

GROUND CHOSEN AND ENTRENCHED BY WASHINGTON TO FIGHT HOWE'S ARMY



General George Washington
By Edward G. Lengel

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Washington decided to make his first stand on the Red Clay Creek, even though that shallow, easily fordable water way offered no real protection against attack. He placed his army behind it on September 6th and sent Maxwell's corps a few miles southwest to form a screen at White Clay Creek.

In the early morning of September 8th the enemy stirred. The continentals waited for them under the lights of a bizarre, unreasonable aurora borealis.

Howe did not oblige Washington with a frontal assault.

Washington waited all day for Howe to attack.

The British detachment demonstrating to his front kept him guessing until nightfall. Then in early morning on the 9th - several hours after the enemy army had settled down on his right - Washington ordered his troops to retreat to Chadds Ford.



MARSHALLTON
Washington's Intrenchments on Red Clay Creek







DEL GRID 630,000 FT



ART

6.

ART WORK
OF

DELAWARE.

PUBLISHED IN TWELVE PARTS

THE CHARLES MADISON COMPANY

1898.



REMAINS OF WASHINGTON'S INTRENCHMENTS ON RED CLAY CREEK.

WASHINGTON'S ARMY IN DELAWARE
IN THE SUMMER OF 1777

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.

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 Acet, any Soldier absent from the parade at the above mentioned time, Shall assuredly Suffer Agreeable to the Articles of War, unless a Reasonable excuse is 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)."

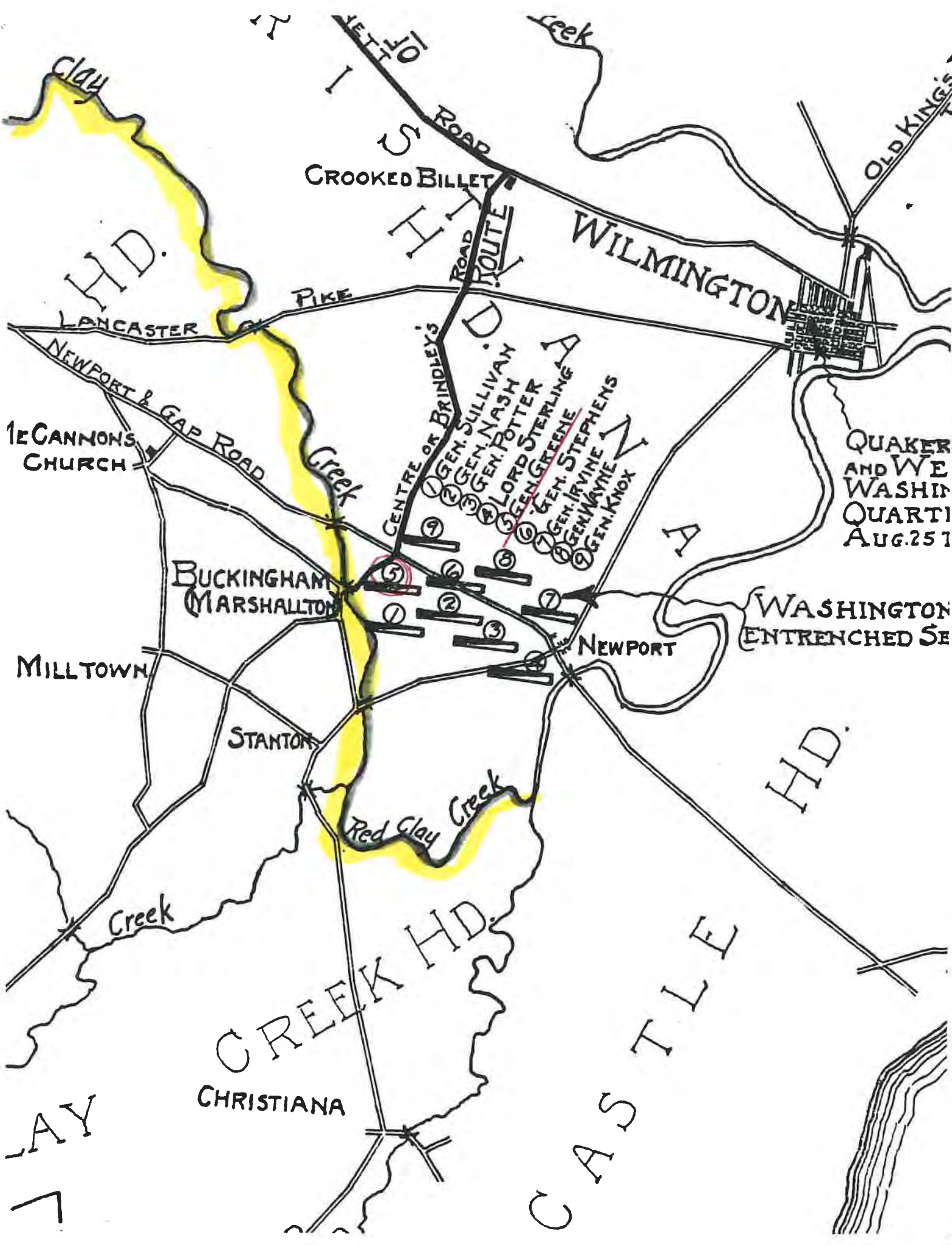
(Letter of General Washington to Governor Trumball of Connecticut)

"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."



THE BATTLE OF COOCH'S BRIDGE

Delaware

September 3, 1777

Including: Campaigns by which it was preceded and followed; claims as to the first use of the Stars and Stripes; traditions which surround the battle; Pencader's Oath of Fidelity of 1778.

by

EDWARD W. COOCH

Lieutenant-Governor of Delaware. Member of Historic Markers Commission, 1929-1933. Author of "History of Iron Hill", "The Folks of Welsh Tract", "Pencader, Chief Chair of Presbyterianism", "Lafayette at Christiana", "Valentine Hollingsworth and Newark Monthly Meeting", etc.

1940

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."

reinforcements of Militia, to repel the threatned 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.⁹⁴

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 possitively forbids the stragglng 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

⁹⁴The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

Writing of
Washington

vol 9 Aug 1777 - Nov 1777

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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.³

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.⁴

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

³The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

⁴The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

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 defering 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.⁵

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

⁵In the writing of Richard Kidder Meade. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

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. THOMPSON¹⁰

Head Qurs., Wilmington, August 28, 1777.

Sir: I have your favour of Yesterday by Lieutt. Veary¹¹ 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.¹² As it is needless to keep

¹⁰Of the Maryland Militia.

¹¹Lieut. 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.

¹²This 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 &c. I think yours had as well assemble at the Head of Bohemia,¹³ 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*.

¹³Bohemia Manor, Delaware.

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

James McCracken, of Col. Proctor's⁵³ regiment, charged with "Desertion from Trenton Camp." The court released the prisoner from confinement for want of evidence.

George Leard of Capt. Bower's⁵⁴ 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. Lawson⁵⁵ 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

⁵³Col. Thomas Procter, of the Fourth Continental Artillery. He resigned in April, 1781.

⁵⁴Capt. Jacob Bower (Bauer).

⁵⁵Col. 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.⁵⁷

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

⁵⁷The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

some mode can be agreed upon for obtaining his Sentiments upon the matter.⁵⁷

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.⁵⁸

⁵⁷Sullivan'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*.

⁵⁸In 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 Peeks 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.⁷⁴

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

⁷⁴The 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 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.

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 waggons 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 Qrs., 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.⁷⁶

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.

⁷⁶The draft is in the writing of John Laurens.

Capt. Lipscomb⁷⁶ 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. Whiting⁷⁷ of the 11th. Virginia regt. and Ensign Jouett⁷⁸ 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 Rhea⁷⁹ 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 belongs to.

Lieut. Bradford⁸⁰ of Col Patton's 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.

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

⁷⁷Lieut. Henry Whiting.

⁷⁸Ensign 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.

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

⁸⁰Lieut. 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,⁸¹ 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

⁸¹ 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 Regiments⁸² with the exact times of their appointments, I will have their Commissions forwarded to them. After Capt. Trescot⁸³ was disappointed of a Majority, by Cornel's⁸⁴ 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.⁸⁵ 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 Chesapeak

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

⁸³ 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.

⁸⁴ 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.

⁸⁵ 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.⁸⁶

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.

⁸⁶ 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 reimbarck'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.⁸⁷

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

⁸⁷This 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 Manceuvre 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.⁸⁸

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

⁸⁸The draft is in the writing of Trench Tilghman.

BRANDYWINE SPRINGS

ARTICLE XVI

Copyright 1933 by Francis A. Cooch

For the reason that from time to time Brandywine Springs has received so much publicity, I have hesitated somewhat to write about this well-known resort, although it seems that this series of articles would be incomplete otherwise.

As is usual, in such cases, strangely enough, no one that I have asked seems able to answer the first question that I asked, viz: "How did Brandywine Springs get its name?" Catharine Justis-Ball, granddaughter of the builder of the once famous hotel referred me to Richard W. Crook; he in turn sent me to Elsie Fell-Boynton; she suggested that I ask Mrs. Ball and there I was at the beginning. Several thought it was because of the proximity of "The Springs" to the Brandywine, but this could not be. The Brandywine flows miles east of Brandywine Springs and the park itself is on the west bank of the Red Clay Creek. Even Thompson Bailey, well advanced in years, who has lived in the neighborhood of The Springs all his life, does not know the answer. In the end I gave it up and began where I could.

Undoubtedly the springs have been known for centuries. Barton Cheyney says there is but one, possessing medicinal qualities, although Scharf mentions three, containing sulphur and iron.

Tradition has it that the Indians knew of and frequented the place at more or less regular intervals and there is a legendary tale of an Indian Chief who brought his daughter here from as far as the present State of Ohio, to drink the curative waters. The story goes on to say that she never returned to Ohio, but was wooed and won by a local brave. Then there is the story of Kiamensi, the Indian maiden who, jilted by a young white man, committed suicide by leaping from a high rock into a deep pool in the Red Clay Creek, although this has a fictitious sound. Still Mrs. Ball knows the location of both the rock and the pool.

That the whites soon discovered the curative properties of the water of the chalybeate spring is undoubted, whether from the Indians or by accident is not known but it was believed that the water would cure almost any ailment from disordered liver to consumption. The general belief was that the water was most efficacious when drunk directly from the spring, but large quantities were shipped long distances for the benefit of those who because of age and infirmity were unable to make the journey over the rough roads in the crude conveyances of an earlier day.

Whether the Indians used the location as a military camp or frequented the place on peaceful visits only, is not known, but Brandywine Springs has a military history none-the-less.

On the night of September 8, 1777, while the American Army was encamped along the Red Clay Creek, Washington with his staff, including General Lafayette, held a council of war under the great oak that stands on the hillside overlooking the springs, a regiment of troops being encamped nearby. No doubt it was at this meeting that the determination was reached to abandon the earthworks hastily thrown up by the Americans of which traces remain at Marshallton, for at 2 o'clock on the morning of the 9th, Washington crossed the Brandywine at Chadds Ford.

That there was a tavern at Brandywine Springs prior to 1826 is pretty well established; the place being at the junction of two important roads would justify this belief, leaving the attraction of the springs out of consideration. Across the Newport and Gap Turnpike from Mrs. Ball's home is a house that appears to be of frame construction, but which is in fact weatherboarded over logs, as to which both Mrs. Ball and Mrs. Boynton agree that it was a tavern for accommodation of teamsters and travellers in the early days before the railroads.

In January, 1826, the General Assembly of Delaware

and 34 feet in height, the southern front is 125 feet in length, making a promenade of 267 feet.

