

THE SECOND TROOP PHILADELPHIA CITY
CAVALRY.

BY W. A. NEWMAN DORLAND, A.M., M.D., F.A.C.S.

Major, Medical Corps, U. S. Army; formerly First Lieutenant and
Surgeon of the Troop (April 1, 1898–November 10, 1903.)

[For references see pages 377–380.]

(Continued from Vol. L, page 189.)

In June of this year the Regiment officially named Robert Wharton⁶⁰¹ as Colonel and John Smith⁶⁰² as Major,⁶⁰³ which was done in accordance with the following notices:—⁶⁰⁴

“THE OFFICERS.

“Of the Uniform Corps of Militia of the City and County of Philadelphia, are requested to meet at Barnum’s hotel,⁶⁰⁵ south side of Market-street, between Seventh and Eighth-streets, on Friday the 15th inst. precisely at 5 o’clock, P. M. when a proposition for the celebration of the 4th of July will be submitted to their consideration.”

“June 12, [1810].”

Two days later appeared the following:—⁶⁰⁶

“CAVALRY ELECTION.

“In consequence of the Cavalry of the City and County of Philadelphia, having voluntarily agreed to form a regiment for the purpose of better perfecting themselves in the evolutions appertaining to Cavalry movements: I am directed by the board of officers, to give public notice, that an election will be held at the County Court House, the corner of Sixth and Chestnut-

streets, on Thursday the 14th inst. between the hours of two and seven o'clock in the afternoon, for the purpose of choosing

One Colonel

One Lieutenant-Colonel, and

Two Majors,

to serve for one year. Officers commanding troops who have, or may join the association (previous to the election) will make out correct lists of their active members, and hand the same to the judges before the election is opened.

“ROBERT WHARTON

“*Senior Captain.*

“june 4, [1810].”

A special Troop meeting followed the election in order to perfect the arrangements for participation in the Fourth of July celebration:—⁶⁰⁷

“CAVALRY ORDERS.

“The members of the Second City Troop of Cavalry, are requested to attend a meeting of the said Troop at Nice’s Tavern, this day the 18th inst at 8 o’clock.

“By order of the Commanding Officer.”

“june 18, [1810].”

Two weeks later the following appeared:—⁶⁰⁸

“REGIMENTAL ORDERS.

“The First Regiment of Pennsylvania Cavalry attached to the First division of Pennsylvania Militia, will parade on Wednesday the fourth of July, at eight o’clock in the morning. The front on Third-street and right on Pine street, displaying northwardly.

“By order of the Commandant,

“J. R. INGERSOLL,⁶⁰⁹ *Adjutant.*”

It is interesting to read the individual Troop Orders for this notable event.

374 *The Second Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry.*

“FIRST TROOP OF LIGHT HORSE.⁶¹⁰

“The First Troop of Light Horse, will parade completely equipped, at half past six o’clock A. M. on the fourth of July, in the vacant lot, on the north side of Spruce-street, between Third and Fourth-streets, whence they will proceed and take their station, in the line of the first regiment of Pennsylvania Cavalry, in celebration of the day.

“The honorary members are respectfully invited to dine with the Troop on the fourth of July, at half past two o’clock at Mendenhall’s tavern, below the Falls of Schuylkill.

“By order of the commandant,

“JAMES L. CUTHBERT,”

“*Orderly Sergeant.*”

“july 2, [1810].”

CAVALRY ORDERS.⁶¹¹

“The Second City Troop of Cavalry will parade completely equipped, at 7 o’clock, A. M. on the fourth July, in Seventh-street, between Market and Chestnut-streets, from whence they will proceed and take their station in the line of the First Regiment of Pennsylvania Cavalry, in celebration of the day.

“SAMUEL ALLEN

Orderly Sergeant.”

“july 3, [1810].”

TROOP ORDERS.⁶¹²

“Philadelphia, June 28, 1810.

“The Fourth Troop of City Cavalry will, with usual glee and increased numbers celebrate the National Jubilee on the 4th of July.

“On that day the Troop will parade at 7 o’clock in the morning, in the square west of Ninth Street and between Walnut and Locust-streets, provided with nine rounds of blunt Cartridge; the Cavalry Band will Parade with the Troop for the first time. The commandant confidently anticipates an exhibition of good

order, discipline and appearance not often to be excelled.

“After performing the usual military duties in conjunction with the other Corps in Celebration of the day, the Troop will take up the line of March to the falls of Schuylkill, where they will partake of the festive Board.—A detachment of Artillery will honor the occasion with the usual Salutes from two 4 Pounders commencing with Seventeen Rounds, on the reading of the Declaration of Independence by General BARKER, who is appointed to that service.

