

THE SECOND TROOP PHILADELPHIA CITY  
CAVALRY.

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A subsequent editorial on the “National Celebration,” remarks:—<sup>535</sup> “We understand that the 1st, 2d and 3d troops of City Cavalry, under Captains Wharton, Francis, and Boggs, also honored the day; and that their number and appearance were just objects for public commendation.” Concerning the dinner on this occasion, we find the following account, which throws some interesting side-lights upon the customs of the times:—<sup>536</sup>

“The following toasts, accompanied with marshal [*sic*] music, were drank at an excellent dinner prepared by Mr. Evans, near Schuylkill bridge, for the First, Second and Third Troops of City Cavalry, commanded by Captains Wharton, Francis, and Boggs:—

“1. The day; may national honor and individual happiness perpetuate its commemoration.

“2. The United States; wisdom and dignity to their councils, energy and triumph to their arms.

“3. The President of the United States; may the united efforts of a great people give efficient support to executive measures, and realize the best hopes of the nation.

“4. The Governor of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

“5. The immortal memory of the great Washington; may the remembrance and emulation of his virtues guarantee the glory, freedom and happiness of our country.

“6. The heroes and statesmen of the American revolution.

“7. Ardent, firm and united resistance to foreign aggression, and a patriotic sacrifice of all party opinions on the altar of our country.

“8. The Navy of the United States; may it be rendered efficient to defend our country, and protect its commerce.

“9. The army of the United States; combining patriotism, discipline, and effective force.

“10. The hospitality of our country; may it only be withheld when it is abused.

“11. The American farmer, merchant, manufacturer and mechanic; may they cherish and support each other.

“12. The American Fair; the pride and ornament of our Country, and the best hopes of its defenders.”

The continued aggressions of Great Britain, including the unparalleled assault upon the U. S. frigate “Chesapeake” in Hampton Roads, in which a number of lives were lost, had stirred the country to the utmost, and during the summer of 1807 the war spirit was seething in Philadelphia. Indignation meetings were held, and the animus became so bitter that it seemed that hostilities must commence immediately. Among others, the old volunteer organization, Macpherson’s Blues, to which the First and Second City Troops had previously been attached during the war scare of 1799 and 1800, held a meeting, largely attended by former members, and about the middle of July we find them adopting unanimously the following resolutions:—<sup>537</sup>

“At a meeting of the members of the late Volunteer Association, denominated Macpherson’s Blues—held

pursuant to publick notice, at the Court House of the City of Philadelphia, on Monday, the 6<sup>th</sup> July, 1807: General Wm. Macpherson was appointed Chairman, and Charles W. Hare,<sup>538</sup> Secretary. The objects of the meeting having been stated by Gen. Macpherson, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

“*Resolved*, that we feel the deepest indignation, at the unparalleled attack upon the rights and dignity of the United States, by a British ship of war, by which the lives of several of our fellow citizens, have been destroyed, when on board of a national ship, and under the protection of our national flag.

“*Resolved*, that we shall at all times, be ready and desirous, under the constituted authorities of our government, and in conjunction with our fellow citizens, to yield our utmost aid, in support of the honour and safety of our country, and to repel any foe which may attack them.

“*Resolved*, That the chairman of this meeting, be requested to communicate the foregoing resolutions to the President of the United States, accompanying them with an assurance, that whenever in the opinion of the national government, our military services may be useful—we will again organize ourselves as a volunteer association.

“WM. MACPHERSON, Chairman.

“CHAS. W. HARE, Secretary.”

Under General Orders issued by Governor McKean from Lancaster on July 16, 1807, announcing a draft of 15,635 men as Pennsylvania's quota toward a detachment of 100,000 militia appears the following:—<sup>539</sup>

“The quotas of the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Divisions of the State, shall form the First Division for service, under the command of Major-General Thomas Craig or a Brigadier-General from the Second Division of the State.”

