

THE SECOND TROOP PHILADELPHIA CITY  
CAVALRY.

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[For references see pp. 187–189.]

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A special Troop meeting was held on June 19<sup>th</sup> to  
arrange for the Fourth of July celebration:—<sup>578</sup>

“NOTICE.

“The Second City Troop of Cavalry, will meet at  
Evan’s Tavern, on Monday [June 19] at 4 o’clock,  
P. M., without uniform. Punctual attendance is re-  
quired.

“By order of the Captain,

PETER WAGER,<sup>579</sup> *Sergeant.*”

“June 17, [1809].”

The Troop celebration of the Fourth this year con-  
sisted in a Squadron parade, followed by a march to  
Germantown and dinner at Mendenhall’s tavern, near  
the Falls of Schuylkill, as is shown by the following  
troop notices:—

ATTENTION.

“The FIRST TROOP of LIGHT HORSE, will parade com-  
pletely equiped (with cloaks attached to the saddle),  
on Tuesday the 4th July next, at eight o’clock, A. M. at  
the Columbia House, corner of Spruce and Eleventh  
streets, where the Squadron will be formed in honor  
of the Anniversary of our Independence. Punctual at-

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tendance is expected, as the line of march will be taken *precisely* at 9 o'clock! The honorary members are respectfully invited to dine with the Troop on that day, at 2 o'clock, P. M. at Mendenhall's tavern, near the Falls of Schuylkill.

"june 30, [1809]."

"ROBERT WHARTON, *Captain.*"

"CAVALRY ORDER.<sup>580</sup>

"The members of the SECOND CITY TROOP of CAVALRY, will meet at the Centre House Tavern, on Tuesday next the 4th of July, at 8 o'clock, A. M., compleatly equipt, when and where they will receive the orders for the day.

"THOMAS W. FRANCIS, *Capt.*"

"july 1, [1809]."

"CAVALRY ORDER.<sup>581</sup>

"The members composing the THIRD TROOP of CITY CAVALRY, are requested to meet at the Columbia House, corner of Spruce and Eleventh-streets, on Tuesday next, the 4th July, at 8 o'clock, A. M. compleatly equipt—Punctual attendance is required, as the line of march for Germantown will be taken up precisely at 9 o'clock.

"JOHN M. PRICE, *Captain.*"

"july 1, [1809]."

On September 6, 1809, it is interesting to note that the First Troop met without uniform at the Shakespeare Hotel to discuss a contemplated change in the uniform of the corps.<sup>582</sup> It was about this time that the time-honored uniform of the Second Troop, adopted in 1775, was replaced by the beautiful hussar type of dress to be worn by the Troop until 1825. As Charles M. Lefferts, the authority on early American uniforms, has said, "It is not surprising that the Troop dress was changed so completely from 1790 as Light Dragoon to

that of 1810 when they appear as Hussars, for in making this change they followed the English order of converting regiments of Light Dragoons into Hussars during the same period, as most of the English Hussar regimental records will show, and also the style of dress follows the English in every way." It was not until 1825 that the Second Troop substituted for the handsome uniform adopted at this time the still handsomer one of that date, a radical change back from the hussar type to that of a dragoon.

The customary Squadron and regimental drills were held in October in response to the following:—<sup>583</sup>

“TROOP ORDERS.

“The SECOND CITY TROOP of CAVALRY, will parade completely equipt on Mondays 2d, 9th and 16th of October next at 2 o'clock, P. M. at Peter Evan's Tavern, near the Permanent Bridge; and on Thursday the 19th, at same place, at one o'clock, P. M. in order to join the 50th regiment, to which this troop is attached.

“THOS. W. FRANCIS, *Capt.*

“N. B. The court of appeals, will be held at the Shakespeare Hotel, on Saturday 21st October, between the hours of 5 and 7 o'clock.”

“Sept. 29, [1809].”

In November, on the 20th instant, there occurred a Division parade followed by a military fête, in which the mounted troops participated, according to the following First Troop notice:—<sup>584</sup>

“ATTENTION.

