

THE SECOND TROOP PHILADELPHIA CITY
CAVALRY.

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[For references see pages 85–87.]

(Continued from Vol. XLIX, page 379.)

The First and Third City Troops—the latter now commanded by Captain John M. Price—paraded at the same hour and place on May 2^d. A change was decided upon for May 9th, and in place of the usual Squadron drill a practice march was arranged, the second record we have of this valuable evolution in cavalry practice. The notice reads as follows:—⁵⁶⁰

“ATTENTION!

“The squadron composed of the 1st, 2d & 3d troops of Light Horse, will parade completely equipped, with nine rounds of blank cartridge, valise and cloak, on Monday the 9th inst. precisely at 8 o'clock, A. M., at Evans' tavern, near the permanent Bridge, Schuylkill, where the line of march will be taken for Chester.

“ROBERT WHARTON	} <i>Captains</i>
“THOS. W. FRANCIS	
“JOHN M[ORGAN] PRICE ⁵⁶¹	

“May 5, [1808].”

The drill on May 16th was held as agreed upon, and on May 30th a special Troop meeting was held, in response to the following notice:—⁵⁶²

“The members of the Second Troop of Philadelphia City Cavalry, will meet at J. Camerons [*sic*], North

80 *The Second Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry.*

Third street, on Monday the 30th instant, at 7 o'clock in the Evening.

“THOS. W. FRANCIS, *Capt.*

“N. B. Punctual attendance is requested.”

“May 27, [1808].”

Another Squadron drill, participated in by the First and Third Troops only, was held on June 13th. The Second Troop did not join in this drill, but met at the same place one hour later, according to the following notice:—⁵⁶³

“The members of the Second Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry, Will meet at Peter Evan’s Tavern, near the Schuylkill Permanent Bridge on Monday next the 13th instant, at 4 o'clock, P. M., without uniform.

“THOS. W. FRANCIS, *Captain.*

“June 10, [1808].”

As in the preceding year, the Fourth of July was celebrated by the Squadron by a street parade in the morning and a banquet in the afternoon. The following conjoined order was issued for this occasion:—⁵⁶⁴

“CAVALRY ORDERS.

“The squadron composed of the 1st, 2d, and 3d Troops, will parade completely equipped on Monday the Fourth of July next, being the anniversary of our independence, at 9 o'clock, A. M., at the Columbia House, corner of Eleventh and Spruce streets.

“The Honorary Members are requested to dine with the Squadron on that day at 3 o'clock, P. M., with or without uniform, at Evans’ Tavern, near the Permanent Bridge, Schuylkill.

“ROBERT WHARTON }
“THOS. W. FRANCIS } Captains.
“JOHN M. PRICE }

“June 29, [1808].”

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In the Fall of the year the usual Squadron drills recurred. The Second Troop, for these formations, issued the following:—⁵⁶⁵

“CAVALRY ORDERS.

“The Second Troop of Philadelphia City Cavalry, will parade on Mondays the 3^d, 10th and 17th October next on the ground north of P. Evans Bridge Tavern, at 2 o'clock, P. M., completely equipped and provided with nine rounds of blunt cartridge.

“A Court of Appeal will be held on Monday 22^d October next, at the Shakespeare Hotel, from three to five o'clock, P. M.

“THOS. W. FRANCIS, *Capt.*

“Sept. 29, [1808].”

A significant notice and one of great interest appeared after the Squadron drills of October:—⁵⁶⁶

“ATTENTION.

“The FIRST and SECOND TROOPS of LIGHT HORSE, will parade completely equipped this day, the 20th inst. precisely at 10 o'clock, P. M., at the usual ground near the Permanent Bridge, Schuylkill, from thence they will march to join the 50th regiment of militia, to which they are attached.⁵⁶⁷

“ROBERT WHARTON
“THOMAS W. FRANCIS } *Captains.*

“October 20, [1808].”

How long this connection with the Infantry Regiment continued, and what its full purpose was is not known. The following notices, however, show that a drill of the officers was one of the objects in view:—

“50th REGIMENT, P. M.⁵⁶⁸

“The Officers and non-commissioned Officers of the 50th Regt. including those of the Light Infantry and

82 *The Second Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry.*

Troops of Cavalry; are requested to assemble in Isaac Watkins' long room (Sign of the Indian King, Market Street) on Friday evening next [Dec. 2], at 7 o'clock, on business relative to the discipline of the Regiment.