“JOHN SMITH, *Commandant.*”

“June 30, [1810].”

This celebration was one of more than ordinary interest. Thirty-five years had passed since the founding of the Nation, and the precarious relations with Great Britain had aroused the public enthusiasm. In addition, the first appearance of the new Cavalry Regiment in celebration of the National Holiday excited considerable interest. The following account is preserved:—⁶¹³ “Wednesday being the thirty-fifth Anniversary of American Independence, was celebrated in this city with every demonstration of patriotic enjoyment. The day was ushered in by the Artillery and bells—and the Military exercises, which were numerous attended by the Volunteer Corps of Cavalry and Infantry, were given in a very splendid and soldier-like style.” The various military bodies observed their usual anniversary dinners in the afternoon, that of the First and Second City Troops being held at the Falls of Schuylkill, as was also the dinner of the Fourth Troop. The following account of this dinner is on record:—⁶¹⁴ “On Wednesday the 4th inst. the First and Second City Troops of Cavalry, after going through the different evolutions in honor of the day, marched to Mendenhall’s tavern, below the Falls of Schuylkill—and after dinner drank the following toasts—

“1. THE DAY,—on which freedom raised her standard. The principles of those who fought under it ought to be remembered by their descendants.

“2. The Memory of GEORGE WASHINGTON.

“3. The memory of the Heroes who achieved our glorious revolution—they will serve as models to future generations.

“4. The Federal Union of the States.—As they are bound together by Wisdom, may Faction never be able to break or untie the knot.

“5. The Constitution of the United States—resting on the purest principles of civil liberty and framed according to the profoundest maxims of political wisdom; may those who would alter its form or violate its dignity, no longer be permitted to enjoy the blessings of its protection.

“6. The President of the United States.

“7. The Judiciary Department;—The Guardian of the Laws and the Protector of Property. While it remains firm and independent, we shall have at least one bulwark against the enterprises of wicked and designing men.

“8. Foreign Nations.—While we endeavor to preserve the blessings of peace, let us not sacrifice our honour to avert the calamities of war.

“9. The memory of ALEXANDER HAMILTON—a profound statesman and a valiant soldier.

“10. COMMERCE; once free and flourishing, now fettered and languishing—As WE have forgotten our rights and dignity it would be absurd to expect foreign nations to remember them.

“11. The Patriots of Spain.—If Despotism should drive them from Europe, Liberty will welcome them in America.

“12. The First Regiment of Pennsylvania Cavalry—it will ever be ready to serve its country.

“13. The American Fair.

“VOLUNTEERS.

“Our Minister in France—May the arm of a Free People strike terror to the heart of a tyrant.”

At the dinner, on this occasion, of the Third or County Troop of Light Horse, commanded by Major Hughes, at the old Rising Sun Tavern,⁶¹⁵ the following appeared among the toasts:—⁶¹⁶ Harmony among the troops composing the regiment of cavalry—3 cheers.

“Colonel Wharton—3 cheers.”

In the spring of 1810, the commission of Captain Francis expired. In January, 1809, he had become a member of the firm of Willing and Francis by the voluntary retirement of Thomas Willing on December 31, 1808, and owing to the increasing pressure of his business obligations he refused to continue in active service.⁶¹⁷ He was succeeded in the command of the Troop, on May 7, 1810, by his First Lieutenant, Thomas Cadwalader.

REFERENCES.

⁶⁰¹ *Robert Wharton*, great-uncle of Colonel *Thomas Allen Glenn*, of the reorganized Second City Troop, and son of *Joseph Wharton*, (born in Philadelphia, August 4, 1707; died in Philadelphia, July 27, 1776) and *Hannah Ogden* (born in Philadelphia March 16, 1720-21; died in January, 1791), widow of *John Ogden* and daughter of *Robert Owen* and *Susanna Hudson*; was born, on January 12, 1757, in the District of Southwark, Philadelphia. He learned the trade of hatter, but early entered mercantile life in the counting-house of his half-brother, *Charles Wharton*. While still young he became President of the famous Fox-hunting Club of Gloucester, New Jersey, and still held that office when the club disbanded in 1818. In 1796, the Governor appointed him one of the Aldermen of Philadelphia, and in this year he succeeded in quelling a formidable riot. He was a Federalist in politics, and, on October 16, 1798, he was unanimously elected Mayor of the City by the City Councils to succeed *Hilary Baker, Jr.*, who died of yellow fever on September 25, 1798. He was fifteen times elected to the Mayoralty (1798-99, 1806-7, 1809-10, 1814-19; 1820-24), his last election being in the Autumn of 1824. In 1785, he was a private in the First Company, Sixth City Battalion Colonel Joseph Dean; in 1786-8, he was a private in the Second Company, First Battalion, Colonel Francis Gurney. On June 19, 1798 he became a member of the First City Troop, and was