Connected with the establishment are Hot and Cold Baths, A Billiard Room, Bowling Saloon,

And other Amusements,

There has been a large edition of new Furniture to this house this season. A spacious range

of stabling with a supply of Saddle Horses and Carriages

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Distance about 30 miles from Philadelphia, 5 from Wilmington, 6 from New Castle, 60 from Baltimore, 3 from Newport, where the Philadelphia and Baltimore Railroad passes.

Communications with all these places three or four times a day. The mineral spring is a strong chalybeate said to be particularly beneficial to those who are subject to debility or weak lungs; the air is pure and balmy and the place is known to be one of the most healthy in this country.

Mr. Newkirk, the owner of the Property, has spared no expense improving the grounds by gravel

walks, ornamental

Trees, Shrubbery, Marble Statuary, Fountains, etc.

The undersigned having become the lessee of Brandywine Springs.

with a fine Market at hand, and a good stock of everything necessary to contribute to the wants of his patrons; every exertion shall be made to have it worthy of the patronage of an intellectual, refined and fashionable society.

George Sterr Jr.

Late of

Hartwells Washington House, Philad'a

June 1st, 1850."

All was in vain, however, and the management went into the red again, following which it was leased for the use of conducting a "Military and Scientific School for Young Men."

This too was unsuccessful and Captain Partridge who conducted it was preparing to remove the school to Bristol, New Jersey, when on December 29, 1852, during the Christmas vacation the hotel was totally destroyed by fire.

In Holy Writ we read that "Shishak king of Egypt . . . carried away all the shields of gold which Solomon had made. Instead of which King Rehoboam made shields of brass."

This is but a fitting comparison as between the magnificent hotel reared by Justa Justis and the much less pretentious structure with which it was replaced by Matthew Newkirk (Mrs. Boynton says it was her grandfather Franklin Fell), who enlarged and brought under one roof, several frame cottages situated about two or three hundred feet west of the site of the former hotel. Alas like Ichabod "The glory has departed."

Again we hear the sound of drums and the panoply of war. In the Summer of 1862, the Fourth Delaware Regiment of Infantry was encamped and given instruction at a camp hard by Brandywine Springs.

Although most of the members of this regiment were from New Castle and Kent Counties, Company C included a large number of ex-prisoners from Fort Delaware, who had taken the oath of allegiance to the Union. (Scharf)

Through Frank F. Yearsley, I learn of another school for boys, conducted in the late seventies or early eighties, by the Reverend Mr. Thompson, a clergyman of the Protestant Episcopal Church, in the hotel built by Matthew Newkirk or Franklin Fell, attended, among others, by the Greggs, Balls and by the late Josiah Marvel. Bishop Alfred Lee frequently conducted services at the school until it too, faded out of existence.

From 1888 to 1890 inclusive, during the administration of Governor Benjamin T. Biggs, the National Guard of Delaware had its summer training camp at Brandywine Springs.

At the Camp, held July 24 to August 2, 1890, named Camp Benjamin T. Biggs, in honor of the State's Chief Executive, the Delaware College Cadets were present under the command of Captain George LeRoy Brown, U. S. A., then detailed as instruc-

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erboarded over logs, as to which both Mrs. Ball and Mrs. Boynton agree that it was a tavern for accommodation of teamsters and travellers in the early days before the railroads.

In January, 1826, the General Assembly of Delaware granted a charter to the Brandywine Chalebyate Springs Company, a board of directors of representative citizens was chosen; the stock offered was subscribed promptly; plans prepared and the work of construction intrusted to Justa Justis, whose son Robert C. Justis was for many years a Democratic War Horse of Mill Creek Hundred.

A portrait of this hotel was loaned me by Catharine Justis-Ball. It is from an oil painting and bears the following inscription, "Brandywine Springs New Castle Co., Del. Built by Justa Justis 1828, Refitted in 1830. Burned in 1853," but what interests me even more, these words discernable only by aid of a microscope, "Clay fecit 1830." The "Great Pacificator" it is said was a frequent visitor. History has it that on one occasion he addressed an audience of more than five thousand persons here. In the year 1830 he was in the prime of life and the heyday of his popularity. Is it possible that he or one of his family was the artist? Mrs. Fell has a framed water color, on the margin of which is printed, along with a brief description of the Hotel, the words "Ed Clay Phila.," so I fear he is the artist although the two portraits are not identical.

From the portraits mentioned and also from an etching by Robert Shaw from the original drawings, we know that the hotel must have presented an imposing appearance. It was constructed of native stone and timber secured from the nearby quarries and forests. The building, three and one-half stories in height, was in the form of an L, each wing having a length of ninety feet and a depth of forty feet; a porch, the roof supported by tall pillars, was raised above the third story windows and ran the entire front of the house.

The building begun in 1826 was finished before the close of the year and completely outfitted, was opened early in the Summer of 1827 by Charles Stanley as proprietor. Prior to the opening an elaborate advertisement was issued, in a florid style, calling attention to the attractive features of the new resort; the sumptuous accommodations provided; the beauty and healthfulness of the neighborhood; its accessibility to Wilmington and to other cities, but most of all to the "virtue of the waters," adding that "No exertion will be spared by the proprietor to gratify every want of the visitor to this pleasant and salubrious retreat," and "charges will be moderate."

Came then the halcyon days for Brandywine Springs. The resort became an attraction for many persons of distinction and elegance both in national life and in society. John Quincy Adams came here as well as Henry Clay who was his Secretary of State from 1825-1829. Came also Daniel Webster and the Spanish Minister with his richly clad entourage. The antislavery agitation was yet young and with the southerners in their handsome equipages and fine horses came slaves as maids and valets.

Perhaps the charges were too moderate, for in 1832 the hotel was sold to Matthew Newkirk, who spent more money beautifying the grounds (evidences of which yet remain) and added improvements to the hotel. Already Cape May and Saratoga were bidding for patronage and Atlantic City soon followed in their steps; the railroads quickly revolutionizing all previously known means of transportation.

Nevertheless the hotel did not prosper in spite of every effort to attract visitors and the following glowing advertisement was issued:

"BRANDYWINE SPRINGS"

"This delightful *Watering Place* is now open for the season. To those familiar with its location and comforts, it is unnecessary to say anything in its praise, but to those who have not visited it, we would inform them that it stands on a high elevation, studded around with beautiful farms and Most Magnificent Scenery, Good Roads and Delightful Drives.

The hotel is four stories high, built of stone, with Spacious Halls, Ball Room, Dining Room. And fine airy Chambers a Portico on the western front, 142 feet in length, 20 feet in width,

At the Camp, held July 24 to August 2, 1890, named Camp Benjamin T. Biggs, in honor of the State's Chief Executive, the Delaware College Cadets were present under the command of Captain George LeRoy Brown, U. S. A., then detailed as instructor at Delaware College. John P. Armstrong was Adjutant, E. B. T. Springer, Captain of Company A and Albert H. Raub, of Company B, with twenty-one men to each Company.

Among the prominent men at the Camp were Adjutant General R. R. Kenney, of Dover, later U. S. Senator; Quarter Master General John M. Newell, of Wilmington; Judge Advocate General Ezekiel T. Cooper, of Dover; Inspector General Theodore F. Armstrong, of Newark; Chaplain, Reverend Jonathan S. Willis, of Milford, preacher and politician, later Representative in Congress from Delaware, and Quartermaster Armon D. Chaytor, whose grandchildren live in Newark. Major Edward L. Rice was in command of the two troops of cavalry and Dr. George W. Marshall, of Milford, Colonel of the First Regiment of Infantry. The Cadets with two ancient field pieces were rated as the first artillery, so we had a brigade.

One day we had a sham battle, drills and all the usual stunts of a State Military Camp; on Friday the picturesque Governor with his long curling gray locks flowing to his shoulders was present to review the troops.

Again the hotel was crowded with distinguished visitors: the Brandywine Springs Dramatic Association presented the play "David Garrick," with Dr. L. Heisler Ball, later U. S. Senator, as David Garrick, the leading part and Richard W. Crook as Colonel Ingot.

Lt. Herbert Deakyne, fresh from West Point, later General of U. S. Engineers, now on the retired list, and Cadet Robert W. Mearns, then an undergraduate and now also General on the retired list, made the civilian soldiers look like the proverbial thirty cents.

Recently I found in my father's desk a letter dated July 26, 1890, in which I say "Am on guard to night I am almost certain." That lonely two hour vigil from twelve until two A. M. along the edge of the woods overlooking the park was eery enough. Some of the officers tried out a few of the sentinels to their sorrow. I am not sure that I should have torn the high officer's blouse with my bayonet.

A less desirable week could hardly have been chosen; rain fell nearly every day; Wednesday was so hot, battalion drill was omitted.

A merry fellow cadet accidentally jabbed me with a bayonet and I will carry the scar to the grave; the water or the food disagreed with me; I was ill for the balance of the summer and felt effects of it for years afterwards, but to me worst of all was the presence of so many dissolute women and the excessive amount of hard drinking, by no means confined to the enlisted men. I can never forget seeing a drunken man kick a woman. A carefully nurtured boy of sixteen, it was to me an added indictment to those I had already found against the whole wretched business. I never have cared to go camping again.

Bishop Coleman, of the Protestant Episcopal Church, felt impelled to write a letter of protest to the Wilmington papers and there were no more camps at Brandywine Springs thereafter. Major Doherty says "That's what broke it up."

Meanwhile, in 1886, the hotel which had been acquired by Franklin Fell, was leased by Richard W. Crook, who conducted the resort in a quiet sort of a way until May 30, 1901, when the Peoples Railway opened the trolley line to The Springs, and another day dawned, with a park fitted up with all sorts of noisy catch penny devices, including a roller coaster from which a woman fell and died of a broken neck. Unfortunately the opening day was marred by a dreadful accident when the motorman lost control of a car on West Sixth Street in Wilmington, a number of persons were injured and several killed. For awhile the place held the popular fancy, but the big fire that on August 17, 1905, swept the place, was the beginning of the end. The hotel, closed finally in 1902, was torn down, traffic fell off, the West Chester line went into receivership and was abandoned, later the line to the Springs was abandoned also and the tracks removed.

When I visited Brandywine Springs in the Fall of 1932, I had difficulty recognizing the old landmarks. The park and the once carefully tended lawn had about reverted to a wilderness. Some of the trees and shrubbery planted by Matthew Newkirk remain and among them stands the great Council Oak that must have braved the storms of more than three hundred years; has been accepted as one of Penn's Trees and breast high has a circumference of fifteen feet two inches. What a story it could tell of Indians, of pioneers, of Washington, Lafayette, and Green, of Webster, Adams and Clay, of the Spanish Minister and his suite, of Civil War Soldiers, of the gay nineties and of countless others who have visited here in times gone by. I wonder do their spirits ever gather here; the Indians, the aristocrats and the children who attended the Sunday School picnics.

The images in this folder (1540-000-009 DELDot Photographs) are possibly near where the old marker stood on Old Capitol Trail. According to directories close to that time period, this business was on Old Capitol Trail. Old marker went missing. New established in 2020 on Newport Road? The "School Zone" may have been close to the current Delcastle High or Edwina Kruse School for Colored Girls.



WASHINGTON'S EARTHWORKS

The American Army numbering about 11,000 encamped between Red Clay Creek and Newport September 6 to 9, 1777. Earthworks constructed for the protection of the camp are plainly visible on the edge of the hill overlooking the creek.

NC-33

LOCATION: Marker is inactive/removed. North end of Bridge which crosses Red Clay Creek at Marshallton (Lincoln Highway), Wilmington.