“GEORGE BARTRAM,⁵⁶⁹ Lieut. Col.

“Nov. 30 [1808].”

And again:—⁵⁷⁰

50th REGIMENT, P. M.

“The Officers and non-commissioned Officers of the 50th Regiment, will attend drill at Isaac Watkins' on Friday evening next [Dec. 9] at 7 o'clock.

“This is the last public notice that will be given. It is confidently expected that the attendance of the Officers will be general and punctual on every Friday evening throughout the season.

“GEORGE BARTRAM, Lieut. Col.

“Dec. 8, [1808].”

There can be no doubt that the alarming state of the foreign affairs of this country had much to do with this unusual activity in military circles. Throughout the winter of 1808–9 the Cavalry Troops held dismounted drills, without uniform but with side-arms, at the Schuylkill Hotel. The First Troop drilled at this hostelry every Tuesday evening; the Second Troop on Wednesday evenings; and the Third Troop on Thursday evenings; while the officers and non-commissioned staff, joined, as has been stated, with the officers of the 50th Regiment in a regular Friday night drill.⁵⁷¹ It is interesting to note that among other books of instruction, the mounted troops used at this time, “The Guard Exercise of Cavalry,” from the copy printed by his Britannic Majesty's command for the War Office at London.⁵⁷²

The first Troop event of 1809 was a notable celebration of Washington's Birthday, the notice for which was as follows:—⁵⁷³

“CAVALRY ORDERS.

“The 1st, 2d and 3d troops of Light Horse will meet dismounted on Wednesday, the 22nd inst. precisely at 1 o’clock, P. M., in Third Street, immediately north of Spruce Street, in full uniform; from thence they will proceed to the Shakespeare Hotel to celebrate the anniversary of the day that gave birth to the father of his country, GEORGE WASHINGTON.

“The honorary members are requested to dine with the Squadron on that day at the Shakespeare, at 3 o’clock, either with or without uniform.

“ROBERT WHARTON	} <i>Captains.</i>
“THOS. W. FRANCIS	
“JNO. M. PRICE	

“feb. 20, [1809].”

The following is an interesting account of this dinner:—⁵⁷⁴

“The dragoons of the 1st, 2d, and 3d troops of city cavalry, commanded by Captains Wharton, Francis and Price, marched from their parade on Third Street, to the Shakespeare Hotel, where an excellent dinner was provided, at which the following toasts were drank—accompanied with appropriate music:

“THE DAY,—may its anniversary be celebrated while gratitude has a place in the American bosom.

“The memory of THE GREAT WASHINGTON.

“THE UNITED STATES.

“The President of the United States—Wisdom and impartiality to our Councils, and vigour to our Arms.

“THE UNION OF THE STATES—May it be perpetual.

“The memory of General Hamilton.

“The memory of General Green.

“The memory of Fisher Ames.

“The MAN who dare be honest in the worst of times.

“Colonel Pickering—may he live to see the regrets and to forgive the folly of his enemies [By a Mechanic of the Northern Liberties].

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“Success and Glory to the PATRIOTS of SPAIN.

“May the harmony of this Distinguished Day be perpetuated among the Troops of Citizen Dragoons, who now celebrate it.

“THE AMERICAN EAGLE—may she have it in her power to proclaim from her beak that while she tenders the Belligerents the talisman of Peace from her left talon, she is prepared to wield the shafts of War with her right; in case her peace offering should be treated with disdain.

“In celebrating the birth of the GREATEST OF MEN, may we never lose sight of HIS principles—may our actions thro’ life be imitation of them—first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen.

“THE MEMORY OF COMMERCE [Political Register. *[sic]*”

In April of this year we find the announcement of the usual Squadron drills:—⁵⁷⁵

“TROOP ORDER.

“The members of the Second Troop of City Cavalry, will parade completely equipt, on the ground north of Peter Evans’s tavern, near the Schuylkill Permanent Bridge, on Monday the 1st and 8th of May next, at 2 o’clock P. M.

“THOMAS W. FRANCIS, *Capt.*

“April 29, [1809].”

The special regimental drill occurred this year on May 11th, according to the following:—⁵⁷⁶

“TROOP ORDER.

“The Second Troop of City Cavalry, will parade back of Peter Evans’ Tavern, near Permanent Bridge, on Thursday, 11th inst. at 2 o’clock, P. M., precisely, completely equipped, in order to join the regiment to which they are attached.

