

THE SECOND TROOP PHILADELPHIA CITY
CAVALRY

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The Third Troop, or “Volunteer Greens.” met that morning at the corner of Market and Eleventh Streets, and the First Troop on the vacant lot between Ninth and Tenth and Walnut and Locust Streets, as early as four o’clock, each member being provided with a surt-out, or great coat. ⁶⁷⁵

A full account of this memorable event is herewith reproduced:—⁶⁷⁶

“TESTIMONIAL OF RESPECT
to the Memory of
GENERAL WAYNE

“Wednesday last, the 5th instant, being the day fixed for erecting the Monument which had been voted by the PENNSYLVANIA STATE SOCIETY OF THE CIN-CINNATI to the memory of Major General ANTHONY WAYNE, that grateful duty was solemnized at Radnor Church, in Chester county.

“In pursuance of arrangements made by the Committee of Superintendence, the associated Regiment of Volunteer Cavalry of the city and County of Philadelphia, under the command of Col. ROBERT WHARTON, Lieut. Col. JOHN SMITH, and Major [Caleb] HUGHES, consisting of the First City Troop of Light Dragoons: Lieutenant Commander JAMES CRAWFORD. Second City Troop; Captain THOMAS CAD-

WALLADER [*sic*]. Third city Troop; Captain SAMUEL MEEKER. Fourth City Troop; Lieut. Commandant John Clop [Clopp].⁶⁷⁷ First County Troop; Lieut. Commandant HAAS—Second County Troop; Captain Thomas Humphreys,—

“Assembled at an early hour in the vicinity of the Permanent Bridge, whence they moved three miles on the Lancaster road, where the line of march was formed by detachment in advance of the carriages of the Society of the Cincinnati, followed by the main body of the Troops, and the Citizens who attended the ceremonial. At the distance of ten miles from the city ISAAC WAYNE, Esq. son of the General, and other relatives of the family met the procession—and at the intersection of the Lancaster and Norristown roads, the Montgomery county troop of Light Dragoons, commanded by Captain PAULDING fell into the line—Proceeding to the Burial Ground of Radnor Church, where the Monument, which had been transported from the Marble Yard of Messrs. Traquair,⁶⁷⁸ was raised under the direction of those ingenious artists—the troops being formed and an immense concourse of citizens from the adjacent counties assembled, an excellent discourse, embracing a brief biography of General Wayne and an enumeration of his most distinguished public services, was delivered by the reverend DOCTOR WILLIAM ROGERS, Professor of Rhetoric in the University of Pennsylvania, and a Member of the Society, who also closed the Ceremonial by an appropriate prayer. The service being ended, the Society of the Cincinnati approached the line of cavalry, and by their President, Major Lenox,⁶⁷⁹ expressed their grateful acknowledgments to Colonel Wharton, the other officers, the gentlemen composing the troops, for the honour done the Society by their friendly and polite attention. The acknowledgments of the Society and of Mr. WAYNE were also made to Dr. ROGERS.

“After some solemn airs of martial music by the regimental band, the several troops returned to partake of plentiful refreshments, which had been provided in the neighborhood, and returned to the city in the evening, having marched 36 miles—and faithfully performed the duties of this interesting occasion.

“A more gratifying spectacle has seldom been presented, than was exhibited on this interesting occasion—a remnant of the revolutionary army dedicating a monument to the memory of a meritorious and much esteemed Brother Officer, assisted in this solemn and affecting duty by the services of a brilliant corps, consisting of near three hundred volunteer cavalry, and the attendance of a sympathizing multitude of several thousand citizens, who had convened from the adjacent counties, gave an interest to the whole scene, which words would but faintly express.”

Following this event the members of the Second Troop, with others, dined at the William Penn Tavern⁶⁸⁰ on their way home. The enthusiasm which marked the usual Fourth of July celebration this year was doubtless due to the warlike spirit that pervaded the country. The Regimental notice for this event was as follows:—⁶⁸¹

“ATTENTION.