OLD CAPITOL TRAIL

The Delaware Public Archives operates a historical markers program as part of its mandate. Markers are placed at historically significant locations and sites across the state. For more information on this program, please contact [Karen Donovan](#) at (302) 744-5048

1931-1933 NC-33 WAS ERECTED

NOV. 1931 MARSHALLTON BRIDGE #155 WAS DEDICATED AND IT CROSSED RED CLAY CREEK
 THIS IS NOW OLD CAPITOL TRAIL WAS CALLED IN 1931 "LINCOLN HIGHWAY"
 THE BURTON'S WHO ARE RESIDENTS OF MARSHALLTON USED TO WALK BY THE MARKER ON THEIR WAY TO SCHOOL. THEY ALSO REMEMBER IT LAYING ON THE GROUND FOR A LONG TIME.
 WHEN KIRKWOOD HIGHWAY WAS FINISHED THIS MARKER WAS MOVED TO THE INTERSECTION OF RT. 2 & 41 NEXT TO THE "BLUE LANTERN RESTAURANT" IT THEN WAS DEMOLISHED IN MID 70'S FOR MIDAS MUFFLER BLOCK BUSTER VIDEO

ALMOST HALLOWED GROUND

The story of the Delcastle High school
property during the American
Revolution

By Donato C. Rufo

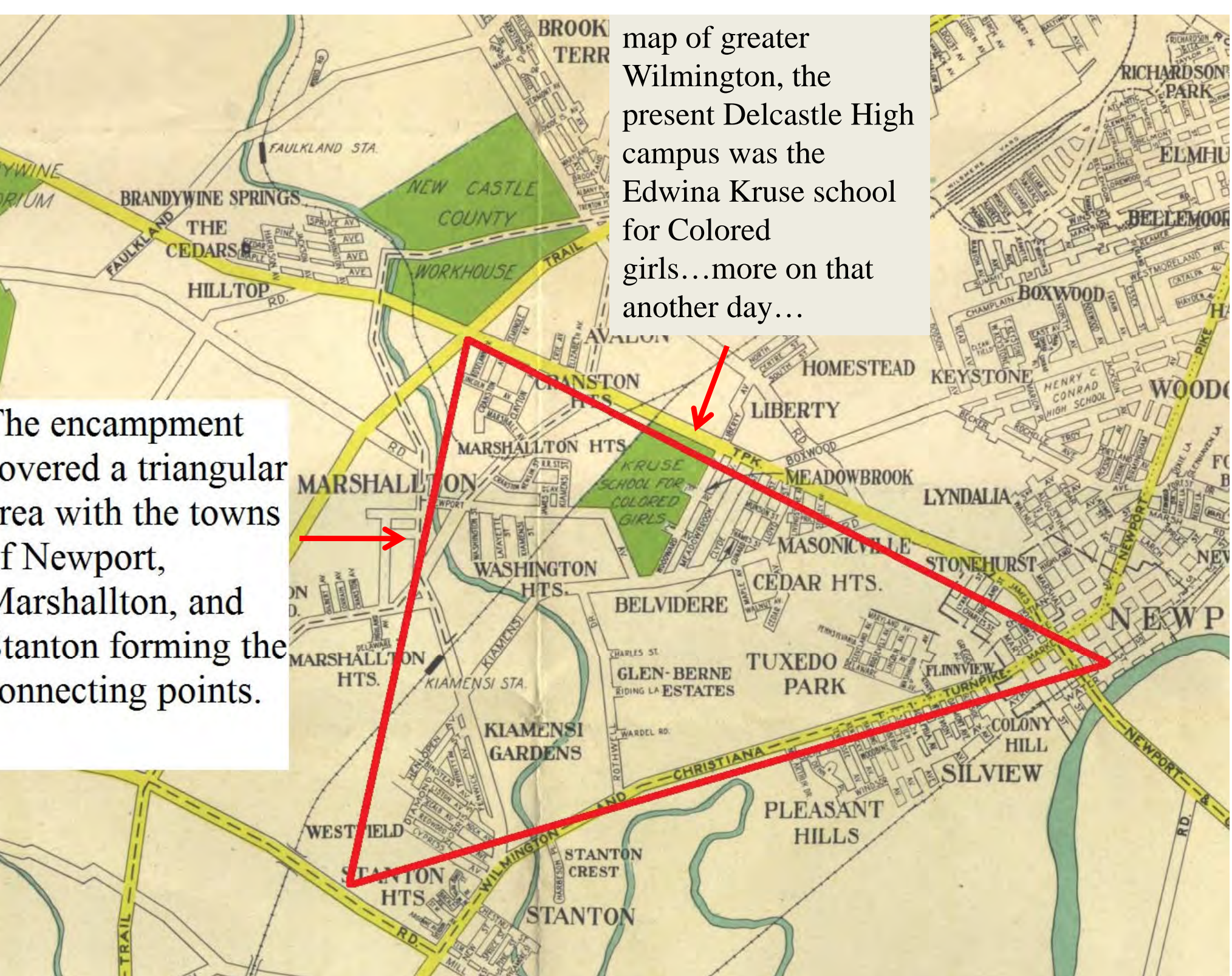
I believe that there is great evidence to show that before the Battle of the Brandywine, Washington's army was encamped for ten days in Wilmington preparing for the great conflict and that for three or more days his army lay entrenched near Stanton, behind the east bank of the Red Clay Creek, offering battle which Howe declined, preferring a flanking movement through Newark and Kennett Square to the Brandywine and on to Chadds Ford.

A great battlefield is an asset to any State. It is well to cherish ground hallowed by heroic action. The area around Delcastle then was “almost hallowed ground”. 11,000 men and beasts assembled there, waiting, preparing, doing the things that soldiers do when waiting for their fate.

Campfires, building, digging, eating, laughing, crying...an incredible human drama...all literally under our very feet.

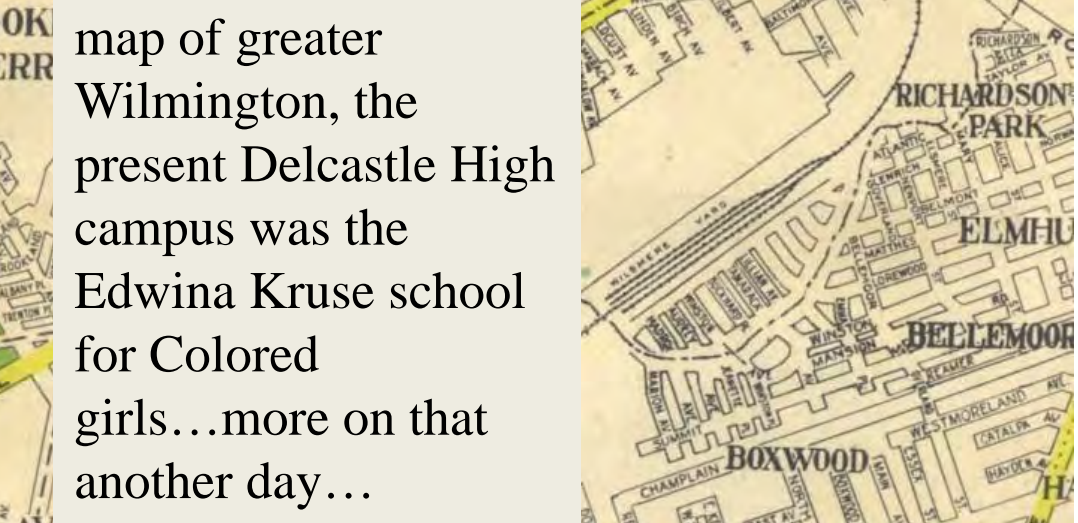
History

On August 30, 1777 George Washington ordered his army to fall back toward Red Clay Creek during the wee hours of the morning. Here, Washington arranged his troops for battle. The troops immediately dug in, building redoubts and entrenchments. Cannon were placed on a rise "for half a mile as thick as they could stand." The new encampment covered a triangular area with the towns of Newport, Marshallton, and Stanton forming the connecting points.



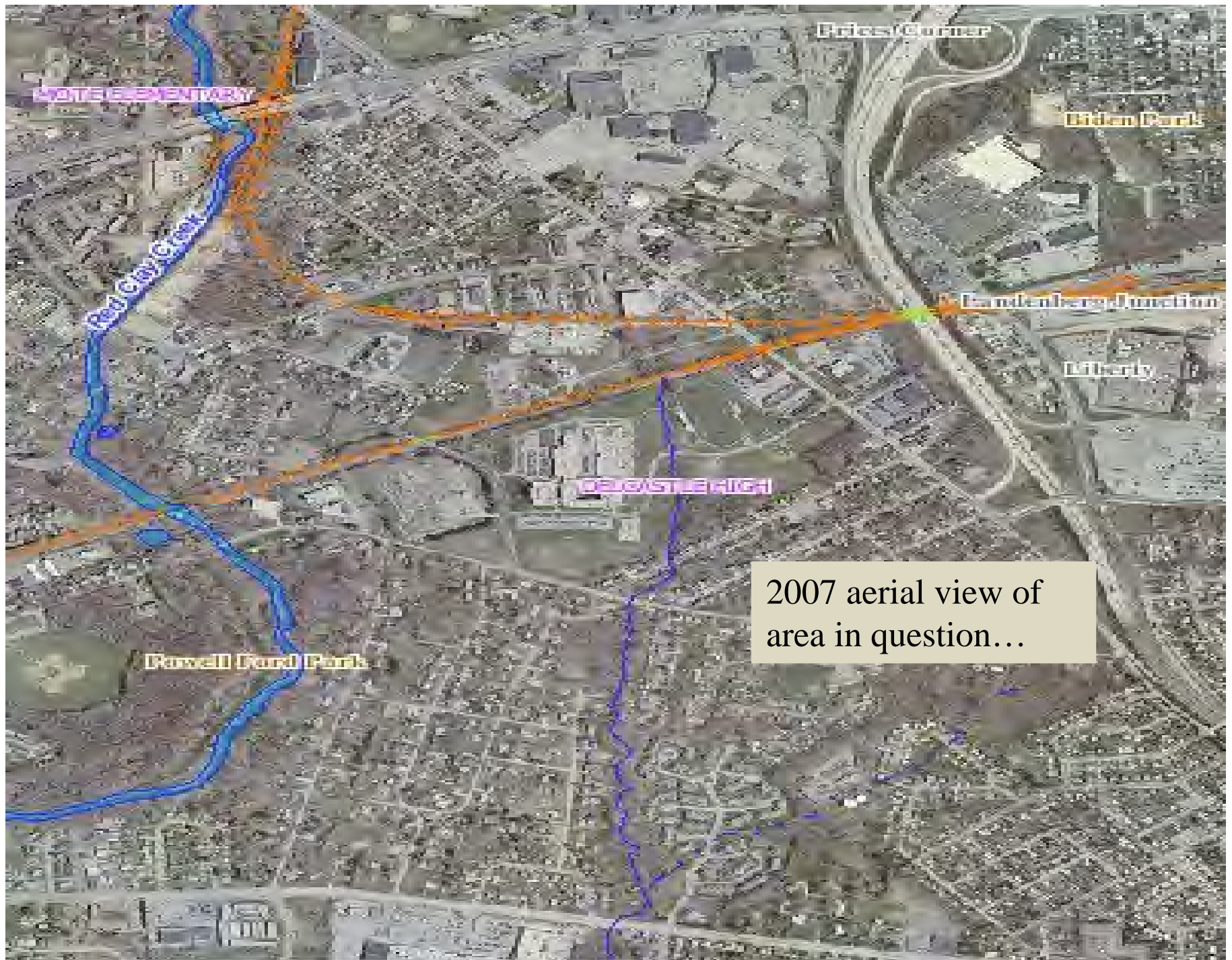
map of greater
Wilmington, the
present Delcastle High
campus was the
Edwina Kruse school
for Colored
girls...more on that
another day...

The encampment
covered a triangular
area with the towns
of Newport,
Marshallton, and
Stanton forming the
connecting points.

