

## THE SECOND VIRGINIA REGIMENT OF THE CONTINENTAL LINE

The Second Virginia Regiment was created from militia companies in late 1775 by act of the Virginia Assembly to defend the colony from the regular troops of the 14th Regiment under the command of the Royal Governor, Lord Dunmore. It fought in the brief skirmish at Hampton, and later decisively defeated the British regulars at Great Bridge in December.

Toward the middle of the year in 1776, the regiment marched toward New England to join the Continental army under Washington. They served in every major battle undertaken by the troops under Washington's command. (see list of engagements attached).

After taking part in the campaigns of 1778, the regiment was split in 1779. Its light infantry troops were assigned to General Anthony Wayne and successfully assaulted a heavily fortified British camp at Stony Point using only their bayonets. Its regular infantry companies accompanied their ex-colonel General William Woodford to the Southern theatre of war and eventual capture at Charleston in 1780.

This did not end the regiment's service, however. They were reformed in 1780 with recruits and veterans and marched South in 1781 where they established an Army depot at Old Cumberland Court House, and later assisted in quelling a Loyalist uprising in Hampshire County. They then marched to Yorktown under the command of their Lt. Colonel, Thomas Gaskins and participated in the capture of Cornwallis.

Redesignated the First Virginia Regiment and the Second Virginia Battalion in 1782, they were the only Regiment of the Virginia Line still serving at the close of Hostilities.

### COMMANDING OFFICERS: SECOND VIRGINIA REGIMENT

William Woodford	1775-1777	Promoted Brigadier General, Continental Line
Alexander Spotswood	1777-1778	Promoted Brigadier General, Virginia State Forces
Christian Febiger	1778-1783	Brevetted Brigadier General, Continental Line

### LIST OF ENGAGEMENTS:

1775

Nov. 7... Lord Dunmore declares open War after defeat at Hampton, Oct. 25

Dec. 9... Battle of Great Bridge

1776

Aug. 27.....Battle of Long Island

Sept. 16....Battle of Harlem Heights

Oct. 28.....Battle of White Plains

Dec. 26.....Battle of Trenton (WINTER CAMP Valley Forge)

1777

Jan. 3.....Battle of Princeton

Jan. 23.....Capture of Elizabethtown, New Jersey (NEW CAMP Morristown)

Sept. 11.....Battle of Brandywine

Oct. 4.....Battle of Germantown

Dec. 18.....Winter Quarters Valley Forge

1778

June 28.....Battle of Monmouth

Dec. 29.....Winter Quarters at Elizabethtown, New Jersey

1779

July 16.....Stone Point captured

Dec.....Winter Quarters at Morristown

1780

Apr. 10.....Siege of Charleston

May. 12

1781

May.....Loaylist Uprising Quelled, Hampshire County

June 10.....2nd. Va. Joins Southern Army as part of Wayne's Brigade

Oct. 5.....All Va. Line except 2nd. Mutinies, 2nd. Marches to Yorktown

Oct. 19.....Surrender at York town

NO FURTHER MILITARY OPERATIONS

43-54

2nd Regt Line  
1777-80

Field and Staff	Spottswood, Col. Alexander Febiger, Col. Christian
Company 44	Calmes, Capt. Marquis (1-17-77) Catlett, Capt. Thomas Claiborne, Capt. Butler
Company 45	Harrison, Capt. John Peyton (3-11-77)
Company 46	Nicholas, Capt. George ( 2nd Company- Hanover 9-28-75) Jones, Capt. Hood Hoomes(Holmes), Capt. Benjamin (4-24- 78)
Company 47	Parker, Capt. Alexander (6-1-77) Stokes, Capt. John
Company 48	Sanford, Capt. William (12-25-76)
Company 49	Taylor, Capt. William (12-28-76) Taylor, Capt. Thomas Upshaw, Capt. James
Company 50	Taylor, Capt. Francis Taliaferro, Capt. Benjamin
Company 51	Taylor, Capt. William
Company 52	Hawes, Capt. Samuel (9th Company - Caroline 2-19-76) Upshaw, Capt. James (1778)
Company 53	Willis, Capt. John (6-15-76)
Company 54	Meade, Capt. Edward (3-8-76) Taylor, Capt. Francis (5-8-76)

Records from National Archives Microfilm  
(Some names smudged)( Numbers by Company are on film )  
Bracketed dates from Sanchez-Saavedra, A Guide to Virginia  
Military Organizations, 1978, Virginia State Library.  
TJP/10-91

338-3

Virginia  
Battalion of Different Regiments  
Lt. Col. Thomas Posey  
1782-83

Capt. Alex. Parker's Co. 4 Muster Rolls - January 1782 to  
"Light Infantry ") May, 1783.

Lt. Thomas Ransdell's Co. 2 Muster Rolls - January, 1782 to  
Sept. 1782.

Capt. Joseph Scott's Co. 2 Muster Rolls - January, 1782 to  
September, 1782.

Capt. Clough Shelton's Co. 4 Muster Rolls - January, 1782 to  
May, 1783.  
2 Muster Rolls - ( Duplicates )

338 Battalions of Various Virginia Regiments 1782-83

Field and Staff: Matthews, Colonel George  
Posey, Lt. Col. Thomas

Co. of 8th Regt. Gambel, Capt. Robert  
Co. of 4th Regt. Koukpastock, Capt. Abraham  
Co. of 5th Regt. Martin, Capt. Thomas (2/81)  
Co. of 2nd Regt. Moss, Capt. Henry (81-82)

Co. of 7th Regt. Nelson, Capt. John  
Co. of Light Infantry Parker, Capt. Alexander

Co. of 3rd Regt. Ransdell, Capt. Thomas  
Co. of 1st Regt. Scott, Capt. Joseph  
Co. of 6th Regt. Shelton, Capt. Clough (2/81-  
1/83)

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TJP-10/91

Second Virginia Regiment  
Continental Line

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1. Second Virginia History, 1775-1783, New, 1991.
2. William Rhode's Pay List, 1777-79, 1991.
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4. Field and Staff of 2nd Virginia, 1777-80, 1991.
5. Field and Staff of 2nd Virginia, 1782-83, 1991.
6. William Rhodes Muster List, 1782-83, 1991.
7. The Continental Army Uniform, 1779-81, 1962.
8. Virginia Regimental Surgeons, Compiler-Jahntz, 1989.
9. Second Virginia Bicentennial Sheet, Ca. 1976.
10. Original Second Virginia Flag, Article, 1959.
11. Second Virginia in 1779, 1977.
12. Second Virginia History, 1775-1781, 1980.
13. Information on the Flag, 1970's.
14. Jim Lynch's Uniform Research, Ca. 1977.



Revolutionary War Pension of James Keep

8 May 1818

To the Honorable Secretary of War of the United States  
the petition of James Keep of the township of Rof(?) in the  
County of Allegheny and Commonwealth of Penns  
Respectfully R-----

That on the 16th of September AD One Thousand Seven  
hundred and Seventy Seven your petitioner enlisted as a private  
Soldier in the Second Virginia Regiment this commanded by Col.  
Spotswood of the army of the U.S. in a company commanded by Capt  
Wood Jones and that your ----- petitioner continued to serve  
in same Regiment till the conclusion of the Revolutionary War  
when he was honorably discharge in the City of Richmond in the  
state of Virginia on 3rd of July 1783 but was considered with  
others on furlough ---- the final satisfaction of the trial of  
peace which furlough was in ---- --- his discharge and the same  
discharge was delivered up to Paymaster Jones upon a final -- th-  
--- with him in the city of Richmond. -----

30 August 1820

United States of America  
---- District of Pennsylvania

On This 30th day of August 1820  
personally appeared in open court being a court of record for the  
Said district James Keep aged 63 Years resident in Allegheny  
County who first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath  
declare that he served in the Revolutionary War at Frederick  
County near Winchester Virginia on the 16th day of September 1777  
in Company commanded by Captain Wood Jones and 2nd Regiment of  
Virginia at commanded by Col Spotswood in the line of Virginia  
that he served during the war in on continued service on to the  
continental establishment and against the common enemy that he  
was honorably discharged on the Third day of July One Thousand  
Seven Hundred and eighty Three at Richmond Virginia which was  
given up to the Pay Master of the Regiment on the final  
settlement of accounts that during his service aforesaid he was  
at Buford defeat in South Carolinas the head of ----- Creek  
where he was taken prisoner he was while a prisoner stockaded in  
the Barrack yard and after wards removed to the prison Ship after  
remaining a prisoner Fourteen Months he was exchanged at  
Jamestown in Virginia he then joined Capt Alex. Parker company in  
the same Regiment and line he was at the capture of Corn Wallis  
and in many severe skirmishes and I do solemnly swear -----  
-----

Notes for William RHODES

29 Mar 1993

Page 1

Obituary in the newspaper "THE OHIOAN", Urbana, OH, Thursday, August, 25 1825:  
On morning of the 22d inst. after a lingering illness, William Rhodes, in the 86th year of age; leaving a wife and a large number of relations and friends to lament his loss. Mr. Rhodes was a soldier of the Virginia line on the Continental establishment-through the whole of the Revolutionary War. He was a man, in early life, of uncommon athletic powers; and in the course of his services if my memory serves me. (having received the facts from himself;) he received five severe wounds; by which he was so far disabled, that, for the last 8 or 10 years, he received small pittance from the bounty of his country, which served to smoothe his declining years. His remains were interred in this place on the 23d, with military honors, by Capt. Ambrozene's company of volunteers, in the presence of a large concourse of citizens and strangers.

The following next address was spoken by Gen. Vance, at the time of the interment of Mr. Rhode's body.

--Fellow citizens, and brother soldiers--

You have this day been called upon to pay the last tribute of respect to a departed soldier of the Revolutionary Army: one who had not merely the honor of having his name enrolled amongst that band of patriots and worthies, but one whose blood crimsoned the snows of Trenton, the fields of Princeton, and the battlements of Stony Point.

Venerable man! Why didst thou not pay the debt of nature on the walls of York-Town, where the measure of thy glory was complete, and whence thy name would have been, by faithful history handed down to posterity, as one of the martyrs whose lives were offered us for the liberties of their country! Yes, there thou wouldst have had the sympathetic fear of your beloved commander, the Father of his country, to have smoothed thy passage to the Eternal World! But why complain? Are not thy service deeply engraven on the hearts of posterity? And notwithstanding thy mortal remains shall inhabit the cold confines of that vaulted clay, yet thy name shall live in the hearts of thy countrymen, a mausoleum that will be more lasting than monumental brass.

Under our present feeling, must we not with the poet exclaim.--

In death's terrific, icy arms,  
Lo! the illustrious soldier lies;  
He's free from care and war's alarms,  
Nor sees our tears nor hears our sighs.

\* \* \*

Cold is the heart where valor reign'd;  
Mute the tongue [tongue] that joy inspir'd;  
Still the arm that conquest gain'd,  
And dim the eye that glory fir'd.

\* \* \*

Too mean for him a world like this.  
He's landed on that happy shore  
Where all the saints partake of bliss,  
And heroes meet to part no more.

=====

A Company of the 2nd Virginia Regiment belonging  
to a detachment of the Virginia Line commanded  
by Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Posey  
January 1, 1782 to September 1, 1782

The following men are shown as members of the Second Virginia Regiment, before it is shown as Finley's Detachment. Enlistments range from as few as 5 months to "war".

Boyd, Augustine	Private
Boyland, Matthew	Musician, Drummer
Briant, Robert	Private
Butler, Elisha	Private
Connerly, John	Musician
Cooke, Zachariah	Private
Dyson, William	Private
Fleming, John	Private
Garrett, Robert	Private
Grinstead, John	Private
Hughes, Joseph	Private Transferred from Carolina Line 5/14/82. Deserted 5/25/82.
Hurrele, Abram	Private Deserted 2/18/82.
Jackson, Will	Private Deserted on March from Va. 3/7/82.
Jordan, George	Private
Moss, Henry	Captain
Neale, Richard	Private
Pearman, Grief	Musician, Fife and Drum
Perry, Robert	Private Transferred from Carolina Line 5/14/82.
Ringo, John	Private
Scott, John	Ensign Transferred from 7th Va.
Shepherd, William	Private
Stephens, James	Private
Stonebarger, Lewis	Private
Terry, Thomas	Private
Tinsley, William	Private
Weavers, John	Private

M-881  
Roll 1088  
National Archives, Chicago  
S:Roll182

Roll and Muster of the Third Company  
of the Virginia Detachment  
Commanded by Major  
Samuel Finley

September 1, 1782 - May 1, 1783

This was also known as a Company of the 2nd Virginia Regiment. Many of the men on this list came from the 8th Virginia.

Samuel Finley	Major of the Virginia Battalion from September 1 to December 1, 1782. Roll date Dec. 1, 1782 - Present.
	Major of the Virginia Battalion from December 1, 1782 to May 1, 1783. Roll dated May 19, 1783 - sick present.
Quarles, Robert	Lt. Quartermaster, Sept.1 to Dec.1 1782
Jones, Charles	Lt. Paymaster, Quartermaster, Dec. 1782 - May, 1783.
Harris, William	Drum Major, September 1, 1782-May 19, 1783. Roll Dated December 11, 1782.
Bedinger, Daniel	Lieutenant
Boyd, Augustine	Private
Boyland, Matthew	Musician, Drummer
Briant, Robert	Private
Brokus, John	Private
Butler, Elisha	Private
Camkin, William	Private ( Kemkin )
Chavour, George	Private 16 Month enlistment
Connerly, John	Musician
Cooke, Zachariah	Private
Cox, James	Private
Creek, Peter	Private
Cruse, William	Private
Daily, James	Private
Doggin, Larkin	Private Deserted Dec 8, 1782
Dyson, William	Private
Ferguson, George	Private, Waggoner
Fleming, John	Private
Finley, Samuel	Major - {see above}
Ford, Samuel	Private Died November 1, 1782
France, John	Private
Garrett, Robert	Private
Graham, Arthur	Sergeant Deserted Feb. 27, 1783
Grinstead, John	Corporal
Humbleton, William	Corporal Joined Dec. 15, 1782
Hughes, Joseph	Private Transferred from the Carolina Line 5/14/82. Deserted May 25, 1782

Hurrele, Abram	Private	Deserted Feb. 18, 1782
Jackson; Will	Private	Deserted on the march from Virginia; March 7, 1782
Jordan, George	Private	
King, Francis	Private	
Kirkpatrick, James	Private	Joined Jan. 1, 1783
Lee, William	Private	Deserted March 1, 1783
Lindsey, Peter	Private	
Loaden, Jesse	Private	Deserted Feb. 1, 1783
Manders, Henry	Private	
Maxfield, Willian	Private	
McDorman, David	Private	
McKinley, John	Private	
Moore, Peter	Private	Died October 15, 1782
Neale, Richard	Private	
Neil, Daniel	Private	
Pearman, Grief	Musician	Waiting on Major Finley
Perry, Robert	Private	Transferred from Carolina Line May 15., 1782
Peyton, Hugh	Private	Died October 15, 1782
Ramble, Samuel	Private	
Rawlings, Moses	Private	Enlisted as a soldier of the Maryland Line
Rhodes, William	Corporal	Light Infantry
Ringo, John	Private	
Robertson, David	Private	
Ross, Valentine	Private	
Scott, John	Ensign	Transfer from 7th Virginia
Shepherd, William	Private	
Shoes, Frederick	Private	
Southard, Thomas	Private	
Spung, David	Private	
Stephens, James	Private	
Stephens, Thomas	Private	Light Infantry
Stonebarger, Lewis	Private	
Taylor, Archibald	Private	
Terry, Thomas	Private	
Timm, John	Private	
Tinsley, William	Private	
Turner, Richard	Private	Joined August 17, 1782
Walls, Martin	Private	
Weavers, John	Private	
Williams, Charles	Private	Waggoner for Battalion 5/19/83
Wood, Benjamin	Private	
Woodall, James B.	Private	Transferred to Pennsylvania Line

All of the above privates and musicians received a certificate for 100 acres of land.

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 Roll 1088  
 National Archives, Chicago  
 S: Finley83

Captain Alexander Parker's Company  
A Company of Light Infantry belonging to a  
Detachment of the Virginia Line commanded  
by Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Posey  
 January 1, 1782 - September 1, 1782

The notation on the records for many of these is dated May 18, 1783 - " On Command in Georgia " { TJP 11/91 }

Bridgman, Joseph	Private	
Bullock, Joseph Lee	Private	
Carter, Robert	Private	
Clifton, Joshua	Private	
Colley, Asa	Private	
Cooper, William	Private	
Courtney, Samuel	Private	
Dillard, John	Musician	Fife and Drum
Erington, William	Private	
George, America	Private	Deserted August, 1782
George, Travis	Private	
Gilbert, Joseph	Private	Artificer, James Island 5/83
Hackett, James	Private	
Hodges, William	Private	
James, Evan	Private	Artificer with the Army
Jones Edward	Private	
Lipscomb, Henry	Private	
Morgan, David	Private	
Murphy, Patrick	Private	
Peterson, Israel	Private	{Petterson}
Purkins, Joseph	Private	
Rhodes, William	Corporal	
Sample, James	Private	
Scott, William	Musician	Drum and Fife
Simmonds, Joshua	Private	
Simmons, William	Private	
Stephens, Thomas	Private	
Tinsley, John	Private	
Toole, Joseph	Private	
Wum, Joseph	Private	
White, Caleb	Private	
Williams, William	Private	

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 Roll 1088  
 S: LtInf82

Transcribed from William Rhodes, a Private in the 1st. Co. and 2nd Reg. of the Virginia line of Continental Troops, Revolutionary War Pension file.

