Sketch of Colonel Joel Ferree's Regiment in the War of 1812

(From Washington, Greene, Allegheny, Armstrong and Indiana Counties)

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This regiment was made up of three companies from Washington County, two companies from Greene, two companies from Allegheny and one company from the Counties of Armstrong and Indiana. The following record of its organization and service is obtained from the Diary of Captain Garret Wall, Quarter Master of the regiment, the Day Book in which he kept his accounts of provisions, clothing, etc., issued, and the muster-out rolls on file in the Third Auditor's Office of the U. S. Treasury Department, Washington, D. C.

It was called the "First Regiment, Second Detachment of Pennsylvania Militia in the service of the United States, commanded by Brigadier General Richard Crooks," and was mustered into service at Pittsburgh for the term of six months from October 2, 1813 at Fort Meigs, Ohio. It was paid to include April 15, 1813, the men being allowed thirteen days in which to return to their homes.

The regimental officers were as follows:—

Joel Ferree, Lieut. Colonel, Commanding, subsequently promoted to Colonel
Thomas Ringland, First Major
Robert Orr, Second Major
James Roberts, Surgeon
Garret Wall, Quartermaster
George C. Valandingham, Adjutant
Thomas Duncan, Paymaster
George Huey, Surgeon's Mate
Jacob Cook, Sergeant Major
Elias Smurr, Quarter Master Sergeant
Joseph Hicks, Drum Major
James Duff, Fife Major
The Companies were made up as follows:—

First Company
John Brown, Captain
John Hommers, Lieutenant
and sixty-three men, mainly from Greene County

Second Company
Jeremiah Ferree, Captain
Alexander Calhoun, Lieutenant
Joseph Wilson, Ensign
and sixty men from Pittsburgh

Third Company
John Barrickman, Captain
Joshua Logan, Lieutenant
John McClelland, Ensign
and sixty-five men from Allegheny County

Fourth Company
Benjamin Anderson, Captain
James White, Lieutenant
William Lindsey, Ensign
and sixty-five men from Washington County

Fifth Company
John Wallace, Captain
John McCormick, Lieutenant
James Stewart, Ensign
and eighty-one men from Armstrong and Indiana Counties

Sixth Company
William Harper, Captain
Elias Flanigan, Lieutenant
Robert McMinn, Ensign
and sixty-two men from Greene County

Seventh Company
William Johnson, Captain
James McCune, Lieutenant
John Gaunce, Ensign
and fifty-five men from Washington County

Eighth Company
Jonathan Grable, Captain
Thomas Donaldson, Lieutenant
Asa Roberts, Ensign
and sixty men from Washington County
Up to November 25, 1812, two troops of Cavalry were temporarily attached to the regiment, one of forty-three men under Captain Thomas S. Seely, and the other of thirty-one men under Lieutenant Thomas Warren, of Allegheny County.

The regiment rendezvoused at Dunlap’s Plains, near Pittsburgh, until October 19, 1812, when it broke camp, and its movements thereafter are thus noted in the Diary of Captain Wall:

- October 19—Marched 9 miles to Aikens
- October 20—Marched 14 miles to Sholers
- October 21—Marched 18 miles to Beaver’s Mills
- October 22—Marched 10 miles to Bough’s
- October 23—Marched 7 miles to New Lisbon
- October 24—At New Lisbon
- October 25—Marched 9 miles to Crook’s Hill
- October 26—Marched 13 miles to Landy Creek
- October 27—Marched 13 miles to Nimiskillen or Canton
- October 28, 29, and 30th—At Canton
- October 31—Marched 11 miles to Camp Tuscarwas
- November 1—Marched 12 miles to Camp Orr
- November 2—Marched 11 miles to Scott or Wooster
- November 3, 4 and 5th—At Wooster
- November 6—Marched 4 miles to Camp Killbuck
- November 7—Marched 9 miles to Mohican, Muddy Fork
- November 8—Marched 4 miles to Lake Fork
- November 9—Marched 10 miles to Black Fork
- November 10—At Black Fork or Greentown
- November 11—Marched 6 miles to Camp Ferree
- November 12—Marched 7 miles to Mansfield
- Total distance from Pittsburgh to Mansfield, 167 miles.

December 11, Col. Ferree marches for Upper Sandusky, leaving Captain Johnson, two subalterns, the Quartermaster and forty men as a guard to fetch on the military stores. Captain Johnson leaves Mansfield the 16th and the Quartermaster on the 17th. The Quartermaster reaches Upper Sandusky on the 19th, a distance of forty miles from Mansfield. The regiment remained at Upper Sandusky until January 24, 1813, when in connection with the Virginia Brigade it set out for the rapids of the Miami of the
Lake. Encamped on the 25th at the Tiamaughta (Ty-mochtee.) On the 28th they proceed and cross the Tiamaughta on the ice, leaving their baggage as the ice would not carry the horses. On January 30, the Brigade arrive at the River Portage, where they meet General Harrison with General Perkins' Brigade, and proceed to the Rapids of the Miami of the Lake on February 1st and arrive at the foot of the Rapids on the 2d, a distance of 60 miles from Upper Sandusky.

Under the head of "occurrences" the Diary continues as follows:—"General Winchester defeats the Indians and their allies on January 18th, 1813. The Indians reinforce from Malden and attack General Winchester on the 22d; finding his camp in disorder, they defeat and rout him in all quarters. Out of 1052 men only 27 return.

