

ORDERLY BOOK OF THE  
SECOND PENNSYLVANIA CONTINENTAL LINE  
COL. HENRY BICKER.

At Valley Forge, March 29,—May 27, 1778.

EDITED BY JOHN W. JORDAN.

The dates of the birth and death of Col. Henry Bicker have not been ascertained, but it is known that he was married, as two of his sons, commissioned officers, served with him in the Third Pennsylvania Battalion of Infantry, Col. John Shee. His surname is found among the early Provincial residents of the city of New York. In 1755, he was commissioned Lieutenant of Captain William Skinner's company of Col. Peter Schuyler's New Jersey regiment, raised for one year of service for the defence of the frontiers. He was promoted captain, captured at Oswego, and was kept a prisoner of war for fourteen months. After his release, he was appointed Quarter Master of General Gage's regiment and served to the close of the war. In 1766, he was a resident of New Brunswick, N. J., where for a time he was in business as a hatter and later proprietor of the "Tree of Liberty," a favorably known inn of the town.

On the breaking out of hostilities between the Colonies and the mother country, Henry Bicker offered his services and was commissioned January 4, 1776, Major of the Third Pennsylvania Battalion of Infantry, Col. John Shee, recruited under the resolution of Congress, December 9, 1775, authorizing the raising of "four battalions more in the colony of Pennsylvania." The officers were principally Philadelphians, but the companies were filled up by recruits from Pennsylvania and the neighboring colonies. On June 11th, Congress ordered the battalion to New York, where it was assigned to the brigade of Gen. Thomas Mifflin, and began the construction of Fort Washington, under the

direction of Col. Rufus Putnam. Here they remained until the battle of Long Island, when they were ordered to New York, reaching there in the afternoon after the battle was over. The following day they were transported to the entrenchments at Brooklyn. On July 30th, they returned to New York, and later to their old encampment at Fort Washington. Walter Bicker, then Adjutant, and Henry Bicker, Jr., a Second Lieutenant of the regiment, were taken prisoners on the surrender of the fort. About three weeks prior to the investment of Fort Washington, Major Bicker was transferred to the Tenth Pennsylvania Line Infantry, Col. Joseph Penrose, and after a short service in this regiment, was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and assigned to the Sixth Pennsylvania Line Infantry, between the time Col. Magaw was a prisoner of war and the appointment of Col. Josiah Harmar to the command of the regiment. On June 6, 1777, Lieut. Col. Bicker was promoted Colonel of the Second Pennsylvania Line Infantry, and was in command of the regiment at the battles of Brandywine, Germantown and Whitemarsh, in which it lost heavily, and at Valley Forge, where it was in the First Brigade, Col. James Chambers commanding, of Wayne's Division Pennsylvania Line. The Executive Council of Pennsylvania having resolved to incorporate the Thirteenth Regiment with the Second, Col. Walter Stewart was appointed to the command July 1, 1778, Col. Bicker became supernumerary, and his name disappears from the service.

John Irvin, Adjutant of the Second Regiment Pennsylvania Line, entered the service January 20, 1776, as Ensign in the First Pennsylvania Battalion, Col. John Philip De Haas. At the expiration of his term of service he was commissioned First Lieutenant, Second Pennsylvania Line Infantry, and at the affair at Paoli was badly wounded. Promoted Captain-Lieutenant January 1, 1779, and Captain May 16, 1780, *vice*-Capt. Jacob Ashmead resigned. He was also Commissary of the commanding general and staff at New Windsor on the Hudson, New York, in March of

1781. Captain Irvin died at Pittsburgh, Penna., May 11, 1808, and was buried in the church-yard of the First Presbyterian Church.

The Orderly Book was presented to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania by the late Joseph E. Gillingham. It is in very good condition, with the original covers, and the fly-leaf is filled with autographs and writings, among them Capt. John Bankson, of the Second, and Lieut. Andrew Lytle, of the Fifth Pennsylvania Line, and these notes: "John Irvin, Adjutant, Orderly Book," and "Living at this date, June 29, 1816, of those mentioned in this book:

"Ensign Bloomfield, . . Gov. of New Jersey,

"Marquis de la Fayette, . in durance vile,

"Major Linnard, . . . Q. M. Gen. U. S. A."

#### ORDERLY BOOK.

LANCASTER Feby 26<sup>th</sup> 1778.