20th of July 1820

The state of Ohio Champaign county Supreme court of the term July 1820

On the 20th day of July 1820 personally appeared in the Open court Wm. Rhodes aged Seventy five years, resident of the county of Champaign aforesaid, who being first duly sworn according to the law doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows, to wit:

He enlisted in the army of the United States for the term of one year at Alexandria in the State of Virginia in the company commanded by Captain George Johnston belonging to the second Regiment commanded by Colonel William Woodford and there he served out the time of his Aforesaid Enlistment. He was honorably discharged from service at Williamsburgh in the State of Virginia that he again immediately enlisted in the army of the United States at Williamsburgh aforesaid for the term of during the War then existing between the United States and Great Britian in the company commanded by Captain Peyton Harrison belonging to the second Virginia Regiment then commanded by Colonel Alexander Spotswood and that he faithfully served out the term of his aforesaid Enlistment when he was honorably discharged from Service at Richmond in the State of Virginia that on the 15th day of April 1818 he made an application in order to obtain a pension under the act of the 18th March 1818 and his since Rec'd a certificate of his being inscribed on the Pension list file of the Ohio agency which said ----- bears date on 13th July 1819 and Numbered 13:030.

And I the said William Rhodes do Solemnly Swear that I was a Resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not Since that time by gift, Sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof in order thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and Naval Service of the United State in the Revolutionary War repaid on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or Securities ccontracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereunto annexed and by me Subscribed--and I do further Swear that my occupation in life in life is a laboring farmer and that in consequence of af advanced age in life I am unable to work at all and that my family consists of a wife and three children one aged 11 years one 14 years and one aged 17 years

19	John Tillery	
20	Jesse Bryan	
21	Henry Cling	
22	Thomas Kaine	
23	George (Sell? - Fold in Paper)	
24	Robert Dickerson	
25	Isral Timms	
26	Caleb White	
27	Jonathan Tinsley	
28	Jacob Coutts	on Guard in Town
29	James Keep	on Guard in Town
30	Joshua Clifton	on Guard in Town
31	John Minnes	on Guard in Town
32	Patrick Murphey	on Guard in Town
33	James Sample ←	
34	Jacob Pryor	
35	Henry Lipscomb	
36	Joseph Toole (X)	
37	Lewis Pugh	
38	John Edwards	
39	Joseph Carter	
40	Thomas Aubany	
41	Dennice Shay	
42	David Morgan	
43	William Cooper	
44	Edward Jones	
45	William Errington	
46	Michael Buckley	
47	Flanders Thompson	on Furlough in Virginia
48	Robert Stokes	on -----(?)
49	Robert Carter	
50	Joseph Hughes	on command at---(?)
51	Tobias Armstrong	
52	Joseph Purkins	
53	Joseph Gilbert	Artificer for the Army
54	Even James	Artificer for the Army
55	Thomas Bird	Waggoner for the Army
56	America George	Deserted August 17, 1782
57	William Lyons	Died November 20, 1782

Roll Dated 18 December 1782 A. Parker Capt 2nd Virginia

Roll and Muster of Capt. Alex Parkers Company of Foot of the Virginia Detachment from the 1st of December 1782 to the 1st of May 1783

Captain	Alexander Parker	on Command in Georgia
Lieut	Nathaniel Darby	on Command in Georgia
Serjt.	Isaac Taylor	on Command in Georgia
2	Stacy Willson	on Command in Georgia
3	George Hines	on Command in Georgia
4	Reuben Allen	Confined in the Provost Declined acting as Sergeant 12 May 1783
Musik	Joshua Simmonds	on Command in Georgia



	2	Grief Pearman	on Command in Georgia
	3	William Scott	on Command in Georgia
	4	Thomas Groves	on Command in Georgia
Corporal		John Carnes	on Command in Georgia
	2	William Roads	on Command in Georgia
	3	George Griggs	on Command in Georgia
	4	James Slate	on Command in Georgia
	5	Lewes Pugh	on Command in Georgia
Private		Obedience Roberts	
	2	John Tellery	
	3	Joseph Ullum	
	4	Dennis Shea	
	5	Israel Patterson	
	6	Robert Dickinson	
	7	Robert Carter	
	8	William Arrington	
	9	Jesse Bryant	
	10	Calib White	
	11	Joseph Toole	
	12	John Tensley	
	13	Asa Colley	on Command in Georgia
	14	Andrew Syppers	on Command in Georgia
	15	Isaac Lyons	on Command in Georgia
	16	George Sell	on Command in Georgia
	17	Jacob Coutts	on Command in Georgia
	18	Joshua Clifton	on Command in Georgia
	19	James Sample	on Command in Georgia
	20	Lewis Adkins	on Command in Georgia
	21	Samuel Cortney	on Command in Georgia
	22	Fredrick Hobbs	on Command in Georgia
	23	Samuel Dalney	on Command in Georgia
	24	William Hodges	on Command in Georgia
	25	Bennet McGuy	on Command in Georgia
	26	Evan James	on Command in Georgia
	27	James Keep	on Command in Georgia
	28	Patrick Murphy	on Command in Georgia
	29	David Morgan	on Command in Georgia
	30	Abner Quarles	on Command in Georgia
	31	Michael Buckley	on Command in Georgia
	32	Thomas Kaine	on Command in Georgia
	33	William Williams	on Command in Georgia
	34	John Lewis	on Command in Georgia
	35	John Edwards	
	36	Henry Lipscomb	on Command in Georgia
	37	James Hackett	on Command in Georgia
	38	John Mennis	on Command in Georgia
	39	George Chesham	on Command in Georgia
	40	George Travis	on Command in Georgia
	41	Joseph Carter	
	42	Robert Thompson	on Command in Georgia
	43	John Hacktte	on Command in Georgia
	44	Williamson Simmonds	on Command in Georgia
	45	James Simmonds	on Command in Georgia
	46	William Cooper	on Command in Georgia

47	Tobias Armstrong	on Command in Georgia
48	Joseph Hughes	on Command in Georgia
49	Joseph Purkins	on Command in Georgia
50	Thomas Bird	on Command in Georgia
51	Jacob Prior	Waggoner Present
52	Joseph Bridgman	on Command in Georgia
53	Flanders Thompson	on Furlough in Georgia
54	Robert Stoker	on Furlough in Georgia
55	Joseph Gilbert	Artificer James Island
56	Edward Jones	

I Certify the above Roll to be the True State of said  
Company this 18th Day of May 1783      Javan Miller Lieut

M246/Roll 113  
11-30-91  
National Archives, Chicago  
TJP      Parker.WPS

338-3

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Co. of <u>4th</u> Regt.	Koukpastock, Capt. Abraham
Co. of <u>5th</u> Regt.	Martin, Capt. Thomas (2/81)
<u>Co. of 2nd Regt.</u>	<u>Moss, Capt. Henry (81-82)</u>
Co. of <u>7th</u> Regt.	Nelson, Capt. John
<u>Co. of Light Infantry</u>	<u>Parker, Capt. Alexander</u>
Co. of <u>3rd</u> Regt.	Ransdell, Capt. Thomas
Co. of <u>1st</u> Regt.	Scott, Capt. Joseph
Co. of <u>6th</u> Regt.	Shelton, Capt. Clough (2/81- 1/83)

Records from National Archives  
TJP-10/91

[This is possibly the will of an ancestor of the Landons of Credenhill, Herefordshire, from whom came Thomas Landon of Virginia. Edward L. Landon, born in Staffbrd, first son of Benedict, of London, England, matriculated at Magdalen Hall, Oxford, October 11, 1643, aged 18; student of the Middle Temple, 1648, his father was a barrister of the Middle Temple, 1610. (Foster).]

JOHN PEACHIE the elder of Mildenhall, county Suffolk, yeoman. Will last November 1626; proved 9 February 1627-8. To be buried in parish Church of Mildenhall. To Agnes my wife land bought of Nicholas and Henrie Willis for life and then to son Robert Peachie. To said Agnes land in the Beckfield in Mildenhall sometime the land of one John Childerstone which came to me by decent after the decease of my father Richard Peachie, and then at her decease to son Robert. To son Robert Peachie land late purchased from Robert Clarke, also £60 when 21. To son Peter Peachie my tenement in Wilde Streete in Mildenhall and land purchased from Joseph Heynes and also a piece of land which was late my Aunt's Alice Huske deceased and £20 to him when 21. To James Peachie my son a cottage called Brownes with land called Leaches and £20 when 21. To son Richard land bought of the widow Spaldinge, he to pay to the 4 daughters of my late daughter Anne Sheene deceased £10 when they are 21. To the four daughters of my daughter Alice Yaxeleye deceased 20s. each when 21. To Richard, John and Agnes sons and daughter of son Richard 10s. each when 21. Residuary Legatee and Executor: son John, Overseers, James Knight, George Loker. Witnesses: Henrie Peachie, William Dalleson, and And. Cropley.

Barrington 20.  
[Samuel Peachey, emigrant ancestor of a well-known Virginia family, came to Virginia in 1639 with his uncle William Hodgskin, and was son of Robert Peachy, of Mildenhall, Suffolk. Though John Peachie, the testator, was evidently a prosperous yeoman, Samuel Peachey, as his will shows, owned silver plate and seal rings, bearing his arms. See *Williams and Mary Quartery*, III, 111-115.]

VIRGINIA'S SOLDIERS IN THE REVOLUTION.

A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF MUSTER AND PAY ROLLS, REGIMENTAL HISTORIES, ETC., WITH INTRODUCTORY AND EXPLANATORY NOTES BY C. A. FLAGG, CATALOGUE DIVISION, AND W. O. WATERS; BIBLIOGRAPHY DIVISION, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

(CONTINUED.)

SECTION III—(Continued).

2D REGIMENT, 1776-1782.

Like the 1st regiment the 2d was authorized by the Virginia Convention, July 17, 1775, as a force of regular troops for State defence. It consisted of 7 companies, 476 privates and the usual regimental officers. William Woodford, a veteran of the Indian wars was chosen colonel; and the trust imposed in him by the colonial Committee of Safety as contrasted with their want of confidence in his superior officer, the civilian Patrick Henry, colonel of the 1st, was the cause of some friction, and eventually led to the resignation of the latter and his return to that branch of the public service where his talents were transcendent.

December 1, 1775, the regiment was enlarged by the addition of three companies of 60 men each.

On February 13, 1776, it was accepted by the Continental Congress as part of Virginia's quota in the new army, and the field officers after being elected anew by Congress, received Continental commissions bearing that date.

In 1777 it was in Weedon's brigade; from 1779 to 1780 in Woodford's. In July, 1778, it reported 26 commissioned officers, 4 staff officers and 658 non-commissioned officers and privates. At the White Plains "re-arrangement" September 2, 1778, many of the Virginia regiments had become so small that it was necessary to combine them, the 2d and 6th being consolidated under the former number, Colonel Febiger of the 2d and Lieutenant-Colonel Simms of the 6th retaining those ranks in the new regiment and the other field officers being retired or transferred.

On January 23, 1779, there were 137 men in the regiment enlisted for the war, an unusually large proportion.

May 10, 1779, it had 221 men in the ranks.

Of the commanders of this regiment Colonel Woodford resigned his commission within the year; but sometime later, on February 21, 1777, was commissioned brigadier-general by Congress. That resignation raised some troublesome questions of seniority between Woodford and other brigadiers, who though of junior rank, had been continuously in service. Spotswood, the next colonel, resigned from the Continental service after a few months. The history of the 2d is most closely connected with its third and last colonel,\* who was nominally in command till the close of hostilities. But there has been some confusion occasioned by the fact that Colonel Febiger, while retaining command of the 2d Virginia, was also at the head of a light infantry regiment (sometimes denominated the 1st or Febiger's) organized by the commander-in-chief's orders in June, 1779, and consisting of 8 companies. These were raised by levies from the Continental line regiments. (One section or battalion of the regiment, comprising 1 company from Virginia, 2 from Pennsylvania and 1 from Maryland, was commanded by Lieut. Colonel Fleury, a Frenchman; the other, consisting of 4 companies, all from the Virginia line, by Major Posey of the 7th regiment.) It was this light infantry regiment and not the 2d Virginia that Colonel Febiger led in that splendid charge under Wayne at Stony Point, July 16, 1779.

With the rest of the Virginia Continentals the regiment was sent South to help in the defence of Charleston and fell into the enemy's hands on the surrender of that city, May 12, 1780.

At the Winchester re-arrangement, January 2, 1783, it had practically ceased to exist, and a new 2d regiment, or part of one, was organized.

For historical material on the regiment see Section II, Nos. 3 and 6.

For lists of regimental officers at various dates, see Section II, Nos. 2, 7, 10, 12, 15, 18, 19, 30.

#### FIELD OFFICERS.

Colonel.—William Woodford, February 13, 1776—September 3, 1776. Resigned, but was promoted to brigadier-general, February 21, 1777.

\*It may be doubted if any Virginia field officer had so varied an experience as Christian Febiger. Born in Denmark and trained to arms in youth, the outbreak of our Revolution found him engaged in mercantile pursuits in Massachusetts. Entering service in Colonel Samuel Gerrish's Essex county regiment he led a detachment which rendered good service at Bunker Hill, June 17, 1775. Was next lieutenant and adjutant of Benedict Arnold's column in that awful march through the Maine wilderness the following fall, and was taken prisoner with his comrades at Quebec, December 31. On being exchanged the next September he at once entered Virginia's service.

Colonel.—Alexander Spotswood, February 21, 1777—October 9, 1777. Resigned.

Christian Febiger, September 26, 1777—January 1, 1783. Retired.

Lieutenant-Colonel.—Charles Scott, February 13, 1776—May 7, 1776. Promoted to colonelcy of 5th.

Alexander Spotswood, August 13, 1776—February 21, 1777. Promoted.

Richard Parker, February 10, 1777—February 10, 1778. Promoted to colonelcy of 1st.

Charles Dabney, ? — September 14, 1778. Retired; was later colonel of 2d State line.

Charles Simms, September 14, 1778—December 7, 1779. Resigned.

Richard Taylor, December 7, 1779—February 12, 1781. Retired.

Gustavus B. Wallace, February 12, 1781. Taken prisoner at Charleston, May 12, 1780, and so remained till retired, January 1, 1783.

Major.—Alexander Spotswood, February 13, 1776—August 13, 1776. Promoted.

John Markham, August 13, 1776—December 23, 1776. Promoted to lieutenant-colonelcy of 8th.

Morgan Alexander, December 23, 1776—March 22, 1777. Transferred to 8th.

Ralph Faulckner, March 22, 1777—May, 1778. Apparently left service. Retired September, 1779.

Thomas Posey, April 30, 1778—September 14, 1778. Transferred to 7th.

Thomas Massie, September 14, 1778—June 25, 1779. Resigned.

Charles Pelham, June 25, 1779. Prisoner May 12, 1780—January, 1783. Transferred to 7th, February 12, 1781.

Smith Snead,\* February 12, 1781—January 1, 1783. Transferred to office of Major-commandant of new 2d.

#### TITLES.

Names and rank of the field, staff and other commissioned officers and privates of Colonel Alexander Spotswood's 2d Virginia regiment as it stood from January to June, 1777. (Records of the Revolutionary war . . . By W. T. R. Saffell. 3d ed., Baltimore, 1894. p. 270-275.)

\*Was taken prisoner as captain in the 9th Virginia, September 11, 1777, and not exchanged till December, 1780. Commission as major was dated December 9, 1779.

Pay roll of Captain Francis Taylor's company of the 2d Virginia battalion from the 28th January to the 28th February, 1777. (A history of Orange County, Va. By W. W. Scott, Richmond, 1907. p. 254.)

Second Virginia battalion, 1777. Pay rolls of Captain Francis Taylor's company from 28th January to 28th March. (Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, October, 1898. v. 6, p. 124-127.)

Muster rolls of field and staff officers of 2d Virginia regiment for July and August, 1777. (Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, January, 1910, v. 18, p. 62-63.)

*Arrangement of the Virginia regiments, 1st and 2d, 1781. Giving commissioned officers with dates of commission.*

Force transcripts. Army returns. v. 100 (1776). no. 111.

In Division of Manuscripts, Library of Congress.

Revolutionary service of a Virginia soldier; Robert Beale of 5th and later of 2d Virginia. (Southern Magazine, November, 1875. v. 17, p. 602-607).

Christian Febiger, colonel of the Virginia line of the Continental army. By H. P. Johnston. (Magazine of American History, March, 1881. v. 6, p. 188-203).

Lieutenant-colonel 11th Virginia, November, 1776; colonel 2d Virginia, September 26, 1777.

#### 2D REGIMENT, 1783.

At the Winchester re-arrangement January 1, 1783, it was decided that the Virginia soldiers whose terms had not run out were more than sufficient to make one regiment, so a 2d was formed to be under a major-commandant, consisting of two companies, (1st) those drafted into the legionary corps and artillery (60 men) and (2d) recruits at different points (60 men).

Probably the regiment saw no service and was soon mustered out.

#### FIELD OFFICER.

Major-commandant.—Smith Snead, January 1, 1783—

#### 3D REGIMENT, 1776-1782.

This regiment, consisting of 10 companies with usual complement of officers, was authorized by Virginia December 1, 1775. Its officers were at once commissioned by the State, and February 13, 1776, on its acceptance by Congress, re-elected by that body.

In October, 1776, it formed part of a brigade temporarily commanded by Colonel Weedon of the 3d Virginia, reporting 104 officers and 611 rank and file on its rolls.

At Trenton, December, 1776, it belonged to Lord Stirling's brigade, reporting 21 commissioned officers and 160 enlisted men present in that month, and 452 enlisted men absent. It was soon transferred to Woodford's brigade and seems to have so continued through its period of service.

At the White Plains re-arrangement, September, 1778, the 5th regiment was united with the 3d; Colonel Heth of the 3d retaining his rank in the new organization while the other field officers were transferred.

In May, 1779, the 3d and 4th regiments combined reported only 377 men present for duty.

May, 1780, the 3d was captured at the fall of Charleston. January 1, 1783, the regiment having dwindled away to practically nothing, the remaining officers were retired.

For historical material on the regiment, see Section II, No. 3.

