Time of Service mo. d.	Pay month Doll.	Amount of Pay			Casualties
					£	s	d	
1 Robt. Sherwood	Capt.	Jan 1 <sup>st</sup>	10	10	15			Prisoner
Abel Stewart	1 <sup>st</sup> Lt.	Do.	1	27				
2 P. Linnovant	2 <sup>d</sup> Lt.	Do.	1	27	10	2 1/2		
3 M. Betson	Ensign	Do.	1	20	7	10		
1 Dan Buchanan	Drum		1	8				
2 J. Dougherty	Dr.		1	8	3			
3 Robert Hughes	Dr.		26	8	2	12		
4 Wm. Dobble	Dr.		1	8	3			
1 Arch. Mc Bride	Corp.		1	7 1/2	2	15		
2 Chas. Hamilton	Dr.		1	7 1/2	2	15		
3 Wm. Seymour	Dr.		1	7 1/2	2	15		
1 Thos. Clarke	Drum		1	7 1/2	2	15		
1 John Curry	Private		1	6 1/2	0	0		
2 John M. Dowell								
3 Dennis Shearney								
4 John McNight								
5 Thomas Walker								
6 John Carr								
7 Patrick Durin								
8 Robt. Ferguson								
9 Wm. Higgins								
10 Hugh Coffell								
11 Saml. Miller								
12 Jamie Moon								
13 Pater Coleman								
14 Peter Croft								
15 Andrew Palford								
16 V. Camford								

sick Absent  
Returned from the Army the 6<sup>th</sup> January  
has had been taken 4<sup>th</sup> Oct. at German Town Battle  
on full pay  
sick Absent  
on full pay  
sick Absent  
Wagoner  
on Comm. at Dover

14<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1777  
1 Ensign  
1 Drum  
14 fit for duty  
12 sick absent  
6 on command  
2 on Detachment  
1 Recruiting  
8 no shoes  
1 Prisoner  
3 Prisoners  
47

17 Jas. Stevenson								
18 Corns Gurnes								
19 Rich. Taylor								sick Present
20 Jas. Winwright								
21 Thos. Cook								
22 Josh. Preston								
23 John Brown					107	10		Walter on Recruiting
24 Wm. Lewis								
25 Henry Willis								on Comm. at Dover
26 Jn. Pemberton								on Command a Dragoon
27 Thos. Miller								Walter
28 Wm. Bloom								Wagoner
29 Jo. Carvel								
30 Abm. Mearns								
31 J. Lindsey								
32 Chas. Willet								
33 Geo. Drink								
34 Jn. Clark								
35 Jn. M. Connors								
36 Benj. Bennett								
37 Jn. Campbell								
38 Mose. Yeab								
39 R. McCallister								
40 Jn. Conner								
41 Wm. Helby								
42 Jn. Service								
43 Wm. Fish								
44 Thos. Harper			12	20	1	13	4	
45 Jn. Matthews			18	20	1	13	4	

43 Privates at 50 per cent

sick Present  
Walter on Recruiting  
on Comm. at Dover  
on Command a Dragoon  
Walter  
Wagoner  
sick Absent  
3 Waiters  
returning from 8<sup>th</sup> Feb. 7 out-sold deputed

Abel McMillen Substituted 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. by not yet joined  
John Watkins returned from Detachment the January 1778  
46 Privates  
John Norris Substituted 1<sup>st</sup> Feb.

£ 168 1 2

3 Officers  
3 Privates  
1 Drum  
45 Privates

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Volume \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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3m. Manuscripts