“The First Troop of LIGHT HORSE, will parade at my quarters, completely equipped, and with cloaks and pads (each member will provide twelve rounds of blank cartridges), on Monday, the 20th inst. precisely at 8 o'clock, A. M. in order to form with the first divi-

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sion to which the troop is attached, from whence they will march to partake of the military fête of the day.

“Nov. 17, [1809].”

“ROBERT WHARTON, *Capt.*”

The military year came to a close with a series of meetings of vital importance, tending toward a closer union of the cavalry forces of the vicinity, and resulting, in the following year, in the formation of a volunteer regiment of city and county cavalry. The notices of these meetings follow:—

“CAVALRY.<sup>585</sup>

The Officers of the respective corps of Cavalry of the city and County of Philadelphia, are invited to attend a meeting at the Shakespeare Hotel, on Saturday next [Dec. 9], at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, to consider the propriety of organizing a Regiment of Cavalry, to be attached to the first division of Pennsylvania Militia.”

“dec. 5, [1809].”

“CAVALRY.<sup>586</sup>

“An adjourned meeting of the Officers of the respective Corps of Cavalry of the city and county of Philadelphia, will be held at the Shakespeare Hotel, on Saturday next, the 23d instant, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

“dec. 20, [1809].”

“JOHN SMITH, *Secretary.*”

The next day the following Troop notice appeared:—<sup>587</sup>

“CAVALRY ORDERS.

“The members comprising the Second City Troop of Cavalry, will meet at Nice's Tavern, on Friday the 22d instant, at 6 o'clock in the evening. Punctual at-

tendance is requested, as business of importance will be laid before the Troop.

“THOS. W. FRANCIS, *Capt.*”

“dec. 21, [1809].”

This meeting was subsequently postponed until Saturday the 23d inst. at the same place and hour.<sup>588</sup>

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## CHAPTER XIX.

### THE FIRST REGIMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA CAVALRY OF 1810.

The foreign relations of the United States, which had improved somewhat during 1809, now took a decided turn for the worse, and throughout 1810 they continued doubtful and almost hostile. The open rupture with Francis J. Jackson, the British Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, brought events to a crisis. Consequently, President Madison's message, on January 3, 1810, considered the raising of more troops to be necessary, and recommended that 20,000 volunteers be accepted for service at the shortest warning.<sup>589</sup>

The Philadelphia Cavalry Corps were not lacking in the current military enthusiasm. Indoor drills continued throughout the winter; and on January 10, 1810, we find that officers of the various troops, including those of the Second Troop, uniting in a memorial which was, on that day, presented to the House of Representatives at Lancaster by Mr. Thompson, and which, in behalf of themselves and the corps of cavalry they commanded, “requested for reasons therein stated, that the portion of militia cavalry belonging to the city and county of Philadelphia, may be authorized by law to form themselves into a regiment, to be attached to the first division.” This memorial—which was the direct outcome of the two meetings of the cavalry

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officers held in the preceding month—was read and referred to the Committee on the Militia System,<sup>590</sup> where it was held up until the following session of the State Legislature. While waiting for some action by the State Legislature, the various Troop commanders came to an agreement whereby a temporary organization was effected for the celebration of February 22d.

Toward the close of January the following Troop order appeared:—<sup>591</sup>

### “CAVALRY ORDERS.

“The Members composing the Second City Troop of Cavalry, will meet at Nice’s Tavern, on Saturday the 27th inst. at 6 o’clock in the evening—Punctual attendance is requested.

“THOMAS W. FRANCIS, *Capt.*”

“jan 26, [1810].”

By this time the volunteer association of the Cavalry Troops of the City and County had been accomplished, and the Regiment then formed—which in the following year was authorized by the State Legislature—was destined to take an active part in local military affairs until the War of 1812. Its first public appearance was on February 22d, 1810, according to the following notice:—<sup>592</sup>

### “CAVALRY ORDERS.

“The Troops of Cavalry, of the City and County of Philadelphia, who have agreed to celebrate, by Military Parade, the Anniversary of the day that gave birth to our departed Hero and Friend, GEORGE WASHINGTON, will parade compleatly equipped (each member to provide three rounds of blank cartridge) on Thursday, the 22d instant, precisely at 10 o’clock, A. M. in the vacant ground immediately north of the Centre Square

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—The Adjutant will designate the rank, each troop will take in the line.

