While the British were in possession of the city of Philadelphia we find from Howe's Narrative that, aside from certain provincial corps raised, they obtained but "three troops of light dragoons, consisting of one hundred and thirty-two troopers, and one hundred and seventy-four real volunteers from Jersey, under Colonel Vandyke." From this obscure statement military writers have uniformly regarded these troops as a legionary corps under the command of Colonel Vandyke. The exceptional facilities afforded me in my research among the original muster rolls of the British provincials show that the "three troops of light dragoons" were independent organizations raised in Pennsylvania. The "real volunteers" were recruited exclusively in the lower counties of New Jersey and known as the West Jersey Volunteers, who were commanded by Lieutenant Colonel John Vandyke of Somerset County, New Jersey. A brief sketch of these cavalry troops will be of interest.

The First Troop of Philadelphia Light Dragoons was raised by Captain Richard Hovenden in Philadelphia in
November and December, 1777, and there mustered into the British service January 8, 1778.

Captain Jacob James's Troop of Light Dragoons was recruited by him in Chester County in January, 1778, and mustered at Philadelphia on the fifth of the following month—the officers being commissioned January 1, 1778.

The Bucks County Light Dragoons was recruited in Bucks County by Captain Thomas Sandford and mustered into the service of the crown at Philadelphia on April 24, 1778—the commissions of the officers being dated on April 1, 1778.

It is apparent from original manuscripts that these troops were organized into a squadron in May, 1778, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Watson, which formation was ostensibly retained until April 24, 1779. The service of this officer, or his christian name, I have been unable to ascertain. The staff was made up by the appointment of Rev. John McCloud as chaplain on May 2, 1778 to date January 1 of the same year; and on June 1, 1778, the appointment of Dr. John Beal, surgeon's mate to the Sixteenth Dragoons, as surgeon, was also announced in the general orders of the commander-in-chief.

On August 15 and September 7, 1778, the troops of Captains Hovenden and James, respectively, were attached to the British Legion then stationed at Kingsbridge, New York. The 25th of the following April Captain Sandford's troop was attached to the Queen's Rangers on Long Island, and afterwards transferred in South Carolina to the British Legion on October 25, 1780. With their respective commands these troops of cavalry sailed from New York December 26, 1779, with Sir Henry Clinton's expedition for the invasion of the South, where they participated in the siege of Charleston and the battle of Camden. Under the command of that intrepid and dashing cavalry leader, Lieutenant Colonel Banestre Tarleton, they were subsequently engaged in all the battles and skirmishes that the British Legion took part, including the battles of Cowpens
and 'Guilford Court-House, until they were surrendered prisoners of war by Cornwallis at Yorktown on October 19, 1781. They were shortly after released on parole, and last musterered with the British Legion April 24, 1783, at Huntington, Long Island, when the majority of them was transported to and settled in the maritime provinces of Canada.

**Muster Roll of the Troop of Philadelphia Light Dragoons Commanded by Richard Hoovenden Captain Taken at Philadelphia 10th January 1778.**

**Captain.**
Richard Hoovenden, com. 7 Nov. 1777.

**Lieutenant.**
Samuel Chapman, com. 7 Nov. 1777.

**Corn. & Adjutant.**

**Quartermaster.**
Thomas Walbank, com. 7 Nov. 1777.

**Sergeants.**
1. John Tuck, enlistd 7 Nov.

**Corporals.**
1. Charles Steward, enlistd 10 Nov.
2. Patrick Wade, " 1 Dec.
3. Thomas Royle, " 19 Nov.

**Trumpeter.**
Francis Miles " 23 Nov.

**Private.**
Daniel Williams, 7 Nov.  27 Dec.
Frederick Myers, 7 Nov.  27 Dec.
Robert Colley, 7 Nov.  William Dullaven, 3 Jan. 1778
William Allis, 8 Nov.  Patrick Connelly, 3 Jan. 1778
William M'Colleston, 8 Nov.  Thomas Martin, 7 Nov. 1778 discharged by Sir W Erskine 8 Jan.
Loyalist Muster Rolls, 1777–1778.

Privates (continued).

John Cavender, 8 Nov. Barnabas Connor, 7 Nov. '77 dis-chg'd by Sr W Erskine 8 Jany.
Joseph Ozburn, 10 Nov. Thomas Dennis, 7 Nov. '77 dis-chg'd by Sr W Erskine 8 Jany.
John Burns, 10 Nov. Mordica Bolderson, 7 Nov. '77 dis-chg'd by Sr W Erskine 8 Jany.
James Anderson, 16 Nov. Robertson Welch, 20 Nov.
Thomas Benderman, 25 Nov. Patrick Coleman, 26 Nov. Dennis Buckley, 16 Nov. '77 dis-chg'd by Sr W Erskine 8 Jany.
John Williams, 10 Dec. Andrew Scott, 26 Dec.

Philadelphia 5th February 1778

Mustered present in the within Company one Captain, one Lieutenant, one Qr. Master, two Serjeants, one Corporal,—Drummers, and thirty seven effective Men.

Attest

Ed Winslow
Muster Master General &c.