THOS. W. FRANCIS, *Capt.*

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“N. B. The Court of Appeals will be held at Nice’s Tavern,⁵⁷⁷ on Saturday evening, the 13th inst. between the hours of 7 and 9 o’clock.”

“May 10, [1809]

REFERENCES.

⁵⁶⁰ *American Daily Advertiser*, May 5, 1808.

⁵⁶¹ *John Morgan Price*, a descendant of a very honorable and ancient family of Denbighshire, North Wales, and son of *John Price*, of Reading, Pa., and *Rebecca* (married in 1760), sister of *General Jacob Morgan* (born in 1741; died Friday, September 17, 1802), was born in Reading, Pa., on July 10, 1771. He was married in Christ Church by Bishop White, on March 10, 1796, to *Susanna* (born February 24, 1773; died November 27, 1862), daughter of *Daniel Wister* and *Lowry Jones*. Their home was “Carmaeroon,” Germantown. On April 1, 1795, Mr. Price dissolved his partnership in business with *Robert Shaw*. In April, 1808, when 37 years old he succeeded James Boggs as Captain of the “*Volunteer Greens*,” or *Third Troop of Philadelphia Light Horse*, and continued in command of this corps until the summer of 1810, when he was succeeded by *Samuel Meeker*. He served as a private in the Troop during the War of 1812-14. He died in Philadelphia, February 2, 1828, aged 57 years. Six of his children reached maturity as follows:—*Lowry* (born September 4, 1797; married *Charles Humphreys*; died August 15, 1876); *Rebecca* (born May 10, 1799; married June 1, 1826, to *Robert Toland*; died November 11, 1850); *Llewellyn* (born April 3, 1801; died unmarried, July 16, 1881); and twins—*Glendower Morgan* (born February 10, 1808; died unmarried, July 5, 1850) and *Wister* (born February 10, 1808; died unmarried, July 18, 1887). Captain Price’s sister, *Rebecca*, was married on Wednesday, June 27, 1798, to *Thomas Wilkey*, of Rhode Island; and his other sister, *Rachel*, married *Samuel Wetherill, Jr.*, and was the mother of Captain *John Price Wetherill*, of the Second City Troop.

⁵⁶² *American Daily Advertiser*, May 27, 1808.

⁵⁶³ *Ibid*, June 10, 1808.

⁵⁶⁴ *Ibid*, September 29, 1808.

⁵⁶⁵ *Ibid*, September 29, 1808.

⁵⁶⁶ *Ibid*, October 20, 1808.

⁵⁶⁷ At this period of the Militia history of Philadelphia the Cavalry Troops were assigned to various Infantry Regiments for the purpose of drilling and receiving general instruction in the military art. As the above notice shows, the First and Second Troops were attached to the 50th Regiment, then commanded by Lieut. Col. George Bartram, for this purpose. The Third Troop was attached to the 24th Regiment.

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(*Aurora*, October 9, 1810) and the Fourth Troop to the 25th Regiment. (*Ibid*, October 11, 1810).

⁵⁰⁸ *American Daily Advertiser*, Wednesday, November 30, 1808.