“The First Regiment of Cavalry of the city and county of Philadelphia, will parade completely equipped, on Thursday the 4th of July next, at 7 o’clock, A. M. in Arch-street, with the right on Sixth-street, displaying eastwardly, in order to join the different uniformed corps of Artillery, Infantry and Rifle, in a military parade, in honor of the day that gave to our country the proud distinction of being independent.

“By order of Col. WHARTON,

“AARON DENMAN, *Adjutant*.

“june 29 [1811].”

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This was shortly followed by the Troop notice:—⁶⁸²

“TROOP ORDERS.

“The Second Troop of Light Horse will meet completely equipped, at the parade in Chestnut-street on Thursday the 4th of July, at 6 o’clock, A. M.

“By order of the *Captain*,

“SAMUEL ALLEN,

“*Orderly Sergeant*.

“july 2 [1811].”

An account of this day’s proceedings is extant, and reads as follows:—⁶⁸³

“Thursday, *the thirty-sixth Anniversary of AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE*, was celebrated in this city in the most distinguished manner.

“The uniformed corps of Cavalry, Infantry and Artillery, paraded at an early hour, and performed a variety of military evolutions in honor of the day—When the exercises were finished a procession was formed at the State House, consisting of—The General Society of the Cincinnati—The Pennsylvania State Society of the Cincinnati—and several associations of Citizens—and moved at 12 o’clock, under an escort of the First, Second and Third Troops of City Light Dragoons, commanded by Lieutenant [James] Crawford, Captain Cadwalader and Captain Meeker, to Zion Church, where the exercises were introduced with an appropriate prayer, by the Rev. Dr. [William] Rogers, of the Pennsylvania Society of Cincinnati, and an Oration was delivered by NICHOLAS BIDDLE, Esq. to a numerous and brilliant audience. In this excellent and eloquent discourse, which was pronounced in the most appropriate style, and obtained universal applause, a beautiful portrait of the Great Father of this Country, the immortal WASHINGTON, was introduced, and under a classical reference to the tombs of Ancient

Greece, a most pathetic appeal was made to the American feeling, on the subject of his long neglected monument. On the return of the Procession to the State House, the Pennsylvania Society of the Cincinnati, having completed the business of their annual meeting, adjourned."

The different Troops as usual held their anniversary dinners on the afternoon of the day. The following toast was drunk by the Third City Troop, or "Volunteer Greens," Captain Meeker, on this occasion:—⁶⁸⁴ "The first regiment of the Pennsylvania Cavalry—always ready in the defence of their country's rights."

An uneventful summer followed, although the military organizations were held in readiness for immediate service should the threatening hostilities between England and the United States culminate in actual rupture. An interesting event was the visit to Philadelphia, for several weeks, of Major General Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, a distinguished soldier and statesman of South Carolina, who had just returned from an unsuccessful mission to Great Britain, whither he had been sent as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in an effort to amicably settle the differences between the countries. On September 5, 1811, a short time prior to his departure from the city, the following address was presented to General Pinckney⁶⁸⁵ by the First and Second Troops of City Cavalry:—⁶⁸⁶

"The First and Second Troops of Light Horse, of the City of Philadelphia, desirous of evincing their respect and esteem for one who has so eminently distinguished himself in the service of his country, have unanimously resolved to escort you on your departure from this city.

"We sincerely hope, Sir, that you will not disappoint our wishes, and beg you to inform us of the manner and time of your departure.

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“With the most profound veneration, we remain,

“Your humble and obedient servants,

“THOMAS CADWALADER,

“*Captain of the Second Troop.*

“JAMES CRAWFORD,

“*Lieut. Com'dt of the First Troop.*

“Philadelphia, Sept. 5, 1811. }

Major General

Charles Cotesworth Pinckney.” }

To this communication General Pinckney sent the following reply:—

“Gentlemen,

“I have this evening received by your letter of this day's date, the very polite offer of the First and Second Troops of the Philadelphia Light Horse, to escort me on my departure from this city.

“Untoward circumstances, attending the sailing of vessels to Carolina, have rendered the precise time of my departure uncertain, and I must decline the honor intended me. Be so good as to present this excuse to the corps you command, with my grateful thanks for this mark of their esteem, and my most ardent wish that if hostile aggression should bring them into the field of honorable conflict, the vigilant and undaunted Spirit of Washington may watch over and animate them to such deeds of heroic valor, as their country will approve and applaud.