Robert Kerwood Papers

1777-1791

Revolutionary War Company Payrolls

Journal of marches in the year 1777  
Continued

		Charge of the Party	Number	Miles
		Brought over	4	77
Augt. 30 <sup>th</sup>	From Bristol to Philadelphia	Remains		20
31 <sup>st</sup>	From Philad <sup>a</sup> . Cross'd Schuylkill			2
Sept. 1 <sup>st</sup>	From Schuylkill to Chester			15
2 <sup>nd</sup>	From Chester to Wilmington	De <sup>l</sup> . Mar.		13
9 <sup>th</sup>	From thence to Chad's Ford			10
11	From D <sup>o</sup> . to Chester	Remains		15
12	From D <sup>o</sup> . to Schuylkill			12
13	From D <sup>o</sup> . to Germantown			0
14	From D <sup>o</sup> . to the sign of the Buck on y <sup>e</sup> . Lancaster Road			11
15	From D <sup>o</sup> . on the same Road	D <sup>o</sup> .		14
16	From D <sup>o</sup> . to yellow Springs			11
17	From D <sup>o</sup> . About 5 miles beyond French Creek Bridge			9
18	From D <sup>o</sup> . to Reading Penna			12
19	From D <sup>o</sup> . to Richardson's Ford			29
21	From D <sup>o</sup> . to the banks of the Schuylkill			2
22	From D <sup>o</sup> . to Faulkners Swamp			15
26	From D <sup>o</sup> . to Parkersing Creek			7
29	From D <sup>o</sup> . to the Shippack Road			3
Oct. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	From D <sup>o</sup> . 3 miles lower down D <sup>o</sup> Road			13
3	From D <sup>o</sup> . to Germantown			13
4	From D <sup>o</sup> . Back to our last encampment			9
5	From D <sup>o</sup> . Parkersing Creek			0
16	From D <sup>o</sup> . to the Shippack where we was encamp'd 5 days			5
20	From D <sup>o</sup> . on said road within 15 miles of Philad <sup>a</sup> .			2
Nov. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	From D <sup>o</sup> . to White Marsh			13
Dec. 11	From D <sup>o</sup> . to Matto <sup>n</sup> Ford then to Swedes Ford			5
12	From D <sup>o</sup> . Cross'd Schuylkill to the gulph mill			25
20	From D <sup>o</sup> . to Dilworths town			12
21	From D <sup>o</sup> . to Wilmington to Winter Quarters			
	Under the Command of Brig <sup>o</sup> . Gen <sup>l</sup> . Smallwood			
	Total			796

The routes & marches made at different times to the Enemies lines & returning again is not included, this is only the different places we have encamp'd in.

By Robt. Kirkwood Capt<sup>l</sup> D<sup>o</sup>.

the party in each Regt. which finishes their hutt in the quickest & most workmanly manner with 12 Dollars, and there is Reason to believe that boards for covering may be found difficult to be had, he offers 100 Dollars to either Officer or Soldier who in the opinion of the Commission he shall appoint, as Judges, shall substitute covering that may be cheaper than made & will in every respect answer the end; Plan for the construction of the huts the sides made tight with Clay; the fire places made of wood & secured with Clay in the inside as Indians think, the fire place to be in the rear of the hutt, the doors to be in the end next the front the door to be made of oak split slabs unless boards can be procured, side walls 4 1/2 feet high, the huts to form a line in rear of the whole; One hut to be allowed each Capt. Officer to the Staff of each Division, one to the Staff of each Brigade, one to the Field of each Regt. one to the Staff of each Regt. one for the Common for Officers of two Companies, & one to every man in Commissary Office & Soldiers

Wednesday 20th Decbr. This morning at 4 o'clock our Division marched under the command of Brigadier Genl. Smallwood to Dilworth town in Chester County being 25 miles

Division Orders Dilworth Town Decr. 20th 1777

The Commissaries to furnish one days provisions to the Division immediately, & to provide another days provisions tomorrow at such place & time as will be pointed out to them in the morning, they will also provide forage for the troops, the alarm post to be in line of the Camp fire, the troops to march at 4 o'clock followed by the 5th Maryland Regt. such as are in uniform to compose the advance guard, followed by the rest of the Division, the rear guard to be taken from 4th May. Regt. & 200 men from 1st Regt. 2 Capt. 2 Subj. & Corples

Monday 21st March'd this morning to Wilmington Delaware State  
Took up our Quarters (I hope for this winter) being 12 Miles

