THOMAS CADWALADER.

From painting by Thomas Sully.

(See page 283.)
THE SECOND TROOP PHILADELPHIA CITY CAVALRY.

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CHAPTER XX.

CAPTAIN THOMAS CADWALADER. 618

Thomas Cadwalader, son of Brig. General John Cadwalader (born in Philadelphia, January 10, 1742; died in Shrewsbury, Pa., February 10, 1786) and Williamina (born in 1752; died in London, September 9, 1837), daughter of Dr. Phineas Bond (born in 1717; died on Friday, June 11, 1773, in his 56th year); was born in Philadelphia on October 28, 1779. He entered the University of Pennsylvania in 1792, from which Institution he graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1795. He then took up the study of law and, in 1801, was admitted to the Philadelphia bar. In April, 1799, while a private in the Second City Troop he was one of sixteen who captured the ring-leader in Fries' Rebellion (See Chapter XIII). While still connected with the Troop and a student of the law Mr. Cadwalader applied for a commission in the army which it was proposed to raise in the threatened war with France at the close of the eighteenth century, but as the army was not required the commission was not granted. This notwithstanding that General Washington, from his retirement at Mount Vernon accepted the command of the army, and for this purpose had come to Philadelphia.

On June 25, 1804, Thomas Cadwalader was married to Mary (born January 12, 1791; died March 12, 1850),
daughter of Colonel Clement Biddle, Quartermaster General of Pennsylvania and United States Marshal, by whom he had two sons—George (born May 16, 1806; died February 3, 1879), and Thomas C. (born in 1808; died January 19, 1844). On May 7, 1810, when 31 years of age, he was elected Captain of the Second City Troop, which office he held until August 1, 1814, when he was succeeded by Lieutenant William Rawle, Jr. On September 7, 1812, there is recorded a complete muster-roll of his Troop as a portion of the Regiment of Cavalry commanded by Colonel John Smith. Captain Cadwalader was known to be a careful student of military science, and in February, 1812, he was elected to the Lieutenant Colonelcy of the Cavalry Regiment. Upon the breaking out of the War with Great Britain he took an active part in the military preparation of the city. On May 6, 1813, he was a member of the South Ward Committee for collecting subscriptions to defray the expense of an additional defence of the Delaware River and Bay. In 1814 and 1815 he was a member of the famous Committee of Defence. He still held his commission as Lieutenant Colonel of the Cavalry Regiment in September, 1814, when the British Squadron, with the Army which had been landed at Washington and afterward at Baltimore, appeared in Delaware Bay. Subsequent to this date, on Friday, September 9, 1814, when but 34 years of age, he was appointed Brigadier General in command of the "Advance Light Brigade," which was encamped on the lands of Mr. Du Pont, of Wilmington, in place of George Bartram, resigned. Under his training the troops became remarkable for their efficiency and discipline. When the field and company officers, and the rank and file of this Brigade, were disbanded, General Cadwalader and his staff were excepted from the order discharging the troops from the service of the United States. This was more than a mere complimentary
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recognition by the General Government of General Cadwalader's usefulness; for, in the winter of 1815, he was temporarily placed in command of the Military Division of the United States comprising the State of Delaware, the eastern portion of Pennsylvania, and adjacent portions of New Jersey and Maryland. This command he held for nearly two months. When peace was declared in February, 1815, General Cadwalader retained his post in the Militia, to which he was afterwards unanimously reelected. He was subsequently, in 1824, appointed Major General of the First Division of the Pennsylvania Militia, and continued in that office until 1833, when he was succeeded by General Robert Patterson. He declined various civic appointments, among others that of Minister to the Court of St. James under President Monroe. He was ever prominent in the social life of Philadelphia; was one of the Managers of the Birth Night Ball on February 22, 1817, and in the same year a Manager of the Assembly Balls.

In May, 1826, a resolution of the Congress of the United States authorized the Secretary of War "to have prepared a complete system of cavalry tactics, and also a system of exercise and instruction of field artillery, includng manoeuvres for light or horse artillery, for the use of the militia of the United States, to be reported for consideration, or adoption, by Congress at its next Session." In compliance therewith a Board of eight officers was convened at Washington in October, 1826, to prepare such a report. General Winfield Scott was President of the Board, and among the members were Lieutenant Colonel (afterwards President) Taylor and General Cadwalader. The section of the report relating to cavalry tactics was, it is believed, prepared entirely by General Cadwalader.