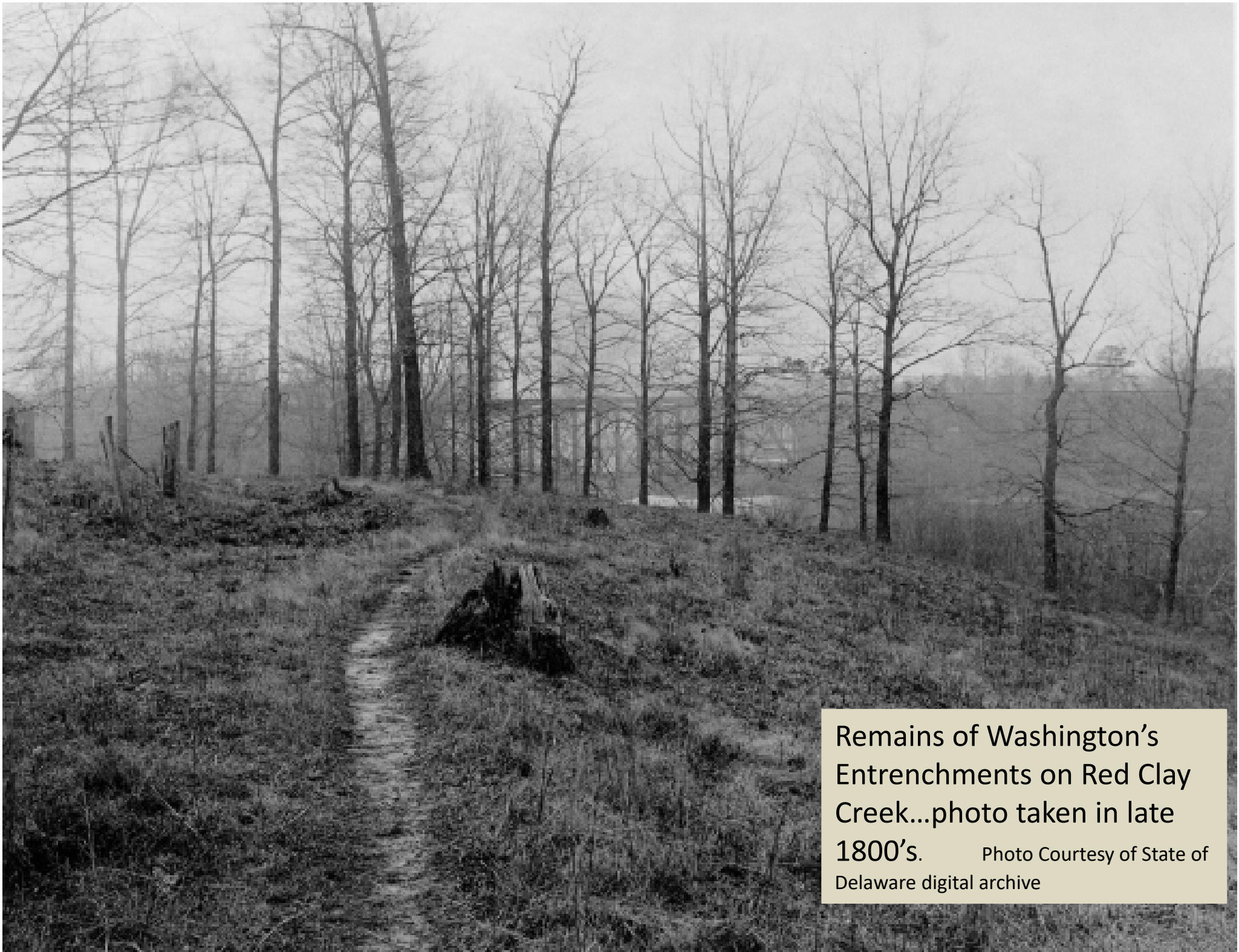




1937 aerial view of area in question...please note R.R. tracks and "cougar run"



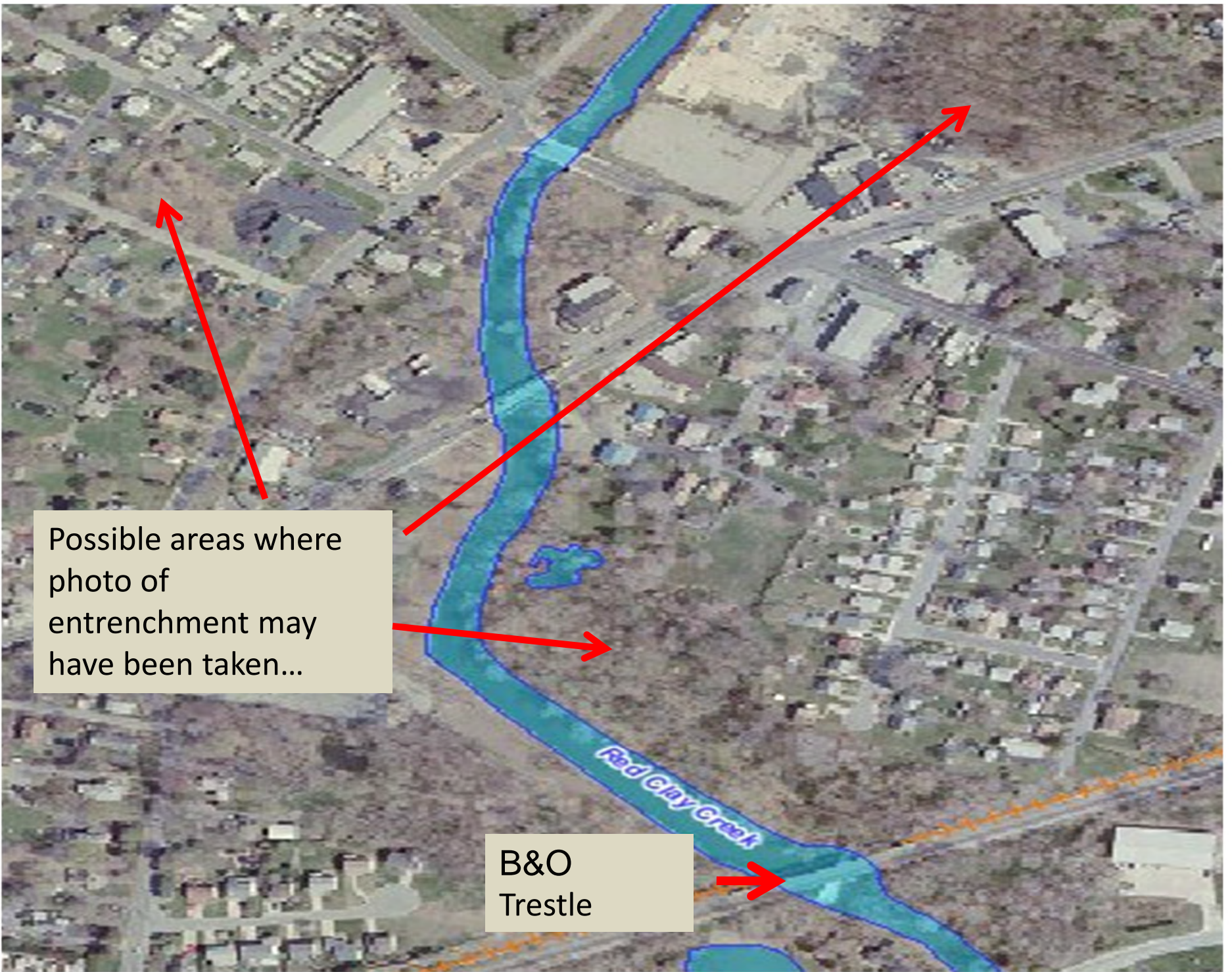
2007 aerial view of area in question...



Remains of Washington's
Entrenchments on Red Clay
Creek...photo taken in late
1800's. Photo Courtesy of State of
Delaware digital archive

Please note B&O RR trestle in distance...this land mark can be used to judge location of photo.






Possible areas where photo of entrenchment may have been taken...

B&O Trestle

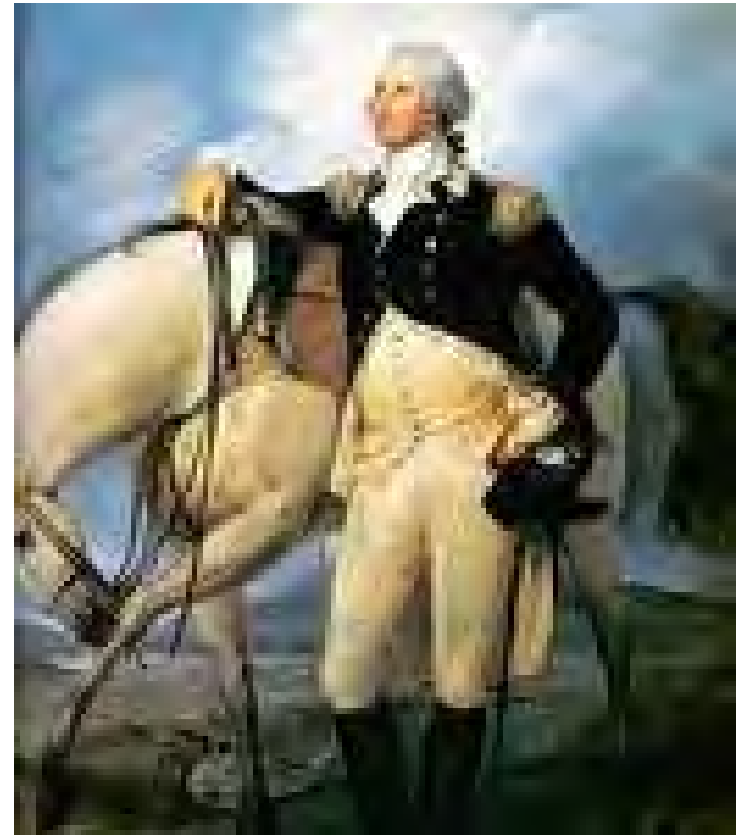
Delaware's Historic Markers

- **WASHINGTON**  **S**
EARTHWORKS [NC-33] -- The American Army numbering about 11,000 encamped between Red Clay Creek and Newport September 6 to 9, 1777. Earthworks constructed for the protection of the camp are plainly visible on the edge of the hill overlooking the creek.
LOCATION: Marker is missing. North end of Bridge which crosses Red Clay Creek at Marshallton (Lincoln Highway), Wilmington.



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 Knos 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) Sept. 6th, 1777

". . . The General officers are to meet at 5 o'clock this afternoon at the brick house by White Clay Creek, 12 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 Seasonable excuse be given for the Same.

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)."

CHAS POPE

Lt. Coll. D E" (Delaware Eegiment)

(Letter, General Washington to General Heath)

"Head Quarters Wilmington (endorsed Newport)

(Sunday) 7th Sept 1777

". . . Since General Howes debarkation in Elk Eiver 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."

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."

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."

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*."

General Order

"Head Quarters, Burmingham, Septmr 9th 1777

"Intelligence having been received that the enemy, instead of advancing towards Newport, are turned an other 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 Bum today, are as soon as possible to be served with a gill a man."

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.

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."