“With my best acknowledgments for the very polite manner in which you have communicated the resolutions of your respective corps, I have the honor to be

“Your most obedient humble servant,

“CHARLES COTEWORTH PINCKNEY.

“Captain Cadwalader }

and

Lieutenant Crawford }

“Philadelphia, Sept. 5, 1811.”

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The next week the Fall drills began. On September 9th we find the following notice:—⁶⁸⁷

“TROOP ORDERS.

“The Second Troop of Light Horse, will meet, complete equipped, at the Parade in Chestnut Street on Wednesday next [Sept. 11], at half past 2 o'clock.

“By order of the *Captain*,

“SAMUEL ALLEN,

“*Orderly Sergeant*.

“sept. 9 [1811].”

The first drill of the Regimental officers took place at the end of this month, in response to the following notice:—⁶⁸⁸

“REGIMENT OF CAVALRY.

“The Commissioned Officers and Staff attached to the First Regiment of Cavalry, will attend Drill completely equipped, on Monday, the 30th inst. being the last Monday in September, and the day appointed by law, at half past 1 o'clock, P. M. on the vacant ground near Spruce and Schuylkill Fourth [19th] streets. The Non-Commissioned Officers are requested to attend.

“*By order of Col. WHARTON*,

“AARON DENMAN, *Adjutant*.

“sept. 26 [1811].”

Early in October another sham battle, participated in by the Regiment of Cavalry, took place, as is shown by the following notice:—

“REGIMENT OF CAVALRY.⁶⁸⁹

“The Field Officers, Staff, Commissioned and Non-Commissioned Officers attached to the First Regiment of Cavalry, will attend Drill, completely equipped on Friday, the 4th instant at 2 o'clock, P. M. on the vacant ground immediately east of the first Turnpike Gate⁶⁹⁰ on the Germantown road.

“The Board of Officers will attend a special meeting,

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to be held at Barnum's Hotel, Market-street, on Thursday the 2d inst. at 7 o'clock, P. M. relative to the proposed Military Fête to take place on Monday next [Oct. 7].

“By order of Col. WHARTON,

“AARON DENMAN, *Adj't.*

“Oct. 2 [1811].”

The next day appeared the following:—⁶⁹¹

“The OFFICERS of the uniform Companies of Cavalry and Artillery, Rifle and Infantry of the city and county of Philadelphia, are requested to attend a special meeting at the House of Isaac Watkins⁶⁹² this evening the 3d October to receive the report of the committee appointed to wait on the proposed general officers for the contemplation of a Military Fête.

“WILLIAM POWELL,

“*Major Artillery.*

“THOMAS HUMPHREYS,

“*Captain Cavalry.*

“Oct. 3 [1811].”

The following General and Division Orders appeared for this event:—

“GENERAL ORDERS.⁶⁹³

“Philadelphia, October 4, 1811.

“The Uniform Corps of Cavalry, Rifle, Artillery, and Infantry, who have associated to partake of a Military Fête, will assemble on Monday next, the 7th inst. in Broad st. the line to be formed at 8 o'clock in the morning, with the right on the circular road, displaying northerly. The Cavalry will be under the orders of Col. Wharton and the Artillery commanded by Col. [Ebenezer] Ferguson, who will make such disposition of their respective Corps as they may judge advisable. Brigadier Generals Bright and Duncan will command Divisions, Colonel [Samuel] Erwin and Major Borden will command the Subdivisions of the first division; majors Dillingham and Dennis will command the sub-

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divisions of the second division and are to be respected accordingly; the officers commanding divisions will appoint their respective staff; the general with the advice of the associate corps invite the military of the division to unite with them in exhibiting one militia establishment as respectable as possible.

“ISAAC WORRELL,

“*Major Gen. 1st Division [P. M.]*

“October 6 [1811].”

