THE SECOND TROOP PHILADELPHIA CITY CAVALRY.

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[For references see pages 379–383.]

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CHAPTER XXI.

STATE RECOGNITION OF THE CAVALRY REGIMENT.

The Volunteer Regiment of Cavalry was now a recognized and prominent feature of the City Militia, and the association of the Second Troop with it was a fitting culmination of the efficient administration of Troop affairs by the retiring captain, Thomas Willing Francis. His successor, Lieutenant Thomas Cadwalader, was to become in the near future one of the most eminent military men of the country, and doubtless his efficiency in military things had been materially strengthened by his close relationship with Captain Francis. Be this as it may, the new commander of the Troop found the organization both famous and successful. The war with the mother country was looming on the horizon; the air was electrified with the military spirit; and the young officer found himself at the head of a Troop of Light Horse thoroughly trained in the cavalry tactics of the day, and eager for the conflict which all felt was speedily approaching. Consequently, we find the record of the four years of his captaincy filled with the spirit and adventure of his time. The first Troop notice of his administration occurred on August 3, 1810, and was as follows:—

922
"Second City Troop of Cavalry."

"The Members of the Troop will meet without uniform, at Mr. John (sic-Jacob?) Nice's tavern, on Tuesday evening next, Aug. 7 at half past 7 o'clock, for the purpose of electing new members, and making arrangements for drills.

"By order of the Commandant,

"Samuel Allen,
"Orderly Sergeant."

"Aug. 3, [1810]."

In order not to conflict with the Regimental parades, the Troop drills occurred early in September. Thus, we find the following:—\(^{623}\)

"The Second Troop of City

"CAVALRY will parade, completely equipped, at Mr. Peter Evans' Tavern, near the Schuylkill Permanent Bridge, on Thursday the 13th September, at 2 o'clock precisely.

"By order of the Commandant,

"Samuel Allen,
"Orderly Sergeant."

"Sept. 6, [1810]."

The Regimental order appeared toward the close of this month:—\(^{624}\)

"Cavalry Orders.

"The First Regiment of Associated Militia Cavalry, of the city and county of Philadelphia, will parade, completely equipped, on Monday the first day of October next, at half past 1 o'clock, P. M. on the vacant ground, between Spruce and Pine streets, near Sixth-street from Schuylkill [17th Street], the right on Sixth-street, displaying eastwardly.

"By order of the Colonel,

"J. R. Ingersoll, Adjutant."

"Sept. 27, [1810]."

The only individual Troop notice for this event to
be found, was that of the Third Troop, and it is of value inasmuch as it contains a little additional information:"\(^{625}\)

**Troop Order.**

"The Troop of VOLUNTEER GREENS will parade on Monday the first of October next, completely equipped with nine rounds of Blank Cartridge, at Peter Evans's at 12 o'clock—the roll to be called precisely at one o'clock, in order to join the Associated Regiment of Cavalry, at half past one.

"Samule Meeker,\(^{626}\)"

"Lieutenant Commandant."

"sept. 29, [1810]."

This occasion of the "annual training" on "the common" was darkened by an accidental discharge of muskets whereby one citizen was killed and five or six were wounded.\(^{627}\) During this month October we find the first mention of the command of the Troop by Thomas Cadwalader who, however, was not officially elected to the captaincy until the following spring. The Fiftieth Regiment, to which the First and Second Troops were attached, had a parade on October 18th, for which event we find the following notice:\(^{628}\)

**Fiftieth Regiment.**

"The companies composing the 50th Regiment, Pennsylvania Militia, will assemble at the places directed by their several commanders, on Thursday next, the 18th inst [Oct.] at 1 o'clock, and from thence will march to join the regiment which will be paraded on the vacant ground immediately north of the centre engine house.\(^{629}\)

"The two companies of cavalry under captain Wharton and lieut. Cadwalader, will take their usual position.

"The flank companies under capts. [Lewis] Rush and [Stephen E.] Fotterall,\(^{630}\) will be counted off with
The line. The line will be formed at half past 2 o'clock, P. M. and not be dismissed until marched in.

GEORGE BARTRAM, Lt.—Col. 50th Regt.'

It was the intention of the authorities of the First Division of the Pennsylvania Militia to hold a military fête early in November, 1810, and for this purpose the following General and Division Orders were issued:—

GENERAL ORDERS.

Philadelphia, 31st October, 1810.