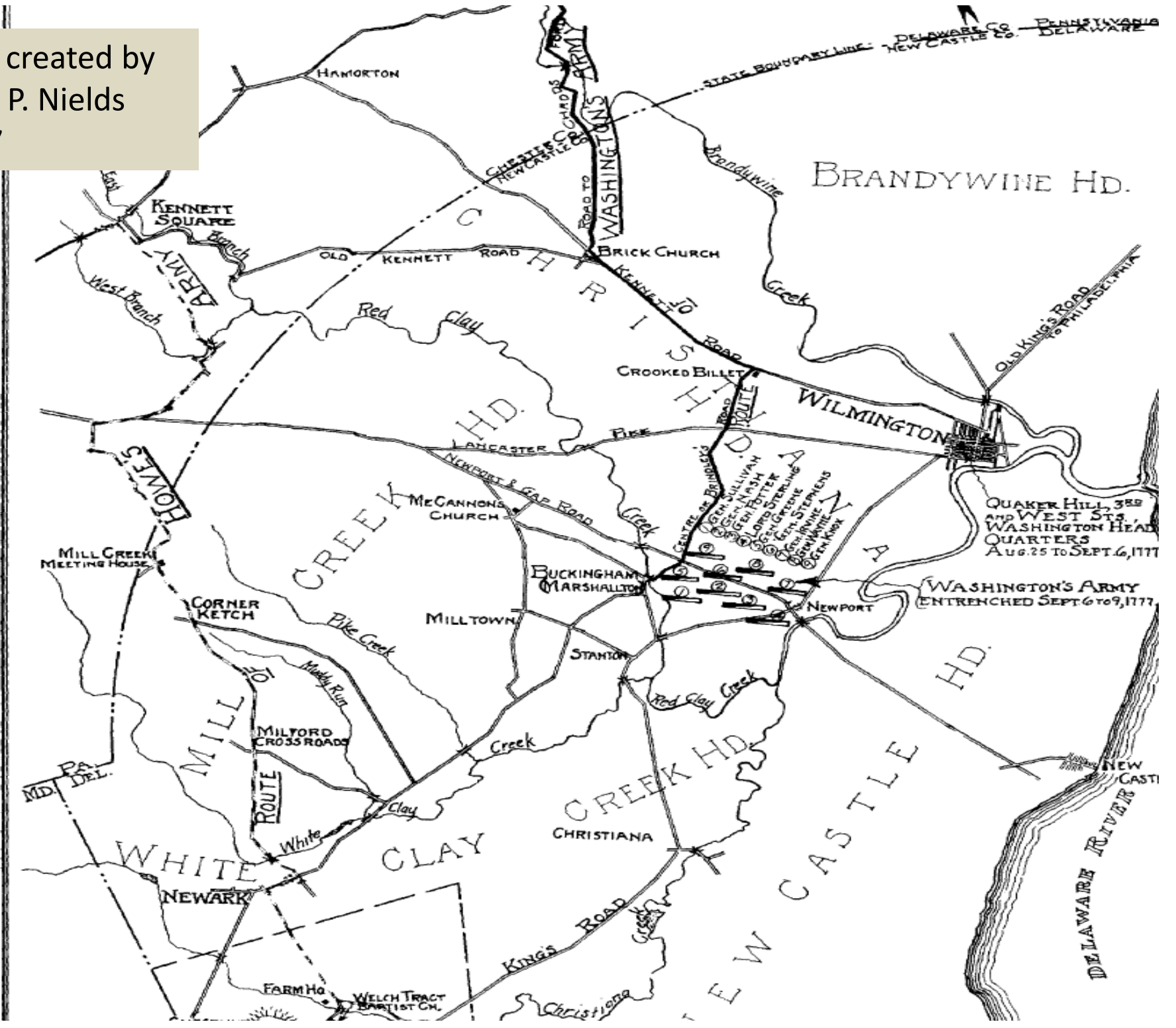
Order Book of Captain Robert Kirkwood of the Delaware Regiment

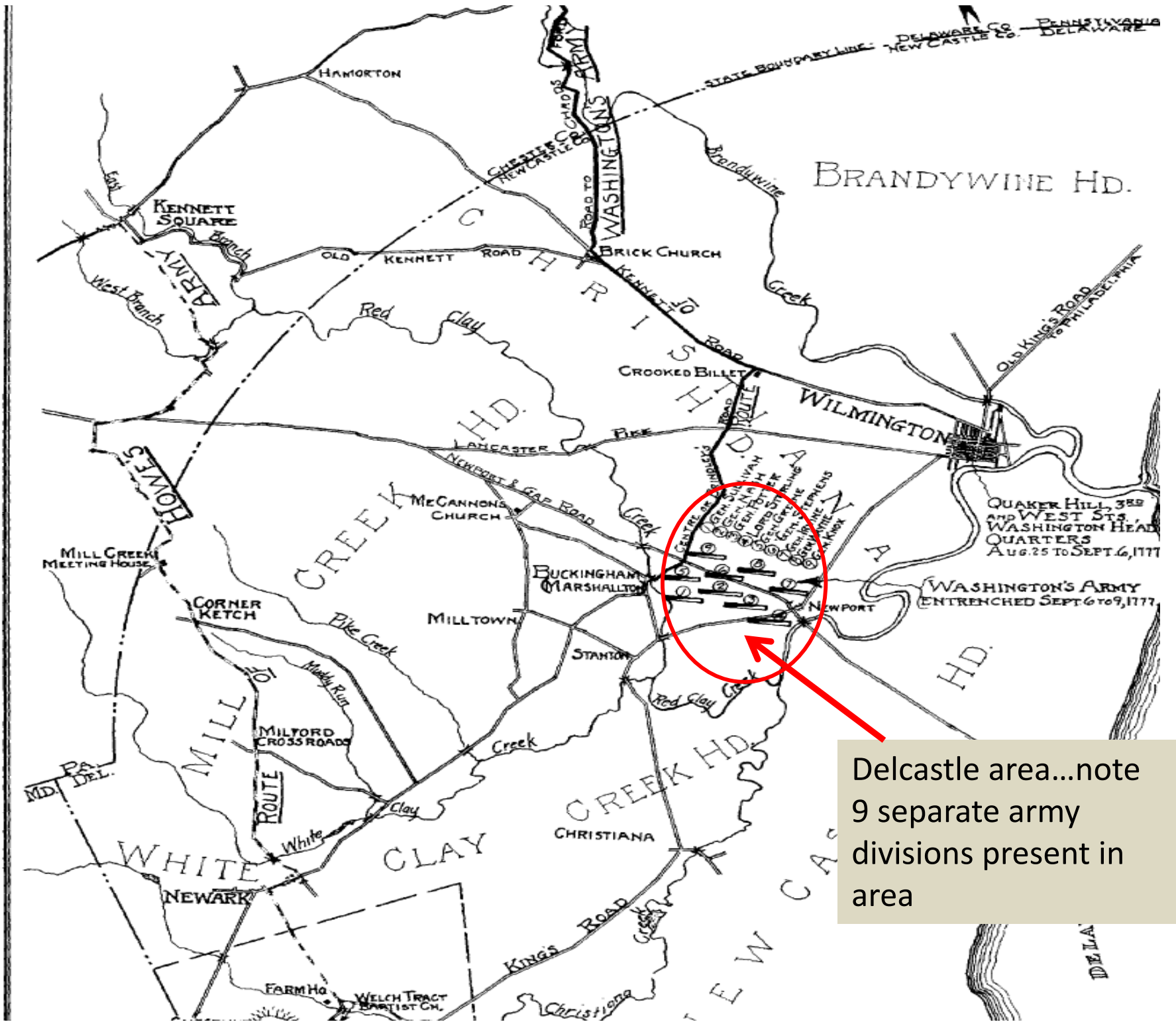
"Monday Sepr 8th 1777 (Near Newport) Struck tents & went to work in the lines, lay there till 3 OClock
Tues
day morning the 9th then March'd about 10 miles to Chadds ford & forded over & there encamped."

This is Washington's speech to the troops as they lay in defense of Red Clay:

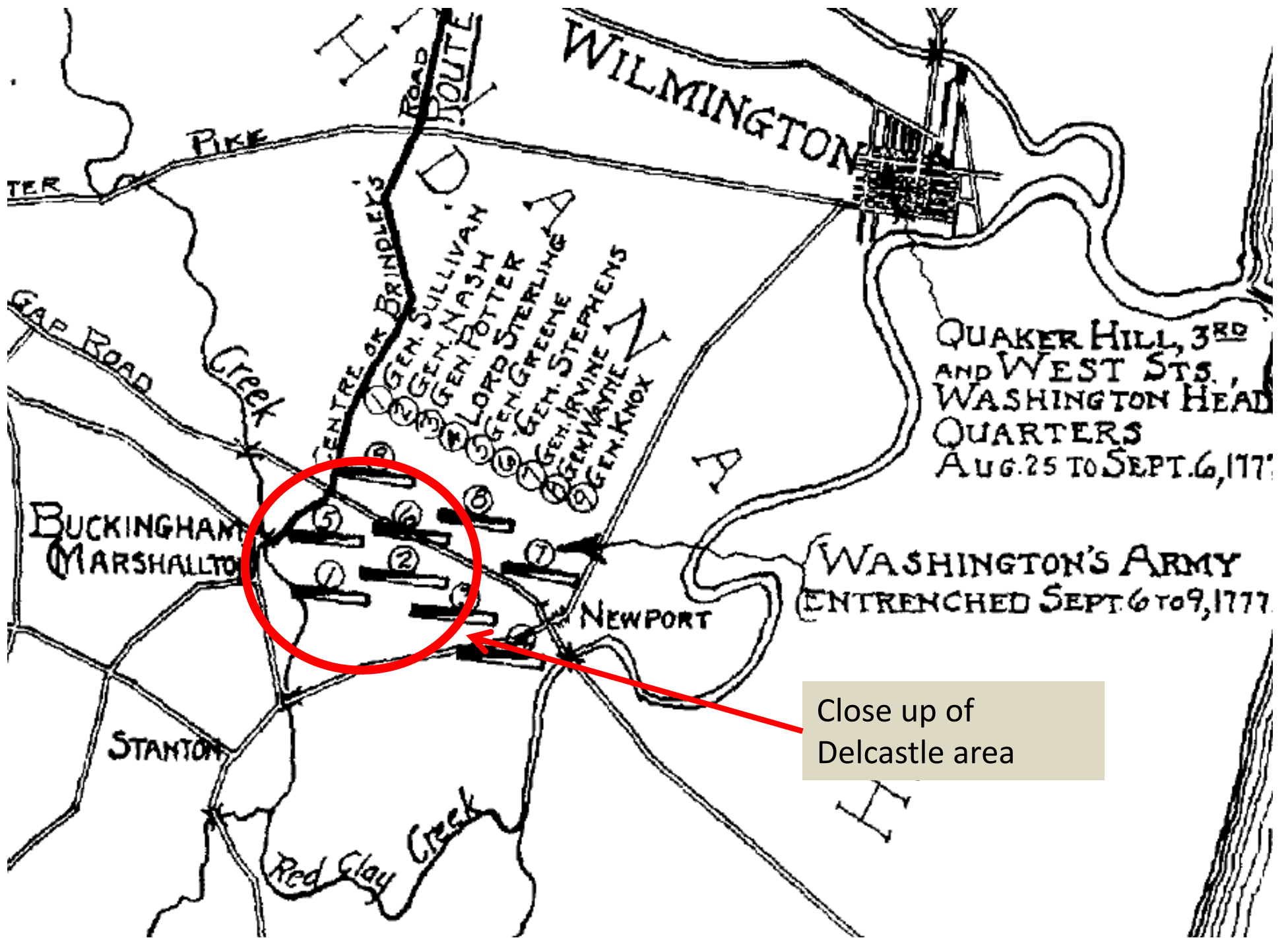
"Who is there without ambition, to share with them, the applauses of their countrymen, and of all posterity, as the defenders of Liberty, and the procurers of peace and happiness to millions in the present and future generations? Two years we have maintained the war and struggled with difficulties innumerable. But the prospect has since brightened, and our affairs put on a better face. Now is the time to reap the fruits of all our toils and dangers! If we behave like men, this third Campaign will be our last. 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. There glory waits to crown the brave, and peace, freedom and happiness will be the rewards of victory. Animated by motives like these, soldiers fighting in the cause of innocence, humanity and justice, will never give way, but, with undaunted resolution, press on to conquest."