#### *Garrison Orders.*<sup>1</sup>

The same reasons which prevented his Excellency the Commander-inChief from determining on the Sentences of the Court Martial ordered by the Marquis de la Fayette, Major Genl. &c., apply against the proceedings of the Court Directed by Gen<sup>l</sup> Wayne in the Case of Lieuts. McMichael<sup>2</sup> and Dickinson.<sup>3</sup> His Excellency having return'd the order of Gen<sup>l</sup> Wayne for holding said Court, has been pleased to Direct that L<sup>t</sup>. McMichael & Dickinson be tryed by the Gen<sup>l</sup> Court Martial now sitting at this place, of which all persons concerned, are to take Notice.

<sup>1</sup> The "Garrison Orders," Lancaster, although preceding, has evidently no connection with the Valley Forge orders; the handwriting is not that of Adjutant Irvin.

<sup>2</sup> For biographical sketch and diary of Lieut. James McMichael, see *Penna. Mag. Hist. & Biog.*, Vol. xvi, p. 129 *et seq.*

<sup>3</sup> *Richard Dickenson*, Ensign 6 North Carolina Line April, 1777; Lieutenant Oct., 1777; transferred to 1 North Carolina June, 1778; dismissed Nov., 1779.

His Excellency having been pleased to approve of the order of— Directing that not more than one Ration *pr. Diem* be Issued to Any officer either of the line or Staff, and that no back Rations be paid up in provisions. The Issuing Commissary is therefore, to pay the strictest attention to this order, the least Deviation from which will be taken Notice of.

So soon as the returns for the Clothing are compleat, which must be done with the greatest exactitude, they shall be brought to the Commanding Officer that the Articles may be drawn from the Clothier General and distributed to the Soldiery. The Officers Commanding Detachments are to pay attention to the men under their command to prevent them embezzeling their Clothes.

Geo. Gibson Co<sup>l</sup>. <sup>4</sup>  
Comm<sup>dg</sup>.

LANCASTER 28<sup>th</sup> Feby. 1778.

The Hon'ble the Supreme Executive Council of this State, having deliv'd their instructions to the Officers sent by His Excell'y, the Commander-in-Chief, for the purpose of recruiting men to compleat the regiments from this State on the Continental Establishmen<sup>t</sup>.—It is expected the officers will immediately repair to the Stations appointed them & exert themselves in the prosecution of this important business, the necessity for which must be so obvious to the Gent<sup>a</sup> Officers, as to render any further recommendation on this Head unnecessary.

A Garrison Court Martial to sit this day for the Tryal of all the prisoners now in confinem<sup>t</sup> in the Guard house. The Court will refer the tryal of any prisoners they may find guilty of Capital offences to the General Court Martial now sitting, reporting the names & crimes of all such persons so to be tried.

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<sup>4</sup> *George Gibson* was commissioned Feb., 1776, Captain First Virginia Line, promoted Major Fourth Virginia March, 1777; promoted Colonel First Virginia State Regiment June, 1777, which he commanded to January, 1782. Colonel of the Pennsylvania and New Jersey Levies in 1791; mortally wounded Nov. 4, 1791, in a fight with Indians near Fort Recovery, O. (Sihot, Clair's Defeat), and died Dec. 11, following.

LANCASTER, March y<sup>e</sup> 6<sup>th</sup>, 1778.

Such soldiers as are employed by the mechaniks of this Town not Absolutely in the Continental Service, are orderd to repair immediatly to the Adj<sup>t</sup>. at the Hospital in order that they may be put to work for the Continent. The Issuing Comisary is to apply to Fred<sup>k</sup>. Anspack and Mr. Adam Reigart<sup>5</sup> for Beef, who will supply him with such Quantities as they can spare for the use of the Troops. A Subaltern's Command to hold themselves in readiness to march, to be furnished with 5 days provisions.

The Officers who have the care of the Detach'd Corps in this Town, are requested to make enquiries after the Soldiers alluded to in this order, as there is the greatest want of Tailors and Shoemakers to furnish Clothing for the Army.

GEO. GIBSON Col<sup>l</sup>.

[Valley Forge.]