General Cadwalader was a man of wide education, and was the author of occasional articles which appeared in various journals. His style of composition
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was neat, humorous and powerful. He was a constant and studious reader, and his home—originally at No. 266 Chestnut Street; then, in 1801, at No. 248 (present number 718) High Market Street, the former home of Governor Thomas Mifflin; and subsequently, after 1813, in the Boudinot mansion at Ninth and Arch Streets, was the resort of the most accomplished scholars of the country. The uniform courtesy of his deportment won for him many friends, and it is said that in his home "modest merit was welcomed not less cordially than elevated rank or station."

From 1816 to 1836, General Cadwalader served as a Trustee of the University of Pennsylvania. In 1834, he was a member of the Committee of Arrangement for the memorial procession in honor of General Lafayette. In 1825, he became a member of the American Philosophical Society. From December 13, 1832, to June 4, 1835, he served as a Director of the Pennsylvania Company for Insurances on Lives and Granting Annuities. In 1815, he was one of the organizers of the Schuylkill Navigation Company. In January, 1841, he was elected a Manager of the Philadelphia Dispensary.

He died at his residence, southeast corner of 9th and Arch Streets, on October 26, 1841, when 62 years of age. His funeral was largely attended by military men and prominent officials and citizens of Philadelphia.

REFERENCES.


The American Philosophical Society was founded in Philadelphia by Benjamin Franklin and others in 1743, its object being the promoting of useful knowledge. On December 20, 1768, it united with the reorganized Junto (known since 1766 as "The American Society held
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at Philadelphia for Promoting Useful Knowledge’), and the first meeting of the conjoined Society was held on January 2, 1769. Benjamin Franklin was the first President, his term extending from 1769 to 1790. He was succeeded by David Rittenhouse, who held the office until 1795. In 1792, Governor Richard Penn became the Patron of the Society. During the Revolutionary War the meetings of the Society were sadly interrupted, and almost totally discontinued during 1776-78. On March 5, 1779, the Society reassembled, never again to be interrupted in its scientific pursuits. In 1795, Thomas Jefferson became President, holding that office for 18 years (until 1813). He was succeeded by the following distinguished men:—Dr. Caspar Wistar, Dr. Robert Patterson, Chief Justice Tilghman, Peter S. Du Ponceau, Robert M. Patterson, Dr. Nathaniel Chapman, Dr. Franklin Bache, Professor Alexander Dallas Bache, Judge John K. Kane, Dr. George B. Wood, Mr. Frederick Fraley, General Isaac J. Wistar, Dr. Edgar F. Smith, and Dr. Wm. W. Keen. Among the distinguished members have been Lafayette, Rochambeau, Tallyrand, Volney, Rochechouard, Alexander Hamilton, Nicholas Biddle, Cuvier, Cope, von Humboldt, William Pepper, J. G. Rosengarten, and others. The Hall of the Society, in 1774, was in Second Street.

The Schuylkill Navigation Company was organized on March 8, 1815, its object being the making of a lock navigation on the river Schuylkill. The work of construction was begun late in 1816. The route extended from Lancaster Schuylkill Bridge (now Callowhill Street), Philadelphia to the mouth of Mill Creek, two miles above Pottsville, Pennsylvania. The distance was 108.23 miles. The entire lockage from the established level of the dam at Port Carbon to mean-tide at Philadelphia was 618.76 feet. The Schuylkill Navigation is a slack-water navigation, being partly pool and partly canal. The canal was finished in 1825 and put into use throughout from Philadelphia to Mt. Carbon. In 1828 the Navigation was extended from Pottsville to the mouth of Mill Creek (Port Carbon) by George Duncan, an engineer and contractor of great ability. Thomas Oakes was the chief engineer of the company, and he located and constructed the line throughout from Philadelphia to Mt. Carbon. Mr. Duncan constructed the canal tunnel near Auburn, the first tunnel in the United States, which was originally about 400 feet long, but which in 1857 was reduced to an open cutting. Samuel Griscom was the General Superintendent of the Company from an early period to 1848. The years of greatest prosperity of the Company were from 1835-1841. In 1845 the line was enlarged, and then extended from Althouse’s (Leesport) to Fairmount, Philadelphia. This extension was opened on May 4, 1846. From 1847 to 1870, Frederick Fraley was the President of the Company. In 1870 the works were leased to the Philadelphia and Reading Company, which still retains control of the line.