For lists of regimental officers at various dates, see Section II, Nos. 1, 2, 7, 10, 12, 15, 18, 19, 50.

#### FIELD OFFICERS.

Colonel.—Hugh Mercer, February 13, 1776—June 6, 1776. Promoted to brigadier-general.

George Weedon, August 13, 1776—February 21, 1777. Promoted to brigadier-general.

Thomas Marshall, February 21, 1777—December 4, 1777. Resigned.

William Heth, April 30, 1778. Taken prisoner at Charleston, May 12, 1780; on parole and retired February 12, 1781.

Abraham Buford,\* February 12, 1781—January 1, 1783. Retired.

Lieutenant-Colonel.—George Weedon, February 13, 1776—August 13, 1776. Promoted.

Thomas Marshall, August 13, 1776—February 21, 1777. Promoted.

\*At the Chesterfield re-arrangement February 12, 1781, George Mathews, colonel of the 9th Virginia, who was a prisoner of war, 1777-1781, was assigned originally to the 3d. Buford, a junior colonel, was substituted, but Mathews on regaining liberty, advanced his prior claim.

In June, 1775, the Virginia Convention ordered two regiments to be raised, the 1st and 2d, consisting of eight and seven companies, respectively, commanded by Patrick Henry, who had no military experience, and William Woodford, a veteran soldier. The term of service was not to exceed one year. In December, 1775, the Convention increased the two regiments to ten companies each, and raised six new regiments (the 3d to 8th) of ten companies each, and one of five companies (the 9th later increased to ten companies) for defence of the Eastern Shore.

These nine regiments were accepted by Congress as Virginia's quota, with the officers originally appointed, save that Patrick Henry, receiving the preference of officers of lower rank, resigned his commission. In October, 1776, in answer to a new appeal from Congress, the first State Assembly raised six more regiments (10th to 15th).

The remaining history of these regiments is a record of gradual service of depletion by death, disability and expiration of service. The demitting away of the rank and file made necessary consolidations of regiments and transfers of officers etc. Such "rearrangements" took place at White Plains, September, 1778 (reducing the fifteen regiments to eleven); Middlebrook, May 1779; Red Bank, September, 1779; Chesterfield, February, 1781 (further reducing the eleven regiments to eight); Cumberland Court-house, May, 1782; and Winchester, January 1, 1783 (finally reducing to one regiment and two companies).

A temporary irregularly recruited from the capture of the entire 6th regiment at Germantown, and other deficiencies in the State's quota when the State sent on her 1st and 2d "State line" regiments, which continued in Continental service till the close of the campaign of 1779.

Washington detached practically the entire Virginia line from his immediate command to aid in the defence of Charleston in 1780, and on the fall of that place, the garrison became prisoners of war. Those surrendered included Brigadier General Woodford and Scott; officers and men of the

1st, 2d and 3d Virginia Continentals; officers only from the 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 10th and 11th regiments, and the 1st and 2d Virginia "Detachments."

From the context, the inference is natural that the 4th to 10th regiments were so depleted in members, that their privates were consolidated into the two temporary organizations last named, the supernumerary officers serving without command. We know that the 11th regiment (Hoford's), being outside the city, was cut to pieces by Fardon's cavalry.

After this date, though the framework of the organization was maintained, Virginia's Continental line ceased to be an important factor. Her troops in service were chiefly of the older three groups named.

III. The State line: organizations raised for service in the State, and kept under State control. They were regular troops, and not militia, and so far as State and national bounties were concerned, this class was practically on the same basis as the preceding.

They included:

- 1st State line.
- 2d State line.
- 3d State line.
- Artillery regiment (Marshall's).
- Cavalry regiment (Nelson's).
- Garrison regiment (Meyer's).
- Illinois regiment (Clarke's).
- Crockett's regiment.
- Convention guards (Taylor's).
- State Legion (Dabney's).

IV. The State militia, consisting of all adult males capable of bearing arms, organized on county lines and subject to call on any invasion or peril. The Virginia militia saw much service in the Southern campaigns, and formed the source from which recruits and drafts were taken for the Continental and State lines.

In addition, there was the State Navy, consisting of something like twenty vessels.

Roll and Muster of a Company of Light Infantry belonging to a Detachment of the Virginia Line commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Posey from the 1st of April to 1st of September 1782.

{ Note: All are enlisted for Term - War }

Captain	Alexander Parker	Sick Present
Lt.	James Nabon{?}	Acting QM
Lt.	Javan Miller	
Serjt.	Isacc Taylor	
2	Stacey Wilson	
3	Ruben Allen	
4	Simon Horn	Killed 24 June
Musik	William Scott	
Corporal	William Rhods	Wounded Present
2	James Wickes	Killed 22 May
3	Thomas Stephens	
4	George Grigges	
5	James Slate	
6	Flanders Thompson	Wounded Great Swamp Hosp.
7	William Roach	
8	William Eveans	Killed 22 May
9	Lewes Pugh	
10	John Carns	
Privates	Andrew Cyprus	Sick Present
2	Samuel Cortney	Sick Great Swamp Hosp.
3	Frederick Hobbs	on command Gt. Swp. Hosp.
4	George Chisholm	on command George Torvis{?}
5	Assia Coffey	
6	Lewes Atkins	
7	Isrel Petterson	
8	George Traves	
9	Williamson Simmons	
10	James Simmons	
11	Abner Quarles	
12	John Lewes	
13	John Hackett	
14	William Hodges	
15	Obedience Roberts	
16	Jesse Bryant	
17	Henry Clung	
18	Thomas Cain	
19	Joseph Lee Bullock	Killed 24 June
20	George Sell	
21	Jacob Coouts	
22	James Keep	
23	Danilel Sandures	Killed 24 June
24	Joshua Clifton	on command Genl Grist
25	Patrick Murphey	
26	James Sample	
27	Jacob Pryer	Sick Great Swamp Hosp.
28	John Pierce	Sick Present
29	Henry Lipscomb	



30	James Mackwell	Wounded Great Swamp Hosp.
31	Robert Stokes	
32	Joseph Carter	
33	Thomas Aubney	
34	Dinnes Shay	
35	David Mangrum	Killed 24 June
36	David Morgan	
37	John Telling	
38	Joseph Hughes	Sick Great Swamp Hospital
39	Tobias Armstrong	
40	Robert McGuy	Sick Great Swamp Hospital
41	John Edwards	

Roll Dated September 1782 Javan Miller Lt.

Roll and Muster of a Company of Light Infantry belonging to a Detachment of the Virginia Line commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Posey from the 1st of September to 1st of December 1782.

Captain	Alexander Parker	
Lt.	Sath Darby	
Lt.	Javen Miller	
Sejrt.	Isaac Taylor	
2	Stacey Wilson	on command after forage
3	Reuben Allen	
4	George Hines	
Corporal	James Slate	
2	George Griggs	
3	William Roads	on command in town
4	John Karnes	
Drum & Fife	Joshua Simmonds	
2	William Scott	
3	John Dillard	
4	Grief Pearman	{comment illegible}
Private	Andrew Cyprus	
2	Samuel Cortney	on command----{?}
3	Frederick Hobbs	
4	George Chisolm	
5	Aecy Coller	
6	William Williams	
7	Lewis Atkins	
8	Israel Peterson	
9	Travis George	
10	William Simmonds	on command -----{?}
11	James Simmonds	
12	Abner Quarles	
13	John Lewis	on Guard in Town
14	Bennet McGuy	
15	John Hackett	
16	William Hodges	
17	Robert Thompson	
18	Obedience Roberts	

Smith, Ballard, Lieut., Posey's 1st Va. Capt.-Lieut. May 12,  
1779 to end of War.

Scott, John, Ensign, Posey's 1st Va. Feb. 10, 1781 to end.

Stith, John, Capt., 2nd Va. Transfer to 2nd Feb. 12, 1781  
to end of War.

Snead, Smith, Major, 2nd Va. Captured Germantown Oct. 4, 1777,  
Exchanged Nov. 2, 1780, Major Dec. 9, 1779, Transfer to  
2nd Va. Feb. 12, 1781 to end of War.

Stubblefield, Beverly, Capt., 2nd Va. Transfer to 2nd Va.  
Sept. 14, 1778, Exchanged June, 1781, Capt. 1781.

Stokes, John, Capt., 2nd Va. Transfer from 6th to 2nd Va.  
Sept. 14, 1778, Killed Waxhaws May 29, 1780.

Taliaferro, Benjamin, Capt., 2nd Prisoner on Parole to end  
of War.

Trezvant, John, Surgeon, 2nd Captured Charleston, released,  
served to end of War.

Wallace, Gustavus Brown, Lt. Colonel, 2nd Va. Transfer to  
2nd Va. Feb. 12, 1781 to close of War.

Washington, George Augustine, Lieut., 2nd Va. Ensign 2nd Va.  
1780, Lieutenant 26 May 1781, Aide-de-Camp to Lafayette  
in 1781, served to close of War.

Heitman, Francis B. Historical Register of Officers of the  
Continental Army, 1893, 1914, Baltimore, 1967.

*Note: The information directly following the name is what  
was given to Congress. The other information is from  
Heitman's book. Information in brackets is from me. TJP  
12/12/91.*

RWOfficer.WPS

William Rhodes, Private, Captain Peyton Harrison's Company in the Second Virginia Regiment Commanded by Colonel Alexander Spotswood:

From 1st May to 1st June, 1777	6 & 2/3 Dollars
June, 1777	6 & 2/3 Dollars
July, 1777	6 & 2/3 Dollars
August, 1777	6 & 2/3 Dollars
September, 1777	6 & 2/3 Dollars

William Rhodes, Private, Captain Peyton Harrison's Company in the Second Virginia Regiment Commanded by Colonel Christian Febiger, Esquire:

October, 1777	6 & 2/3 Dollars
Roll dated December 31, 1777 - Term of Enlistment - War	
December, 1777	6 & 2/3 Dollars
January, 1778	6 & 2/3 Dollars
February 16, 1778	6 & 2/3 Dollars for the month's extraordinary pay given by Congress.
February, 1778	6 & 2/3 Dollars
March, 1778	6 & 2/3 Dollars

William Rhodes, Private, Captain Peyton Harrison's Company in the Second Virginia Regiment ( No Commander Listed)

April, 1778	6 & 2/3 Dollars
May, 1778	6 & 2/3 Dollars
June, 1778	6 & 2/3 Dollars
July, 1778	6 & 2/3 Dollars

William Rhodes, Private, Captain Peyton Harrison's Company in the Second Virginia Regiment Commanded by Colonel Christian Febiger

August, 1778	6 & 2/3 Dollars
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William Rhodes Appears with the Rank of Private on an exact Roll of Captain John Harrison's Company of the 2nd Virginia Regiment Commanded by Christian Febiger ( Col.) accounting for every Man, whether in the Field on Command, or in the Hospital also mentioning the Time they now have to serve. Roll not dated - Made agreeable to General Order of September 8, 1778. Time has to Serve: War. Remarks: In the Light Infantry.

September, 1778	6 & 2/3 Dollars
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William Rhodes, Private, Captain John Peyton Harrison's Company of Foot, Second Virginia Regiment, Commanded by Colonel Christian Febiger.

October, 1778 6 & 2/3 Dollars

William Rhodes, Private in Captain John Peyton Harrison's Company in the Second Virginia Regiment.

November, 1778 6 & 2/3 Dollars

December, 1778 6 & 2/3 Dollars

January, 1779 6 & 2/3 Dollars

February, 1779 6 & 2/3 Dollars

March, 1779 6 & 2/3 Dollars

William Rhodes, Private in Captain John Peyton Harrison's Company Second Virginia Regiment commanded by Christian Febiger, Esquire.

April, 1779 6 & 2/3 Dollars

May, 1779 6 & 2/3 Dollars

June, 1779 6 & 2/3 Dollars

William Rhodes, Private, Captain John Peyton Harrison's Company, Second Virginia Regiment of Foot, Commanded by Colonel Christian Febiger. Roll dated Clove, September 6, 1779. Term of enlistment: War.

August, 1779 6 & 2/3 Dollars  
Subsistence at 10 Dollars from 18th. 16 & 2/3 Dollars

William Rhodes, Corporal, Captain Peyton Harrison's Company, Second Virginia Regiment, commanded by Colonel Christian Febiger.

September, 1779 7 & 1/3 Dollars  
Subsistence Per Month 10 Dollars 17 & 1/3 Dollars

William Rhodes, Corporal, Captain John Peyton Harrison's Company, Second Virginia Regiment of Foot, commanded by Colonel Christian Febiger.

October, 1779 7 & 1/3 Dollars  
Subsistence Per Month 10 Dollars 17 & 1/3 Dollars

William Rhodes, Corporal, Captain John Peyton Harrison's Company, Second Virginia Regiment, commanded by Colonel Christian Febiger.

December, 1779 7 & 1/3 Dollars  
Subsistence Per Month 10 Dollars 17 & 1/3 Dollars

TSP 9-27-91

**The Second Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line**

**1775-1783**

July, 1775 - Raised as a State Regiment  
October 21, 1775 - State Militia at Williamsburg, Virginia  
December of 1775 - Battle of Great Bridge at Norfolk, Va.

February 13, 1776 - Brought into Continental Service to date  
retroactive to November 1, 1775.

January 10, 1777 - Ordered North to Join Army on Long Island  
April of 1777 - Bowndbrook ( Middlebrook ) New Jersey  
September 11, 1777 - Battle of Brandywine, Penna.  
October 4, 1777 - Battle of Germantown, Penna.

December, 1777 to May, 1778 - Valley Forge, Penna.

June 28, 1778 - Battle of Monmouth, New Jersey.  
July-August, 1778 - White Plains, New York area.  
September 14, 1778 - Consolidation of 2nd and 6th Virginia.  
December of 1778 - Marched to Middlebrook, New Jersey.

June, 1779 - The Clove, New York. Light Infantry formed.  
July, 1779 - The Highlands, New York.  
July 16, 1779 - Storming of Stony Point, New York.  
August 1779 - Battle of Paulus Hook, New York.  
September, 1779 - The Highlands, New York.  
October, 1779 - The Highlands, New York.  
December, 1779 - ordered to march to Charleston, South  
Carolina. Light Infantry disbanded.

January, 1780 - 2nd, 3rd and 4th Virginia Consolidated under  
John Neville.

January, 1780 - Arrive in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.  
February, 1780 - Fredericksburg, Virginia.  
March 8, 1780 - Petersburg, Virginia.  
March 31, 1780 - Camden, South Carolina.  
April 8, 1780 - Marched into Charleston, South Carolina.  
May 12, 1780 - Captured by British Army in Charleston, South  
Carolina. About 100 men under Captain  
Alexander Parker escape the trap.

October, 1781 - Captain Parker's men serve at Yorktown, Virginia in Colonel Thomas Gaskin's Virginia Regiment of 18 month men on the Right Flank of the First Line of Anthony Wayne's Brigade.

Winter, 1781 - Colonel Thomas Posey's Virginia Battalion including a detachment of the Second Virginia Continental Regiment from Philadelphia are sent South under General Arthur St. Clair to aid General Greene in an attempt to recapture Charleston, South Carolina and Savannah, Georgia.

January 4, 1782 - Cross Edisto River in South Carolina.

Spring, 1782 - Skirmishing with Loyalists and Indians.

June 23, 1782 - Battle of Sharon, Georgia. The light infantry of Posey's Regiment, commanded by Alexander Parker, drive back the loyalists and Creek Indians. This was the last encounter in Georgia.

October, 1782 - Posey's Battalion on the march home.

January 1, 1783 - Winchester Arrangement creates 2nd Virginia Regiment of two companies, commanded by Major Smith Snead. Captain Alexander Parker commanded the Veterans and Captain Samuel Booker commanded the recruits.

May-June, 1783 - Second Virginia Disbanded and discharged at Richmond, Virginia.

HISTORY OF SECOND VA.

From: Lesser, Charles H., Ed.: The Sinews of Independence,  
University of Chicago Press, 1976.

YEAR 1775

At Norfolk, Virginia Under Col. Robert Howe, December, 1775  
Second Virginia State - William Woodford

Comm. Off.	NCO	Staff	Rank&File	Total	Grnd.Tot
23	21	5	224	273	376

(Note: 1st and 2nd Va. State not officially brought into Continental Service until February 13, 1776, But at that point this was made retroactive to November 1, 1775.)

YEAR 1777

Forces under Major General Benjamin Lincoln at or near  
Bowndbrook, New Jersey, March, 1777.

Second Virginia Continentals - Alexander Spotswood

18	31	4	124	177	217
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Forces under George Washington in New Jersey, May, 1777  
Second Virginia Continentals - Alexander Spotswood

15	25	3	130	173	225
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Forces under George Washington, Vally Forge, Penna., December,  
1777. ( Weedon's Brigade)

Second Virginia Continentals - Christian Febiger

14	23	5	80	122	406
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YEAR 1778

Forces under George Washington, Valley Forge, Penna., March,  
1778. (Weedon's Brigade) (21 without clothing)

Second Virginia Regiment - Christian Febiger

6	18	4	62	90	246
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Forces under George Washington, Valley Forge, Penna., April,  
1778. (Weedon's Brigade)

Second Virginia Regiment - Christian Febiger

12	29	3	97	141	261
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Forces under George Washington, Valley Forge, Penna., May, 1778. (Weedon's Brigade)

Second Virginia Regiment - Christian Febiger  
11        28    4    107        150    262

Forces under George Washington compiled after Monmouth, New Jersey, June, 1778. (Weedon's Brigade)

Second Virginia Regiment - Christian Febiger  
16        29    3    106        154    261

Forces under George Washington, White Plains, New York area, July, 1778. (Woodford's Brigade)

Second Virginia Regiment - Christian Febiger  
13        30    5    106        154    253

Forces under George Washington, White Plains, New York, August, 1778. ( Woodford's Brigade)

Second and Sixth Virginia Regiments - Christian Febiger  
14        40    7    143        204    339

Forces under George Washington, New Jersey, September, 1778. ( Woodford's Brigade )

Second and Sixth Virginia Regiments - Christian Febiger  
14        36    6    144        200    325

(Note: In the White Plains rearrangement, the depleted fifteen Virginia Regiments were consolidated into eleven. The reorganization, however, had not been completed for this return, and all the Virginia Regiment numbers on this Report are those under the old organization.)