Exercise previous to Guard mounting, Major Wallace,<sup>6</sup> Brigade Inspector in Gen<sup>l</sup>. Woodford's Brigade; will com-

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<sup>5</sup> *Adam Reigart*, for many years proprietor of "The Grape," Lancaster, Pa., was Lieut. Colonel of the First Battalion Lancaster County Associators, Col. George Ross, and served in the campaign in the vicinity of Amboy, N. J. He was elected Assistant Burgess of Lancaster in 1777, and a member of Assembly in 1780. From 1789 to his death, in the summer of 1813, he was Treasurer of the Union Fire Company, of which he had been a member since 1764. "The Grape," one of the notable hostelries of Lancaster, and the Whig headquarters during the Revolution, was located on Queen St. near the Square, and during 1775 the Committee of Observation and Supreme Executive Council met there. It was here, too, that the lots were drawn to determine which one of the British officers, prisoners of war, should suffer death in retaliation for the killing of Capt. Huddy; the lot fell upon Capt. Sir Charles Asgill.

<sup>6</sup> *Gustavus Brown Wallace*, Captain 3 Virginia, February, 1776; Major 15 Virginia, October, 1777; Lieut. Colonel, March, 1778, regiment designated 11 Virginia six months later; taken prisoner at Charleston, S. C., May 14, 1780; transferred to 2 Virginia, February, 1781, and served to close of the war.

mand and is to have two Adjutants of that Brigade to assist him. On Sunday at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, all y<sup>e</sup> Brigade Inspectors with officers and non commis<sup>d</sup> officers, who are to mount Guard on Monday, are to attend at Head Quarters, where the Inspector Gen<sup>l</sup> will instruct them in what is to be done the next day.

Baron Stubane [Steuben] a Lieut. Gen<sup>l</sup> in foreign service & a gentleman of great Military experience having obligingly undertaken to exercise the office of Inspector Gen<sup>l</sup> in this army; the Comm<sup>d</sup>.-in-Chief till the pleasure of Congress shall be known, desires he will be Respected and obeyed as such, and hopes and expects that all Officers of whatsoever rank in it, will afford him every aid in their power in the execution of his Office.

Lieut. Col. Davis,<sup>7</sup> Brussels & Barber<sup>8</sup> & Mr. Tenant, are appointed Sub Inspectors, the three former maintaining their rank and station in the Line. The importance of establishing a uniform system of and useful manuevers & regularity of discipline, must be obvious; the deficiency of our Army must be to, the time we shall probably have to introduce the necessary reformation is short; without the most active exertions of Officers of every class, it will be impossible to devise the advantages proposed in this institution, which are of the greatest moment to the success of the ensuing campaigns. Arguments sure need not be multiplied to render the zeal of officers in another of such consequences to their advancement of their own honour and prosperity of our Arms.

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<sup>7</sup> *William Davies*, Capt. 1 Virginia Line, September, 1775; Deputy Muster Master General of the Flying Camp, October, 1776; Major 7 Virginia Line, March, 1777; Lieut. Col. commandant 14 Virginia Line, April, 1778; Colonel, March, 1778, regiment designated 10 Virginia in September; transferred to 1 Virginia, February, 1781, and served to close of the war.

<sup>8</sup> *Francis Barber*, Major 3 New Jersey Line, January, 1776; Lieut. Colonel, November, 1776. Wounded at Monmouth, at Newtown, and Yorktown. Transferred to 1 New Jersey Line 1781. Accidentally killed by the falling of a tree February 11, 1783.

*Brigade Orders.*

Adjutant of Day from the 10<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> An officer from each company in the Brigade to refit the Men's Huts and see that all the intrenching tools and Axes, Spades & Shovels wanting handles he collected and delivered to their respective Quartermasters, except such as are employed by the Camp Colormen, who is to have them carried to Gen<sup>l</sup> Patterson's Brigade and delivered to the Gen<sup>l</sup>.<sup>9</sup> A Fatigue party of 30 men to turn out to-morrow at 8 o'clock, properly assien'd to work on the line.

JAMES CHAMBERS,<sup>10</sup>  
Col. Comm<sup>d</sup>g.

Detail of F.  
S. C. P.  
1: 0: 6.

HEADQUARTERS, VALLEY FORGE, March 29, 1778.

Brigadier for tomorrow . . . Varnum,  
Field Officers . . . Lt Col. Harney,<sup>11</sup>  
Brigade Major . . . . . Ogden.