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The First Brigade, which included the three City Troops, was requested to furnish 42 Artillery, 84 Cavalry and 716 Infantry—a total of 842 men; while the Second Brigade, which included the County Troops of Horse, was expected to supply 46 Artillery, 93 Cavalry and 748 Infantry—a total of 923 men. John Barker, Esquire, late Brigadier-General, was appointed, by the Governor, Major-General of the First Division of the Pennsylvania Militia.

This activity in the higher military circles of the State re-acted upon the individual militia organizations, and on the following day appeared this notice:—<sup>540</sup>

“ATTENTION

“The Officers commanding the Corps of Cavalry, of the City and County of Philadelphia, are requested to meet at Cameron’s Tavern,<sup>541</sup> Third near Arch-street, on Wednesday, the 22<sup>d</sup> instant, at 7 o’clock in the evening, on special business.

“July 17, [1807].”

The excitement continued throughout the summer, for in Division Orders<sup>542</sup> of the date of August 5, Major General Barker calls upon Brigadier General Michael Bright, of the First Brigade, and Michael Leib,<sup>543</sup> of the Second Brigade, “to take the most speedy and effectual means to complete the draught from their respective brigades agreeable to law.” This resulted in the following notices of August 6 and 7:—

“CAVALRY OFFICERS<sup>544</sup>

“The officers of corps of Cavalry of the first division will meet at the house of Mr. Cameron on Third above Arch-street, on Saturday next, the 8<sup>th</sup> inst., at 4 o’clock P. M.

“JOHN SMITH, SEC’RY.

“August 6, [1807].”

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“ATTENTION.”<sup>545</sup>

“The commissioned officers of the several corps of Cavalry of the City and County of Philadelphia are requested to attend an adjourned meeting, to be held at Cameron’s Tavern, in Third near Arch-street, on Saturday, the 8<sup>th</sup> inst., at four o’clock in the evening.

“ROBERT WHARTON, Chairman.”

Notwithstanding this undue excitement and work of preparation for anticipated hostilities, there was no further call for active service, and by the Fall of the year the customary quiet prevailed. In October, the usual Squadron drills were held, according to the following Troop notices:—

“THE SECOND TROOP OF”<sup>546</sup>

“PHILADELPHIA CITY CAVALRY.

“Will meet at P. Evan’s Tavern, near the Permanent Bridge on Mondays, the 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of October at 2 o’clock, P. M., completely equipped.

“THOMAS W. FRANCIS, Capt.

“Oct. 1, [1807].”

“THE SECOND TROOP OF”<sup>547</sup>

“PHILADELPHIA CITY CAVALRY

“Will meet at the house of P. Evans near the Permanent Bridge, on Monday, the 19<sup>th</sup> inst, at 2 o’clock, P. M., completely equipped.

“THOMAS W. FRANCIS, Captain.

“N. B. A Court of Appeal will be held at Cameron’s Inn, Third-street, on Friday 23<sup>d</sup> inst. at 5 o’clock, P. M.”

The work for the year concluded with a Division parade and an unusual Troop parade or practice march (the first of which any record is to be found) in December. The latter was in response to the following Troop order:<sup>548</sup>

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“THE SECOND TROOP  
“PHILADELPHIA CITY CAVALRY,

“Will parade this day at the Centre square, at 8 o'clock, A. M., properly armed and equipped for service.

“THOS. W. FRANCIS, *Capt.*

“P. S. Each member to provide himself with a Valice.

“Dec. 14, [1807].”

The Division parade was a notable military event, the First Brigade turning out 2000 uniformed men, while the County Brigade had 3000 men in line.<sup>549</sup>

Washington's Birthday, in 1808, was a festive occasion for the three City Troops. A Squadron parade in the afternoon was followed by an exceptional Squadron dinner. The Troop notices for this event are of sufficient interest to reproduce. On February 18, the following First Troop notice is recorded:—<sup>550</sup>

“FIRST TROOP OF LIGHT HORSE.

“The Troop will assemble on foot at my quarters, in compleat uniform and with side arms, on Monday the 22 inst. at one o'clock P. M. in order to dine with the Squadron to celebrate the anniversary of the day that gave birth to our departed WASHINGTON. The standard under which the Troop in the year 1775, first associated for the defence of their country will be paraded.