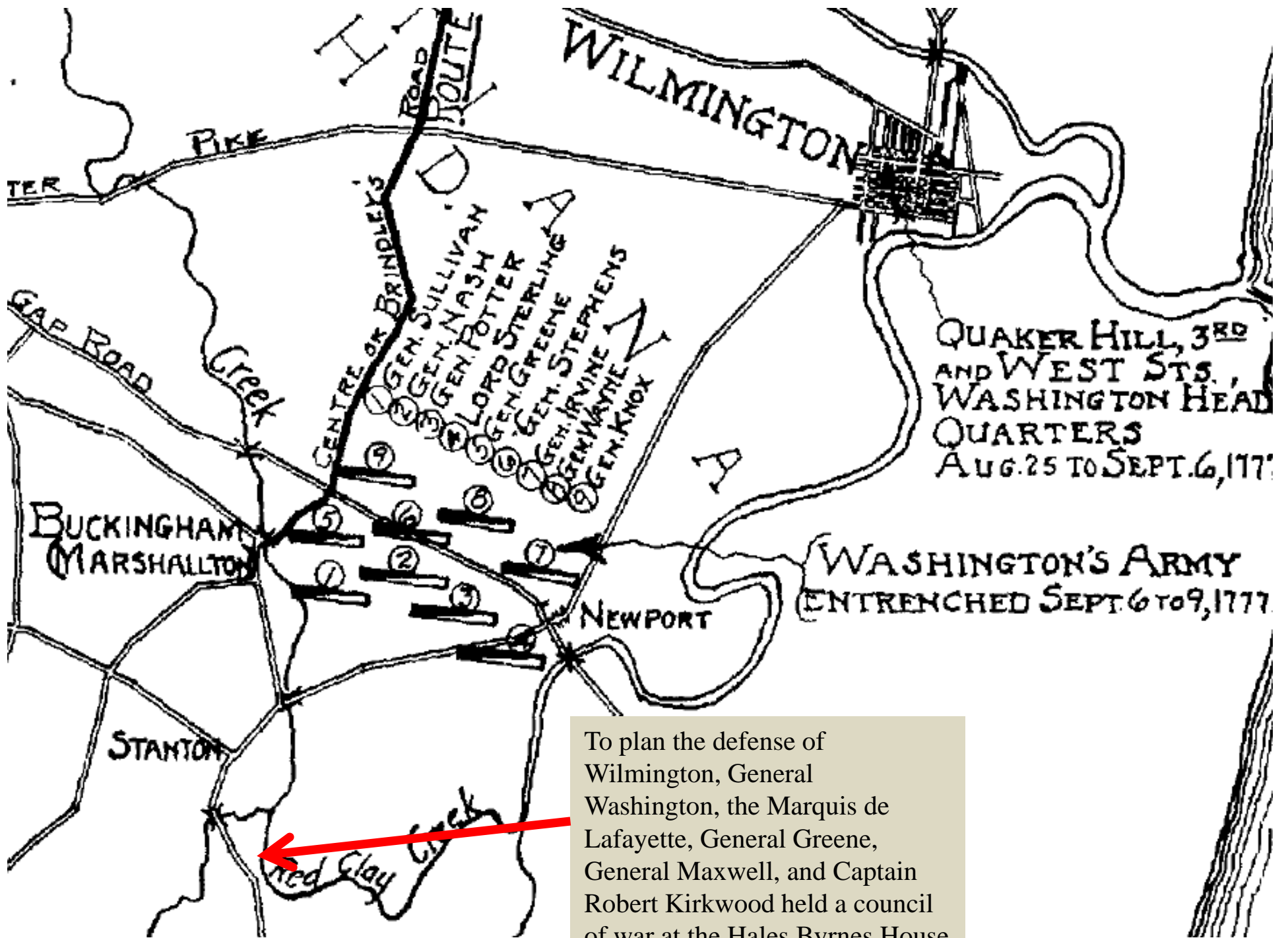
Map created by
John P. Nields
1927



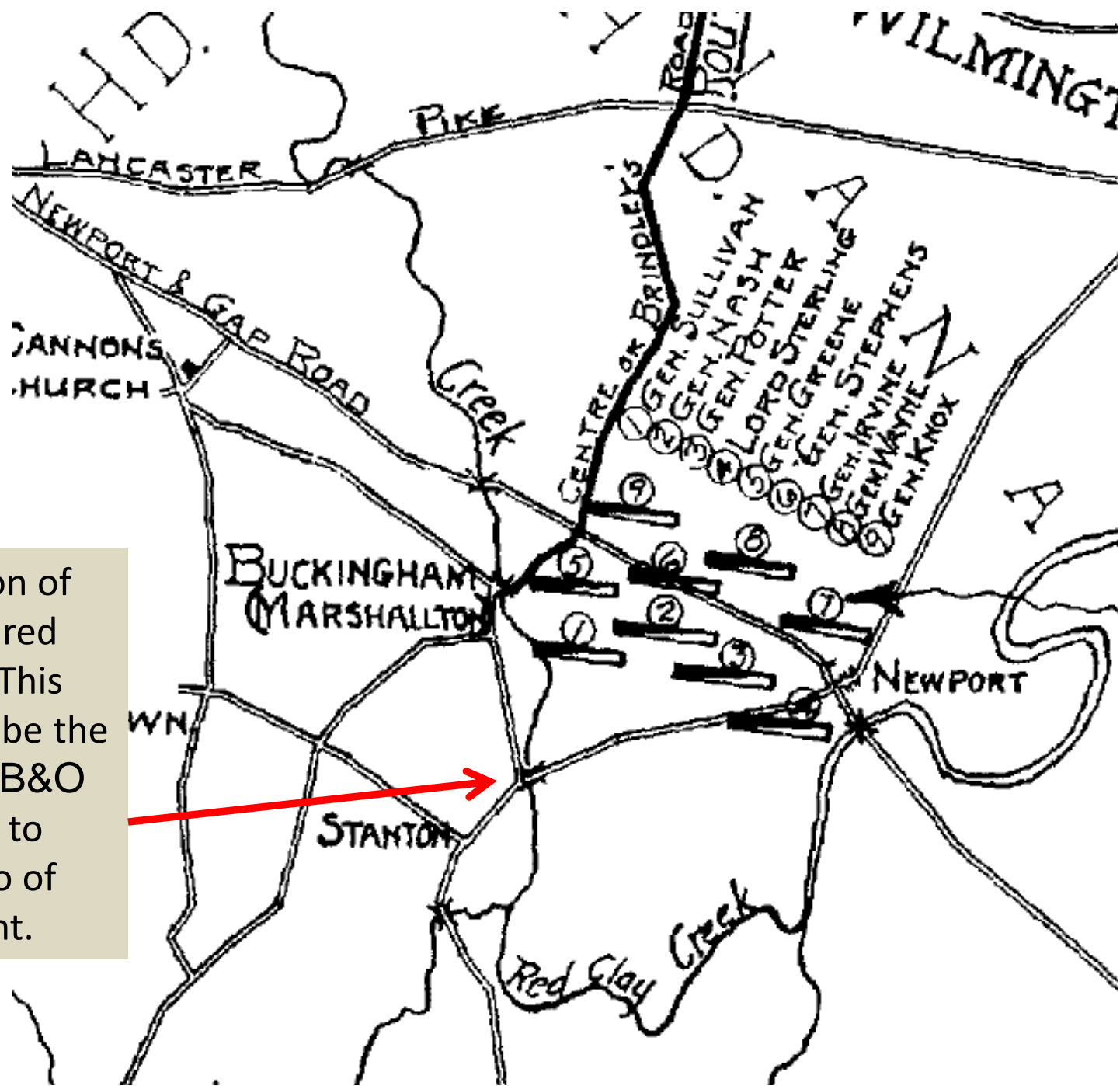


Delcastle area...note 9 separate army divisions present in area





To plan the defense of Wilmington, General Washington, the Marquis de Lafayette, General Greene, General Maxwell, and Captain Robert Kirkwood held a council of war at the Hales Byrnes House



Note location of bridge over red clay creek. This would later be the location of B&O trestle used to locate photo of encampment.

B&O Trestle over Red Clay with former covered bridge in foreground.





B&O Trestle and current Kiamensi road bridge (no longer a covered bridge)

Delcastle

The site was in operation for about 40 years, but comes from a corner of history (and society) not often celebrated. The facility in question was the State Industrial School for Colored Girls, and it sat on Newport Gap Pike, just south of the CSX (B&O) railroad tracks south of Price's Corner.

August 14, 2018

Red Clay Creek American camp

Primary Sources

Chilton, John

1931 The Diary of Captain John Chilton, 3d Virginia Regt., Killed at Battle of Brandywine, September 11, 1777. In Lyon G. Tyler, ed., *The Old Virginia Line in the Middle States During the American Revolution*, pgs 283-289. *Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, Volume XII. Richmond Press, Inc., Richmond, Virginia.

Pg. 288 Tuesday 26th Marched to Wilmington then took a road which Lead N. Westward and marched 2 Miles, encamped called camp near Wilmington. The enemy it is said have Landed and about 3000 last night took Possession of Iron hill, which is about 12 Miles from the place of their Landing and about 12 Ms. from us[.] His Excellency the Genl. has gone down to observe their position. our Light horse took 2 of theirs[.] Lay at this camp 1 day an abundance of rain fell the last night and part of this Mornng. (27th).

28th Genls. Green[e] & Stephens Divisions Marched, returning to Brandywine [Village], a small Town chiefly consisting in Mills & Taverns 8 or 10 Mills being within 100 Yards of each other[.] a Navigable Creek runs up to the Mills[.] the Water is brought in canals from Brandywine Creek. there appears to be a smart fall of waters just above the Mills[.] about ½ Mile father on the South side of a gradual hill is Wilmington[.] the front or Road Street is regular enough: paved within the rails[.] the town is built irregularly towards the West – they have a Markett house[.] a Navigable creek makes to the Southwd of the Town (called Christeen [Creek]) 4 Ms father **an inconsiderable Town, Newport.** here we saw some fine Girls not much unlike our first Virga. Nymphs. **This day I was Capt. of Rare [rear] Guard and stopt about a Mile out.** about 12 Oclock, Colo Hollingsworth came by us wounded in the cheek or neck; about 2, the Commissary's Wagons returned by them & some with them heard that the Ministerials were advancing within a few Miles of us (scary creatures)[.] said there were 16,000, which our Soldiers as much believed as they believe George III and his corrupt Ministry have the right to tax America – here we staid 'till 4. – Marched not more than a Mile, when we stopt till after sunset, when we were relieved and joined the regt.[.] lay in the woods without Pitching Tents.

29th **Moved about half Mile pitched tents to dry them at 4 in afternoon moved about 3 Miles to the Eastward pitched Tent and staid this night.** Within these three days near 50 Prisoners have been brought in. The enemy seem to be bold but very inprudent. should they continue to act as they have done a few Months will give them into our hands without fighting. We have better than 1000 Men near them who will I expect give a good account of those bloodsuckers, who shall be guilty of the temerity of Leaving their Camp for the atrocious crime of robbery, rapine, & murder –

30th Augt. Officer of the day. staid here this day & night.

Sunday 31st. **continued still in Camp[.] this Camp was in Christeen Hundred.** our scouters took 7 Ministerials & one deserted to us. Colo. Heath who was with the advanced detachment came in for provisions &c.

Monday Sepr 1st a detachment was ordered out this eveng but did not go by reason of Rain Till Tuesday Mornng.

2^d Sepr Capt. Ashby,

Page 289

Lt. White, & Lt. Peyton went with the detachment. Colo Heath dd not sett out 'til this Mornng, this is a close cloudy mornng.