“ROBERT WHARTON, *Senr. Capt.*  
and Commandant of the day.”

“feb. 19, [1810].”

The Second Troop order for this event was as follows.<sup>593</sup>

“CAVALRY ORDERS.

“The SECOND CITY TROOP of CAVALRY, will parade in Seventh-street, between Market and Chestnut-street, completely equipped, each member to provide three rounds of blank cartridge, on THURSDAY, the 22d inst. at half past 8 o'clock, A. M. in order to join in celebrating the anniversary of the day that gave to our country its Father and Friend GEORGE WASHINGTON.

“The troop will dine at Jacob Nice’s at 3 o’clock, P. M.

“THOMAS W. FRANCIS, *Capt.*”

“feb. 21, [1810].”

The regiment made a fine appearance that day, as is indicated by the following account:—<sup>594</sup> “A regiment of Cavalry, consisting of all the troops in the city, and some from the county, amounting to 250 men, paraded for the first time, under the command of Robert Wharton, as Senior Captain. Their appearance was truly martial and splendid, and contributed very much to encrease the honors of the day.” Subsequent to the parade a service was held in the First Presbyterian Church, in Market Street, which was attended by some of the military, and where an oration was delivered in honor of the day.<sup>595</sup> Later in the afternoon the various Troops partook of their customary dinners. It is unfortunate that an account of the Second Troop dinner at Nice’s Tavern is not accessible. The First Troop

dined at the Shakespeare Hotel, and among their toasts was the following:—<sup>596</sup> “12. *The contemplated regiment of Cavalry of the City and County of Philadelphia.* Its basis the public welfare, discipline its superstructure.” The Third Troop, or “Volunteer Greens,” at their dinner drank the following:—<sup>597</sup> “12. The associated volunteer troops of cavalry of the city and county of Philadelphia—may they always be ready at their country’s call, to maintain her rights and avenge her wrongs;” while at the dinner of the First County Troop of Cavalry, Captain Caleb Hughes, the following toast is recorded:—<sup>598</sup> “The United Troops of the City and County of Philadelphia—may friendship and harmony ever be the order of the day.—3 cheers.”

The usual spring Squadron drills were arranged for at a business meeting of the Second Troop on May 5, as follows:—<sup>599</sup>

“CAVALRY ORDER.

“The members composing the Second City Troop of Cavalry, are particularly requested to meet at Nice’s Tavern, on Saturday evening [May 5] at 7 o’clock, on business of importance. It is expected every member will be punctual in attendance.

“THOMAS W. FRANCIS, *Captain.*”

“may 4, [1810].”

Accordingly, two days later the following announcement was made:<sup>600</sup>

“CAVALRY ORDER.

“The Second City Troop of Cavalry, will parade compleatly equipped on Monday the 7th, 14th and 21st. inst. at 2 o’clock, P. M. on the usual ground near the permanent Bridge, and on Thursday the 17th inst. at 2 o’clock, P. M. at the same place in order to join the 50th Regiment to which the troop is attached.



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“A court of appeal will be held at Nice’s tavern, on Saturday the 2d June, between the hours of 5 and 8 o’clock, P. M.

“By order of the Commanding Officer.”

“may 7, [1810].”

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REFERENCES.

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<sup>578</sup> *American Daily Advertiser*, June 17, 1809.