Wilmington Delaware State Decr. 21st 1777  
Division Orders by Genl. Smallwood

The Commissaries to supply the troops with one days provision immediately, & one gill of Rum pr. man, & provide Whiskey to serve the one gill pr. man tomorrow morning and one days provision only, & to provide stores of every kind necessary in their department without delay to support the troops in the most comfortable manner, the forage masters & drivers to provide forage for the present, & endeavour by every means in his power to lay in the supplies necessary, the Regimental Qr Masters are immediately to procure all the Pick Axes, Shovels & Shovels in the town for fatigue duty; Priquetts 2 " 4 " 5 " 6 " 100 with entrenching tools to parade at the Barrage properly Officer'd for fatigue duty, the Officers will prevent their men from sauntering or disturbing the Inhabitants; Regimental Qr Masters to provide wood for the Barracks, A Field Officer from each Regt. to report such Houses as are proper for Barracks by 5 o'clock

Two Field Officers for Priquetts to attend at 4 o'clock





9200 K02

Small Man.

Robert Kirkwood Papers

1777-1791

Book of General orders / DE regiments  
Marches

The DE  
Continental by Christopher  
Ward

## Chapter 28

### THE POST AT WILMINGTON

ON his way to Valley Forge, Washington had camped for a week at the Gulph Mill. While there he had news that Howe intended "to establish a post at Wilmington, for the purpose of Countenancing the disaffected in the Delaware State, drawing supplies from that Country and the lower parts of Chester County, and securing a post upon Delaware River during the Winter." To prevent this he turned Sullivan's division over to General Smallwood and ordered him to take post in that town. The division marched from the Gulph on December 20, 25 miles to Dilworth and on the next day to Wilmington. "There took up our quarters (I hope for this Winter)," says Kirkwood.

Smallwood was to put "the place in the best posture of defence," using the services of an engineer, not named, to construct and superintend the works. He was authorized "to seize and take (passing receipts)" such tools as he needed. He was to take care to draw all his supplies from the country between Wilmington and Philadelphia, "as it will be depriving the Enemy of all chance of getting them."<sup>1</sup>

Washington also wrote to George Read, Vice President of the State acting as chief executive in the enforced absence of President McKinly, asking him to call out as many of the militia as possible to join Smallwood. Read issued orders to General Samuel Patterson's brigade of New Castle County militia, numbering 3,100, to join Smallwood, "but true it is" he sadly wrote to Washington, on January 19, 1778, "that a very few obeyed, the penalty prescribed in the militia law being so small and the mode of punishment for such refusal is so tedious that we have little power to exercise over delinquents."<sup>2</sup>

Caesar Rodney ordered out the Kent militia, but was sorry to say he believed his orders would be "very little Regarded. A want

of Zeal in some and disaffection in others is so prevalent that little good is to be Expected of them in this way, it is a misfortune that our Militia Law is not calculated to bring them to the Field." He had about a hundred engaged for two months, but they were constantly busy "keeping in awe the Tories and preventing traffic with the enemy." There appears to be no record of how many joined Smallwood. It is more than probable that they were very few, if any.

One of the first results of the American occupation of Wilmington was the resumption of operation of the Brandywine flour-mills. In October, Washington had ordered the Pennsylvania militia general, James Potter, to remove the "running stones" from two mills near Chester, Robinson's at Naaman's and the Brandywine Mills at Wilmington, to mark them for identification "with Tar or Grease or in some other manner" and move them "to such distance that the Enemy cannot easily recover them." On December 29, he authorized Smallwood to set one of the Wilmington mills "to work to supply you with Flour and Horse Feed," but only enough for the inhabitants and the soldiery.

A bit of good fortune was the capture in January of the British transport, *Symmetry*, armed with 18 19-pounders, which ran aground in the Delaware near Wilmington and surrendered to Smallwood after a few shots were fired on her from a field-piece. She had on board "the Baggage, Stores, cloathing, marque's & Equipages of the Officers of 4 Regiments, but not near [enough] Soldiers cloathing for one" and over a thousand stand of arms.