⁵⁰⁹ *George Bartram, Jr.*, was the son of *George Bartram, Sr.*, and grandson of *Archibald* (died in Scotland about 1770) and *Eleanor Bartram*, who lived in 1772, in Front Street, Southwark (*Pennsylvania Packet*, August 3, 1772). His father, *George Bartram, Sr.*, was a Philadelphia drygoods merchant, whose partner was *James Dundas* (born in Scotland in 1734; came to Philadelphia in 1757; member of the Patriotic Association of 1778; died January 16, 1788) and whose firm (*Bartram and Dundas*), on October 25, 1765, signed the historic Non-Importation Agreement. The elder Bartram, a native of Scotland, was born in 1734, but early in life came with his mother and brother, *Alexander Bartram*, to Philadelphia. On February 12, 1760, he was elected a Mason; and on December 6, 1764, was married in old Swedes' Church, Philadelphia, to his distant cousin, *Ann Barbara Bartram* (born June 24, 1741), daughter of *John Bartram* (born March 23, 1699; died September 22, 1777), the botanist, and *Ann Mendenhall* (born July 22, 1703; died January 29, 1789). In 1769, he was a taxpayer in Southwark. In 1775, he was located in business at the "*Sign of the Golden Fleece's Head*" (originally the "*Sign of the Naked Boy*") in Second Street between Chestnut and Walnut. On February 16, 1776, he was one of the Inspectors in the general election, at the State House, of a Committee for the City and Liberties of Philadelphia. On November 26, 1776, he was appointed by the Council of Safety of Philadelphia, a member of the Committee to carry out the regulations concerning salt. He was a Whig, and adhered to the cause of the colonists, serving for a while as a private in one of the companies. In 1765 he was elected a member of the St. Andrew's Society, becoming its Assistant Treasurer in 1769-70, and its Treasurer in 1771. He died of pneumonia on Saturday, April 19, 1777, in his 43d year, his widow, *Ann*, acting as executrix of the estate. In 1793 she is recorded as a "gentlewoman," residing with her son, *George Bartram*, at No. 68 South Second Street, between Chestnut and Walnut. *Alexander Bartram* was elected a Mason on April 9, 1765; was a member of St. Andrew's Society; on January 26, 1767, was married in Zion Lutheran Church, to *Jane Martin*; adhered to the Crown in the Revolution; was declared a traitor, and had his estates confiscated. His widow, *Jane Bartram*, in 1793-94, kept a china, glass and queensware store at No. 98 South Front Street. His son, *James Alexander Bartram*, was married on February 17, 1795, in old Swedes' Church, to *Ann Nicholson*; and his daughter, *Ann Bartram*, was married on August 1, 1801, in Christ Church to *Jacob Cort*.

George Bartram, Jr., was born in Philadelphia, in 1767, and became very active in local public affairs, both civil, political and military. He entered the University of Pennsylvania in 1780, graduating on July 4, 1783, and receiving his Master's degree on July 3, 1786. On March 3, 1786, he took the oath of allegiance to the State. He was elected a member of the St. Andrew's Society in 1788. The same year he is re-

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corded as a real estate agent and wine merchant at No. 68 South Second Street and No. 39 Dock Street, a few doors below Second Street, with his cousin, *James Alexander Bartram*. He was a prominent member of the Whig, and later of the Democratic party. He was an active member of the Tammany Society. Early in the Nineteenth Century, he joined with Thomas Leiper and others in the promotion of the "Whig Society of Pennsylvania," one of the stated objects of which was "the cultivation of virtue in politics." He was for many years interested in the Philadelphia militia. In 1786-87, he was a private in the Fourth Company, First Philadelphia Battalion, Colonel Gurney; in 1787, he was in the Light Infantry attached to the Second Battalion; on March 4, 1792, he was elected First Lieutenant of the Light Infantry Company of the 5th Battalion, Colonel Gurney; and in 1793, he was Captain of this Volunteer Company of Light Infantry. He served in the Whisky Insurrection of 1794. From 1807-14, he was Lieutenant Colonel and Colonel of the 50th Regiment, P. M., and for a short time, Monday, July 4, to August 1, 1814, was Brigadier General of the City Brigade, which office he resigned. From October, 1809, to October, 1811, he served as President of the Select Council, and subsequently for a number of years (1821-1839) was one of the Aldermen of the City. He died in Philadelphia at his home, No. 126 Walnut Street, near Fifth, on May 8, 1840, aged 73 years. His widow, *Ann Bartram* (born in 1784) died at No. 241 Vine Street, on April 5, 1845, in her 61st year. Their son, *David Bartram*, was a printer.

⁶⁷⁰ *American Daily Advertiser*, December 8, 1808.

⁶⁷¹ *Ibid*, October 24, and November 22, 1808.

⁶⁷² *Ibid*, November 28, 1808.

⁶⁷³ *Ibid*, February 20, 1809.

⁶⁷⁴ *Ibid*, February 25, 1809.

⁶⁷⁵ *Ibid*, April 29, 1809.

⁶⁷⁶ *Ibid*, May 10, 1809.

⁶⁷⁷ *Nice's Tavern* was situated at No. 19 South 7th Street, northeast corner of Carpenter [Ranstead] Street. It was originally known as "*The Sign of the German Hall*," and its sign was a representation of the hall of the German Society near by, (on Seventh Street below Market) Subsequently, *Jacob Nice* kept an eating house there. In October 1813 *George Schock* opened the place as the "*Decatur Inn*," and it then won the patronage of quiet-loving people and became quite prosperous. Scharf and Westcott, vol. ii, p. 992.

(To be continued.)