“DIVISION ORDERS.”⁶⁹⁴

“The Companies composing the First Division, will form in Broad Street, their right on Arch, THIS DAY, the 7th instant, precisely at 8 o’clock, A. M., completely equipped.

“Majors Symmons and [Daniel] Sharp will be respected as my staff.

“Col. Irvine [Erwin] will command the right Sub-Division and Capt. Borden the left—the Officers commanding the Sub-Divisions, will appoint their respective staff.

(Signed) “MICHAEL BRIGHT,⁶⁹⁵

“*Brigadier Gen. Commandant.*”

REFERENCES.

⁶⁹⁴ *American Daily Advertiser*, June 4, 1811.

⁶⁹⁵ *Ibid.*, June 8, 1811.

⁶⁹⁷ *John Clopp, Sr.*, blacksmith, born in 1761, a soldier of the Revolution, died in Philadelphia, on June 25, 1846, in his 85th year, at his residence, No. 174 North 4th Street, above Callowhill, his executor being Jacob Bockius. On May 1, 1792, he was elected Ensign of the Second Company, Second Battalion Philadelphia Militia, Lt. Col. William Will. On Wednesday, June 27, 1798, he was commissioned Captain of the Fourth Company, Fifth Philadelphia Regiment, Col. William Nichols. In 1811, he was Lieutenant Commander of the Fourth City Troop. His son, *John Clopp, Jr.*, who in 1812, was first Sergeant of the Fourth Troop, died in September, 1844. His grandson, *John Clopp*, in 1848, lived in the Fourth District of Philadelphia; and, on August 3, 1848, his granddaughter, *Catharine Clopp*, of Spring Garden, was married to *William Dewees*.

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⁶⁷⁸ *James Traquair*, the stone-cutter, was born in 1756; came to Philadelphia in 1784; and died on April 5, 1811, aged 55 years.

⁶⁷⁹ Major *David Lenox* (born in 1754; died April 10, 1828, aged 74 years) was Vice-President of the Pennsylvania Society of the Cincinnati from 1805-1807, and President from 1807 to 1828.

⁶⁸⁰ The *William Penn Tavern* was located on the *Conestoga Road*, later known as the *West Chester Road* and subsequently *Washington Street* (the name given to High [Market] Street west of the Permanent Bridge until 1854), west of what is now 38th street. It was a well known tavern on the road to Harrisburg and the West. The mounted troops of the city, especially the First Troop, frequently met here prior to the Civil War. It is still standing, the last coaching house in the city, mail coaches for Newtown Square leaving it twice daily as recently as 1897. A *William Penn Tavern* or *Hotel* was a beer-saloon in a house in Letitia Street (between Front and Second, extending from Market to Chestnut Street), next door to the house of the founder of Philadelphia. It was a popular resort of some well-known citizens. Another *William Penn Tavern* was situated at No. 329 [present number 831] Market Street, on the north side between 8th and 9th Streets. In 1850, it was kept by *J. Thompson*.

⁶⁸¹ *American Daily Advertiser*, June 29, 1811.

⁶⁸² *Ibid.*, July 2, 1811.

⁶⁸³ *Ibid.*, July 10, 1811.

⁶⁸⁴ *Ibid.*, July 10, 1811.

⁶⁸⁵ *Charles Cotesworth Pinckney* was born on February 25, 1746, and died on August 16, 1825. He was the Federalist candidate for the Presidency in 1804 and 1808.

⁶⁸⁶ *American Daily Advertiser*, September 27, 1811.

⁶⁸⁷ *American Daily Advertiser*, Monday, Sept. 9, 1811.

⁶⁸⁸ *Ibid.*, Sept. 26, 1811.

⁶⁸⁹ *Ibid.*, Oct. 2, 1811.

⁶⁹⁰ The *First Turnpike Gate* on the Germantown Road was just below the crossing of the Township Line Road. There was another tollgate at the intersection of Fourth Street (*Scharf and Westcott*, vol. I., p. 496). The *Germantown and Perkiomen Turnpike Company* was incorporated February 12, 1801. The road began at the corner of Third and Vine Streets. The old road to Germantown was called the worst road in the United States.