It was a really remarkable prize. Dr. Albigence Waldo, a surgeon of the Connecticut Line, then in camp at Valley Forge, made an excited entry in his diary about it: "The Brigg taken from the Enemy . . . is the greatest prize ever taken from them—There is Scarlet-Blue—& Buff Cloth, sufficient to Cloath all the Officers of the Army—& Hats—Shirts—Stockings—Shoes—Boots—Spurs—&c. to finish compleat Suits for all. A petition is sent to his Excellency, that this Cloathing may be dealt out to the Regimental officers only—at a moderate price—Excluding Commissaries—Bull Drivers &c.—there are 4 or 5000 Apelets of Gold & Silver—Many chests of private Officers Baggage—&

General Howe's Silver Plate—& Kitchen furniture &c. This Cargo was sent to Cloathe all the Officers of the British Army."

Washington was interested. He wrote that he and his officers were "anxious to come in for a share of the Baggage taken in the prize Brig," to purchase certain things, that is to say, either by auction or "at a moderate appraisement." But Smallwood's officers drew up a remonstrance against sending the goods to Valley Forge as Washington had suggested.

Washington assured Smallwood that it was not intended "to rob them of their right." He reminded them of the hardships the officers suffered at the Forge, "who are suffering from Cold, want of Houses and every other convenience," and only wanted an opportunity to furnish themselves "with many Articles of which most of them stand in as much need as the Gentlemen of your Division, who are in comfortable Quarters, possibly can do," and for which his officers proposed to pay. He also chided the objecting officers for having been led, "in the course of their Representation . . . into some very unmerited Reflections on the Officers of this part of the Army," by supposing that any unfair advantage would be taken. The officers in Wilmington promptly apologized, saying the offensive remonstrance "was wrote in a hurry . . . for want of a Deliberate & Cool Revisal it may Contain Some Expressions not So Respectful and Delicate as we Could wish." They were very humble, indeed, sending the letter to Sullivan and asking him "to be our Intercessor & Apologize for us." <sup>3</sup> But it was not long before Washington in his turn was apologizing to these same officers.

In the *Symmetry*, at the time of her capture, there were, besides the naval officers and crew, a number of women, the wives of army officers. The male prisoners were easily disposed of by sending them to one of the established prisons—but these women? What were they? Prisoners of war or what? And what to do with them and who was to pay their board? Smallwood wrote to Washington for instructions. The General seems to have found it a perplexing question and so tried to laugh it off in one of the very few attempts at jocularly to be found in his writings.

"With respect to the board of the Officers' Wives, it is a matter you must determine yourself. I imagined they had been sent to

Philadelphia, soon after the prize was taken. I do not suppose that the public will suppose themselves liable for it, as they do not consider themselves prisoners, and it might be deemed ungenerous to make the Ladies pay it themselves, after so long a detention. As you and your Officers only, have had the pleasure of their company and conversation, I believe you must adjust the matter among you, as well as you can."

Did the General think he could settle the matter by assessing the cost on the officers and, what was almost as bad, insinuating whatever he did insinuate in those remarks about "the pleasure of their company and conversation"? Did he, now? The gentlemen officers in Wilmington thought not. Smallwood wrote in their behalf protesting against such slurs on them. And Washington apologized: "[I] am sorry to find that what I meant merely as a joke, has been taken by you in a serious point of light. I can assure you I never had the least suspicion that any part of your time was sacrificed or your duty neglected, on account of the Ladies who fell into your hands." And as to their board, charge it against the proceeds of the sale of the brig before they are divided. And, no doubt in his thoughts, pray don't let me hear any more about it.

Washington had the troops in Wilmington much on his mind. They were his only large outpost, and their position on the Delaware River was hazardous. The garrison had been seriously weakened by the withdrawal of Hazen's regiment, in January, for duty with the then proposed expedition against Canada. The British might easily, in a surprise, land troops both below and above them and cut them off. Washington expected such an attack, even to the extent of proposing to withdraw half of Smallwood's artillery as a measure of its preservation.