“The company of the Honorary Members are respectfully requested to dine with the squadron on that day at 3 o'clock, P. M. either with or without uniform, at the Shakespeare Hotel, corner of Chestnut and Sixth street.

“ROBERT WHARTON, *Capt.*

“Feb. 18, [1808].”

The next day the Second Troop published its notice:<sup>551</sup>

“The members of the SECOND TROOP of Philadelphia City Cavalry, commanded by Thomas W. Francis, pro-

pose celebrating the birth day of the Immortal Washington: will meet at the captain's quarters, No. 98 South Third street, on Monday the 22 instant at 2 o'clock, P. M. precisely in uniform and with side arms.

"By order of the Captain

"AUGUSTUS FRICKE,<sup>552</sup> *Sergt.*

"Feb. 19, [1808]."

Finally, on February 20<sup>th</sup> the notice of the Third Troop appeared:<sup>553</sup>

"THIRD TROOP OF HORSE

"In celebration of the birth of the illustrious WASHINGTON, the Troop will dine with the First and Second Troops, at the Shakespeare Hotel, corner of Chestnut and Sixth streets, on Monday, the 22<sup>d</sup> instant, at 3 o'clock.

"The Troop will meet at my quarters, No. 218 Arch street, precisely at 2 o'clock in uniform and with side arms.

"JAMES BOGGS, *Captain.*

"Feb. 20, [1808]."

An interesting account of this dinner is recorded as follows:—<sup>554</sup> "On Monday last, being the anniversary of the day that gave birth to our departed WASHINGTON, several of the Volunteer companies of this city, assembled to celebrate the day.— At three o'clock the members of the First, Second and Third City Troops of Light Horse (commanded by Captains Wharton, Francis and Boggs,) and other respectable Citizens, sat down to a splendid Dinner prepared for them by Mr. [David] Barnum, at the Shakespeare Hotel, at the corner of Chestnut and Sixth streets. After Dinner the following Toasts were drank:—

"1. The immortal memory of the great WASHINGTON—in war—the deliverer of his Country—in peace—her guide, protector and friend.

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"2. The heroes of the American revolution.—The Independence of our Country is the monument of their worth—may the national gratitude embalm its remembrance.

"3. Those statesmen of the Revolution whose conduct maintained their declarations, and in whom a crisis of danger produced no change.

"4. The United States—Free, Sovereign and Independent—wisdom and self-respect to their councils—vigor and triumph to their arms.

"5. The President of the United States.

"6. The Legislative and judicial departments of government—may wisdom, energy and independence be their distinguishing attribute.

"7. The military power of the United States, modelled in the precepts and practice of the great WASHINGTON.

"8. The Navy of the United States—an immediate increase of ships—and the deeds of its manhood shall correspond to the brilliant achievements of its youth.

"9. The Governor and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

"10. American Patriotism—Extinction to domestic treason and foreign intrigue.

"11. The hospitality of our country—welcome and friendship to the worthy emigrant who seeks her asylum—frowns and rejection to the outcast who abuses her benevolence and would disturb her peace.

"12. The American farmer, merchant, manufacturer, and mechanic—may they cherish and support each other; and put down all attempts to divide them.

"13. The American Fair—the pride and ornament of our country and the best hope of its defenders.

"VOLUNTEERS—

"May we emulate the virtues of the man whose birth we celebrate.



“The First, Second and Third City Troops—(a band of brothers) may their descendants follow the truly *virtuous* and *patriotic* example of their Fathers.

“Our country, strong in her resources, may she never fall a victim to foreign intrigue.

“A speedy and honorable adjustment to our differences with foreign powers.

“The worthy Patriots of America, who celebrate this day—may they never know sorrow but by name.

“The First City Troop—in the time that tried mens’ [*sic*] souls, first to arise to the call of danger; may the patriotic flame that still animates it, be fanned by the standard of ’75.”