<sup>9</sup> Gen. John Patterson's brigade consisted of the Massachusetts Line regiments commanded by Cols. Marshall, Brewer, Bradford and Tupper.

<sup>10</sup> Col. Chambers commanded the First Brigade of Wayne's Division, Penna. Line, composed of the 1, 2, 7, 10 Regiments of Infantry. He was a member of the well-known family of the name in Cumberland Co., Penna., and recruited his company there in June of 1775, which was attached to the First Penna. Rifle Battalion, Col. William Thompson. He arrived before Boston August 7th. Promoted Lieut. Col. March, 1776. From March 12-April 1 assigned to the 10 Penna. Commissioned Colonel 1 Penna.; retired from the service Jan. 1, 1781. He participated in all the principal battles of the war prior to retiring, and at Brandywine received a Hessian bullet in his side, which gave him much trouble in after years. He died at Loudon Forge, Franklin Co., Pa., April 25, 1805, aged 56 years.

<sup>11</sup> Selby Harney, Major 8 North Carolina Line, Nov., 1776; Lieut. Col. 2 North Carolina, Nov., 1777; taken prisoner at Charleston, S. C., May 12, 1780; retired Jan. 1, 1783.

As the stormy weather prevented the Brigade Inspectors y<sup>e</sup> meeting this day, agreeable to yesterday's orders, the Sub and Brigade Inspectors with the officers and Non Comms'd Officers who were to have assembled this day at 10 o'clock, will attend at said time & place.

The following officers are appointed Brigade Inspectors and are to be obeyed and respected as such in their several respective Brigades: Col. Tuper<sup>12</sup> in Gen. Patterson's Brigade; Lt. Col. Sprout,<sup>13</sup> in Glovers; Major Wallace, in Woodford's; Major Cabell,<sup>14</sup> in Weedon's; Major Hull,<sup>15</sup> in Larned's, and Major Fish,<sup>16</sup> in Poor's; Major Bloomfield,<sup>17</sup> in Maxwell's; Major Hulings,<sup>18</sup> in late Conway's; Cap<sup>t</sup> Smith, in Varnum's; Cap<sup>t</sup> Converse,<sup>19</sup> in Huntington's; Cap<sup>t</sup> Eng [?], in McIntosh's; Cap<sup>t</sup> McGowen,<sup>20</sup> Second Penns<sup>a</sup>; Cap<sup>t</sup> Walker<sup>21</sup> of Col. Livingston's Reg<sup>t</sup>, is appointed Brigade Major P. F. and is to be obeyed and respected as such.

<sup>12</sup> *Benjamin Tupper*, Major of Fellows' Mass. regiment May, 1775; Lieut. Col. Continental Infantry, Jany., 1776; to 2 Mass. Line, Nov., 1776; Colonel 11 Mass. July, 1777; transferred to 10 Mass. Jany., 1781; transferred 6 Mass. Jany., 1783, and served to June 12, 1783. Died June, 1792.

<sup>13</sup> *Ebenezer Sprout*, Captain in Cotton's Mass. regiment 1775; Major 3 Continental Infantry 1776; Lieut. Colonel 4 Mass. 1777; Lieut. Col. commandant, 12 Mass. Sept., 1778, transferred to 2 Mass. Jany., 1781. Brevet Colonel Sept. 30, 1783. Died Feby., 1805.

<sup>14</sup> *Samuel Jordan Cabell*, Capt. 6 Virginia, March, 1776; Major 14 Virginia, Dec., 1777; regiment designated 10 Virginia, Sept. 14, 1778; Lieut. Col. 8 Virginia, Dec., 1778; transferred to 4 Va., July, 1779; transferred 7 Va., Feby., 1781. Taken prisoner at Charleston, S. C. Died Sept. 4, 1818.

<sup>15</sup> Later Brig.-General, U. S. A., and cashiered for surrender of Detroit. Died Nov. 29, 1825.

<sup>16</sup> *Nicholas Fish*, Captain in Malcolm's regiment; Brigade Major Scott's Brigade, Aug., 1776. Served to June, 1783. Died June 30, 1833. Ancestor Hon. Hamilton Fish, Secretary of State, in cabinet President Grant.