Forces under George Washington, New Jersey, October, 1778. (Woodford's Brigade)

Second Virginia Regiment - Christian Febiger (old 2nd & 6th)  
12        30    3    160        205    308

Forces under George Washington, New Jersey and Fort Clinton, November, 1778. ( Woodford's Brigade )

Second Virginia Regiment - Christian Febiger (old 2nd & 6th)  
12        30    3    163        208    308



Forces under George Washington, New Jersey, December, 1778.  
( Woodford's Brigade )  
Second Virginia Regiment - Christian Febiger (old 2nd & 6th)  
13 24 1 101 139 302

YEAR 1779

Forces under George Washington, New Jersey, January, 1779.  
( Woodford's Brigade )  
Second Virginia Regiment - Christian Febiger  
10 13 2 102 127 292

Forces under George Washington, New Jersey, February, 1779.  
( Woodford's Brigade )  
Second Virginia Regiment - Christian Febiger  
10 14 3 72 99 252

Forces under George Washington, New Jersey, March, 1779.  
( Woodford's Brigade )  
Second Virginia Regiment - Christian Febiger  
9 12 3 102 126 246

Forces under George Washington, New Jersey, April, 1779.  
( Woodford's Brigade )  
Second Virginia Regiment - Christian Febiger  
8 22 3 140 173 258

Forces under George Washington, New Jersey, May, 1779.  
( Woodford's Brigade )  
Second Virginia Regiment - Christian Febiger  
5 30 4 171 210 263

Forces under George Washington, The Clove, New York, June,  
1779. ( Woodford's Brigade )  
Second Virginia Regiment - Christian Febiger  
2 23 4 137 166 250

Forces under George Washington, The Highlands, New York, July,  
1779. ( Woodford's Brigade )  
Second Virginia Regiment - Christian Febiger  
5 19 5 123 152 251

Forces under George Washington, The Highlands, New York,  
August, 1779. ( Woodford's Brigade )

Second Virginia Regiment - Christian Febiger  
8      24      6      184      222      293

Forces under George Washington, The Highlands, New York,  
September, 1779. ( Woodford's Brigade )

Second Virginia Regiment - Christian Febiger  
8      21      5      108      142      219

Forces under George Washington, The Highlands, New York,  
October, 1779. ( Woodford's Brigade )

Second Virginia Regiment - Christian Febiger  
8      21      4      127      160      218

Forces under George Washington, New Jersey, November, 1779.  
( Woodford's Brigade )

Second Virginia Regiment - Christian Febiger  
9      21      5      130      165      217

YEAR 1780

Forces under George Washington, not given, January, 1780.  
( Woodford's Brigade )

Second, Third & Fourth Virginia Regiments - John Neville  
20      65      9      359      453      636

Southern Department under Major General Benjamin Lincoln,  
Charleston, South Carolina, April, 1780.      ( Woodford's Brigade )

Second Virginia - John Neville  
22      49      6      232      309      481

(Note: These are not the First, Second and Third Virginia  
Regiments of the White Plains Rearrangement but a new  
consolidation of...the Second, Third and Fourth  
Regiments under Neville....)

YEAR 1782

Georgia Expedition under Brigadier General Anthony Wayne,  
Georgia, March, 1782.

Virginia Battalion - Lt. Colonel Thomas Posey  
19      45      4      240      308      370

Georgia Expedition under Brigadier General Anthony Wayne,  
Georgia, April, 1782.

Virginia Detachment - Lt. Colonel Thomas Posey  
20      42      3      289      354      379

TJP 9-27-91

A ROLL AND MUSTER OF A COMPANY OF  
 THE 2<sup>ND</sup> VIRGINIA REGIMENT IN A BATTALION  
 COMPOSED OF THE DIFFERENT REGIMENTS  
 OF THE VIRGINIA LINE COMMANDED BY  
 LIEUT. COL. THOMAS POSEY FROM THE 1<sup>ST</sup>  
 OF APRIL UNTIL THE 1<sup>ST</sup> OF SEPT. 1782

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TERM</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
CAPT.	HENRY MOSS		
LIEUT	JOHN GORDON		TRANSFER TO 7 <sup>TH</sup> VA.
ENSIGN	JOHN SCOTT		TRANSFER FROM 7 <sup>TH</sup> VA.
SERGT.	1. PAT HAGERTHY	WAR	
	2. FRANCIS DAWSON	WAR	
	3. WILLIAM BEAL	WAR	
	4. JOHN JONES	11 m 18 D	SICK ABSENT
CORP.	1. WILLIAM DAY	20 D	
	2. JOHN GRENSTEAD	1 m 13 D	
MUSICK	1. JOHN CONOLEY	WAR	PROMOTED. 1 <sup>ST</sup> APL FIVE MAJOR
	2. MATTHEW BYLAND	WAR	
	3. GRIEF PIERMAN	WAR	
PRIVATES	1. WILLIAM WILLIS	WAR	SICK PRESENT
	2. HUGH PEYTON	"	
	3. ADAM MCCORMACK	"	
	4. JOHN FLEMING	1 m 18 D	QUARTERGUARD
	5. WILLIAM DYSON	20 D	
	6. ISSAC KANE BARGER (?)	24 D	SICK PRESENT
	7. WILLIAM TINSLEY	24 4 m	
	8. WILLIAM SHEPHERD.	1 m 12 D	
	9. ZACK COOK	8 m 13 D	
	10. JAMES COX	16 D	
	11. ELISHA BUTLER	4 m	
	12. AUGUSTINE BOYD	21 D	

13.	ROBERT PERRY	WAR	TRANSFER FROM CAROLINA LINE 14 MAY 82
14.	SOLOMON NEWCOM	WAR	TRANSFER FROM VA. ART. 14 MAY 82
15.	ROBERT GARRET	WAR	SICK GREAT SWAMP HOSP.
16.	GEORGE JORDAN	24D	" " " "
17.	JOHN RINGO	19D	" " " "
18.	JAMES PIERCE	2D	" " " "
19.	JOHN WEAVERS	2D	" " " "
20.	RICHARD NEAL	OVER	" " " "
21.	THOMAS TERRY	16D	" " " "
22.	JAMES STEVENS	3M	" " " "
23.	ROBERT BRYAN	WAR	DESERTED APR. 28, 82
24.	JOSEPH HUGHS	WAR	DESERTED - TRANSFERD FROM THE CAROLINA LINE 14 MAY AND DESERTED THE 25 MAY 1782

**Porter, Robert** (N. C.). Captain North Carolina Militia, 1776-1779.

**Porter, Robert** (Pa). Cadet 4th Continental Artillery, 9th January, 1779; 2d Lieutenant, 2d July, 1781; served to 17th June, 1783. (Died 1842.)

**Porter, Robert** (S. C.). Lieutenant South Carolina State Dragoons, 5th April, 1781; resigned — July, 1781.

**Porter, Stephen** (Pa). 1st Lieutenant of Lewis' Pennsylvania Battalion of the Flying Camp, July to December, 1776.

**Porter, Thomas** (Pa). Colonel Pennsylvania Militia, 1776-1777.

**Porter, William** (Pa). Ensign Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, Militia in 1778.

**Porter, William** (Va). 2d Lieutenant 12th Virginia. (Died 20th June, 1807.)

**Porter, William**.—See **Porter, Billy**.

**Porter, William** (Va). Ensign 2d Virginia, 4th May, 1777; 2d Lieutenant, 15th June, 1777; 1st Lieutenant, — December, 1777; retired 30th September, 1778.

**Porter, William** (Va). 2d Lieutenant 12th Virginia, 21st July, 1777; regiment designated 8th Virginia, 14th September, 1778; 1st Lieutenant, 14th April, 1779; taken prisoner at Charleston, 12th May, 1780, and was a prisoner on parole to close of war. (Died 8th July, 1828.)

**Porterfield, Charles** (Va). Served as a volunteer in the Canada Campaign and was taken prisoner at Quebec 31st December, 1775; Captain 11th Virginia, 3d February, 1777; Brigade-Major of Woodford's Brigade, 13th July, 1778; transferred to 7th Virginia, 14th September, 1778; resigned 2d July, 1779; Lieutenant-Colonel of a Virginia State Regiment, 14th August, 1779; mortally wounded and taken prisoner at Camden, 16th August, 1780, and died in October, 1780.

**Porterfield, Dennis** (N. C.). Ensign 6th North Carolina, 16th April, 1776; Lieutenant, 2d April, 1777; transferred to 1st North Carolina 1st June, 1778; Captain, 1st February, 1779; killed 8th September, 1781, at Eutaw Springs.

**Porterfield, Robert** (Va). 2d Lieutenant 11th Virginia, 24th December, 1776; 1st Lieutenant, 1st June, 1777; Adjutant, 19th April, 1778; transferred to 7th Virginia, 14th September, 1778;

Captain Lieutenant, 2d July, 1779; Captain, 16th August, 1779; taken prisoner at Charleston, 12th May, 1780; exchanged December, 1780; transferred to 2d Virginia, 12th February, 1781, and served to close of war. (Died 13th February, 1843.)

**Posey, Belair** (Md). Captain 3d Maryland Battalion of the Flying Camp, July to December, 1776.

**Posey, Thomas** (Va). Captain 7th Virginia, 20th March, 1776; Major 2d Virginia, 30th April, 1778; transferred to 7th Virginia, 14th September, 1778; Lieutenant-Colonel, 8th September, 1782; transferred to 1st Virginia, 1st January, 1783; retired 10th March, 1783; Brigadier-General United States Army, 14th February, 1793; resigned 28th February, 1794. (Died 19th March, 1818.)

**Post, Abraham** (Conn). Ensign of Swift's Connecticut State Regiment, June to November, 1776.

**Post, Anthony** (N. Y.). Captain of Artificers, 2d Continental Artillery, 1st January, 1777; retired 22d June, 1781. (Died 29th May, 1832.)

**Post, Jacobus** (N. J.). Major New Jersey Light-Horse Militia, 1775-1776.

**Post, Jeremiah** (N. H.). Captain New Hampshire Militia, —; died 26th August, 1777, of wounds received at Bennington, 16th August, 1777.

**Post, John** (N. Y.). Commissary of Issues, New York Brigade, 1776 to 1783.

**Postell, Benjamin** (S. C.). Lieutenant 1st South Carolina; taken prisoner at Charleston, 12th May, 1780.

**Postell, James** (S. C.). Lieutenant-Colonel South Carolina Militia; taken prisoner at Charleston, 12th May, 1780; exchanged June, 1781. (Died 1824.)

**Postell, John** (S. C.). Captain South Carolina Militia; taken prisoner at Charleston 12th May, 1780. (Possibly James and John are same.)

**Postlethwaite, Samuel** (Pa). Captain of Wilson's Battalion guarding stores at Carlisle, Pennsylvania; also Assistant Deputy Quartermaster, 6th October, 1777, to December, 1782.

**Potan, Mathew** (N. Y.). Ensign 3d New York, 1st June, 1777; omitted May, 1778.

**Potan, Matthew** (Pa). Ensign 4th Pennsylvania, 3d January, 1777; 2d

43-54

2nd Regt Line  
1777-80

Field and Staff	Spottswood, Col. Alexander Febiger, Col. Christian
Company 44	Calmes, Capt. Marquis (1-17-77) Catlett, Capt. Thomas Claiborne, Capt. Butler
Company 45	Harrison, Capt. John Peyton (3-11-77)
Company 46	Nicholas, Capt. George ( 2nd Company- Hanover 9-28-75) Jones, Capt. Hood Hoomes(Holmes), Capt. Benjamin (4-24- 78)
Company 47	Parker, Capt. Alexander (6-1-77) Stokes, Capt. John
Company 48	Sanford, Capt. William (12-25-76)
Company 49	Taylor, Capt. William (12-28-76) Taylor, Capt. Thomas Upshaw, Capt. James
Company 50	Taylor, Capt. Francis Taliaferro, Capt. Benjamin
Company 51	Taylor, Capt. William
Company 52	Hawes, Capt. Samuel (9th Company - Caroline 2-19-76) Upshaw, Capt. James (1778)
Company 53	Willis, Capt. John (6-15-76)
Company 54	Meade, Capt. Edward (3-8-76) Taylor, Capt. Francis (5-8-76)

Records from National Archives Microfilm  
(Some names smudged) ( Numbers by Company are on film )  
Bracketed dates from Sanchez-Saavedra, A Guide to Virginia  
Military Organizations, 1978, Virginia State Library.  
TJP/10-91

Captain Alexander Parker's Company  
A Company of Light Infantry belonging to a  
Detachment of the Virginia Line commanded  
by Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Posey  
 January 1, 1782 - September 1, 1782

The notation on the records for many of these is dated May 18, 1783 - " On Command in Georgia " { TJP 11/91 }

Bridgman, Joseph	Private	
Bullock, Joseph Lee	Private	
Carter, Robert	Private	
Clifton, Joshua	Private	
Colley, Asa	Private	
Cooper, William	Private	
Courtney, Samuel	Private	
Dillard, John	Musician	Fife and Drum
Erington, William	Private	
George, America	Private	Deserted August, 1782
George, Travis	Private	
Gilbert, Joseph	Private	Artificer, James Island 5/83
Hackett, James	Private	
Hodges, William	Private	
James, Evan	Private	Artificer with the Army
Jones Edward	Private	
Lipscomb, Henry	Private	
Morgan, David	Private	
Murphy, Patrick	Private	
Peterson, Israel	Private	{Petterson}
Purkins, Joseph	Private	
Rhodes, William	Corporal	
Sample, James	Private	
Scott, William	Musician	Drum and Fife
Simmonds, Joshua	Private	
Simmons, William	Private	
Stephens, Thomas	Private	
Tinsley, John	Private	
Toole, Joseph	Private	
Wum, Joseph	Private	
White, Caleb	Private	
Williams, William	Private	

M-881  
 Roll 1088  
 S: LtInf82

Captains Philip Sansum, Samuel Hogg, and Thomas Parker were also included in the arrangement, although they were not commanding companies. All had been lieutenants prior to 1783, and all seem to have been promoted as rewards for service.

Since most of the captains and subalterns in the official arrangement of the 1st Virginia Regiment were absent from the Winchester Barracks on other assignments (recruiting, gathering military stores, etc.), the above list differed in many respects from the roster of those actually on duty at Winchester. According to pay and subsistence accounts, the garrison there was made up of the following officers and companies:

Colonel James Wood	
Lieutenant Colonel Samuel Hawes	
Major Samuel Finley(?)	
1st Company:	Captain William Johnston
2d Company:	Captain John Stith
3d Company:	Captain Thomas Edmunds
4th Company:	Captain Abraham Kirkpatrick
5th Company:	Captain John Anderson
6th Company:	Captain James Williams
7th Company:	Captain Robert Woodson
Artillery Company:	Captain Ambrose Bohannon

Although most of the Virginia Continentals were mustered out of service in June 1783, the companies under captains Johnston, Kirkpatrick, and Bohannon remained in service until July or August of that year, when they were discharged.

### ***2d Virginia Regiment of Foot, 1775-1783***

*(Also designated at various times: 2d Battalion, Virginia Forces on Provincial Establishment; 2d Virginia Battalion of Foot in the Service of the United States; 2d Virginia Regiment on Continental Establishment; 2d Virginia Detachment; 2d Virginia Battalion.)*

#### ***Field Officers***

- Colonel William Woodford, July 1775-September 3, 1776. Resigned, but promoted to brigadier general, February 21, 1777. Captured at Charleston, South Carolina, May 1780. Died while a prisoner in New York, November 1780.
- Colonel Alexander Spotswood, February 21, 1777-October 9, 1777. Resigned.
- Colonel Christian Febiger, September 26, 1777-January 1, 1783. Retired.



- Lieutenant Colonel Charles Scott, July 1775-May 7, 1776. Promoted to colonel, 5th Virginia Regiment.
- Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Spotswood, August 13, 1776-February 21, 1777. Promoted to colonel.
- Lieutenant Colonel Richard Parker, February 10, 1777-February 10, 1778. Promoted to colonel, 1st Virginia Regiment.
- Lieutenant Colonel Charles Dabney, June 23, 1777-September 14, 1778. Retired after arrangement of Virginia troops.
- Lieutenant Colonel Charles Simms, September 14, 1778-December 7, 1779. Resigned.
- Lieutenant Colonel Richard Taylor, December 7, 1779-February 12, 1781. Retired.
- Lieutenant Colonel Gustavus Brown Wallace, February 12, 1781-January 1, 1783. Captured at Charleston, South Carolina, May 1780.
- Major Alexander Spotswood, July 1775-August 13, 1776. Promoted.
- Major John Markham, August 13, 1776-December 23, 1776. Promoted to lieutenant colonel, 8th Virginia Regiment.
- Major Morgan Alexander, December 23, 1776-March 22, 1777. Transferred to 8th Virginia Regiment.
- Major Ralph Faulkner, March 22, 1777-May 1778. Retired from service, September 1779.
- Major Thomas Posey, April 30, 1778-September 14, 1778. Transferred to the 7th Virginia Regiment.
- Major Thomas Massie, September 14, 1778-June 25, 1779. Resigned.
- Major Charles Pelham, June 25, 1779-February 12, 1781. Captured at Charleston, South Carolina, May 1780. Transferred to the 7th Virginia Regiment, February 1781, while still a prisoner.
- Major Smith Snead, February 12, 1781-January 1, 1783. Became major-commandant of reorganized 2d Virginia Battalion. Served to end of war.