The same day the *Philadelphia Rangers* [Captain John Krips]—an infantry organization which had been recently formed—after an “elegant dinner prepared by Mr. Carson.”<sup>555</sup> drank several toasts, including the following proposed by Lieut. White:—“The First, Second and Third Troops of City Cavalry.”<sup>556</sup>

The military spirit had steadily grown in the city during the winter, and “the parades and meetings of the soldiers were more frequent in 1808 than for several years previous. Drilling in convenient halls took place throughout the winter, and when spring opened a series of sham fights was instituted to train the volunteers.<sup>557</sup> These, however, were not participated in by the Cavalry Troops, which continued their independent Troop and Squadron drills at the usual seasons of the year. Some idea of the very prevalent feeling of the time may be entertained from the following open letter published in April of this year:—<sup>558</sup>

“TO THE EDITOR OF THE AMERICAN DAILY ADVERTISER.  
“Sir,

“Seeing some disposition among the Militia of this part of the State to prepare themselves for being useful in case of any necessity—and well knowing how much this class of our fellow citizens, have not been so counte-

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nanced as they ought, I am induced to think that if, a general meeting, of the Persons who did compose MACPHERSON'S BLUES—those who now are members of the three City Troops of Cavalry, under Wharton, Francis and Boggs, and *all* those who think such a plan likely to promote public good, was to take place, a great benefit might result from it.

"I would therefore propose a meeting of my Fellow Soldiers to take this subject into view, on Saturday next, [April 23] at seven o'clock in the evening, at Barnham's [*sic*] Tavern, corner of Sixth and Chestnut streets—when the writer of this will lay before the company a plan of association for their consideration.

"Let no party spirit have any influence in this business, but let us meet together and dispassionately consider, whether we shall make ourselves soldiers, or induce, by our own reluctance the general Government to raise a Standing army to take care of our Liberties.

"Tammany.

"April 20, 1808."

What the outcome of this call was, or whether a meeting was held is not known. We do know, however, that the usual Squadron drills were held in the following month, together with a practice march. On April 29, the following notice appeared:—<sup>559</sup>

"THE SECOND TROOP

"PHILADELPHIA CITY CAVALRY,

"Will parade on Monday's [*sic*] the 2<sup>d</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup> of May, on the ground north of Peter Evans Tavern, near the Schuylkill Permanent Bridge—completely equipped at 2 o'clock. P. M.

"THOMAS W. FRANCIS, *Capt.*

N. B. A meeting of the troop will be held at David Barnum's (Shakespeare Hotel), on Saturday next, 30<sup>th</sup> inst. at 7 o'clock P. M.

"April 29, [1808]."

REFERENCES.

<sup>535</sup> *Aurora*, July 6, 1807.

<sup>536</sup> *American Daily Advertiser*, July 8, 1807.

<sup>537</sup> *Ibid*, July 10, 1807.

<sup>538</sup> *Charles Willing Hare*, son of *Robert Hare* and *Margaret Willing* (married November 15, 1775), was born at Westover, April 23, 1778. He was an officer in the *Macpherson Blues* in 1799. On August 29, 1801, he was married by Bishop White, to *Ann* (born July 6, 1777; died in February, 1851) daughter of *George Emlin*. He was a member of the American Philosophical Society. Her brother was Col. *John Hare Powel*. He died in Philadelphia, April 15, 1827, in his 49th year.

<sup>539</sup> *American Daily Advertiser*, July 16, 1807.

<sup>540</sup> *Ibid*, July 17, 1807.