"ON MONDAY the 5th of November next, at 7 o'clock in the morning, the uniform corps of Militia of the City and County of Philadelphia, who are disposed to participate in a MILITARY FETE, will assemble in the following order:—The first or offensive division, under the command of Major Lewis Rush, will form north of the centre engine house, their right on the circular road, displaying to the north. The second or defensive division, under Col. S. E. Potterall, will form on the left of the first: The Regiment of Cavalry as well as the Battalion under Major John Smith, will be under the immediate command of Col. Robert Wharton, and are to be disposed of as he may direct. The Regiment of Artillery, will be apportioned to each division conformable to Major Ebenezer Ferguson's orders. Major Daniel Sharp, Peter Christian, and Wm. Duncan, are appointed Aids-de-camps [sic] for the day, and are to be respected accordingly.

"JOHN STEELE, Commander in Chief.'

"DIVISION ORDERS.

"November 2d, 1810.

"CONFORMABLE to general orders, the second division of uniformed corps of the city and county of Philadelphia, will assemble on Monday next November 5, at 7 o'clock in the morning, forming on the left of Major Rush's division in the following order:—
{ CAVALRY, such as may be ordered by Col. Robert Wharton.

Major Uhle's RIFLE CORPS

ARTILLERY, those ordered by Major Ebenezer Ferguson.


Benevolent Blues—Capt. Read.

American Blues—Capt. Meeker

Moyamensing Blues—Capt. Binney

Philadelphia, Volunteers—Lieut. White

ARTILLERY

Capt. Fresmire's RIFLE COMPANY

CAVALRY

"The whole to be provided with 24 rounds of blunt cartridge. Col. Geo. Bartram will command the left sub-division.—The staff to consist of the following officers: lieuts. [A. M.] PREVOST and WESTPHAL, Adjutants, Major ROBT. CARR, Surgeon, and Dr. SAMUEL BENAZET, Surgeon.

"S. [Stephen] E. FOTTERALL,

"Chief of the Second Division."

A prolonged spell of inclement weather following, the proposed fête was abandoned, according to the following

AFTER ORDERS.

"November 2d, 1810.

"As the state of the weather, at present appears extremely unpropitious to the contemplated Military Fête on Monday, the troops are requested to remain in quarters till further orders.

"JOHN STEELE, Commander in Chief."

REFERENCES.

632 American Daily Advertiser, Friday, August 3, 1810.
633 Ibid, Sept. 6, 1810.
634 American Daily Advertiser, September 27, 1810.
635 Ibid, October 1, 1810.
380  **The Second Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry.**

*Samuel Meeker* was a merchant of Philadelphia residing in Chestnut Ward. In 1787, he was a private in the First Company, Second City Battalion, Colonel James Read. In 1788, he was a sergeant in Captain John Morrell’s Eighth Artillery Company; and, in 1789, in the Second Artillery Company, Captain Matthias Sadler. In August, 1795, he signed the Merchants and Traders Address to the President. On September 25, 1797, he dissolved his partnership with *William Cochran* at No. 28 North Front Street, which had been in existence since 1793, and formed a new partnership, *Meeker, Denman and Company*, at No. 20 South Front Street. He was a member of the Hibernian Society. In 1810, he was Lieutenant Commander of the “Volunteer Greens,” or Third Troop of Philadelphia Light Horse; and, in 1811, was Captain of that Troop. He subsequently attained the rank of Colonel. He removed to Butler County, Pa., and died in Portsmouth, Dauphin County, Pa., on September 2, 1832. His wife was *Jane* (born in 1763; married on March 3, 1792; died on July 1, 1845, aged 82 years), daughter of *Jonathan Hampton*. Her son, *Samuel Hampton Meeker*, was born in 1796, and died on Tuesday, May 21, 1822, aged 26 years. He was named after *Samuel Hampton*, who, in 1785, was a private in the Third Company, Second Battalion, Philadelphia City Associators, Colonel James Read.