The initial organization of the 2d Virginia Regiment in July 1775 was identical to that of the 1st Virginia Regiment. This regiment saw considerable service in the Norfolk area against British forces and loyalists under Dunmore. Colonel William Woodford, of Caroline County, became the de facto commander in chief of Virginia's forces from October through December 1775, after which time he turned over his command to Colonel Robert Howe, of North Carolina.<sup>5</sup>

After being taken into Continental service the regiment mustered at Suffolk and then marched north to join Washington.<sup>6</sup>

*Companies, September 1775-January 1776*

- 1st Company: Captain George Johns(t)on, September 21.  
1775. Raised in Fairfax.
- 2d Company: Captain George Nicholas, September 28,  
1775. Raised in Hanover.
- 3d Company: Captain Richard Parker, September 28, 1775.  
Raised in Westmoreland.
- 4th Company: Captain William Taliaferro, September 29.  
1775. Raised in Caroline.
- 5th Company: Captain William Fontaine, October 21, 1775.  
Raised in Amelia.
- 6th Company: Captain Richard Kidder Meade, October 24,  
1775. Raised in Southampton.
- 7th Company: Captain Morgan Alexander, November 27,  
1775. Raised in Frederick. Riflemen.

In December 1775 three companies of sixty men each were added to the regiment.

- 8th Company: Captain Buller Claiborne, January 31, 1776.  
Raised in Prince George and Petersburg.
- 9th Company: Captain Samuel Hawes, February 19, 1776.  
Raised in Caroline.
- 10th Company: Captain Wood Jones, March 8, 1776. Raised  
in Amelia and Williamsburg.

Originally attached to Weedon's brigade, the 2d Virginia Regiment became a part of Woodford's brigade following Woodford's promotion to brigadier general. From March 1776 through the White Plains arrangement of September 1778, the following officers commanded companies in the regiment:

- Captain Everard Meade, commissioned March 8, 1776
- Captain Francis Taliaferro, March 1776
- Captain Francis Taylor, May 8, 1776
- Captain John Willis, June 15, 1776
- Captain William Sanford, December 25, 1776
- Captain William Taylor, December 28, 1776
- Captain Marquis Calmes, January 17, 1777
- Captain Peyton Harrison, March 11, 1777
- Captain John Peyton Harrison, May 4, 1777
- Captain Alexander Parker, June 1, 1777
- Captain Philip Taliaferro, September 23, 1777
- Captain Thomas Tebbs, 1777
- Captain Benjamin Holmes (Hoomes), April 24, 1778
- Captain James Upshaw, 1778

On September 14, 1778, the depleted 2d Virginia Regiment was consolidated with the 6th Virginia Regiment at White Plains, New York.

**Companies, September 1778-Spring 1779**

Colonel's Company:	Captain-Lieutenant Thomas Catlett
Lieutenant Colonel's Company:	Lieutenant Colin Cocke(?)
Major's Company:	Lieutenant Francis Cowherd(?)
4th Company:	Captain William Taylor
5th Company:	Captain Marquis Calmes
6th Company:	Captain John Peyton Harrison
7th Company:	Captain Alexander Parker
8th Company:	Captain Benjamin Taliaferro
9th Company:	Captain John Stokes

In 1779 Captain Calmes was captured by the British. Captains Valentine Harrison and Colin Cocke joined the regiment toward the end of the same year.

Late in 1779 the 2d Virginia Regiment was temporarily consolidated with the 3d and 4th Virginia regiments and sent to Charleston as part of General William Woodford's brigade. Except for a handful of men under Captain Alexander Parker, the amalgamated regiment was captured by Sir Henry Clinton's forces and kept in captivity for the rest of the war. Parker's refugees returned to Virginia and participated in the Yorktown campaign.

The 2d Virginia Regiment, although in captivity, was arranged on paper by boards of field officers meeting at Chesterfield Court House, at Cumberland Old Court House, and at Winchester, in 1781, 1782, and 1783, respectively.

**Companies, 1781-1782**

Captain Robert Higgins (from 8th Virginia Regiment)
Captain John Stith
Captain Alexander Parker
Captain Benjamin Taliaferro
Captain Henry Moss
Captain Isaiah Marks
Captain Colin Cocke
Captain Robert Porterfield
Captain Francis Cowherd
Captain John Jordan
Captain Beverley Stubblefield
Captain James Mabin (Maybone)

Because they were on detached service with Colonel Abraham Buford, captains Thomas Catlett and John Stokes escaped capture at Charleston, Catlett only to be killed and Stokes wounded at The Waxhaws later in the month.<sup>7</sup>

The final arrangement of the Virginia Line, which took place at Winchester on January 1, 1783, created a tiny regiment of two companies, which was designated the 2d Virginia Regiment. One company was composed of veterans, and the other of recruits who were serving out their enlistments "for the war."

***Companies, January-September 1783***

Major-Commandant	Smith Snead
Captain	Alexander Parker (veterans)
Captain	Samuel Booker (recruits)
Brevet-Captain	Thomas Parker, September 30, 1783

***3d Virginia Regiment Of Foot, 1776-1782***

*(Also designated at various times: 3d Virginia Battalion of Foot in the Service of the United Colonies, 3d Virginia Regiment on Continental Establishment.)*

***Field Officers***

Colonel Hugh Mercer, December 1775-June 6, 1776. Promoted to brigadier general. Mortally wounded at Princeton.

Colonel George Weedon, August 13, 1776-February 21, 1777. Promoted to brigadier general.

Colonel Thomas Marshall, February 21, 1777-February 21, 1778. Resigned. Became colonel of State Artillery Regiment.

Colonel William Heth, April 30, 1778-February 12, 1781. Taken prisoner at Charleston, South Carolina, May 1780. Paroled and retired.

Colonel Abraham Buford, February 12, 1781-January 1, 1783. Retired.

Lieutenant Colonel George Weedon, December 1775-August 13, 1776. Promoted.

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Marshall, August 13, 1776-February 21, 1777. Promoted.

Lieutenant Colonel William Heth, April 1, 1777-April 30, 1778. Promoted. •

Lieutenant Colonel Charles Fleming, June 28, 1778-September 14, 1778. Promoted to colonel, 8th Virginia Regiment.

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Gaskins, September 14, 1778-January 1, 1783. Retired.

Lieutenant Colonel Richard Clough Anderson, honorary lieutenant colonel, 1781-1783.

Major Thomas Marshall, February 13, 1776-August 13, 1776. Promoted.

Major William Taliaferro, August 13, 1776-February 1, 1777. Promoted to colonel, 4th Virginia Regiment.

fort. The British realized the importance of opening the Hudson and concentrated in force against Fort Washington. Eighteen regiments of British regulars, including the Royal Welsh Fusileers, the Black Watch, and the Coldstream Guards, supported by at least fourteen Hessian regiments with the Royal Artillery and the 17th Light Dragoons, attacked the fort on November 15, 1776. The riflemen, who were reported by Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette* as lightheartedly "Hessian-hunting" a few days earlier, were forced to retreat from Fort George, Fort Tryon, and Cock-Hill Fort and take refuge in Fort Washington. The two Hessian divisions under von Knyphausen and von Rall surrounded the fort, and after a fierce battle Magaw surrendered the entire garrison. Rawlings remained a prisoner in New York until he was exchanged late in 1778, and many of his men remained captives until 1780 or 1781.<sup>18</sup>

### ***Colonel Daniel Morgan's Battalion of Riflemen, 1777-1778***

*(Also designated at various times: Morgan's Riflemen,  
Morgan's Rifle Corps, Virginia Riflemen.)*

#### ***Field Officers***

Colonel Daniel Morgan, summer 1777-fall 1778. Virginia.

Lieutenant Colonel Richard Butler, summer 1777-fall 1778. Pennsylvania.

Major Joseph Morris, summer 1777-fall 1778. New Jersey.

In 1777 Colonel Daniel Morgan, 11th Virginia Continental Regiment, was chosen by Washington to raise a picked corps of sharpshooters as flankers to the main army. Leaving his regiment in the hands of his subordinate, Christian Febiger, Morgan canvassed the army in May and June of 1777 for the ablest sharpshooters. By the fall of the year he had raised five hundred men from the Virginia and Pennsylvania Continental lines and organized them into ten companies.

Washington had originally planned to place the rifle battalion under Colonel Moses Rawlings, of Maryland. Rawlings had been captured at the surrender of Fort Washington in November 1776 and was still a prisoner in New York. Thus Morgan's riflemen were considered only a temporary unit, and they were supposed to become the nucleus of a planned regiment to be commanded by Rawlings after his release.

While attached to the northern army under General Horatio Gates, Morgan's riflemen played a crucial part in the victory at Saratoga in September 1777. During the 1778 campaign a portion of the corps was attached to Captain Charles Porterfield's company of the 11th Virginia Continental Regiment. On September 14, 1778, the White Plains arrange-

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 fourteen Hessian regiments with  
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1777-fall 1778. Virginia.  
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 1776, the White Plains arrange-

ment renumbered this regiment as the 7th Virginia Regiment and transferred the riflemen into existing Virginia and Pennsylvania units. Although Moses Rawlings was released late in 1778, his efforts to recruit a full regiment of riflemen failed.<sup>19</sup>

#### *Companies, July 1777-September 1778*

1st Company:	Captain Hawkins Boone. Raised in Pennsylvania.
2d Company:	Captain Samuel Jordan Cabell. Raised in Virginia.
3d Company:	Captain William Henderson. Raised in Virginia.
4th Company:	Captain James Knox. Raised in Virginia.
5th Company:	Captain Gabriel Long. Raised in Virginia.
6th Company:	Captain James Parr. Raised in Pennsylvania.
7th Company:	Captain Michael Simpson. Raised in Pennsylvania.
8th Company:	Captain Thomas Posey. Raised in Virginia.
9th Company:	Captain Benjamin Taliaferro. Raised in Virginia.
10th Company:	Captain Van Swearingen. Raised in Pennsylvania.
Detachment:	Lieutenant Philip Slaughter. Raised in Virginia.

#### *Volunteer Battalions for the Grand Army, June-August 1778*

In response to Continental requests for additional Virginia troops to serve in the main army under General Washington, the Virginia General Assembly authorized four volunteer battalions in June 1778. The battalions, to be made up of men enlisted for six months, were of the usual size and strength—ten companies of fifty men each, rank and file, per battalion. A bounty of thirty dollars and a suit of clothes was voted for each volunteer. To obtain a captain's commission, a candidate had to enlist a quota of twenty-four men, two sergeants, a drummer, and a fifer. A lieutenant's quota was sixteen men and a sergeant. Ensigns had to enlist ten men and one sergeant. The officers were to be chosen according to an elaborate county quota system. On August 6, 1778, Congress advised Virginia that the men would not be needed after all, and the partially formed units were accordingly disbanded.<sup>20</sup>

#### *1st Battalion*

Lieutenant Colonel Edward Stevens (resigned from 10th Virginia Continental Regiment)

Major David Jameson (Culpeper Militia)

**2d Battalion**

Lieutenant Colonel George Slaughter (resigned from 12th Virginia Continental Regiment)

Major Edward Garland (resigned from 14th Virginia Continental Regiment)

**3d Battalion**

Lieutenant Colonel Lewis Burwell (Mecklenburg Militia)

Major Richard Waugh (militia unknown)

**4th Battalion**

Lieutenant Colonel Nicholas Cabell (Buckingham Militia)

Major William Haley Avery (resigned from 6th Virginia Continental Regiment)

***Colonel Christian Febiger's Light Infantry, 1779***

***Field Officers***

Commander: General Anthony Wayne

Colonel Christian Febiger

Lieutenant Colonel François Louis de Fleury

Major Thomas Posey

After the battle of Monmouth, General Anthony Wayne was given command of the various companies of light infantry in the Continental army. He created a brigade of four provisional regiments, the first two of which were commanded by Colonel Christian Febiger, formerly commander of the 2d Virginia Continental Regiment. Both of these units were officered largely by Virginians. Febiger was a Dane, born in 1746, who settled in Massachusetts before the Revolution. He served as a volunteer in Gerrish's Massachusetts regiment at Bunker Hill and was a member of Benedict Arnold's march on Quebec in the winter of 1775. Captured by the British, he remained a prisoner until August 1776. On November 13, 1776, he was commissioned lieutenant colonel of the 11th Virginia Continental Regiment, which was commanded by his former fellow prisoner, Daniel Morgan. On September 26, 1777, Febiger was promoted to the colonelcy of the 2d Virginia Continental Regiment following the resignation of Alexander Spotswood.<sup>21</sup>

By the summer of 1779 Wayne and Febiger had assembled and trained about sixteen hundred light infantrymen. At midnight on July 16, 1779, Wayne's corps assaulted and captured the well-guarded fort at Stony Point, New York, using only their bayonets. Although the British regained Stony Point shortly afterward, the victory proved that Americans could accept discipline equal to that of the British regulars. The morale of Washington's

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army rose accordingly. Febiger's two battalions were in the forefront of the American attack, and Febiger himself received a slight wound. ("A musquet ball scraped my nose—no other damage to Old Denmark." he wrote his wife afterward.) Lieutenant Colonel Fleury was voted a medal by Congress for being the first into the fort.

#### *1st Battalion*

Lieutenant Colonel François Louis de Fleury (France)  
 Captain Benjamin Lawson (Virginia), 4th Virginia Regiment  
 Captain Robert Gamble (Virginia), 8th Virginia Regiment  
 Captain John Jordan (Pennsylvania)  
 Captain Jacob Ashmead (Pennsylvania)

#### *2d Battalion*

Major Thomas Posey (Virginia)  
 Captain Clough Shelton (Virginia), 6th Virginia Regiment  
 Captain Joseph Smith (Virginia), Morgan's Riflemen  
 Captain Abraham Kirkpatrick (Virginia), 4th Virginia Regiment  
 Captain John Overton (Virginia), 1st Virginia Regiment  
 Captain John Steed (Virginia), 4th Virginia Regiment

In December 1779 Wayne's elite corps was disbanded, and Febiger returned to Virginia to supervise recruiting for the southern campaign.<sup>22</sup>

### *Colonel Thomas Gaskins's Virginia Regiment, 1781*

#### *Field Officers*

Colonel Thomas Gaskins, from 3d Virginia Continental Regiment  
 Major John Poulson, from 8th Virginia Continental Regiment

Although contemporary accounts refer to this unit as a regiment, it was actually a four-hundred-man detachment made up of eighteen-month recruits and a handful of veterans who had escaped capture at Charleston. The unit served at Yorktown on the right flank of the first line as part of Anthony Wayne's brigade. After Yorktown most of its personnel were incorporated into Posey's Virginia Battalion for service in Georgia.<sup>23</sup>

#### *Companies, October 1781*

Captain Alexander Parker  
 Captain Thomas Warman  
 Captain William Lewis Lovely  
 Captain Andrew Lewis  
 Captain John Harris

In addition to the companies listed above, the detachment included four company-sized units commanded by lieutenants and sergeants.

### ***Colonel Thomas Posey's Virginia Battalion, 1782-1783***

*(Also designated at various times: 1st Virginia Battalion, Febiger's Battalion.)*

#### ***Field Officers***

Colonel Thomas Posey, February(?) 1782-June 1783

Following the capture of the Virginia Continental Line at Charleston in May 1780, desperate efforts were made to raise a new army through militia conscription. Although Virginia failed to enroll the required 5,000 men, two small battalions were created for service with Nathanael Greene's forces in the South. Meanwhile, recruiting stations were established at Richmond, Chesterfield Court House, Winchester Barracks, and Cumberland Old Court House.<sup>24</sup>

Colonel Christian Febiger, 2d Virginia Continental Regiment, was nominally in charge of recruiting reinforcements for Greene, but he became so embroiled with supply problems in Philadelphia that he could not take the field. Major Thomas Posey, who had served with Febiger at Stony Point, became his proxy in Virginia. Working under Baron von Steuben, the senior Continental officer in the state, Posey began collecting recruits at Cumberland Old Court House late in 1780.

Recruiting came to a virtual halt during the two British invasions under Benedict Arnold in January and April 1781. By the late summer of 1781, however, Posey had raised a unit for service in the Yorktown campaign.

#### ***Companies, 1781-1782***<sup>25</sup>

1st Company:	Captain Nathan Reid
2d Company:	Captain Thomas Thweatt
3d Company:	Captain John Overton
4th Company:	Captain Thomas Holt
5th Company:	Captain Archibald Denholm
6th Company:	Captain Nathaniel Terry
7th Company:	Captain Francis Minnis
8th Company:	Captain Joseph Scott, Jr.
9th Company:	Captain John Boswell Johnston

With Cornwallis's army out of action, the American forces under Nathanael Greene stood a good chance of recapturing Charleston and Savannah, but they would succeed only if reinforcements were sent. Congress organized an expedition under General Arthur St. Clair to go to Greene's assistance: all the light infantry troops, including Posey's battalion; the remnants of Gaskins's regiment; and a detachment of the 2d Virginia Continental Regiment from Philadelphia. They were joined by the 1st Legionary Corps, which was made up of drafts from the 1st and 3d regiments of Continental Light Dragoons.<sup>26</sup>

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The expedition crossed the Edisto River in South Carolina on January 4, 1782. Wayne's light infantry spent the next few months fighting Indian and loyalist partizans, led by Chief Alexander McGillivray, of the Creeks, and Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Brown, of the Georgia loyalists. On June 23, 1782, McGillivray and Brown ambushed Wayne's troops at Sharon, near Savannah. A prompt recovery by Posey's battalion and the dragoon company under Captain James Gunn turned the affair into an American victory, but it was a costly one.

After the battle at Sharon, the Anglo-Indian raids on Georgia became less severe, but sporadic skirmishing along the frontier continued. By late October, so Greene informed Virginia's Governor Benjamin Harrison, Posey's battalion was on the march home. The battalion seems to have been disbanded early in 1783.