<sup>541</sup> *James Cameron's Tavern*, in 1799-1800, was situated in Shippen [Bainbridge] Street, in the District of Southwark, township of Moyamensing. Subsequently, in 1803 he is mentioned as the host of the "*Sign of the Golden Swan*," No. 60 North Third Street, east side above Arch, opening into Race Street. This inn was first opened in 1785, by *Paul Britton* who was succeeded by *Martin Kreider* (died in 1792). In June, 1794, *J. Hardy* became the proprietor, and he was followed at the opening of the nineteenth century by *James Cameron* (died August 20, 1825) and his wife, *Mary Ann*. *James Cameron* was born in 1766, the son of *James* and *Bell Cameron*; and was the nephew of *William Cameron*, tavern keeper, who died in November, 1793, and *Mary Cameron*, his wife; and also a nephew of *John Cameron*, who was a member of the Patriotic Association of 1778. He was 28 years old on February 5, 1795, when he took the oath of allegiance to the State. He was succeeded as proprietor in 1813 by *Adam Flake*; and he was followed by *Mansfield*, who opened the hostelry as *Mansfield's Hotel*. In 1828, the place was known as *Horatio Wade's Hotel*, and subsequently as *Wade and Sturdevant's Hotel*. In 1836 it was leased by *John M. Harker*. In 1843 *Charles Weiss* was the proprietor.

<sup>542</sup> *American Daily Advertiser*, August 5, 1807.

<sup>543</sup> *Michael Leib*, son of *Johann George Leib* (who was naturalized in Philadelphia County on March 22, 1761; in 1778, signed the petition for clemency for *Abraham Carlisle*; took the oath of allegiance to the State on December 18, 1778; on April 20, 1789, was commissioned Captain of the Fourth Company, Fifth Battalion, Colonel *William Macpherson*) and *Margaret Dorothea Liebheit* (married in Zion Church, August 11, 1757), was born in Philadelphia, on January 10, 1761 (*Pa. Arch.* 6th Series, vol. i, p. 357). After receiving a common school education he studied medicine under Dr. Benjamin Rush. On October 18, 1778, he took the oath of allegiance to the State; and on August 10, 1780, was commissioned surgeon of Colonel Benjamin G. Eyre's Second Regiment, Philadelphia Militia. For fifteen years he took an active interest in medical affairs, but during the last twenty-five years of his life he

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was engaged in politics; it was said that he "rocked the cradle of the Democracy" in the Northern Liberties, and he was termed the "Dictator of Philadelphia County." From 1786-93 he was attending physician to the Philadelphia Dispensary; from 1788-90, he was a member of the Medical Staff of the Philadelphia Almshouse and Hospital (Blockley); in March, 1788, he became one of the corporators of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia; in April, 1789, he was elected a member of the Pennsylvania Prison Society and on September 12, 1793, was appointed attending physician to the Bush Hill Hospital, during the great yellow fever epidemic. In 1793, he became a member of the Democratic Society, and the same year is recorded as Secretary of the German Republican Society (*German Incorporated Society of Philadelphia*). During 1797-98 he served as Democratic Representative from Philadelphia County in the Pennsylvania Legislature; from 1799 to 1806, he was a member of the U. S. House of Representatives from Pennsylvania. In September, 1800, he was appointed Lazaretto Physician by Governor McKean; and the same year was dined and toasted at John Snyder's Inn in Poplar Lane for his patriotic services. In the Fall of 1802, he presided at a banquet at the Hamburg Tavern, on the Schuylkill, given in celebration of the re-election of Governor McKean. From December 2, 1806, until his resignation on January 11, 1809, he served as Representative from Philadelphia County in the State Legislature. In June, 1807, he succeeded General Isaac Worrell as Brigadier General of the Second Brigade, First Division, Pennsylvania Militia, which office he held until October 4, 1811, when he was succeeded by William Duncan. In October, 1808, he presided at a "Whig festival," at Mrs. Saville's Inn in Spring Garden; and the same year was a Democratic Presidential Elector on the Madison and Clinton ticket. From 1809 to 1814, he was U. S. Senator from Pennsylvania; in August, 1814, he became a member of the famous Committee of Defense of Philadelphia, the same year was appointed Postmaster of Philadelphia; and from December 2, 1817, to March 24, 1818, he was again a Representative from Philadelphia County, in the Pennsylvania Legislature. He was an active member of the Tammany Society. On November 15, 1822, he was appointed Prothonotary of the U. S. District Court in Philadelphia, but died on December 22, 1822, when 62 years of age, leaving an estate valued at \$32,000. His wife was *Susan Lieb* (married about 1808), and they had two sons—*Dr. George Clinton Lieb* and *Dr. Henry Franklin Leib* (born March 4, 1811; died May 16, 1856), who graduated in medicine from the University of Pennsylvania in 1833; on December 18, 1848, became a founder of the Philadelphia County Medical Society; was a member of the Pennsylvania State Medical Society, the American Medical Association, and the Academy of Natural Sciences. He served for several years as Dispensary Physician.