On January 31st General Harrison dispatched a flag to Malden under the direction of Dr. McGiben with two private soldiers, one of whom, Mr. Connant, was found killed and scalped at the Rapids on February 3d.
February 22. Col Ferree is very sick with jaundice.
February 24. We still continue at the Rapids. A secret expedition of about 150 men set out at 10 o'clock, commanded by Captain Laugam.
March 5th General Harrison and suite set out in order to visit his family, who are residing at Cincinnati, Ohio. The secret expedition returns after going about 20 miles on the lake, where they find the channel of the lake has not been frozen over.
March 9th. Two regulars were fired at by the Indians near the old British Fort.
March 10th. Lieutenant Walker from Beaver County, Pa., was found killed and scalped by the Indians on the north side of the Miami River about three miles below Fort Meigs."

The next entry in the Diary notes the departure of the Regiment for home on April 2, 1813. Its commander, Lieutenant Colonel Joel Ferree, died on April 9, 1813, at Lanesville, Ohio, while enroute to his home. Though this officer's illness began in the month of February, and was at times severe, he nevertheless remained at his post of duty until discharged from service with his regiment.
The regiment went into service with 35 officers and 511 enlisted men, and when discharged at Fort Meigs there were present for duty, as shown by the issue of rations for that date, 30 officers and 352 men. The apparently heavy loss largely represents absence from the command on account of sickness and with leave, only a small number reported as absent "without leave." The number of deaths, if any, is not reported in any records at hand.

The provision account contains the following note: "A soldier's ration consists of eighteen ounces of flour, twenty ounces of beef or pork (three quarters of a pound if salted) and one gill of whiskey per day; and at the rate of one pound and a half of candles, four pounds of soap, a half gallon of salt and a half gallon of vinegar per hundred rations."

A note under date of February 24, 1813, says: "Flour, meat and salt, have been constantly drawn by the regiment since the 12th of December, 1812, and previous to that time a field ration of flour was not issued."

The returns show that whiskey was issued only from February 24th to March 25th, a period when the weather was doubtless most inclement and severe on troops in the field.

At Upper Sandusky the regiment assisted in the construction of a fortification which was named Fort Ferree, in honor of its commander. At Miami Rapids, in addition to other military duty, it assisted in the construction and equipment of Fort Meigs.

A soldier's life in those days was one of hard labor and much suffering. The historian Spencer in writing of this period, says: "The Pennsylvania troops suffered great hardships during the winter in dragging the artillery and stores from Sandusky to the Rapids."

They were brave and patriotic men who in that second conflict with our mother country left the comforts of home to endure the hardships and perils of a campaign through the then wilderness of northwestern Ohio, in midwinter, and it is but justly due to their memories that we should help to give place to some record of their service in the annals of our country, as well as in the region where many of the survivors spent the remaining portion of their honorable and useful lives.
The company Rosters of the several companies of this regiment are given in Vol. XII of the Second Series of *Pennsylvania's Archives* as follows:—

1st Company, commanded by Capt. John Brown—page 40
2d Company, commanded by Capt. Jeremiah Ferree—page 119
3d Company, commanded by Capt. John Barrickman—page 22
4th Company, commanded by Capt. Benjamin Anderson—page 8
5th Company, commanded by Capt. John Wallace—page 496
6th Company, commanded by Capt. William Harper—page 186

For Roster of Lieutenant Thomas Warren's company of Light Dragoons, which was attached to Colonel Ferree's regiment, see page 498, of same volume. This company was organized by and made up of citizens of Elizabeth Township, Allegheny County, Pa. Captain Thomas S. Seely's company of cavalry was also attached to that regiment, but I do not see it mentioned in the 12th volume of the *Archives*. I am a grandson of Quartermaster Garret Wall above mentioned.

Copies of the Roster of Militia and Volunteer Organizations of Washington County, Pennsylvania (Hazard Zuaves and Washington Guards) 1812-1861, are on file at the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania.
DEATH OF MEMBERS

At the close of each year, when the roll of members is carefully checked, we find that the call has come to a number, and in nearly every case they are the names of those who have meant much in the life of the city.

As one reads over the list of the names of the departed annual members this year, there will be called to the minds of all the different lines of work in which they were engaged, the kindly attributes of each, the contributions that each has made in his or her special field of activity. Twenty-seven of the annual members have died. We give their names and the dates of their passing.

Miss Mary Grace Eaton, Life Member, January 4, 1927
John C. Bane, January, 1927
Henry S. Grayson, January, 1927
Columbus J. Wilson, January 29, 1927
Mrs. J. J. Miller, January 31, 1927
James Howard Park, February 13, 1927
Charles H. Ogden, March 9, 1927
Col. Samuel Moody, Beaver, Penna. March 16, 1927
Alfred Reed Hamilton, March 28, 1927
Andrew J. Waychoff, Waynesburg, Penna. March, 1927
Florence Clifton Miller, Calcutta, India. April 2, 1927
Anthony W. Pollock, April 10, 1927
Col. Campbell Stanton, April 11, 1927
Edwin L. Allen, April 24, 1927
John Z. Speer, May 1, 1927
Henry Buhl, Jr., June 11, 1927
Hon. James Hay Reed, June 17, 1927
Henry M. Brackenridge, Penna. July 27, 1927
George Breed Gordon, September 8, 1927
William Leech Taylor, September 28, 1927
Dr. Hugh W. Arthur, October 11, 1927
John H. Keer, October 22, 1927
George R. Eichbaum, Emlenton, October, 1927
William Stark, October, 1927
Col. Thomas Johnston Keenan, Girard, Penna. October 31, 1927
Andrew J. Kelly, Jr., November 1, 1927
Edward A. Woods, Sewickley, Penna. November 30 1927