**Armand's Legion, 1777-1783**

*(Also designated at various times: Armand's Partizan Corps, 1st Partizan Corps, Free and Independent Chasseurs.)*

**Field Officers**

Colonel Charles Armand Tuffin, marquis de la Rouerie, May 10, 1777-November 25, 1783. Promoted to brigadier general.

Lieutenant Colonel Jean Baptiste Ternant, 1778-1783. Succeeded Armand as colonel, March 26, 1783.

Major John Baptisti, viscount de Lomagne, 1781-1783

Charles Armand Tuffin, marquis de la Rouerie, was one of the more colorful characters of the Revolution. Born in Brittany in 1756, Armand came to America as a volunteer in 1777. Commissioned a colonel at the age of twenty-one, he was permitted by Washington to raise a partizan, or guerrilla, force of two hundred men. On June 11 he was given command of three companies from Ottendorff's Independent Corps. Major Nicholas Dietrich, Baron von Ottendorff, had inherited the command of an independent Pennsylvania company raised by John Paul Schott in September 1776. Ottendorff's *freikorps* was a failure, and Ottendorff himself resigned, ultimately to desert to the British and join Benedict Arnold in 1780.<sup>27</sup>

By June 1777 Armand's corps numbered about eighty. On the 26th of that month, his men were defending a gun emplacement at Short Hills, New Jersey, against great odds. Thirty-two enlisted men were killed or wounded, and by November, Armand's force consisted of only forty-two privates. The small size of the unit prompted Congress to consider scrapping the partizan corps and "to throw the Men into some Regiment." In an effort to save his unit Armand recruited prisoners, deserters, and other undesirables to swell his ranks. With Washington's personal support Armand got Congress to

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***2d Regiment, Virginia State Line, 1776-1782******Field Officers***

Colonel James Duncanson, December 20, 1776-June 1777

Colonel Gregory Smith, June 1777

Colonel George Gibson, June 1777. Transferred to 1st Regiment.

Colonel William Brent, January 1779-April 1782

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Blackburn, December 20, 1776-June 12, 1777

Lieutenant William Brent, June 14, 1777-January 1, 1779

Lieutenant Charles Dabney, January 1779-January 1782

Major William Brent, December 20, 1776-June 14, 1777

Major Alexander Dick, June 14, 1777-January 1778

Major John Lee, February 1, 1778-February or April 1782

Like the 1st Regiment, Virginia State Line, the 2d Regiment of infantry was created by act of assembly in December 1776. After Germantown it and the 1st State Regiment joined Muhlenburg's brigade. In 1779 it returned to Virginia. The 3d Virginia State Regiment was merged with it in January 1778, and several officers from the 3d joined the 2d Regiment. The 2d Regiment was reduced to thirty-one men by the time it merged with Dabney's Legion in February 1782.<sup>4</sup>

***Companies, January 1777-April 1778***

1st Company: Captain James Quarles, January 4, 1777.  
Raised in Albemarle County (?).

2d Company: Captain John Quarles, January 4, 1777.  
Raised in Norfolk (?).

3d Company: Captain John Lee, March 1777. From 1st Regiment.

4th Company: Captain John Dudley, March 1777

5th Company: Captain Peter Bernard, April 10, 1777.  
Raised in Gloucester.

6th Company: Captain Benjamin C. Spiller, May 9, 1777

7th Company: Captain Harry Dudley, October 15, 1777

8th Company: Captain Thomas Minor, April 23, 1778

The regiment seems to have been reorganized in mid-1778, since its officer personnel changed radically at that time. Of the original captains only Captain Harry Dudley remained. After the change he automatically became the senior company commander.<sup>5</sup>

***Companies, September 1778-January 1782***

1st Company: Captain Harry Dudley

2d Company: Captain Augustine Tabb, September 10, 1778

3d Company: Captain Machen Boswell, September 15, 1778

4th Company:	Captain John Hudson, October 1, 1778. Grenadiers, or light infantry.
5th Company:	Captain William Long, January 1, 1779
6th Company:	Captain James Moody, April 30, 1779
7th Company:	Captain Nathaniel Welch, September 1, 1779
8th Company:	Captain John McElhaney, August 25, 1779
9th Company:	Captain John Lewis, January 1, 1779
10th Company:	Captain Thomas Quarles, 1781

### *3d Regiment, Virginia State Line, 1776-1778*

#### *Field Officers*

Colonel Philip Love, December 20, 1776. Declined.

Colonel George Gibson, June-July 1777. Transferred to 2d Regiment.

Colonel Gregory Smith, July 1777. Transferred to 2d Regiment.

Lieutenant Colonel Gregory Smith, December 20, 1776-July 1777

Lieutenant Colonel Charles Dabney, July 1777-February 16, 1778

Major Charles Dabney, December 20, 1776-July 1777

Like the 1st and 2d numbered regiments of the Virginia State Line, the 3d State Regiment was raised under the authority of an act of assembly passed in December 1776. The large calls for manpower from Continental and state authorities made recruiting difficult. Colonels Gibson and Smith both transferred to the 2d Virginia State Regiment, and Lieutenant Colonel-Commandant Charles Dabney was appointed to a similar rank in the 2d Virginia Continental Regiment for a year. By 1779 he was lieutenant colonel of the 2d Virginia State Regiment, a rank he held until January 1782, when all state line units were consolidated under his command as the Virginia State Legion.

In January 1778 the 3d Regiment ceased to exist, and its remnants were incorporated into the 1st Virginia State Regiment.<sup>6</sup>

#### *Companies, December 1776-January 1778*

Captain Thomas Bressie, December 1776

Captain Jacob Valentine (?)

Captain Thomas Armistead (?)

Captain Tully Robertson. (Later served in the Georgia Line.)

### *Virginia State Engineer Department, 1775-1781*

#### *Officers*

Deputy Adjutant General and Engineer Thomas Bullitt, August 17, 1775-early 1776

House of Delegates resolved to  
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 to be headed by St. François de  
 d been sent by Louis XVI as an  
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 Richard Henry Lee befriended  
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 and Baron von Steuben.<sup>38</sup>

1778

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 e (or Beyard)

*Virginia State Cavalry,*

ay 1779-February 1782

mbly authorized the governor,  
 many companies of volunteer

cavalry as they felt were necessary for local defense. The following October the assembly limited this body of cavalry to three troops. (A number of volunteer and militia units of light horse were also raised between 1778 and 1782 and eventually drew state pay for their services.)<sup>39</sup>

In March 1780 Major Nelson and Captain Charles Fierer, a Hessian defector, took sixty-two volunteers from their regiment into the Carolinas as part of Lieutenant Colonel Charles Porterfield's detachment. Arriving after the capture of Charleston, Porterfield's detachment joined Gates's army and was engaged at the battle of Camden in August 1780. Although Nelson's and Fierer's troops were greatly reduced as a result of this action, Captain Vogluson's company was virtually intact and thus could be the nucleus for a reconstructed regiment. Recruiting went slowly, however, and further trouble occurred when Captain Fierer, who had absented himself without leave, was dismissed in 1781.<sup>40</sup>

*Companies. May 1779-January 1782*

- 1st Troop: Captain Edmund Read, 1779. Temporarily commanded by Major Nelson while part of Porterfield's detachment.
- 2d Troop: Captain Martin Armand Vogluson, 1779. Transferred to Dabney's Legion, 1782.
- 3d Troop: Captain Charles Fierer, 1779. Dismissed, 1781. Captain Thomas Armistead, 1781. Promoted from a lieutenantancy to replace Fierer. Transferred to Dabney's Legion, January 1782.

• In January 1782 a board of state officers consolidated the remnants of the Virginia State Line into a legion commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Dabney. Captains Vogluson and Armistead were transferred to the state legion, as were the cavalymen whose terms of service had not yet expired. It is believed that Virginia's only known woman soldier of the Revolution, Anna Maria Lane, served with Nelson's cavalry in 1780.<sup>41</sup>

*George Rogers Clark's Illinois Regiment, Virginia State Forces, 1778-1783*

*Field Officers*

- Colonel George Rogers Clark, December 1778-January 1781
- Lieutenant Colonel George Rogers Clark, December 1777-December 1778
- Lieutenant Colonel John Montgomery, December 1778-1783
- Major Joseph Bowman, December 14, 1778-August 17, 1779
- Major Thomas Quirk, August 17, 1779-1782
- Major William Lynn, 1778?-1781

Virginia officer noted in his diary that the night of May 12 was the first time in fifty-five days that he had been able to remove his clothing to sleep.<sup>7</sup>

The Virginia garrison at Charleston was organized as follows:<sup>8</sup>

### *1st Virginia Brigade (Woodford's)*

#### *1st Virginia Continental Regiment*

Colonel William Russell  
 Lieutenant Colonel Burgess Ball (?)  
 Major (name unknown)  
 Captain Callohill Minnis, 1st Virginia Regiment  
 Captain Tarleton Payne, 1st Virginia Regiment  
 Captain Custis Kendall, 1st Virginia Regiment  
 Captain Thomas Holt, 1st Virginia Regiment  
 Captain Holman Minnis, 1st Virginia Regiment  
 Captain Thomas Buckner, 5th Virginia Regiment  
 Captain Mayo Carrington, 5th Virginia Regiment  
 Captain William Moseley, 5th Virginia Regiment  
 Captain William Bentley, 5th Virginia Regiment  
 Captain William Johnston, 7th Virginia Regiment  
 Captain James Wright, 7th Virginia Regiment  
 Captain Thomas Hunt, 10th Virginia Regiment  
 Captain Lawrence Butler, 11th Virginia Regiment  
 Captain Philip Mallory, 11th Virginia Regiment

#### *2d Virginia Continental Regiment*

Colonel John Neville  
 Lieutenant Colonel Nicholas Cabell(?)  
 Major David Stephenson(?)  
 Captain Benjamin Taliaferro, 2d Virginia Regiment  
 Captain Alexander Parker, 2d Virginia Regiment  
 Captain John Blackwell, 3d Virginia Regiment  
 Captain LeRoy Edwards, 3d Virginia Regiment  
 Captain Robert Beale, 3d Virginia Regiment  
 Captain James Curry, 4th Virginia Regiment  
 Captain John Stith, 4th Virginia Regiment

#### *3d Virginia Continental Regiment (Gist's)*

Colonel Nathaniel Gist  
 Captain Joseph Blackwell, 6th Virginia Regiment  
 Captain John Gillison, 6th Virginia Regiment  
 Captain Clough Shelton, 6th Virginia Regiment  
 Captain Abraham Hite, 8th Virginia Regiment  
 Captain Alexander Breckinridge, Gist's Regiment  
 Captain Francis Muir, Gist's Regiment





## *Virginia Troops at Yorktown,*

1781

*Appendix*

# B

**F**OLLOWING the Charleston surrender in May 1780, Virginia's Continental forces in the field were reduced to the 9th Virginia Continental Regiment stationed at Fort Pitt, a temporary Virginia Battalion of short-term recruits, and the remnants of the artillery and cavalry still operating in the Carolinas. By the late summer of 1781 Captain Alexander Parker and about one hundred Continental regulars who had escaped from the British returned home. These and the other remnants of the Continental and state lines were amalgamated into Washington's main army when the scene of operations shifted to Virginia.<sup>12</sup>

After commencing siege operations against Cornwallis at Yorktown, the combined American-French army was arranged into a formal line of battle according to the best European traditions. American troops formed the advance guard, the right wing (post of honor) of the front line, the right and left flanks of the intermediate line, the entire second (or reserve) line, and the rear guard. The French army under Rochambeau formed the left wing of the front line and engineered the fortifications. At Gloucester Point the duc de Lauzun's marine regiment and a combined Virginia force of state line regulars and militia took up positions to prevent Cornwallis from escaping across the York River.

The Virginians who took part in the siege of Yorktown were scattered throughout Washington's divisions and brigades. From the often contradictory evidence of eyewitness memoirs, pay vouchers, and audited accounts it appears that the following Virginia units—composed of approximately 3,925 men—were engaged in the battle and siege:<sup>13</sup>

### *Advance Guard*

Moylan's 4th Regiment of Continental Light Dragoons (about 60 troopers)

Armand's Legion, or 2d Partizan Corps (about 40 troopers and infantry)

***Front Line—Right Flank***

Major General Benjamin Lincoln's division

Brigadier General Anthony Wayne's brigade

Colonel Thomas Gaskin's detachment of the Virginia Battalion

Major John Poulson's detachment of the Virginia Battalion

Captain Alexander Parker's company of Charleston refugees

(In Lafayette's brigade, one company of Virginians was in Hazen's Regiment)

***Intermediate Line—Right***

Lieutenant Colonel Edward Carrington and Captain Whitehead Coleman's company of the 1st Regiment of Continental Artillery (about 25 gunners and matrosses)

***Intermediate Line—Left***

Colonel George Gibson's 1st Virginia State Regiment (about 150 men)

***2d or Reserve Line—Right Flank***

Nelson's Division

Brigadier General Robert Lawson's militia brigade (750 men)

***At Gloucester Point***

Duc de Lauzun's French and American division

Brigadier General George Weedon's militia detachment (about 1500 men)

Lieutenant Colonel Charles Dabney's 2d Virginia State Regiment, with militia reinforcements (about 200 men)

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# Flag of Eleventh Virginia Regiment Continental Line (Morgan's Rifle Corps)

(SEE COLOR PLATE 4)

**M**ORGAN'S Rifle Corps began with the march to Cambridge of seventy-five riflemen, enlisted from Virginia, Western Pennsylvania, and Maryland, by Captain Daniel Morgan at Winchester, Virginia, in July, 1775.<sup>1</sup> The rifle was a new weapon in those days. The British army as well as most of the Colonial militia still used the old smooth-bore Brown Bess. But skillful gun-makers in America, especially at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, had recognized the importance of a spiral-grooved musket barrel, and were supplying primitive rifles to the settlers in the border counties.<sup>2</sup>

Morgan's men "attracted much attention," says Lossing, "and on account of their sure and deadly aim, they became a terror to the British. Wonderful stories of their exploits went to England, and one of the riflemen, who was carried there as a prisoner, was gazed at as a great curiosity."<sup>3</sup>

Although born in New Jersey, Morgan was a Virginian nearly all his life. At twenty he served under Braddock at Fort Duquesne. In the autumn of 1775 he joined the ill-fated adventure into Canada, with three companies of his riflemen. Captured at Quebec, he remained a prisoner until paroled in the following year. Congress made him Colonel of the Eleventh Virginia Regiment of the

1. "The Private Soldier Under Washington," by C. K. Bolton; 1902; page 19.
2. "The Rifle That Won the Revolution," by Roger Burlingame; in *Scribner's*; February, 1938. (In "Flag Book Sources"; see Preface, supra.)
3. "Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution," by Benson J. Lossing; 1860; volume 1, page 565.

## FLAG OF ELEVENTH VIRGINIA REGIMENT

Continental Army on November 12, 1776.<sup>4</sup> After his parole had expired he began to recruit his regiment, incorporating therein his old rifle corps, and reached the camp at Morristown in April, 1777. Washington referred to this new regiment as a "corps of Rangers," to be "considered as a body of Light Infantry . . . exempted from the common duties of the line."<sup>5</sup> It rendered great service at Saratoga, and was at Whitemarsh, Brandywine, Monmouth, and elsewhere. Shortly after Monmouth, in 1778, Morgan took over the brigade of General Woodford, because of the latter's illness. This event terminated Morgan's connection with his famous rifle corps.<sup>6</sup>

Morgan resigned from the army in 1779, partly because of rheumatism but chiefly because of the lack of recognition by Congress of his valuable efforts; but when the South was invaded by the British and the battle of Camden had been lost by Gates, he returned to the service. Congress appointed him brigadier-general in October, 1780. On January 17, 1781, he gained his remarkable victory over Tarleton at the Cowpens, in South Carolina, a battle brilliantly planned, 800 against 1100, won by the skillful, confident cooperation, under Morgan, of Pickens and the militia, John Eager Howard with his Maryland regulars, and William Washington with his brave hundred of cavalry.<sup>7</sup>

Morgan retired finally from the army in February, 1781.

The re-discovery of this noted flag of the Eleventh Virginia Regiment, begun in 1935, was consummated in 1939, by James J. Keating of Philadelphia, with the assistance and cooperation of members of the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution. The original flag had been on exhibition in a museum of Revolutionary War relics at Alexandria, Virginia, until 1871. This museum was connected with the Alexandria-Washington Lodge, No. 22, A. F. & A. M.<sup>8</sup> Three sketches of the flag had been published, 1850, 1853, 1864, each differing in details from the others.<sup>9</sup> The color of the field was not of record anywhere, apparently. In 1871 the museum was destroyed by fire. Some of its exhibits were

4. "Life of General Daniel Morgan of the Virginia Line of the Army of the United States," by James Graham; 1858; page 118.
5. Same; page 123.
6. Same; page 215.
7. "The True History of the American Revolution," by Sydney George Fisher; 1912; page 415. Also Lossing (see Note 3 above), volume 2, pages 431, 434.
8. "The Lodge of Washington and His Masonic Neighbors," 1928; also an edition of the same, by F. L. Brockett, in 1876.
9. "Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution," by Benson J. Lossing; 1860; volume 2, page 431. *Illustrated News*, February 25, 1853; page 132. "History of Our Flag," by Ferdinand Sarmiento; 1864.

## FLAG OF ELEVENTH VIRGINIA REGIMENT

hurriedly carried to places of safety, among them being the Morgan flag. This was not learned, however, until 1926, when it was found, rolled in a sack with two other old flags, in very bad condition, in the attic of a house occupied by the widow of a former superintendent of the museum. The Lodge authorities would not then allow the flags to be examined, fearing that they would fall into fragments, but stored them away again, bag and all, in a room on an upper floor of the old City Hall in Alexandria. Not until December, 1939, was permission finally granted to open the receptacle and spread out the flags for a brief inspection. This courtesy was extended to Mr. Keating, who took quick and careful advantage of his opportunity, making sketches, noting color tints, fabric, lettering, etc., from which, afterwards, colored drawings were made, and also a full-size replica of the Morgan flag, to be carried by the Color Guard of the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution with its other replicas of Revolutionary War regimental flags.