3d Sepr. The enemy advanced as high as the red Lion[.] they were met by our advanced party under Colo. Crawford – the engagement was pretty hot. several on each side were wounded and some slain[.] strong reinforcements were sent which obliged our Men to give Ground. the enemy returned. Our Division (Genl. Stephen's) went to our alarm posts staid a few Hours and returned to camp pitched our Tents & slept heartily.

4th Sepr. staid in camp[.] at Night **I was on Guard at a Bridge Red Clay Creek about Mile & half off and near our alarm post** with 2 Sugs. 2 Serjeants 2 Corpls, & 40 privates[.] a peacable Gd this night – Lieut. Davis of the Pennsylvania Troops & Ensign [Cornelius] Westfall both of Scotts Brigade were with me[.] **early this Morning came down about 600 Men Viz. 200 first with the Qr. Masters bearing entrenching Tools. Colo. Febigar [sic] with 200 & Colo Willis with 200[.] they were followed by Waggons loaded with axes with which they felled trees plashing them to form a line by. – about 2 in afternoon Majr. Genl. Sullivans Division came down & took possession of the Lines we had been Plashing.** It consists of between 2 & 3000 effective Men. at night was relieved by Capt. Stephen Ashby.

6th Sepr. G. Stephens Division Marched by Sun[rise], about a Mile[.] **Encamped at Camp near Newpt. staid here this night as we expected the enemy would be in motion early in the Morning of Sunday[.]**

7th. [Sept] every necessary order was given to be in readiness. – the deserters from the enemy inform that on Saturday Mornng they drew 5 days provisions which were to serve them to Philadela. or Wilmington at least. that their Tents and heavy Baggage were sent back to their Ships.

Monday 8th Sepr. the enemy approached as near as Newark. We all lay at our alarm posts. Tuesday 8th [9th?] at 2 in the morning we had orders to march[.] took the road from Newport to Wilmington 2 Miles then turned to almost North about 2 Ms more[.] we then marched West course 10 Miles S.W. & crossed Brandywine Creek and encamped on the heights of the Creek.

Clark, Joseph

1854 Diary of Joseph Clark, Attached to the Continental Army from May, 1778 to November, 1779.
Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society 7 (1853-1855):93-116.

Pg. 97:

“...Next day, Sunday, I fortunately got in a covered wagon and rode 12 miles to Brandywine [Village]; from thence I went on foot through Wilmington and found the division 4 miles below that place. Monday, September 1st, began the mustering, and pushed on the business as far as possible. On Wednesday [September 3rd], while I was mustering a regiment, about 8 o'clock in the morning we were alarmed, and struck tents immediately. The whole division, with Genl Greene's, marched about 2 miles down, and posted ourselves, waiting for the enemy till some time in the afternoon, and as they did not come, we returned to camp again. From the time the enemy landed at the Head of Elk, we had our scouts out, composed of enlisted troops and militia, who engaged them at different times and with different success; sometimes

killing and taking some of the enemy, and sometimes sharing the same fate themselves. On **Saturday, 6th of September, the whole army moved nigher to the enemy; headquarters was moved from Wilmington to Newport.** On Saturday night all the heavy baggage was sent off to Brandywine, expecting next morning to make the attack, but the enemy did not come on, **so nothing was done this day except fortifying; parapet walls were thrown up to a great extent, trees felled to secure the flanks and important passes.** By Monday morning [September 8th] everything was in readiness for an engagement; the troops marched down and took

Pg 98:

post in the entrenchments and went through the exercise. The reserve corps took their station at a proper distance and performed several maneuvers. After waiting till about 10 o'clock, the troops from the lines marched to their old camping ground. I went to Newport and from thence to my quarters. Soon after I left the town, I heard the alarm gun fire. When I got home, word came by a light horseman that the enemy were advancing very fast. Our troops were kept in readiness and a large scout sent out under the command of Gen'l Maxwell, who in their route fired several times upon the enemy. As our situation near Newport was such that the enemy could not pass that way to Philadelphia without meeting our army, and thereby bringing on a general engagement, they, this night (Monday night,) by a by road, with good guides, got privately round our right wing of encampment and was advancing towards Philadelphia by the Lancaster road; we, however, got word of it in time, and the whole army moved at 1 or 2 o'clock at night [early morning of September 9th]. Fortunately for me, one of our Brigade Major's being unwell, lodged in the same house I did. **Word was sent to him in the night of the movement of the army; he woke me up and we came off in the night and joined the army before day. We continued on the march till past noon and crossed Brandywine at Brumadgham [Birmingham] and posted on the heights by the main road,** where the enemy must advance if they come this way. On the 10th, preparation was made for a stand; and on the 11th, about 8 o'clock in the morning, the alarm gun fired, and in a very short time the cannonading began...."

Ewing, George

1928 *George Ewing, Gentleman: A soldier of Valley Forge.* Thomas Ewing, Yonkers, New York.

Pg 21:

22nd [August] we marchd to Elizt Town where we sold our plunder at Public vandu and then marchd to join the Grand Army in Pennsylvania the English Troops having landed at the Head of Elk and coming up to possess themselves of Philadelphia [.] **We joind the Grand Army at Brandywine Mills here we lay a few days & then marchd to Newport where we threw up Breast works and lay there three or four days** but the Enemy Moveing to our right made us change our ground and move to Chads Ford on Brandywine [.]

Hill, Baylor

1995 *A Gentleman of Fortune: The Diary of Baylor Hill, First Continental Light Dragoons, 1777-1781.* John T. Hayes, annotation and editor. Volume 1. The Saddlebag Press, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Thanks to Tom McGuire for my hard copy of this

Pg 64: [August 25] Set out from Phila. to Chester where we took Dinner, from there to where our Regt. encamp near Wilmington

Pg 65: Tuesday the 26th Augt 1777

Set out in the morning thro' Wilmington where we join'd with others of the Lt. Horse from there all of us with Genl Washington & others to Christeen from there on two or three large hills down towd. the head of Elk a viewg. the Enemys Ships then went to Elk; & in the afternoon, went to a forge about 3 or 4 miles from Elk

27 Our regt. ret'd. to Elk in the morning, and I with Capt. Smith of the Lt. Horse went down abt. 2 miles on the Elk River whe[re] we stay'd till noon, when w[e] ret'd and went about 3 m[iles]

Pg. 66: Wednesday the 27th Augt 1777

to Jos. Thomas's from there I was sent to the X roads near greys Hill where I stay'd till morning [.]

28 Went down on our way to Elk & mett our Malitia coming out of Elk to Greys Hill and occationed by the Enemys marchg out and they took possession of Elk & soon made there [sic] appearance[e] at Greys Hill and we all retreated to Cooches Mill, wher from there to M Mcentire's where we qrd we had a ma[n] of our Troop Taken (McIntosh)

29 Went to Cooches mill & at night ret'd to Mcentire's

Pg 67: Saturday the 30th Augt 1777

Went to Cooches mill in the Morning & ret'd at noon to Mcentires makg out Pay & must'r Rolls

31 Went to Cooches mill & ret'd to Mcentires at ni[ght]

Sept. 1st 1777

At Cooches Mill & ret'd to McEntire's at night. [13 hi ?]

2.. at day Break I set out with 13 Lt Horse to join a party of footman to go down to Evans mill to bring of[f] some stores there . after getting all from the[re] we went to an other place abt. 2 miles & took all from there & went to Mr. Hollingswo[rth] that night.

Pg. 68: Wednes Sept 3d, 1777

Set out from there in the morning & went to a Tavern at [on crossed out] the X road one mile from where we came from; where we stay'd till abt 11 OCo (& heard all the firing of an Engagt near Cooches mill) when we set out be way of New ark & came a xcross our Army at White Clay Creek Bridge where we stay'd all night

4 set out from there in the afternoon and went about a mile to a farmers House on Red Clay Creek where we took our Qrs

5 **at 12 oCo I was sent out with a party Lt Horse to reconitre from Hd Qrs to Ogle Town** from

Pg 69 Friday the 5th Sept 1777

there to **Christeen Bridge and ret'd to Hd Qrs at White Clay Creek Bridge I then Ret'd. to Camp, on Red Clay Creek** – (discover'd nothing).

6th at Camp, all day (fishing)

7 Set out to where our Baggage was left near Wilmington and took the Charge of it & Reliev'd Lt. Watts ----

8 Went to Wilmington to see Mr Adam Bennett & to give him letters to carry to Virga & retd. to Camp Baggage

9 **Set off[f] with all the Baggage to Dilworths Tavern, at the sign of Ye Pennsylvania Farmer whe[re] we took encampt, that nig[ht]**

Pg 70: Wednesday the 10th, Sept. 1777

Set out from Dilworths Tavern about 8 miles on the Road to Phila. where we encamp

11 Set out from to the Tavern at the sign of the seven stars from there to an old field near Peter Hills mill, 5 miles from the 7 Stars – (This day was an Engt. near Meeting House, where there was many on both sides Killed & wounded. {margin comment “this day was the greatest Cannonade I ever heard, rore of Small[Arms]}”}

McMichael, James

1892 Diary of Lieutenant James McMichael, of the Pennsylvania Line, 1776-1778. *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* 16(2):129-159.

[Contributed by Colonel William P. McMichael]

[Lieutenant James McMichael was a native of Scotland, where, prior to his emigrating to Pennsylvania, he had received a liberal education. On the breaking out of the War for Independence he was residing in Lancaster County, and in April of 1776 entered the service as sergeant in Captain John Marshall's company, Pennsylvania Rifle Regiment, Colonel Samuel Miles commanding. He was promoted second lieutenant of Captain John Clark's company, Pennsylvania State Regiment of Foot, Colonel John Bull commanding, in March of 1777; this regiment, on July 6, 1777, was known as the Thirteenth Pennsylvania Regiment, and November 12, by resolution of Congress, was placed on the Continental Establishment, and he was promoted first lieutenant of the same company and regiment, Colonel Walter Stewart commanding, to date June 20, 1777. Lieutenant McMichael was transferred to the Seventh Regiment, Colonel William Irvine commanding, July 1, 1778; to the Fourth Regiment, Colonel William Butler, January 17, 1781; and, finally, to the First Regiment, Colonel Daniel Brodhead, January 1, 1783, and discharged at the close of the war. In 1789 he is registered as a member of the State Society of the Cincinnati of Pennsylvania. Several years subsequent he sailed for Scotland, but the vessel on which he was a passenger never reached her destination. It is known that Lieutenant McMichael kept a diary during the whole period of his service with the army, but that portion dating from the time General Washington left Valley Forge, to his discharge in 1783, unfortunately cannot now be found.]

Pg 147: August 25. — At 3 a.m. tents were struck, at 4 a.m. marched W.S.W. past Marcus Hook, and 2 p.m. encamped in Brandy-

Pg. 148: wine Hundred, New Castle county, within 5 miles of "Wilmington.

August 26. — At 4 a.m. we marched from our encampment to Brandywine Bridge, near Wilmington, when turning N.N.W. we proceeded a few miles and encamped near the east bank of the creek. Here I was ordered on Court Martial duty. Here we also learned, that the enemy had landed and were encamped at Iron Hill.

August 27. — Received orders this evening to **march next day to White Clay Creek.**

August 28. — **We marched from our encampment at 4 a.m. and proceeding thro' Wilmington, Newport and the Rising Sun** [there was a tavern by this name in modern Stanton], **encamped in White Clay Creek Hundred, where we learned the enemy were near Newark** and had driven in the Militia. Here we lay under arms, without tents or blankets, as the wagons were left in the rear. A detachment of 150 men were sent out from Gen. Weedon's brigade to observe the movements of the enemy. We expect a general attack to-morrow.