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627  *Scharf and Westcott*, vol. i, p. 544.
628  *Aurora*, Saturday, October 13, 1810.
629  The center engine house was the building erected in the middle of the Center Square for the water works. It was torn down early in 1827.
630  *Stephen Egan Fotterall*, son of *James Fotterall* and *Mary Blakely*, and long a shipping merchant of Philadelphia at No. 224 Vine Street, was born in Dublin, Ireland, on July 4, 1772. After serving in the English army at Dublin, he emigrated to America and settled in Philadelphia. He was married to *Catherine Myers* (born in Philadelphia, February 16, 1775; died February 16, 1845), widow of *Louis Bernard Raoul Coutance* and daughter of Captain *Andrew Summers* (born c. 1742; died January 26, 1806) and *Hannah Myers* (born 1742; died September 5, 1819). He soon became interested in military affairs. On Thursday, March 29, 1798, he was elected Ensign in the Light Infantry Company of the Third Philadelphia County Regiment; and, in 1801, and for a number of years thereafter, was Captain of the Southwark Light Infantry. On June 18, 1812, he commanded the Independent Blues, continuing as Captain of that organization until 1813, when it was commanded by *William Mitchell*, who, on August 29, 1814, was succeeded by *Peter Arrell Browne*. In 1812, Mr. Fotterall was Colonel of the 24th Regiment of Infantry. He subsequently, in 1813, was commissioned Colonel of the 32d Regiment P. M. He became a member of the Hibernian Society in 1818, and served on the Acting Committee of the Society from 1819 to 1821. He died in his residence, No. 152 South Third Street, corner of Union Street [the old Camac mansion], on September 26, 1839, when in his 68th year, and was buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery. His sons were:—*Stephen Guest Fotterall* (born in Philadelphia, September 19, 1796; married *Sarah Ann Flem-
ing, who was born in New York, November 23, 1810, and died January 20, 1847, in her 37th year; he died March 3, 1866); and William Foster Fotterall (born in 1798; died February 12, 1858; married, May 24, 1821, to Sarah Kay Eyre, daughter of Nathan Eyre and Sarah Kay, of Evesham, New Jersey; she was born November 14, 1803, and died June 10, 1874; they had one son, Stephen Blakely Fotterall, and a number of daughters). Stephen Blakely Fotterall married Mary Wilson, and had a son, William F. Fotterall, and a daughter who married Dr. Thomas R. Neilson.

1. Aurora, Friday, November 2, 1810.

2. The Circular Road was first formed around the Center Square in June 6, 1799. It surrounded the enclosure within which was erected the Quaker Meeting House and subsequently the Center Engine House. It was, at one time, used as a race-course. Scharf and Westcott, vol. 1, p. 501.

3. Daniel Sharp, son of Daniel Sharp, (who on January 1, 1777, was a private in Captain Campbell's Company of City Guards; on September 9, 1777, was appointed a fifer in the Sixth Company, Captain Charles Willson Peale, Fourth Battalion, Col. William Will, in active service; in October, 1778 was a private in Captain Christian Shaffer's Company, Fourth Battalion, Col. John Bayard; and on August 10, 1780, was a private in Captain Elijah Weed's First Company, Second Battalion, Colonel Benjamin G. Eyre in active service at Trenton, and, the same month, in Captain Christian Shaffer's Fifth Company, Fifth Battalion, Col. John Shee, in active service). He became interested in military affairs at an early age. On October 31, 1810, he was appointed aid-de-camp with the rank of Major by General John Steele. Early in 1811, he became Inspector of the First Brigade, which position he held for a number of years until succeeded by Major Chalkley S. Baker. On Saturday, December 30, 1815, he was commissioned Inspector of Arms for the State. He died on Thursday evening, December 20, 1838, after a protracted illness, in the 65th year of his age, and was buried on December 23d from his residence, No. 8 George [Sansom] Street, between Schuylkill 6th and 7th Streets [17th and 16th Streets].

4. John Steele, son of Captain William Steele (born in 1707; died October 23, 1780), of Lancaster County, Pa., and Rachel Carr (born in 1726; died October 8, 1798), of Maryland, and brother of Lieutenant Archibald Steele, of the First Pennsylvania Regiment, was born in Drumore township, Lancaster County, Pa., on July 5, 1758. He studied for the ministry, but on the breaking out of the Revolution joined the Continental Army in 1775 as a private, and, on December 4, 1776, was appointed First Lieutenant in the Tenth Pennsylvania Regiment of the Line. He was wounded at Brandywine on September 11, 1777; was appointed Captain Lieutenant on May 27, 1778, and Captain on March 21, 1779; was transferred to the First Pennsylvania Regiment on January 17, 1781; and was retired from the army on January 1, 1783. He served with Washington in all his campaigns, and at Morristown commanded Mrs. Washington's body guard. In 1783, he married Abigail (born April 4, 1757; died March 13, 1827), daughter of Francis Bailey,
of Lancaster County, Pa. On October 15, 1784, he took the oath of allegiance to the State of Pennsylvania. On May 12, 1794, he was elected a Mason, but resigned on October 19, 1795. In 1801, he was elected a member of the State Legislature; and, in 1802, was elected by the Democratic party State Senator of Pennsylvania. On the resignation of Robert Whitehill, Speaker of the Senate, in March, 1805, Mr. Steele was chosen his successor. In December, 1806, he was candidate for U. S. Senator, but was defeated by Andrew Gregg. He was one of the Commissioners appointed to adjust the damages sustained by the Wyoming sufferers at the hands of the Indians. In 1808, he was appointed, by President Jefferson, Collector of Customs at the Port of Philadelphia, which office he filled until his death. On March 25, 1809, he was Colonel of Militia; and in April, 1809, he became Brigadier General of the First Brigade, First Division, of the Pennsylvania Militia. In 1813, he became a member of Common Council of Philadelphia. He was a member of the famous committee of Defence of 1814-15. In 1819, he was a member of a Committee of Correspondence for petitioning Congress to abolish slavery. He was a Trustee of Girard College; an original member of the Pennsylvania Society of the Cincinnati; and for many years an Elder of the "Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church," Fourth and Pine Streets. He died in Philadelphia on February 27, 1827, in his 69th year. His son, Captain John Steele, in April, 1813, was elected commander of a Militia company. He was a weighmaster of the Port of Philadelphia, and was succeeded in May, 1832, by George Guier.