A description of this flag, as furnished by Mr. Keating, is as follows: Dimensions, about 50 inches by 40 inches. Buff-colored silk, with design, etc., painted on. The broad ribbons are white; the vines or scrolls, grayish-silver. All lettering is black; regiment-number *XI* on both sides of the flag. There is a green wreath around the date 1776; with a bow of pink ribbon in the lower part of the wreath. There is no fringe; the fly-end is frayed, although not apparently to represent fringe. The upper and lower edges of the flag are neatly sewed by hand, and devoid of fringe or wear. The staff, tassels, etc., were not found.

1781  
January 1st  
Genl Assembly

Resolution passed, desiring the Executive to retire from actual service the numerous Supernumerary Officers of the State Establishment, notwithstanding their merits, in view of the "greatly reduced" situation of the Corps and Regiments, for want of men.

"ARRANGEMENT OF THE VIRGINIA LINE"—

January 1st

<i>1<sup>st</sup> Regiment Names.</i>	<i>Date of Commission.</i>
Col: William Davies,	20 <sup>th</sup> March, 1778.
Lt: Col: Saml: Hopkins,	19 June, "
Maj: Thomas Posey,	30 <sup>th</sup> April, "
Capt: Natham Reed,	20 <sup>th</sup> Jany, 1777.
Thomas Thweat,	26 <sup>th</sup> March, "
John Overton,	4 <sup>th</sup> October.
Thomas Holt,	12 <sup>th</sup> March, 1779.
Archibald Denholm,	25 June, "
Nathaniel Terry,	15 <sup>th</sup> Dec: "
Francis Minnis,	25 April, 1780.
Joseph Scott Jnr:	3 <sup>d</sup> June, "
Jno: Boswell Johnson,	15 <sup>th</sup> Feb: 1781.
Lieut: Philip Sanfum,	4 Oct: 1777.
Thomas Browne,	18 Oct: "
Samuel Hogg,	18 <sup>th</sup> Dec: "
Marks Vandervall,	4 Feb: 1778.
Richard Walker,	2 March, "
Richard Worsham,	12 March, 1779.
David Merriweather,	7 <sup>th</sup> May, "
Ballard Smith,	12 May, "
Samuel Seldon,	25 <sup>th</sup> June, "
Joseph Conway	15 <sup>th</sup> July, 1780.
Thomas Burford,	16 <sup>th</sup> July, "
Elisha King,	15 <sup>th</sup> Feby: 1781.
Philip Courtney,	18 <sup>th</sup> Feb: "
Ensign W <sup>m</sup> P. Quarles,	6 <sup>th</sup> Oct: 1780.
John Scott,	10 <sup>th</sup> Feby. 1781.
John Harris,	11 Feb. "
John Carr,	—
Drew,	—
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment—</i>	
Col <sup>o</sup> Christian Febiger,	26 <sup>th</sup> Sept: 1777.
Lt: Col: Gustavus B. Wallace,	20 <sup>th</sup> March, 1778.
Major Thomas Snead,	9 <sup>th</sup> Dec: 1779.
Capt: Robert Higgins,	1 <sup>st</sup> March, 1777.
John Stith,	12 " "
Alexander Parker,	1 <sup>s</sup> June, do.
Benj: Taliaferro,	23 <sup>d</sup> Sept: "
John Stokes,	30 <sup>th</sup> Feb: 1778.
Josiah Marks,	10 <sup>th</sup> May, 1779.
Colin Cocke,	9 Dec: "

Robert Porterfield,	April 1780.	1781
Francis Cowherd,	29 <sup>th</sup> May, "	January 1st
Lieut: Henry Moss,	11 <sup>th</sup> July, 1777.	
Beverly Stubblefield,	7 <sup>th</sup> August, "	
John Jordan,	3 <sup>d</sup> Septem: "	
Thomas Parker,	13 <sup>th</sup> October, "	
James Mayborn,	23 <sup>d</sup> Dec. "	
John Crawford,	— 1779.	
Peter Higgins,	— 1779.	
Thomas Miller,	24 <sup>th</sup> Sept: "	
W <sup>m</sup> Eskridge,	9 <sup>th</sup> Decem: —	
James De Laplain,	1 <sup>st</sup> August, 1780.	
Field Archer,	18 <sup>th</sup> Feb: 1781.	
Benj: Lawson,	30 <sup>th</sup> Aug: 1779.	
George Blackman,	18 <sup>th</sup> Feb: 1781.	
Ensign John Heth,	8 <sup>th</sup> March, 1780.	
Geo: A. Washington,	—	
John Foster,	18 <sup>th</sup> Feb: 1881.	
<i>3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment—</i>		
Col: George Mathews,	10 <sup>th</sup> Feb: 1777.	
Lt: Col: Thomas Gaskins,	16 <sup>th</sup> May, 1778.	
Major William Lewies,	12 <sup>th</sup> May, 1779.	
Capt: William Johnston,	9 <sup>th</sup> Feb: 1777.	
Nathaniel Pendleton,	13 <sup>th</sup> March, "	
Thomas Edmunds,	18 <sup>th</sup> March, "	
John Anderson,	12 <sup>th</sup> Aug: "	
John Blackwell,	15 <sup>th</sup> Sept: "	
William Bentley,	— 1779.	
Robert Beale,	19 <sup>th</sup> June, "	
James Wright,	2 <sup>nd</sup> July, "	
Le-roy Edwards,	—	
Lieut: Thomas Warman,	23 <sup>d</sup> Sept: 1777.	
Thomas Ransdale,	1 <sup>st</sup> July, "	
Henry Bedinger,	23 <sup>d</sup> Sept: "	
Timothy Fealy,	6 <sup>th</sup> Novem: "	
Beverly Roy,	28 <sup>th</sup> Nov: "	
Robert Livingston,	— 1779.	
David Miller,	1 <sup>st</sup> May, "	
Benjamin Ashby,	18 <sup>th</sup> March, "	
Reuben Long,	10 <sup>th</sup> May, "	
William Stevens,	19 <sup>th</sup> June, "	
David Williams,	2 <sup>d</sup> July, "	
John Roney,	23 <sup>d</sup> July, 1779.	
Lipscomb Norvell,	20 <sup>th</sup> Feb: 1780.	
Ensign Preston Powell,	4 <sup>th</sup> July, 1779.	
John Eustace,	7 October, 1780.	
W <sup>m</sup> M <sup>c</sup> Guire,	October, "	
John Giles,	24 <sup>th</sup> October	
Richard Archer,	28 Novem—	

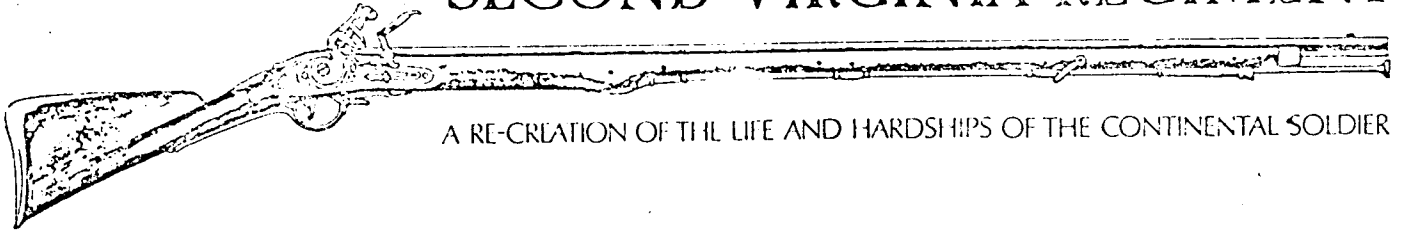
Calendar of Virginia State Papers and Other Manuscripts, 1652-1781

WM. D. PALMER, M.D., ed.

Volume I 410-411

Kraus Reprint Corporation  
New York, 1968

# SECOND VIRGINIA REGIMENT



A RE-CREATION OF THE LIFE AND HARDSHIPS OF THE CONTINENTAL SOLDIER

A HISTORY OF A REGIMENT IN WASHINGTON'S ARMY

The Second Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line

1776-1780



At the outbreak of the American Revolution, the patriots were far from an organized army. Actually, they were organized in theory, but in actuality, they were divided by prejudices, religion and geography. In fact they were divided into Yankee New Englanders, Quaker Middle Colonists, and Aristocratic Southern Colonists. As far as the individual governments and inhabitants of each state was concerned, each geographic area should organize their own armies to meet the tyrannical crown.

At Bunker Hill, the rebels were primarily from Massachussets, Conneticut, New Hampshire and Rhode Island. Although, the first Continental Congress pledged its support to Massachussets, the patriots of the area felt the British aggression was aimed at New England and not the 13 colonies.

When George Washington, a Virginian, arrived in New England in July 1775, he set about to unify all the fighting men of the colonies. One of these colonies was Virginia, the Old Dominion. In August, 1775, the Virginia Convention ordered three regiments of regulars organized and assembled in Williamsburg. They were known as the First, Second, and Third Virginia Regiments. (The Third Regiment never actually organized at this time.) The troops were organized to meet the the resistance of the Royal Governor, John Murray, Lord Dunmore. In late December, the Second Virginia, under Capt. William Woodford, battled Dunmores troops and won a convincing battle at Great Bridge.

The Second Virginia Regiment was organized from volunteers of Caroline County into seven companies and were to serve for one year. When they assembled in the town they were dressed in all sorts of clothing. However, during their campaign against Dunmore they were dressed in hunting shirts, blue leggings, and bound hats, armed with muskets and cartouche boxes, as ordered by the Virginia Convention.<sup>1</sup> They were state troops, which means they were paid and provisioned by the state of Virginia. The campaign around Norfolk would be the only campaign these state troops would fight for the Old Dominion. For in February, 1776, as Washington organized the Continental Army, all the regiments raised at that time by Virginia, including the Second Virginia, were taken into Continental service. It would now be the Continental Congress responsibility to feed and pay the troops. Clothing the troops would be a joint venture between state and Congress. On February 13, 1776, the Second Virginia became the Second Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line.<sup>2</sup>

Although it was officially in the service of the Continental Congress, the Second was not in condition to enjoy the occasion. Due to internal politics within the Virginia Line concerning promotions, its colonel, William Woodford, resigned his commission. Furthermore the enlistments were up the coming August. The Virginia officers attempted to convince the troops to reenlist for three years, but failed. (The First Virginia answered the call in force, however)

Seven additional regiments were organized and taken into Continental service at the time the First and Second was incorporated. In August, 1776, Brigadier General Andrew Lewis of Virginia ordered the First, Third, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth to immediately join Washington's army in the north. The Second and Seventh did not reach its required strength as yet and remained in Virginia. The Eighth, under the command of Peter T. Muhlenberg, was ordered south to Charleston to repay the Carolinans for their assistance at Great Bridge. The Ninth was raised to guard Virginia's shores. Again in late 1776, Virginia expanded its quota to fifteen regiments.

Finally on January 10, 1777, the Second was ordered north to join the Continental Army, after reaching its quota. The Seventh accompanied the Second for it also reached its quota. According to Washington's official return of the army, the Second is reported for the first time at Basking Ridge near Boundbrook, New Jersey, under the command of Major General Benjamin Lincoln.<sup>3</sup> While stationed there they were inoculated for smallpox. The Second was now under the command of Colonel Alexander Spotswood, the late Lieutenant-Colonel of the regiment; William Woodford returned with a commission of Brigadier-General. The regiment combined with the Sixth, Tenth, Fourteenth Virginia Regiments and the Thirteenth Pennsylvania (merged with the Second Pennsylvania in July, 1778) composed a brigade under the command of Brig. General George Weedon of Virginia, a tavernowner from Fredricksburg.<sup>4</sup> Together with a brigade of fellow Virginians under the command of Brig. Genl. Peter Muhlenberg, a minister and late colonel of the Eighth Virginia, the two brigades formed a Virginia division under the command of Major-General Nathaniel Greene, a Rhode Islander. Greenes Division would comprise part of the Left Wing during the '77 Campaign. In May of 1777, the division was transferred to Middlebrook New Jersey to observe the British movements. The division would be involved in a cat and mouse game throughout the Jersey countryside that would eventually lead to the confrontation at Brandywine and Germantown.

The Second Virginia and the rest of Greenes division were the first troops to arrive at Middlebrook. The sooner had the army settled than Sir William Howe and the British Army assembled at New Brunswick to prepare a march on Philadelphia. Howe's plan was to draw Washington into a major confrontation so to defeat him. However, Howe's movement only succeeded to draw a small force, so he returned to New Brunswick. In late May, Howe moved into Amboy with his troops. Greene and his division moved in after the British evacuated. They found the town in poor condition, so bad that Greene reported it literally stunk. Washington assembled his troops near Quibblestown to prepare an attack on Howe at Amboy. Howe, on hearing that Washington had moved from Middlebrook prepared to attack the Americans. The Second was involved in some small skirmishing, but at the sign of firing Washington ordered Greene and the army to return to Middlebrook. The British returned to Amboy and on June 30th they occupied Staten Island. On July 2nd Washington moved his forces to Morristown, where the Second Virginia and the rest of the American troops celebrated the Fourth of July with fireworks and cannon. Nine days later they moved to Pompton.

Sir William Howe and the British boarded ships and put to sea. This action was interpreted by Washington and his Generals as an attempt to support General Burgoyne in the north. Howes plan was to draw Washington out of his camp and attack and destroy him. On July 29th, the Second along with the rest of the Americans crossed the Delaware River at Coreyells Ferry and made camp. On July 31st Washingtons intelligence informed him that the British were at the mouth of Chesapeake Bay. Washington and his generals now believed Howe was moving on Philadelphia. The Americans broke camp and marched to Philadelphia. No sooner had they reached its vicinity, than the British put to sea again. Confused Washington and his troops withdrew to a point halfway between Coreyells Ferry and Philadelphia at Neshaminy Creek. However, Washington and his foot weary men were not through marching as yet.

Washingtons next intelligence report informed him that Howes transports were off the Jersey coast. Washington and his generals figured he was headed for Charleston. However, later the same day Washington received word that Howe was back in the Chesapeake. Again the Americans marched in the direction of Philadelphia. On August 24th, Washington and his aides led the American Army into the city of Philadelphia. Behind Washington, his aides, and a troop of cavalry, marched Greenes division. Muehlenberg's brigade led and Weedons brigade followed. The remainder of the army followed as the baggage and women marched through the outskirts. The troops made a good soldierly appearance, but they showed signs of much marching, for many were barefoot. The troops marched past Philadelphia and took position at Wilmington. It was here that they heard Howe had landed.

After weeks at sea, Sir William Howe landed his troops at the Head of the Elk, Maryland. Washington rushed to reposition his troops near Brandywine Creek, 25 miles southwest of Philadelphia. If Washington was aware of the condition the British Army was in, strategy may have been different. As a result of the time spent at sea, 5000 men became sick and 280 cavalry mounts were either dead or unfit for duty. Nevertheless, the Americans prepared for the marching British. Howes direct route was through Chadds Ford, one of five fords crossing the river and in the line of his direct march. It was here that Washington stationed Greenes left wing. This was comprised of the brigades of General Wayne, Weedon, Muehlenberg, and the light infantry under Maxwell.<sup>6</sup> The right wing extended north of the ford for two miles and guarded the other fords against a possible crossing.

Howe's plan of action was to divide his army into two columns. One column of 5000 men under Brigadier Wilhelm Von Knyphausen marched directly at the American Line. Another column of 7500 men under Lord Cornwallis circled the Americans and crossed the river at Jeffries Ford to attack from behind.

Knyphausen reached the creek at 10:30 on the morning of September 11th and began to cannonade the opposite bank. When he failed to attempt a crossing, Washington suspected that Cornwallis was surrounding him. He immediately dispatched two divisions to search out and attack Cornwallis. However, they soon returned to report of no evidence that the British were behind them. This turned out to be the turning point of the battle for shortly thereafter Washington learned that Cornwallis was indeed on his rear. He quickly dispatched the two divisions to challenge them. Washington, then took the center of his force, the Pennsylvania militia, and General Waynes brigade and attacked Knyphausen. However due to the unpreparedness of the opposing American divisions Cornwallis easily routed them. On hearing this, Washington left Waynes brigade and Maxwell's Light Infantry to oppose Knyphausen as he rushed to strengthen the routed divisions, with Greenes division of Weedon and Muehlenbergs brigades. Amazingly, the division marched 4 miles in 45 minutes and reached the retreating troops late in the afternoon. Unfortunately, Washington and Greenes division was not on time to cover a general retreat, but Weedon and Muehlenberg's brigades skillfully opened the ranks to allow the fleeing troops through then successfully closed to check Cornwallis' advance. With Weedons brigade on the right and Muehlenberg on the left, the division stood off the British til nightfall when the British stopped the attack and withdrew to Philadelphia. The Americans retreated to Dilworth and then Chester Pennsylvania on the hills of the Schuykill River.