By April 12, he had "upon a full consideration of all circumstances" decided to withdraw the "main body" of the Wilmington garrison, leaving only a field officer, two "good captains" and about 150 men "to act as patrols from Wilmington to Duck Creek, and, in conjunction with the Militia, cut off the trade between the Enemy and the disaffected in the lower Counties." He also wanted all new recruits sent up to Valley Forge as soon as they were enlisted, his reason for this being a practise among

the disaffected of "seducing the Recruits to desert and either harbouring them . . . or sending them off to the Enemy," that is to say, to the British ships in the river.

But on the next day, he changed his mind about removing the troops. He had learned that there were "considerable quantities of provision at the Head of Elk and Charles Town, which will lay very much exposed if you are suddenly withdrawn from Wilmington." So Smallwood should remain until further orders.

Five days later, Washington must have thought he had reason to congratulate himself on his reversal of the withdrawing order. There had been an "audacious insurrection" of Tories in Kent County; it was obviously necessary to suppress it immediately. Smallwood should march with all his men against the insurgents.

This insurrection was the famous Cheney Clow Rebellion. Led by an active, vigorous and determined Tory of that name, about 150 of the "disaffected" had gathered in Little Creek Hundred, Kent County, and there built themselves a "fort," apparently a sort of stockade. They were armed with "guns, swords, pistols, bayonets, clubs and other instruments of war," to use the language of Clow's subsequent indictment for treason, and doubtless seemed a formidable party. But, even if they did, as alleged in the indictment, "attack and repulse a party of militia coming from Maryland" to assist the Delaware authorities, they offered no effective resistance when Lieutenant Colonel Charles Pope, with a party of militia, about equal in number to the insurgents, came against their stronghold; "Mr. Clow and his gang, hearing of their approach, fled." The fort was burnt, about 50 of the Tories were captured; 20 of whom, "being single men," were sent off "with a recruiting party of the Delaware Regiment to enlist or do worse," as Caesar Rodney wrote to the Congress.<sup>4</sup> Smallwood's troops were not concerned in this suppression of Toryism.

The Wilmington garrison did not have the benefit of Steuben's personal instruction in the military art. But upon his appointment as Inspector General of the army, there were appointed under him Division Inspectors and Brigade Inspectors to establish "uniformity of discipline and manoeuvres throughout the army." On May 1, Washington sent Lieutenant Colonel Francois Louis Teissedre, Marquis de Fleury, to Wilmington as a Division In-

spector. There were to be appointed by Smallwood two of his officers as Brigade Inspectors. They were to receive from Colonel de Fleury Steuben's "written instructions relative to the most elementary points" of drill and manoeuvring and in turn instruct the other officers, and they their men. An odd feature of this instruction was the reformation of the march step. Washington wrote to Smallwood that "to correct the vicious step which our Soldiers have contracted and introduce a natural march easy to the Soldier and calculated to gain ground, it will be necessary to discontinue the use of Music for some time."

Smallwood's brigade remained in Wilmington until the first week of June, when it was ordered to Valley Forge, arriving there at some time before June 11.

PH0014053

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Delaware	
COUNTY: New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	DEC 18 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Continental Army Encampment Site

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Lovering Avenue near Broom Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Wilmington

STATE Delaware	CODE 10	COUNTY: New Castle	CODE 003
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
City of Wilmington

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Public Building, Rodney Square

CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington	STATE: Delaware	CODE 10
-----------------------------	--------------------	------------

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Public Building

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Rodney Square

CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington	STATE Delaware	CODE 10
-----------------------------	-------------------	------------

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

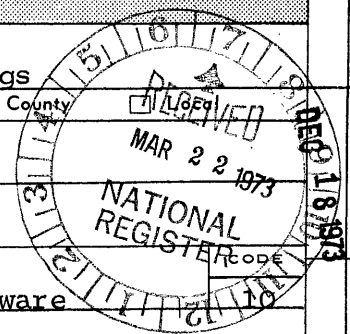
TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Survey of Delaware Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE OF SURVEY: 1972     Federal     State     County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Hall of Records

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Dover

CITY OR TOWN: Dover	STATE: Delaware
------------------------	--------------------