<sup>579</sup> *Philip Wager*, third son of *Peter George Wager* (born in Lamp-pertheim, Hesse, Germany, in 1708; arrived in Philadelphia, September 16, 1736; died in Philadelphia, October 24, 1750) and *Anna Margaretha Wager* (married *Philip Stein* in 1759); and brother of *Peter* (born in September, 1736; baptized in Christ Church in 1741); *John Conrad* (born in 1747; married January 30, 1770, to *Sarah Harper*; died in 1803) who in 1777, was a private in Captain George Reinhard’s Sixth Company, Third City Battalion, Colonel Jacob Morgan; on August 10, 1780, a private in the First Company, Captain Alexander Quarrier, Third Battalion, in active service; in 1784, clerk of the Fourth Company, Captain Andrew Burkhard, Fourth Battalion, Colonel William Will; and in 1785, a private in this company, then commanded by Captain Conrad Rush; *William*, who, in July, 1777, was a private in the Fifth Company, Captain Williamson Tolbert, Third City Battalion, Colonel Jacob Morgan; on August 10, 1780, a private in Captain Burkhard’s company of the Third Regiment Volunteer Infantry; and, in 1785–86, in the Second Company, Captain Conrad Rush, Fourth Battalion, Colonel Will; *Elizabeth* (died in 1815); *Mathias*, in 1787, a private in the Fifth Company, Captain Christian Sheetz, Seventh City Battalion, Colonel William Coats; and *Johann Peter* (born posthumously; baptized in 1751; took the oath of allegiance to the State, June 27, 1777; in July 1777, a private in the Sixth Company, Third Battalion, Col. Jacob Morgan; still living in 1792); was born in Philadelphia in 1748, and became a prominent wine-merchant of that city, residing on High [Market] street between Fourth and Fifth Streets. He was the senior member of the firm *Wager and Habacker* (*George Habacker* married *Mary Dick* on November 25, 1779; died August 12, 1792). On October 31, 1771, Philip Wager was married in old Swedes’ Church to *Maria*, daughter of *Christopher Keller*. He was subsequently married in the German Reformed Church to *Hannah* (born in 1760; died September 24, 1831), daughter of *Christian Wirtz*, of Lancaster and Philadelphia. He was a private in Captain Samuel Simpson’s Company of City Guards in 1776; then a private in Captain Francis C. Hassenclever’s Company of Foot of the First Philadelphia Battalion, on December 19, 1776; in

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July, 1777, a private in Captain John Linnington's Eighth Company, Third Battalion, Col. Jacob Morgan; and in Captain Peters' Company of Philadelphia Militia from 1777 to 1783; from 1784 to 1787, he was a private in Captain Conrad Rush's Company of Col. William Will's Fourth Battalion. He subsequently attained the rank of Major in the Philadelphia Militia. In 1778, his place of business was on Second Street. In October, 1778, he signed a petition for clemency for John Roberts and Abraham Carlisle under sentence of death for high treason. In 1780, he was a member of the Republican Society. On October 10, 1786, he was elected one of the Wardens of the city; and, on December 5, 1786, he was named a Trustee of the proposed German College and Charity School to be established in Lancaster. He was a resident of North Mulberry Ward in 1787. On October 31, 1789, he endorsed the candidacy of General Daniel Brodhead for the office of Surveyor General. On April 11, 1792, he was elected to Common Council. In 1796, his home was at No. 134 North Second Street. In 1805, he became a Charter Member of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. In 1812, he was President of the Board of Managers which that year built the bridge across the Schuylkill River at Callowhill Street (destroyed by fire September 1, 1838; replaced by a wire suspension bridge which was finished on January 2, 1842, and replaced in 1875, by a large bridge built by the Keystone Bridge Company). In addition to his city home he owned a farm in Germantown and a place in Virginia. His will was made on February 21, 1813, and probated on May 19, 1813. He died in Philadelphia on May 12, 1813, aged 65 years. His children were: *George* (in 1786, a private in the Sixth Company, Fifth Battalion, Col. Benjamin G. Eyre); *Margaretta* (born in 1785; married January 9, 1805, to *William J. Baker*; died January 21, 1844, in her 59th year; her son-in-law was *Thomas E. Potter*); *Peter*; *Sarah* (died, unmarried, at No. 91 Locust Street, on February 25, 1840); *Elizabeth*; *Henrietta*; *William S.* (in 1814, a private in the First Company, Washington Guards, known during the campaign as the Fourth Company, Philadelphia Militia); *Juliana E.* (died September 25, 1845, and buried from the residence of John Miles, No. 2, York Buildings); *Philip Stein*; *Hannah S.* (married a *Mr. Lowrey*); *Maria Magdalene* born in 1772; married on May 11, 1791; to *Johann Adam Reigart, Jr.*, son of Lieut. Col. *Adam Reigart*, of Lancaster, Pa.; died before 1812; their children were *William Stein Wager*, *Philip Stein Wager* who was born in 1799, and died September 23, 1833, in his 35th year, and *Hannah Stein Wager*); *Ann* (born in 1788; married *William T. Smith*, merchant, of Christiana, Delaware, who died September 10, 1839; she died Monday, May 12, 1809, in her 22d year; their daughter, *Hannah Wager Smith*, on June 30, 1829, married *John Miles, Jr.*); and *Sophia M. R.* (married, June 10, 1839, to *George Plitt*, of Washington, D. C.).