Robert Carr, son of Archibald (took the oath of allegiance to the State, April 7, 1786; died September 20, 1803) and Mary Carr, was born near Belfast, Ireland, on January 29, 1778, but came to Philadelphia with his parents and two younger brothers in June, 1784. He attended the school of Mr. Littell, in Cypress Alley [near Fourth and Spruce Streets]. He was a printer by trade, having been apprenticed, in 1792, to Benjamin Franklin Bache. With his brother William, he started in business as printers, in 1801, when 23 years of age, in the rear of the Southwest corner of Seventh and Market Streets. Early in life he took an active interest in military matters; in 1794, he was a private in the Sixth Company, Fourth Philadelphia Regiment, Col. Guyer and served in the Whisky Insurrection; and from 1800 was connected with different military corps, including the Macpherson Blues and the 84th Regiment of Pennsylvania Militia. He was commissioned by Governor McKean as Captain in the 84th Regiment on May 1, 1803, and as Major on August 3, 1807. In November, 1810, he is recorded as Major and Quartermaster of the Second Division of the city troops; and, in May, 1811, he commanded a subdivision of the troops in a military fête. On
March 15, 1809, he married his second wife, Ann (born in Philadelphia, February 15, 1779; died at Beverly, New Jersey, October 30, 1858), daughter of John Bartram, Jr. (died November 16, 1812), son of the botanist, and Eliza Howell. On July 3, 1812, he was commissioned as Major in the 16th U. S. Infantry. In May, 1813, he was at Sackett's Harbor; and, in June, was placed in command of the post at Oswego, where he was unsuccessfully attacked by the British fleet on June 19. He participated in the battle of Lundy's Lane on July 24, 1814. On April 20, 1815, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and assigned to the 15th Infantry. He accompanied General Wilkinson on his unsuccessful expedition against Montreal. In 1820, he was elected to the Pennsylvania Legislature. He served as Adjutant General of Pennsylvania from August 23, 1821, to August 4, 1824. He lived at Bartram's Garden for nearly forty years, and here his son by his first wife, John Bartram Carr (born in 1806), died on June 11, 1839, in his 34th year. In 1850, Colonel Carr sold the Gardens to Andrew M. Eastwick and removed to Beverly, New Jersey. For 38 years he served as Justice of the Peace for the townships of Kingsessing and Blockley. From June 3, 1860, to March 15, 1866, he was gatekeeper at Kirkbride's Insane Asylum, Philadelphia. He organized the Pennsylvania Association of the Defenders of the Country in the War of 1812, and was a Vice-President at the time of his death. He was also a member of the Pennsylvania Historical Society, the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, and of the Bucks County, Pa., the New York, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts Horticultural Societies, the Philadelphia Typographical Society, the Columbian Horticultural Society of Washington, D. C., and The American Institute of New York. As the oldest survivor of the War of 1812 he read Washington's farewell address in the Supreme Court Room, Independence Hall, on February 22, 1861, during the visit of President-elect Abraham Lincoln. He died, in Philadelphia, on March 15, 1866, aged 88 years, and is buried in the Woodlands Cemetery.

"Samuel Benezet was the son of Major Samuel Benezet (died May 6, 1805), a Bucks County, Pa., farmer, and Catherine Severn. The elder Samuel Benezet, on January 1, 1776, was commissioned Captain in the Fifth Pennsylvania Battalion; and on February 14, 1777, was promoted to Major in the Sixth Pennsylvania Regiment, Colonel William Irvine, to rank from October 3, 1776. He resigned before August 27, 1778. In February, 1792, he was one of the executors of the estate of John Kidd, of Bucks County, Pa. Samuel Benezet, Jr., was born at Bensalem, Bucks County, Pa., about 1788. He graduated in medicine from the University of Pennsylvania in the class of 1808. He served in the Philadelphia Dispensary, Fifth Street below Chestnut, and practised medicine at the corner of Third and Pine Streets. In 1811, he served as Surgeon of the First Division of the Pennsylvania Militia. He died, unmarried, at Bensalem, Pa., on December 24, 1812, aged about 24 years.

"Aurora, Saturday, Nov. 3, 1810.

(To be continued.)