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:  
COUNTY:  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The site of the Continental Encampment is now a part of Brandywine Park. The troops camped on the east side of Brandywine, which, at this point, is preserved in its natural setting. An early mill race is still visible on the site, a reminder of the extensive early milling industry on the Brandywine. Only one road has been cut through this part of the park.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**5. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century            |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1777

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |  | _____  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Just before the Battle of Brandywine, Washington and his troops moved into Delaware. It would be the only time that most of the Continental Army would encamp on Delaware soil. Not knowing what Howe's strategy would be, Washington chose to camp first at Wilmington. The diary of Adjutant-General Timothy Pickering reported that on August 26

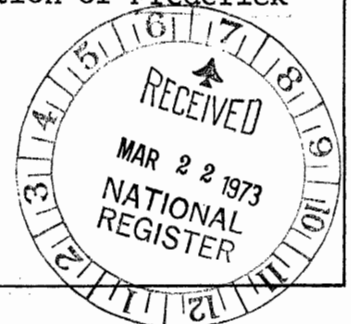
at 4a.m. we marched from our encampment to Brandywine Bridge, near Wilmington, then turning N.N.W. we proceeded a few miles and encamped near the east bank of the creek.

They stayed here a few days while Washington evaluated the situation and then moved to their encampment near Marshalton.

On December 21, 1777, 1500 Delaware and Maryland troops returned to the campsite. These troops, under the command of General William Smallwood, were to prevent occupation of Wilmington by the British and to protect the flour mills on the Brandywine.

The encampment site is now a part of Brandywine Park, a naturalistic city park developed under the direction of Frederick Law Olmsted.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS





**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Conrad, Henry C. "Maneuvering for a Battle-Ground." Motor Travel (May 1925) p. 19-22 and (June, 1925), p. 19-23.

Delaware Archives, Military. Wilmington: Public Archives Commission, 1911.

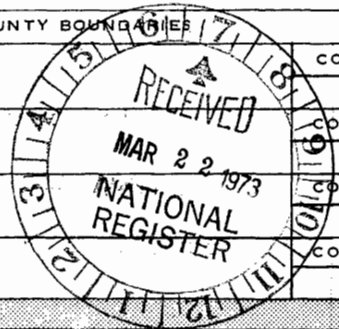
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39° 45' 30"	75° 33' 21"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **8 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Joan M. Norton, Historic Site Surveyor**

ORGANIZATION: **Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs**      DATE: **1/4/72**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Hall of Records**

CITY OR TOWN: **Dover**      STATE: **Delaware**      CODE: **10**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/>    State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>    Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u><i>E. Berkeley Tompkins</i></u> <b>Dr. E. Berkeley Tompkins</b></p> <p>Title <u>Director, Div. of Historical and Cultural Affairs</u></p> <p>Date <u>3-12-73</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u><i>Ernest A. Connally</i></u> <del>Ernest A. Connally</del> Associate Director, Professional Services</p> <p>Date <u>DEC 18 1973</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u><i>Connally</i></u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>12-13-73</u></p>
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IPS Number 12.18.73

Title: Continental Army

Encampment Site

Loc. New Castle Co., Delaware ①

Brandywine Creek Park

**PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

Continental Army Encampment

Brandywine Creek Park

12/8/72

J.M.W.



NPS Number 12.18.73

Title: Continental Army

Encampment Site

Loc

New Castle Co, Delaware (2)

Mill Race of

Brandywine Creek

**PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

View of Brandywine from  
Continental Army Encampment site  
Mill Race of Brandywine Creek



NPS Number 12.18.73

Title: Continental Army

Encampment Site

Loc. New Castle Co, Delaware (4)