<sup>17</sup> *Joseph Bloomfield*, Captain 3 New Jersey, Feby., 1776; Deputy Judge Advocate General 1776-1778; Major 3 New Jersey, Resigned Oct. 29, 1778. Brig. General U. S. A., March 27, 1812; discharged June 15, 1815. Governor New Jersey 1801-1812; died Oct. 3, 1823.



*Detail for Guard:*

	<i>C:</i>	<i>Sub:</i>	<i>S:</i>	<i>C:</i>	<i>P.</i>
1 <sup>st</sup> Reg <sup>t</sup>	0	0	1	1	11
2 do	0	0	1	1	5
7 do	0	0	1	1	6
10 do	0	0	1	0	7
Total	0 :	0 :	4 :	3 :	29.

*Fatigue.*

	<i>Sub:</i>	<i>S:</i>	<i>C:</i>	<i>P.</i>
1 <sup>st</sup> Reg <sup>t</sup>	0	1	0	3
2 do	1	0	0	2
7 do	0	0	0	2
10 do	0	0	0	3
	1 :	1 :	0 :	10

*Weeks Command.*

	<i>C:</i>	<i>Sub:</i>	<i>S:</i>	<i>C:</i>	<i>P.</i>
1 <sup>st</sup> Reg <sup>t</sup>	0	0	0	1	2
2 do	0	0	0	0	1
7 do	0	0	0	0	2
10 do	0	0	0	0	1
	0	0	0	1.	6.

<sup>18</sup> *John Hulings*, Captain 2 Penna. Battalion, Col. St. Clair, Jany., 1776; Captain 3 Penna. Line, Jany., 1777; Major Aug., 1777; became supernumerary July, 1778.

<sup>19</sup> *Thomas Converse*, Ensign in Burrall's Connecticut State Regiment, Jany., 1776; left behind sick on retreat from Quebec, April, 1776; Lieut. and Adjutant 7 Conn. Jan., 1777; Captain Nov., 1777; transferred 2 Conn. Jany., 1781; Brigade Inspector. Retired Jany., 1783.

<sup>20</sup> *John McGowan*, Third Lieut. Rifle Battalion Penna. Col. Samuel Miles, Aug., 1776; Adjutant of Battalion; promoted Captain Oct., 1776; Brigade Inspector 2d Brigade Penna. Line; Capt. 4 Penna. Line, Oct., 1777; wounded at Germantown; transferred to Invalid Corps 1781. Died Nov., 1805.

<sup>21</sup> *Benjamin Walker*, Lieut. New York Line; Major and Aide-de-Camp to Baron Steuben, 1778; Lieut. Col. and Aide-de-Camp Gen. Washington, 1782. Died Jany. 13, 1818.

*Division Orders, March 29<sup>th</sup> 1778.*

Discipline being the very soul of all Army's; so it ought to be the pride and study of all Officers, to introduce it into their respective Corps; in valour man to man are equal throughout the World, but it is discipline alone which gives the opportunity in the Field; and as the Gen<sup>l</sup> hopes to rival the Britons in that, he also wishes to bear the [faded] from the other part of the Army. For which purpose he requests the Officers to the example they set the other day, and which gave the highest pleasure to his Excellency and met his warmest approbation in manouvering themselves as well as men. As there is no Greater or surer mark of discipline than Cleanliness, so there is nothing more conductive to health and spirit; it introduces a laudible pride which is substitute for almost every virtue; the Gen<sup>l</sup> therefore, in the most pointed terms, desires the Officers to oblige their men to appear clean & decent at all times and upon all occasions: Even punishing that Soldier that appears dirty whether on duty or not.

The Officers will compel the men to wear their Hatts in one way; in the most soldier-like position, and oblige to mend their old clothes so as to make the best appearance possible; the Gen<sup>l</sup> expects a sufficiency of Hatts with some other clothing for the men every hour; he has also ordered Co<sup>l</sup> Bayard to Lancaster, to provide the Officers clothing and the Drums and fifes belonging to this Division.

Anthony Wayne, B. G.

March 30<sup>th</sup> 1778.

*Regimental Orders.*

Muster Rolls to be made out immediately by the Comm<sup>ds</sup> Officers of companies (Agreeable to the former in the hands of the Adjutant) for the month of March, in order to the Reg<sup>ts</sup> being mustered on the first Day of April next.

Henry Bicker, Co<sup>l</sup> Comm<sup>d</sup>'g.

(To be continued.)