378 *The Second Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry.*

elected to the captaincy on August 15, 1803, which office he held until June 14, 1810, when he was elected Colonel of the First Regiment of Pennsylvania Cavalry. On the same day he was placed on the Honorary Roll of the Troop. On December 17, 1789, he was married, by Bishop White, to *Sarah*, daughter of *William Chancellor* and *Salome Wistar*, by whom he had two sons, *Joseph* and *Robert Owen*, both of whom died early in life. In 1790, he became a member of the Schuylkill Fishing Company of the State in Schuylkill, and became its Governor in 1812, which office he continued to hold for sixteen years. From 1792-95, he was a member of City Councils. In February, 1812, he was elected Brigadier General of the First Brigade, P. M., which office he held until 1814, when he resigned his commission and reenlisted in the First City Troop when it was ordered into service below the city. He was, at this time 57 years of age. General Wharton was an original member of the Washington Benevolent Society—his name heading the list of original subscribers—and was at one time its Vice-President. He died at his residence, South Third Street near Spruce Street, on March 7, 1834, when in his 78th year.

⁰⁰² *John Smith* was long prominent in the civil and military life of the city. From July 10, 1776, to January 30, 1777, he was a private in Captain Thomas Fitzsimmons' company of the Third Battalion, Colonel John Cadwalader, later Colonel John Mixon; on Aug. 18, 1779, he was a private in Captain Lazarus Pine's Second Company, Fourth City Battalion, Col. John Bayard, in active service; on Aug. 7, 1781, he was commissioned ensign in the Seventh Company, Fifth Battalion, Colonel John Shee; on March 23, 1786, he was commissioned First Lieutenant in the Seventh Company, Second Battalion, Col. James Read, and on April 23, 1789, First Lieutenant in the First Company, Fourth Battalion Col. John Shee. He reached the captaincy of the First Company of the Fourth Battalion in 1791; on May 3, 1792, he was elected Captain of the Eighth Company, Fourth Philadelphia Battalion, Colonel Shee; and, on June 2, 1794, First Major of the Second Philadelphia Regiment, Colonel John Barker. On Saturday, September 13, 1794, he resigned his Major's Commission because he was opposed to the Excise Law which was the cause of the Whisky Insurrection. On October 15, 1795, he was married, in St. Michael's and Zion Church, to *Elizabeth Turner*, on July 27, 1798, he helped to organize the Fourth Troop of Light Horse of the City, and, on Friday, December 14, 1798, was elected First Lieutenant of the Troop under Captain Thomas Leiper. He subsequently attained the captaincy (after 1801) which office he held until 1811. On March 4, 1801, he was Secretary of the Committee of Arrangements to celebrate Democratic Success in the election of Jefferson and Burr. In 1801, he was appointed Marshal of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, having his office at No. 23 High [Market] Street. He held this office until 1819, when he was succeeded by *John Conard*. On March 23, 1809, in his capacity as U. S. Marshal, a clash occurred between State and Federal rights at the Rittenhouse mansion (*Port Rittenhouse*) at 7th and Arch Streets, in which he was opposed by Brigadier General Michael Bright, who was subsequently tried and

The Second Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry. 379

sentenced for resisting the U. S. Government. On January 1, 1803, Mr. Smith was appointed Brigade Major of the City Brigade of Militia by Brigadier General John Barker. He continued to hold this office until April, 1812, when he was succeeded by *Robert M. Lewis*. On June 14, 1810, he was elected Major of the First Regiment of Pennsylvania Cavalry, at the same time holding the captaincy of the Fourth Troop, with which body was associated a cavalry band. On April 29, 1811, he was elected Lieutenant Colonel of the Cavalry Regiment; and, on Tuesday, August 25, 1812, attained the full command of the Regiment when Col. Wharton was appointed to the Brigadier Generalship. He held this command until the Regiment was disbanded in 1814. He was a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity.

⁶⁰⁸ *Scharf and Westcott*, vol. 1, pp. 544-45.

⁶⁰⁹ *American Daily Advertiser*, June 12, 1810.

⁶⁰⁶ In 1809, *David Barnum* left the *Shakespeare Hotel*, at Sixth and Chestnut streets, and opened a house, known as *Barnum's Hotel*, at No. 242 High [Market] street, on the south side between Seventh and Eighth Streets.

⁶⁰⁶ *American Daily Advertiser*, June 14, 1810.

⁶⁰⁷ *Ibid*, June 18, 1810.

⁶⁰⁸ *Ibid*, July 2, 1810.