We hereby certify, That the Commission, Non-commission Officers, and private Men of this Company, were effective at the Times set against their respective Names in the within Roll: And that the true and proper Reasons are herein assigned against the Names of those who are at this Time absent.

Jacob James,
Captain.
Nath' Vernon Jr.
Lieut.
**Loyalist Muster Rolls, 1777-1778.**

**Muster Roll of a Troop of Dragoons Commanded by Jacob James Captain—Philadelphia Feb'y 1778.**

### Captain
Jacob James.

### Lieutenant
Nath'1 Vernon Jun't.

### Quarter Master
Isaac Smith Bullock.

### Serjeant
Caleb Hains, Jany 23.
Wm Dunn. Jany 6.

### Corporal
Isaac Green, Feb'y 3.

### Privates

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Rank</th>
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<td>Abrh Talketon</td>
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<td>Jany 1</td>
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<td>Thos Faris</td>
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<td>James Devinny</td>
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<td>Jese Bean</td>
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<td>Jno Mires</td>
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<td>Jno. Henderson</td>
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<td>John Hughina</td>
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PHILADELPHIA 5TH FEBRUARY 1778

Mustered present in the within Company one Captain, one Lieutenant, one Qr. Master, two Serjeants, one Corporal,—Drummers, and thirty seven effective private Men.

Attest.

Ed. Winslow,
Muster Master General &c.
Febry 5th 1778

We hereby certify, That the Commission, Non commission Officers, and private Men of the Company, were effective at the Times set against their respective Names in the within Roll: And that the true and proper Reasons are herein assigned against the Names of those who are at this Time absent.

Jacob James,
Captain.
Nath Vincent Jun.
Lieut.

MUSTER ROLL OF THE BUCKS COUNTY LIGHT DRAGOONS Commanded BY LIEUT COLON WATSON FROM 25TH DEC & FOR 24TH APRIL—BOTH DAYS INCLUSIVE BEING 162 DAYS.

LIEUT COLON.
Watson.

LIEUTENANT.
Walter Willett, with leave.

Cornet
Geo. Gerraur.

Surgeon.
Neal.

Quarter Master.
Ambrose Morrison.

Sergeants.
Robert McOy, on General Tryon’s Guard.
Isaac Patterson, John Creely.

Corporals.
Dan Martin, Esher Parent, Command’ Chiefs Grd.
John Murphy, on Gen’ Tryon’s Grd.
Private.

James Bennett, Gen Tryons Gd. Gideon Ware, John Williams, Command' Chiefs Gd.
Lawrence Bower, do. John Williams, Command' Chiefs Gd.
Benj English, Rich'd Stannin, Command' in Chiefs Gd.
John Elliott, Command' in Chiefs Gd.
James Fosh, Gen Tryons Gd. Tho' Hill, Gen. Tryons
Jacob Graff, do. John James Robinson
Morris Griffin, John Moore, Gen' Tryons Gd.
Philip Franklin, John Rouse, Confined,
Will' Griffith, Gen Tryons, Stophel Slaughter,
Michael Hays, do. Charles Power,
Sam' Hutton, In Provost. Hen' Power, Command' in Chiefs
John Rood, Command' in Chiefs Gd. Samuel Hare, Deserted 11 Nov.
Timothy Donnoly, Michael Kelley, In Provost,
Alburthus King, Deserted. Rich'd Leecher,
Daniel Smith, Gen' Tryons Bob' Godfrey, With ye Rebbels.
John Simmons, do. Dan' Callen,
John Thommas, Deserted 10th Nov. Rich'd Broadbent,
Thomas Townly, McCoy
Geo. Ulman, Gen' Hospital. Will' Westbrook Gen' Tryons Gd.
In' Wethercom, do. Francis Diman

N. B. Captain Sandford Prisoner with the Rebbels.

We hereby certify, That the Commission, Non-commission Officers and private Men of this Company, were effective at the Times set against their respective Names in the within Boll: And that the true and proper Reasons are herein assigned against the Names of those who are at this Time absent.

G. B. Geraur
Cornett
B. L'Dr.

The personnel of the officers from muster-in until muster-out, were:

Captain Hovenden's Troop—Captain Richard Hovenden; Lieutenants Samuel Chapman and Moore Hovenden; Cornets Richard McNally, Hugh Davis, Thomas Miller, Moore Hovenden and Samuel Chapman; Adjutant Richard McNally; Quartermasters Thomas Walbank and John Tuck; Volunteer Amos Chapman.
Captain James's Troop—Captain Jacob James; Lieutenants Nathaniel Vernon, Jr., Abraham Chapman, Michael Largin and Francis Gildart; Cornets Richard McNally, Charles Gildart and George Gray; Quartermasters Isaac Smith Bullock, Edward Richardson, John Miller and Caleb Haines.

Captain Sandford's Troop—Captain Thomas Sandford; Lieutenants Walter Willetts, George Geraur and Benjamin Hunt; Cornets George Geraur and Samuel Willett; Quartermasters Ambrose Morrison and John Hagan; Volunteers Samuel Willett, Abraham Chapman and Amos Chapman.