August 29. — **At 3 a.m. we marched from White Clay Creek, proceeded N.E. a few miles up the Lancaster road, then turning marched to the heights of Newport, on Red Clay Creek, where we took post. 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.**

September 2. — An express arrived at 6 a.m., with news that the enemy were advancing. **We struck tents and marched to an advantageous height at the intersection of the roads leading to Newport and Wilmington, and remained under arms to 3 P.M., when we learned that the enemy had advanced to the heights near Christina Bridge and halted.** Orders were issued to cook our provisions and to be ready to march at a moment's warning.

September 6. — **This morning I was sent out to reconnoitre; proceeded to Newport, thence to the Artillery Park, and**

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afterwards reached our advanced detachment, where I was informed that in the late skirmish three of our regiment were killed and one wounded. At evening returned to camp.

September 7. — Agreeably to General orders of the day, the officers' chests and heavy baggage were sent over Brandywine, and everything prepared for the expected attack tomorrow.

September 8. — At 3 a.m. the General [Quarters] 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 [3 miles] to an eminence near Mr. McCannon's [McKenna'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. One of our officers on picket, deserted his post and was immediately arrested.**

September 9. — **At 4 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 county, crossed the Brandywine and turning S.E. encamped in the township of Birmingham, being extremely fatigued for want of rest and severe marching.**

Pickering, Octavius

1867 *The Life of Timothy Pickering, by His Son, Octavius Pickering*. Vol. 1. Little, Brown & Company, Boston.

Page 154:

Journal – “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 far to the north of Newport.

Letter of --- Innes, Camp Red Clay Creek, to [St. George] Tucker, September 7, 1777. Photostat. Original in College of William and Mary. MS 6729.1

“My Dear Tucker

Camp near red clay creek, Sept. 7th, 1777

You were once a punctual correspondent – lately you have neglected me much – Tho I can assure you, you have not been singular in that Respect. I have experienced a similar Conduct from most of my friends.

The two armies are now almost in sight of each other - preparations are making on both sides for a Genl. action with the Utmost Industry – our whole army consists of about 20:000 men are drawn up in Battalio – Every disposition of Infantry, Cavalry, and artillery is made for action. We are determined to conquer or die and tomorrow in all probability will be the Fatal Day that may determine the fate of America – I have made up my mind for Death – the next time you hear of m, I expect I shall either be happily in the arms of Victory – or in the world of Spirits – our whole army animated by a consciousness of the sacred cause they are engaged in – we are in high spirits and glow for action –

Our arms are still victorious in the northern Department. Mr. Burgoyne has lately met with three such severe blows [?] as have nearly cost him a considerable part of his army – a Quantity of Baggage Cannon and other Military stores – besides as an additional misfortune the Indians and disaffected Inhabitants are daily deserting him – and making their peace with us – and I do really think I may assert witho[ut] incurring the Imputation of being over Sanguine – if matters in that Quarter are managed with proper spirit and prudence Canada will once more be ours – my greatest fear is that when our eastern Brethren have remov’d the Evil from their own door they will want the proper spirit of ambition to --?-- --?— conquests – and will return home again to their former --?—state – I should really be unexpressively happy to have a full acct. of the public and the private in Virga. so far as --?—they interest me....”

5th Virginia Regiment, Private John McCaulley (Pension Application S 7207)

“...From thence we marched to Germantown from thence to the Cross roads – **from thence we made various turns and marches until we got to a place called Ridley [Red Clay] creek. The enemy approaching we marched and crossed the Brandywine at Chads ford [sic: Chadds Ford]** and on the 16th of September [sic: 11 Sep 1777] faught the battle of Brandywine....”

Bucks County Militia, Private Robert McWhorter (Pension Application S 16,195), 1832.

“...that he entered the service at Middletown, a little above Lancaster Pennsylvania, as a drafted man for two months in the year 1777 in the company of Capt. Jas. Crouch in the Regiment commanded by Col. [Robert] Elder of the Pennsylvania militia – **the company to which he belonged was employed as a scouting party, and traversed the country about Wilmington and Newport, he assisted to pull up & destroy a bridge over Whitely Creek, at the time the army**

under Genl. Washington was encamped on the hill near the Bridge – the said bridge was destroyed for the purpose of retarding the progress of the British under Genl. Howe, who who (sic) was then in pursuit of Genl. Washington, - he was discharged from this tour of duty after he had served 14 days....”

Chester County Militia, Private William Hutchinson (Pension Application S 5570), 1836.

“...Third [tour]. In the month of July 1777 near the latter end of the month I again joined the army as a volunteer in a Company commanded by Capt. Allen Cunningham of New London Cross Roads Chester County which was about to take the field, we the first day to Wilmington Delaware and was lodged that night in the Academy – next morning proceeded to Chester at which place our company was lodged in the Court House & continued there untill the main army under the command of Genl. Washington came from Philada. on their march to meet the enemy who it was understood had made a landing at Turkey Point on the Chesapeake – next day after the main army passed through Chester, our Captain with his comm. and agreeable to orders, marched back to Wilmington, **our company was then ordered to work on a hill in the rear of the town in the construction of a Fascine Battery at which we continued for either three or four days & were then ordered to the banks of the Red Clay Creek & were employed in cutting Timber to create all possible obstructions in the public roads and high ways for the purpose of preventing the passage of the enemy in their march to Philadelphia** which it was generally understood was their design & destination – **from Red Clay Creek we passed through Chester County by a circuitous route to a place then called the Turks Head now known as West Chester** the seat of Justice of this County....”

Chester County Militia, Private Robert McMillen (Pension Application W 7426), 1832.

“...he was hired as a substitute for the term of two months by Captain Allen Cunningham to serve in the place of some other man, whose name he does not know nor did he then, as the Captain last aforesaid was then in the habit of hiring substitutes for men who would not fight against the common enemy. **he was then emmediately marched to Wilmington in the state of Delaware from thence to newport, there staid under arms 5 or 6 days** – thence to the Battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] – but was not in the actual Battle but at a short distance as a Flanking party in sight....”

Chester County Militia, Private Borick Bechtel (Pension Application S 23,542), 1832.

“...He does not remember now how long they stayed at Old Chester, **but from that place the Regiment marched to Newport in the State of Delaware where we lay encamped for a week. After leaving Newport and passing through a number of small places the names of which he cannot possibly at this distance of time bring to his memory, they joined the regular army on the morning of the 11th of Sept. the day upon which the battle of Brandywine was fought. On this day they were once fired upon by the British Artillery, when he is very positive the whole regiment ran. They were stationed during the battle on the left wing of the army, and on the north bank of Brandywine creek, where they remained during the action.** The battle being decided they retreated on the evening of the 11th to old Chester....”

Chester County Militia, Private William White (Pension Application R 11,448), 1833.

"...Entered the service under Colonel Taylor and Capt. Symons, he does not recall the name of the Lieutenant, at Doctor Chesters at the cross road seventeen miles from Chester and marched to

Chester the same day, where they drew their arms, **that he was then marched to Wilmington and thence to Newport (he [?] does not forget the name of the place, about six miles from Wilmington, then toward Elk) in the night and back again in the morning. they (men) then marched to Brandywine where the battle was fought, they were camped below Chadd's Ford.** The battle was on the 11th of September, they were ordered to retreat 9 o'clock the same night to old Chester, which place they reached next morning. All along the road they met with the wounded and the dying, it was a dismal time, there was a hard frost that night. The next night they marched to Darby, the next night to Philadelphia: during the retreat they received no provisions, it was said the waggons would be on, but they saw nothing of them...."

Cumberland County Militia, Private Francis Macgarvey (Pension Application S 13,848), 1833.

"...From Carlisle to Lancaster from there to Chester and there **to Wilmington in Delaware State and then to Newport. Lay there on day, and then we were sent out to Genl. Wayne's Camp, about 100 of us were set on picket Guard, ordered to stay to sunrise next morning; next morning we went to the camp and it was vacated; we then took the road and followed them to Wilmington, then we were ordered to have 2 or 3 days provisions ready for a March. In the morning following we marched to Genl. Washington's Army on the Brandywine, and were stationed near to Chad's Ford...."**

Lancaster County Militia, Private Neal McKay (Pension Application S 22,899), 1832.

"...In the month of September 1777 orders came for a class of militia to turn out for a tour of two months duty. I was drafted as a private in the company of militia commanded by Capt. Ambrose Crane. We were marched to Lancaster and from thence to Chester and from **thence to Wilmington (Delaware) and from thence to Gibson's Mill on Brandywine River.** There we joined Col. Moore's Battalion from Philadelphia. **From thence we marched to Newport (near the line of Penna.) Then we were marched back to Wilmington and from thence to the Battle field of the Battle of Brandywine.** Myself and six others of our company were out as an advance guard at the time of the action during the forenoon of the day of the action. In the afternoon we joined our regiment. We were then drawn up in the line of Battle. We were in Gen. Potter's Brigade. When the British troops came up about one half of our Brigade retreated, leaving about fifteen hundred men with whom I remained. Gen. Potter was much agitated and became almost furious at the desertion of his men. He ordered us to stand our ground until we were ordered to retreat – which we did after the Battle. We were marched back to Chester the same night. Genl. Washington commanded in that Battle. Genl. Lafayette was there; I was not more than twenty rods from him when he was wounded. Genl. Maxwell was there; his Brigade suffered very severely...."

Philadelphia County, Private Frederick Axe (Pension Application S 23,521), 1833.

"...**thence marched to Newport, thence back to Wilmington, thence to Brandywine, thence about two miles further down, thence up to the battle ground – was in the battle which took place 11 Sept** – theirs was the first company in the regiment, General Potter was Brigadier General, Armstrong Major General...."

Westmoreland County Militia, Private George Lose (Pension Application S 22,368), 1832.

"...In the summer of 1777 I performed a militia tour of two months under Col. Dunlap & Major Cunningham, Captain Whelton(?) and Lieutenant John Crawl we marched from the town of Chester in Pennsylvania **to Wilmington in Delaware from thence to Newport our Battalion was**

in the front mostly, the English went to Brandywine, we followed and our Regiment was attached to the Brigade of Genl. Maxwell who commanded us in the battle....”

New Castle County Militia, Isiah Mann (Pension Application R 6872), 1834.

He resided in Ogletown, New Castle County, when he enlisted. “...**he went from Ogletown to Newport where General Washington entrenched. We remained at Newport but a short time when General Washington left his entrenchment and met the enemy at Brandywine** where we had an engagement with them, in which battle he was engaged. I was also engaged in a slight skirmish near New Garden Meeting House the day before the battle of Brandywine....”



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Historical Marker Application

Proposed Marker Information (required info is in red)

Suggested Marker Topic:

Date of Application:

Preferred Location (*Please provide the exact address or GPS Coordinates*):

Town:

County:

The reason this location was chosen:

Property Information

Public or Private Property:

Owner's Permission (*if private*):

Your Contact Information

Full Name:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Organization (*if applicable*):

Street Address:

City:

State:

Zipcode:

*Please complete both sections found on [Page 2](#) of this application before submitting.
Incomplete applications will not be reviewed or considered.*

Funding Statement

Historical markers are funded on an individual basis by local legislators. Financial support must be obtained from a local Senator or Representative *after* the marker application has been approved by the Delaware Public Archives. Once support is gained, the legislator will notify the Archives and we will move forward with the production of a marker.

DPA Office Use Only

Date Received:

Approved by:

Date Approved:



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Historical Marker Application Supplemental Information

Please include or attach the following information

1. Statement of Significance

On an attached sheet or document or in the text box below, please explain in a thorough but concise typed statement why the proposed subject is important and why it should be commemorated with a marker. Please refer to the [guidelines and criteria](#) when writing your statement.

2. Background Information

On an attached sheet or document or in the text box below, please provide a typed list of relevant facts, notes, and/or information pertaining to the proposed marker subject. Please include citations to the resources you used to research this topic. This information will be helpful in researching and writing the marker text. Please note: DPA staff will edit proposed marker text to conform to research and format standards, including space limitations.

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