⁶⁰⁹ *Joseph Reed Ingersoll*, the "Cicero of the American Bar," was the third son of the distinguished *Jared Ingersoll* (born October 24, 1749; died October 31, 1822), who was a member of the Convention which framed the Constitution of the United States; at one time Attorney General of Pennsylvania; subsequently U. S. District Attorney; in 1812, nominated for the Vice Presidency of the United States; and at the time of his death President of the District Court of the City and County of Philadelphia; his wife was *Elizabeth Pettit* (born December 26, 1758; died June 16, 1846, in her 88th year), daughter of Colonel *Charles Pettit* (born 1736; died September 4, 1806; at one time secretary of the province and state of New Jersey; Assistant Quartermaster General of the Continental Army; and delegate to Congress, 1785-87) and *Sarah Reed*, sister of President *Joseph Reed*. *Joseph Reed Ingersoll* was born in Philadelphia on June 14, 1786, and was graduated from Princeton college in 1804, receiving the first honor of his class. After reading law with his father, he was admitted to the Bar on June 7, 1807; he soon acquired a large practice and became known as an orator. In 1810, while a member of the Second City Troop, he was appointed Adjutant of the newly formed Regiment of Cavalry. He subsequently served through the War of 1812 in various capacities. In June, 1812, he issued the call for organizing the infantry corps of State Fencibles, and has been called "the father" of that organization; in 1814, he was chosen its First Lieutenant. The same year he commanded the Second Company of Washington Guards, and was with that company at *Camp DuPont*. In September, 1814, he was elected Major of the Regiment of Infantry which was stationed at *Camp Bloomfield*. On September 22, 1813, he married *Ann Wilcocks* (born November 13, 1781; died May 23, 1831), daughter of *Alexander Wilcocks* (born in 1742; died July 22,

380 *The Second Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry.*

1801), Recorder of the City of Philadelphia, and *Mary* (born March 10, 1747–8, died July 22, 1794), daughter of Chief Justice *Benjamin Chew*. By her he had two sons and a daughter, the former dying in infancy. Mr. Ingersoll was a member, at various times, of both Common and Select Councils of Philadelphia, being President of the former in 1823, and of the latter from December, 1832, to December, 1834. He was a Representative in Congress from 1835 to 1837, and again from October 12, 1841 to 1849. He was President of the Reception Committee for Henry Clay on August 24, 1839; and, on January 28, 1841, was one of the Managers of the Harrison-Tyler Grand Ball at the National Theatre, Chestnut Street. He was a member of the Committee of Arrangements for the re-interment of Commodore Decatur, in October, 1846; and, on November 30, 1846, was a member of the Committee appointed to provide for the Mexican volunteers. In 1852, he was appointed, by President Fillmore, Minister to England. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania from 1832 to 1868; a member of the American Philosophical Society, to which he was elected on July 15, 1825; a member, and, in 1837, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Athenian Institute; and President of the Academy of Fine Arts and of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. He was chancellor of the Law Association of Philadelphia from 1854 to 1857; and one of the organizers of the Philadelphia Club in 1833. He became a Trustee of Girard College in 1833. He was an active Whig. He died in Philadelphia on February 20, 1868, in the 82d year of his age, and was buried in St. Peter's churchyard. He was somewhat above medium height with a light complexion, bright blue eyes, auburn hair, small features, and slender, lithe and active frame. *Miscellaneous Publications of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania*, vol. ii; the daily papers of the times; and other sources of information.

⁶¹⁰ *American Daily Advertiser*, July 2, 1810.

⁶¹¹ *Ibid*, July 3, 1810.

⁶¹² *Ibid*, June 30, 1810.

⁶¹³ *Ibid*, July 7, 1810.

⁶¹⁴ *American Daily Advertiser*, July 7, 1810.

⁶¹⁵ The *Rising Sun Tavern* was situated on the east side of Germantown Road at its junction with the Old York Road, near the present intersection of Broad Street. In 1750, it was kept by A. Nice, and in 1777, it was burned by the British. Colonel *John Dover* kept it in 1785. It originally was a frame house 33 feet long and 26 feet wide; but subsequently a stone building 58 feet front and 28 feet deep was erected next to the frame building. The "rising sun" was a sign for various taverns in the city. Thus, there was a *Rising Sun Tavern* in Market Street above Front, which, in 1785, was kept by *Sarah Stimble*. *Doyle's Rising Sun Inn*, of 1824, was in Letitia Court, but was built long after Penn left America for the last time. There was also a *Rising Sun Tavern* at the southwest corner of Eighth and Lombard Streets, a very respectable house and well patronized. It was kept by *Eady Patterson*, who died in 1832.—*Scharf and Westcott*, vol. ii, p. 993.

⁶¹⁶ *American Daily Advertiser*, July 11, 1810.

(To be continued.)