<sup>544</sup> *American Daily Advertiser*, August 6, 1807.

<sup>545</sup> *Ibid*, August 7, 1807.

<sup>546</sup> *Ibid*, October 1, 1807.

<sup>547</sup> *Ibid*, October 16, 1807.

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<sup>540</sup> Ibid, December 14, 1807.

<sup>542</sup> *Scharf and Westcott*, vol. i, p. 528.

<sup>550</sup> *American Daily Advertiser*, February 18, 1808.

<sup>551</sup> Ibid, February 19, 1808.

<sup>552</sup> Baron *Charles Augustus Fricke*, of the Northern Liberties, was born in Poland in 1763, and studied at the University of Cracow. In early manhood he, with his brother, came to Philadelphia. On June 24, 1792, he was married, in Zion Church, to *Anna Catharine* (born in 1774; died April 3, 1848, aged 74 years) daughter of *George Kurz*. He was a wholesale and retail cloth-merchant, his place of business in 1796-99, being at No. 7 South Third Street. He was a private in the Eighth Company, Third Philadelphia Regiment, Col. McLean, in 1794, but became a member of the Second City Troop in 1794, and that year accompanied the Troop on the Western Expedition to suppress the Whisky Insurrection. He remained a member of this Troop until his death, and, in 1808, is recorded as First Sergeant of the organization. In November, 1796, he was administrator for the estate of *George Moser*. He was a member of the Masonic Fraternity. In 1811, he went to Havana, Cuba, as a supercargo for cloth, contracted yellow fever there and died in St. Charles' Hospital on June 26, 1811, when 48 years of age. His will probated on August 15, 1811, left an estate of \$8000. His brother, *Frederick Fricke*, of the Northern Liberties, was born in Poland in 1760, and died in Philadelphia on April 17, 1833, in his 73d year. Augustus Fricke had 13 children:—*William C.* (died March 19, 1824); *Anna Margaretta* (married Dr. *Joseph Francois Nicholas Guille*, who died in Baltimore in 1851); *Mary Anne* (who married first a *Mr. Wetherill*, and secondly, *Edward W. Miller*); *Rosina Catherine* (born June 20, 1795; married, September 12, 1815, *John Barry Farrell*, who was born in Cork, Ireland, June 24, 1777, and died in Philadelphia, October 9, 1832; she died May 17, 1863); *Anna Catherine* (married *John Hull Campbell*); *Harriet Louise* (married *Captain Carty*, of the Merchant Marine); *Paulina* (married a *Mr. Leibe*); *Augustus* (who moved to Bristol, Pa.); *Francis* (who went West); *George J.* (who, in 1813, was a private in the 4th Company, Philadelphia Militia, otherwise known as the 1st Co., *Washington Guards*); *Michael* (the eldest son); and *Susanna* (who died unmarried). A descendant, *George Fricke*, was married on December 11, 1845, to *Mary E.*, daughter of *Joseph T. McMullin*. Another descendant, Dr. *Albert Fricke*, was married on January 25, 1848, to *Lydia Jane*, daughter of *John McKinley*, of Lycoming County, Pa.

<sup>553</sup> *American Daily Advertiser*, February 20, 1808.

<sup>554</sup> Ibid, February 24, 1808.

<sup>555</sup> *William Carson*, host of the old "Harp and Crown" Tavern.

<sup>556</sup> *American Daily Advertiser*, February 26, 1808.

<sup>557</sup> *Scharf and Westcott*, vol. i, p. 534.

<sup>558</sup> *American Daily Advertiser*, April 20, 1808.

<sup>559</sup> Ibid, April 29, 1808.

(To be continued.)