*Peter Wager*, son of *Philip Wager* and *Hannah Wirtz*, was born in Philadelphia on March 12, 1782; on January 21, 1808, he was married, by Bishop White, to *Ann T. Smith* (born Oct. 28, 1787; died March 25, 1850), daughter of *Stafford Smith*, of the West Indies. In 1805,

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he became a Charter Member of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. He was long a member of the Second City Troop, and became its First Sergeant. He was a wholesale merchant at No. 173 Chestnut Street; and in 1838, was President of the Morristown and Valley Railroad Company (office, No. 16 South Sixth Street), which that year built the bridge across the Schuylkill River at Conshohocken. Peter Wager's city residence for many years was No. 28 Girard Street. His will was dated July 18, 1855. He died in 1863. His children were: *Elizabeth Smith* (born August 21, 1809; died in 1821); *Philip Smith* (born February 15, 1811; died in 1816); *Mary Ann* (born May 25, 1812; married December 15, 1831, to *James Bate Wager*, of Harper's Ferry, Va.; who was born May 29, 1801; they lived at Montgomery Square, Montgomery County, Pa.; she died in Chicago in 1893; they had fourteen children, including *Ellen Virginia*, who died January 1, 1845, and Dr. *Peter Wager*, who graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1861, became a surgeon in the U. S. Army, and died December 25, 1868); *Adam Reigart* (born January 30, 1814); and *Hannah* (born April 24, 1816; married December 11, 1834, to *William Badger*).

<sup>890</sup> *American Daily Advertiser*.

<sup>891</sup> Ibid, July 1, 1809.

<sup>892</sup> Ibid, Sept. 5, 1809.

<sup>893</sup> Ibid, Sept. 29, 1809.

<sup>894</sup> *American Daily Advertiser*, November 17, 1809.

<sup>895</sup> Ibid, Tuesday, December 5, 1809.

<sup>896</sup> Ibid, Wednesday, December 20, 1809.

<sup>897</sup> Ibid, December 21, 1809.

<sup>898</sup> Ibid, December 22, 1809.

<sup>899</sup> *Scharf and Westcott*, vol. 1, p. 544.

<sup>900</sup> Journal of the Twentieth House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pa. 1809-10.

<sup>901</sup> *American Daily Advertiser*, January 27, 1810.

<sup>902</sup> Ibid, Feb. 19, 1810.

<sup>903</sup> *American Daily Advertiser*, Feb. 21, 1810.

<sup>904</sup> Ibid, Feb. 24, 1810.

<sup>905</sup> Ibid, Feb. 22, 1810.

<sup>906</sup> Ibid, Feb. 24, 1810.

<sup>907</sup> Ibid, Feb. 26, 1810.

<sup>908</sup> *American Daily Advertiser*, February 28, 1810.

<sup>909</sup> Ibid, Friday, May 4, 1810.

<sup>910</sup> Ibid, May 7, 1810.

(To be continued.)