⁶⁹¹ *American Daily Advertiser*, Oct. 3, 1811.

⁶⁹² "The Sign of the Indian King."

⁶⁹³ *Aurora*, Saturday, October 5, 1811.

⁶⁹⁴ *Aurora*, October 7, 1811.

⁶⁹⁵ *Michael Bright* was the son of *Jacob Bright* or *Brecht* (born in 1729; died in 1802, aged 73 years) and *Susanna Rittenhouse* (born in 1726; died in 1808, aged 82 years); and nephew of *Michael Bright*, of Brunswick Township, Philadelphia County. His father, *Jacob Bright* of Southwark, in 1776-78, was First Lieutenant and then Captain in Major Lewis Nicola's City Guard, Philadelphia Militia, and for a time was held prisoner by the British. In July, 1776, he was commissioned Justice of the Peace, and the same month was Commissioner for Phila-

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delphia City for apprehending Tories. On June 25, 1777, he took the oath of allegiance to the State. In 1778, he was Commissioner for Taxes and Levies for the County of Philadelphia; in August, 1780-84, was a private in Captain Thomas Willis' First Company, Fifth Battalion, Colonel John Shee; in active service; and, on November 2, 1781, was appointed Inspector of Flour for Philadelphia City and County. From 1787-89, he was a gunner in Captain James Pearson's Sixth Artillery Company.

Michael Bright was born in 1762, and lived all his life in Philadelphia. In 1789, he married *Elizabeth Long* (born in 1766; died in 1810, aged 44 years). In 1791, he is recorded as a biscuit-maker at Bright's wharf. In 1797, his place of business was on Water Street above Race. He succeeded his father as Flour Inspector, being appointed by Governor Mifflin. In October, 1800, he was an unsuccessful candidate for Common Council. In 1801, he lived at No. 125 North Water street, and was a member of the Committee of Arrangement appointed to celebrate Democratic success in the election of Jefferson and Burr. During 1802-04, he served as a member of the Assembly from the city of Philadelphia. On July 1, 1807, he became a member of the Committee of Correspondence, the object of which was the discountenancing of intercourse with the vessels of Great Britain (*Embargo Act*). He was long connected with the Philadelphia Militia. In 1784, he was a private in Captain Thomas Willis' Seventh Company, First Philadelphia City Battalion, Colonel John Shee; in 1785, he was on the waiting list of the Fourth Artillery Company, Captain James Lang; on April 24, 1786, he was commissioned First Lieutenant in the Eighth Company, Third Battalion, Colonel Shee; in 1788, he was commissioned Captain of the Seventh Company, Third Battalion, Colonel Shee; on April 23, 1789, was commissioned Captain of the First Company, Fourth Battalion, Colonel Shee; in 1794, he was Major of the Second Battalion of the Fifth Regiment; and on Monday, August 18, 1794, was elected Colonel of the Fifth City Regiment (subsequently known as the 28th Regiment P. M.), succeeding Colonel William Nichols, and served in the Whisky Insurrection. He commanded the First Brigade, First Division, Pennsylvania Militia, from June, 1807, to February 9, 1812, when, on his death, he was succeeded by Colonel Robert Wharton. On March 23, 1809, in support of State rights over the rights of the U. S. Government, General Bright placed a guard over the Rittenhouse Mansion (*Fort Rittenhouse*) at Seventh and Arch Streets, being opposed by U. S. Marshal John Smith. For this offence he was tried and sentenced for offering resistance to the National Government, but was pardoned by the President of the United States. He died on Philadelphia in February, 1812, when 50 years of age, and was accorded a funeral with full military honors. Letters of administration were granted to Isaac Jones and Lewis Rush. His children were:—*Susan* (born in 1790; died in 1846); *Elizabeth* (who married *Richard Vermillion*, of Virginia); *Michael* (born in 1792; in 1814 a private in Captain William Mitchell's *Union Guards*; died in 1871); Captain *Jacob* (born in 1794; killed September 7, 1841, while Master Armorer of the Navy Yard at Washington, D. C., by the explosion of a bomb); and *George* (born in 1796; died in 1824).

(To be continued.)