Brandywine Creek Park

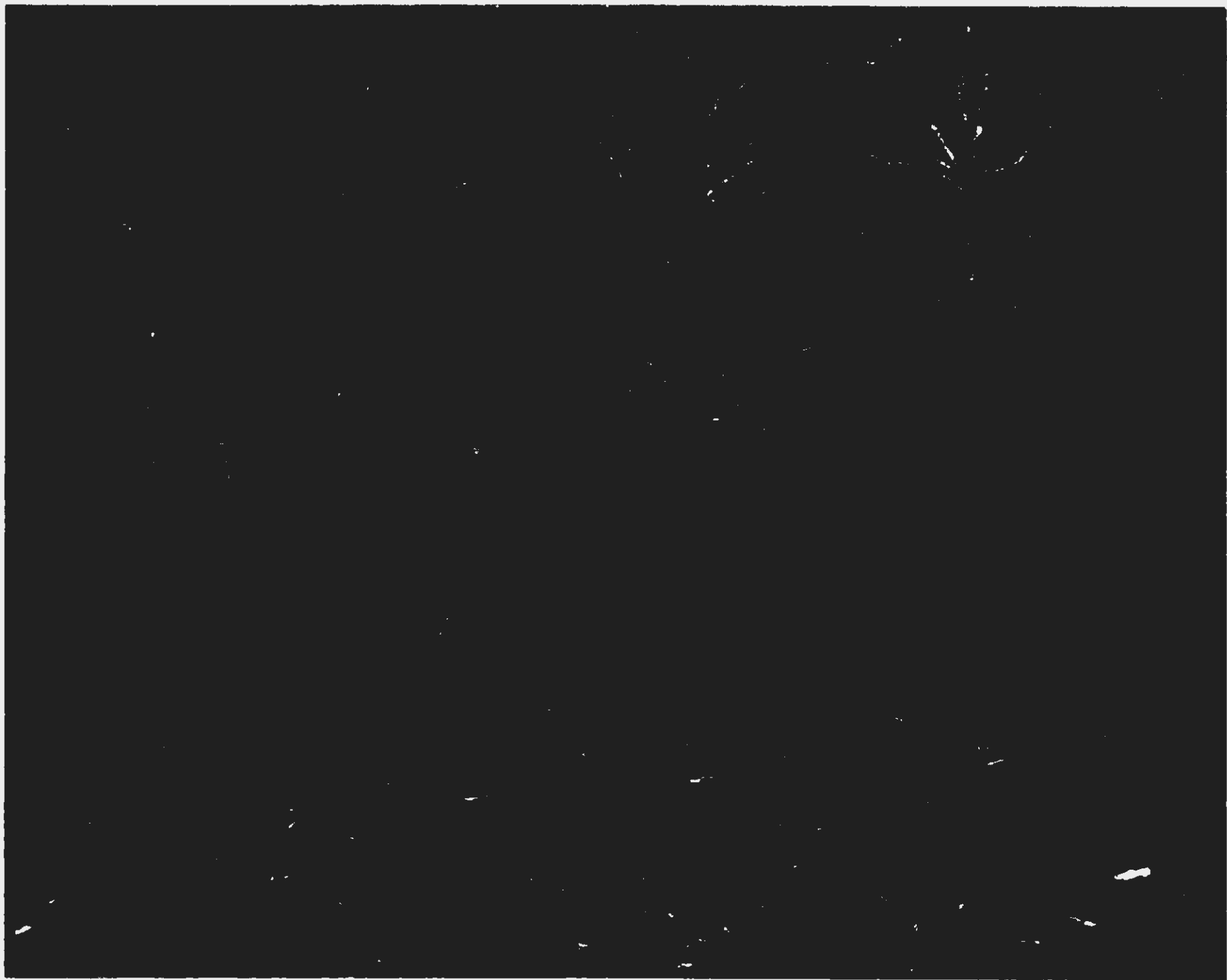
**PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

Continental Army Encampment Site

Brandywine Creek Park

12/8/72

J.M.W.





NPS Number 12.18.73

Title: Continental Army

Encampment Site

Loc. New Castle Co., Delaware

Mill Race in Brandywine

Creek Park

(5)

**PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

View of Brandywine from the  
Continental Army Encampment Site

Mill Race in Brandywine Creek Park

J.M.D. 12/8/72



NPS Number 12.18.73

Title: Continental Army

Encampment Site

Loc. New Castle Co, Delaware (3)

Brandywine Creek Park

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**PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

Continental Army Encampment Site  
Brandywine Creek Park

J. H. M.

12/8/72