Although, the Americans lost the battle the 2nd Virginia and her sister regiments displayed such gallantry that it cheered the heart of General Washington. Unfortunately, they could not receive the public recognition they deserved from the Commander-in-chief. This would plague the Virginia troops throughout the war. Greene himself wrote to Washington concerning this, but Washington replied, "Weedon's brigade, like myself, are Virginians; should I applaud them for their achievement under your command, I shall be charged with partiality; jealousy will be excited, and the service injured." 7

Although Washington lost the Battle of Brandywine, he felt that the Americans could defeat the British if they faced each other again for another confrontation. In mid-September Washington positioned his troops near Warrens Tavern for another engagement. The Second Virginia, it would seem, was to have another opportunity to prove their valor. However, a torrential downpour soaked thousands of rounds of ammunition and the Americans were forced to retire 11 miles northeast to Yellow Springs. Washington continued to position his men to provoke more action from the Kings forces who were camped in Germantown, a suburb of Philadelphia. On October 3rd Washington began a 16 mile march from Metunchen Hill. Washington's strategy was to attack the enemy front, flanks, and rear simultaneously. Greene again commanded the left wing. Brig. Gen'l. Stephen commanded the left of the line and Brig. Gen'l. McDougal the right. The center was under the command of Brig. Gen'l's Scott and Muehlenberg. (Muehlenberg's brigade consisted of a combination of his own and Weedon's.) 8

The division marched down Lime-Kiln Road, but, due to a misguided scout, they added four unnecessary miles to their march and arrived at their position 45 minutes into the fight. Their first contact with the enemy came at Lukens Hill; Stephens brigade, marching down the right side of the road, were drawn away from the confrontation by firing in the distance. They turned to confront it, against Greene's orders. A light fog had enveloped the area making it hard to discern friend from foe. Stephen noticed a column maneuvering ahead of him and ordered his men to fire upon it, assuming that it was the enemy. Unfortunately, it was Wayne's men positioning themselves. As a result Wayne's men fled in one direction and Stephens' men withdrew in the other direction. This action would cost Stephen his commission. Meanwhile the rest of the column surging down the center and left swept the British before them. They pursued the King's Force's as far as the town Market-Place on the main street of the village. Here the Second Virginia proved its valor once again as the regiment and its fellow brigades successfully fought the British right wing. However the other American brigades did not fare as well and were forced to retreat.

Greene, fearfull of being outflanked, retired to cover the retreating Americans. As they withdrew, Muehlenbergs men (including the Second Virginia) found themselves so far advanced of the rest of the division that they had to dash through the surrounding British to meet up with Greene. However, the Ninth Virginia, burdened by prisoners, could not move as fast and were surrounded and captured. The British pursued for six miles, but Greenes division kept them at a safe distance. Finally, Howes troops withdrew and the Americans made their way to Pennepackers Mill, 20 miles away, to pitch their camp.

Here the Americans stayed til October 30th, when they moved to the vicinity of Whitemarsh, Pennsylvania. The British had fully occupied Philadelphia by this time, but the American forts on the Delaware still posed a threat and had to be secured. As Howes troops captured the forts he maneuvered his troops in hope of drawing Washington into another battle. Howe had battled Washington in two major battles within a one month period, but had failed to destroy the American Army. He attempted again now before the winter months, but failed. Finally, on December 8th, the British returned to Philadelphia and the Americans retired to Valley Forge for the winter.

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With the entering of Valley Forge in December, the Second Virginia concluded its first campaign season as part of the continental line. Although they experienced only defeat, they proved that they had the ability to fight an experienced army. Washingtons admiration managed to appear, despite the fact that they were fellow Virginians. In fact, when Washington was seeking escorts for the newly arrived Marquis Lafayette, the Second was honored with supplying one of the escorts.

They had progressed in appearance, also, from "shirtmen" to uniformed regulars. In September, 1777, were issued blue coats, white smallclothes, and round hats. Their accoutrements were of French origin, due to the efforts of their state government.<sup>9</sup>

In October the regiment experienced another change in command. Alexander Spotswood resigned to return to Virginia and the command of the regiment moved to Colonel Christian Febiger, the "Old Dane".

The coming winter would be hard. The regiment would suffer 40 deaths and 30 desertions out of an average of 275 men.<sup>10</sup> However, they would learn better fighting techniques that would prove time and time again that the Second Virginia was a fine, competent fighting force.

FOOTNOTES

1. Company of Military Historian Magazine, Vol. 25, No. 1, Spring 1973, p. 24; Calendar of Virginia State Papers, Richmond 1890, Vol. 8, p. 123
2. Encyclopedia of Continental Army Units, Fred A. Berg, 1972 p. 125
3. Sinews of Independence, Monthly Strength Reports of Continental Army, Univ. of Chicago Press, 1976, p. 45
4. Sinews, Ibid. p.54; Tylers Quarterly History and Geneological Review, Virginia Troops in the Middle Colonies, Vol. 12, July-Oct. 1933 p.22
5. Tylers, Ibid, John Chiltons Diary, p.283; Nathaniel Greene, Theodore Thayer, 1960, p.183
6. Battles of the United States, Henry B. Dawson, Vol. 1, 1858, p. 274; Greene, Ibid., p.192
7. Life of Nathaniel Greene, G.W. Greene, Chapt. 1, 1867-1871, p.457
8. Campaign to Valley Forge, John F. Reed, 1965, p.73
9. Company of Military Historian Magazine, op.cit. p.24; Life of Brigadier General William Woodford, C.W. Stewart, Vol. 2, 1973, p.791
10. Sinews, op. cit., p.54-68

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- Calendar of Virginia State Papers, Richmond, 1890, Vol. 7-9
- Encyclopedia of American Revolution, Mark M. Boatner, David McKay Co. 1966



were armed with carbines and heavy broadswords. The drummers of the regiment wore yellow, lined and faced with horizon blue, and trimmed with 'mixed lace.'

**126. Brunswick: Officer, Jäger Company**

This company arrived at Quebec in September 1776. It took part in the actions at Ticonderoga, Hubbardton, Freeman's Farm, Bemis Heights and Saratoga and was attached to v. Barner's Light Infantry Battalion (see Fig. 127). It was an élite corps of selected rangers and marksmen, mainly composed of the sons of German State Forest Rangers, and all ranks were armed with rifles and straight hunting swords. Their two musicians, presumably horn players, wore silver laced wings and cuffs, and their coats were trimmed with white, black and yellow mixed lace.

**127. Brunswick: Sergeant, Light Infantry Battalion v. Barner**

The four companies of light infantry, formed in 1776 and commanded by Major Ferdinand v. Barner, arrived at Quebec in June 1776 and fought at Ticonderoga, Hubbardton, Freeman's Farm, Bemis Heights and Saratoga. The battalion was formed of picked men, and their uniforms were of a better quality than the normal Brunswick clothing. All ranks like the jägers were armed with German rifles and hunting swords. Their musicians wore yellow coats with red linings and black facings,

trimmed with white, black and yellow mixed lace.

**\*128. United States: Private, 2nd Virginia Regiment, 1777**

The 2nd Virginia Regiment was reorganised early in 1777, and there are several references in the *Virginia Gazette*, in the following September, to 'Regimentals of blue with white worsted binding'. From September 1778 to January 1783, during which time the regiment was captured at the taking of Charleston in May 1780, it was commanded by the former Danish officer Christian Ferbiger, under whom it became a model regiment.

**129. United States: Officer, 2nd Rhode Island State Regiment, 1777**

In 1777 the two regiments of State troops formed for the defence of Rhode Island were taken into Continental pay. They were employed guarding some 400 miles of coast-line against British raiders. Colonel William Barton of the 2nd Regiment, whose portrait is shown here, distinguished himself by seizing the British commander at Newport, General Prescott, in his bed and removing him to the mainland in his nightshirt, without the loss of a single man.

**130. United States: Private, Virginia State Line, 1778**

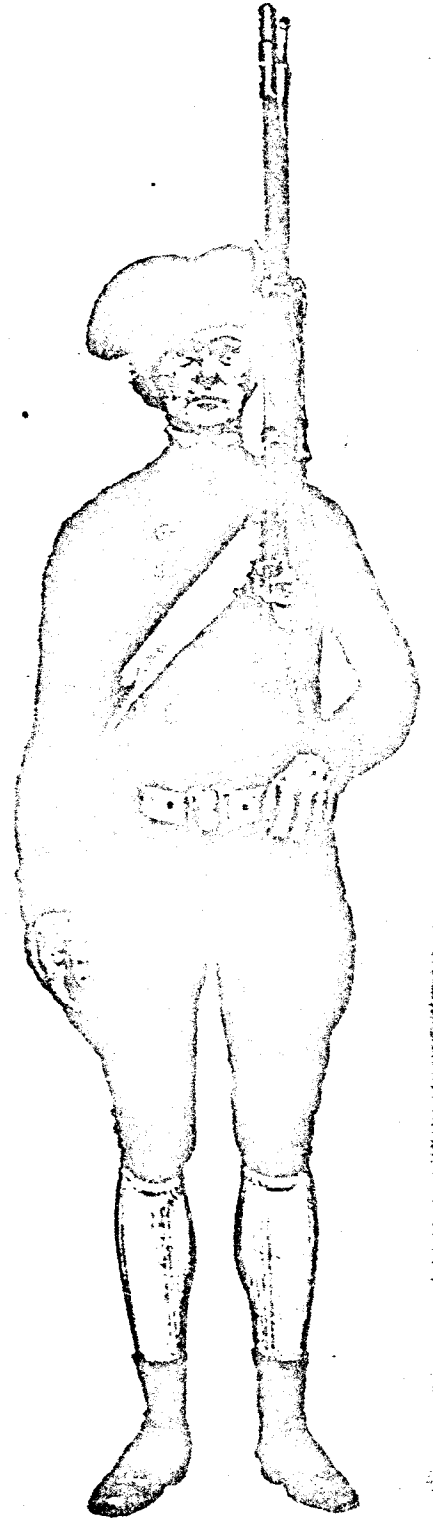
In October 1778, twelve regiments of the Virginia line and the 1st and 2nd State Regiments, encamped at Elizabethtown, New Jersey, were

American Infantry



128. Private, 2nd Virginia Regiment.

129. Officer, 2nd Rhode Island State Regiment.



130. Private, Virginia State Line.

1

The Second Virginia Regiment has been recalled  
in many battles and campaigns during the American  
Revolution. Most of this discussion has ~~been~~ occurred

since 1780, for in May of that year the Second  
was captured at the capitulation of Charleston  
South Carolina. However, it has now come to  
light that the Second Virginia spent time  
after Charleston despite the fact the unit was  
captured. Thanks to a new book published by  
the Virginia State Library, many sources heretofore,  
inaccessible to the novice & moderate researcher  
have come to light. The book, A Guide to Virginia  
Military Organizations 1774-1787 by E. M. Sanchez

(2)

Academia (June 1978) traces the ~~history~~ of  
the final activities of the Second after Charleston.

~~Before~~ The First let us start with the Second  
and its organization in January 1780. Prior to  
the Virginia lines march from the North to Charleston,  
the entire state organization went through a consolidation.  
Of the ~~ten~~ <sup>ten</sup> regiments serving under Washington  
(the eleventh (9<sup>th</sup> Va. Regt.) was stationed at Fort Pitt  
and ~~did~~ did not participate at Charleston), these units  
were consolidated into three, the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Virginia Regiments. Col. Ferguson ~~of~~ of 2<sup>nd</sup> regiment  
combined with the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiments  
to form the new consolidated 2<sup>nd</sup>. The new regiment  
was put under the command of Lt. Colonel Neville

of the 4<sup>th</sup> Va. Regt. The remaining officers of the  
2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> and the other <sup>officers</sup> ~~regiments~~ returned  
to Virginia to help form 3 additional battalions  
to be used at Charleston. Frayer was put on  
assignment til his troops returned from Charle-  
ston. Captain Thomas Catlett of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sec of Purdes  
Hark, was one of the officers sent to Virginia to  
assist in the raising of the new battalions. He was  
assigned to Buford's battalion that was subsequently  
destroyed at <sup>Waxhams</sup> Vashons. Ironically, Catlett would  
capture at Charleston with his fellow officers  
and men, but lost his leg in the massacre of  
Buford's battalion.

4

The old Second Virginia Regiment was now con-  
solidated into two companies as part of Neville's  
new consolidated Second Virginia Regiment. These  
companies were commanded by Captains Benjamin  
Talbot and Alexander Parker. These companies  
had the distinction of being part of the first troops  
to enter the besieged city and a tumultuous getting  
from the occupants. However, the city fell in April, 1780.  
Capt. Alexander Parker and a handful of  
men managed to escape and return to Virginia.

After Charleston, the remaining Virginia Continental Line  
officers returned to Virginia. In February 1781, they  
proceeded to reorganize the Virginia Line into  
regiments again.

(6)

Since over 1300 Virginia Continentals were still captured at Charleston, the new arrangement was largely a paper transfer and was designed to establish the relative seniority of individual officers. The second was included in the arrangement and although <sup>it</sup> has existed mostly on paper, one company did exist as an actual unit. This company was Alexander <sup>CARRICK</sup> Pukes Charleston refugees. This company marched to Yorktown and was assigned to Anthony Wayne Baggell and fought alongside Colonel Thomas Gaskins Virginia Battalion. Gaskins Battalion served on the right flank of the first line of trenches.

The following again, the Virginia Continental line

was reconstituted again. Although the majority  
of the regiments continued to exist on paper, ~~for~~  
~~recruits and~~ the second was actually reconstituted  
from recruits and unaptured veterans. A  
detachment of the new second was sent south  
as part of General Arthur St. Leger's reinforcement  
contingent to Queen's southern army. Little action  
took place for this contingent other than some  
sketchy fighting. By late 1782, the contingent returned  
home.

Finally, in January 1783, the second was  
again reconstituted, but the regiment consisted of  
two skeleton companies under the command of Major  
Smith Smead. One company



under Captain Alexander Parker, <sup>the name Parker from Yorktown</sup> consisted of veterans  
from Charleston, Yorktown, and M-L's Indian fighters.  
The other company consisted of Captain Samuel Proctor's  
recruits, who ~~recruited~~ were serving out their  
enlistment for the war. In late 1783, these two  
tiny regiments straggled and with it the Second  
Virginia Regiment completed its record as a fighting  
unit in the Revolution.

What happened to Feliger, you say? Prior to  
Charleston, Feliger was assigned to Philadelphia to  
coordinate the supply issuance to the Virginia troops.  
After Charleston, he continued to be the Colonel of  
the Second Virginia although he never saw combat  
duty. Although, he was nominally in charge of recruiting

2

reinforcements for Greene's southern army, his supply problems were made it impossible for him to do his newly assigned tasks. Therefore, Major Thomas Percy, who served with Feliger at Stony Point became the ~~and~~ virtual person in charge of <sup>supplying</sup> security for Greene. Percy had problems with his security and did not complete it until just prior to Yorktown. This battalion, known as Percy's Battalion served at York Yorktown alongside Captain Alexander Parker, a real Virginia veteran. Because Feliger was ~~originally~~ nominally in charge the battalion is sometimes called Feliger's Battalion, but he that was not present and it would not participate at Yorktown.

John Lynch, historian  
2nd Va. Regt.

A CHRONOLOGY OF UNIFORM ISSUES TO  
THE SECOND VIRGINIA REGIMENT  
OCTOBER 1775 - JANUARY 1780

- OCTOBER 1775: Purple dyed hunting shirts with capes and cuffs;  
Fringed and open down the front.  
Round hats, bound with black edging; 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " brim and  
cocked on left side with cockade.  
Linen shirts; plain with cuffs.  
Blue shroud leggings.  
Haversack of Oznabrig linen.  
Shot pouch of Dutch linen and powder horn or  
cartouche box.  
Canteen.  
Committee of Safety musket.  
Knapsack.
- DECEMBER 1776: Short blue coat; Brown hunting shirts also evident  
at this time.  
Similiar supplies as described for Oct. '75 issue.
- SEPTEMBER 1777: Blue coat with blue facings; Buttonholes bound  
with white taping.  
White linen waistcoat.  
White linen breeches.  
White oznabrig overalls.  
Round hats, as described in Oct. '75 issue.  
Linen shirts.  
Worsted stockings, shoes, and blankets.  
Tin canteen.  
French Charlevilles and equipment.
- OCTOBER 1778: Blue coat with red facings; French design and  
construction with silver gilt buttons.  
Red cloth waistcoat with silver gilt buttons.  
Red, blue, or green cloth breeches.  
White linen shirts.  
Black stocks.  
Knit stockings.  
Caps; Double and single knit.  
Hats.
- JULY 1779: Brown linen overalls.  
White linen smallclothes.  
Remainder of supply from Sept. '78 issue, although  
shirts were non-existent.  
Equipment supplied from state.  
Extremely small supply of shoes.
- DECEMBER 1779: Brown or grey coats with red facings; some blue  
coats for high ranking officers.  
White linen smallclothes.  
Stockings.  
Linen shirts and stocks.  
Hats.

# Uniform/accoutrements reference sheet

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**Infantryman, Class A** (Voting status; required after one year or less as a recruit)

**Cocked hat**

Black felt; black cockade ribbon behind 3/4" USA pewter button; no taping on edge

**Neckstock**

Black leather with black lace tie

**Shirt**

White cotton; 18th c. military pattern with gussets at the armpits

**Waistcoat (vest)\***

Red wool; 5/8" USA pewter buttons

**Breeches (short pants)\***

Red wool; 5/8" USA pewter buttons

**Regimental coat\***

Blue fabric for body of coat; red facing material; white turnbacks; 3/4" USA pewter buttons

**Socks**

White cotton or wool; extend above the knee

**Garters**

Black leather with brass buckle

**Spatterdashes**

Black leather with 1/2" plain pewter buttons running down the outer ankle

**Shoes**

Black leather; military square-toed style; brass buckles

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**Recruit status** (Non-voting; cannot exceed more than one year)

**Round hat**

Black felt; cocked only on the left side; strip of fur skin behind 3/4" USA pewter button

**Neckstock**

Black leather with black lace tie

**Shirt**

White cotton with normal collar flaps

**Hunting shirt**

Natural, coarse cotton; fringed at the collar, shoulders and sleeves; pewter or bone button

**Waistcoat (vest)\***

Red wool; 5/8" USA pewter buttons

**Overalls**

Natural, coarse cotton; 3/4" plain pewter buttons at flap; 1/2" plain pewter buttons at ankle

**Shoes**

Black leather; smooth-toed style

\* "Wool" fabric is 70% wool-30% polyester

5/14/78

Jim Gott

Adjutant, 2nd Virg<sup>a</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>

Jim:

I have some information that you might want to put in the Seconds newsletter:

1. I was wrong about no light infantry cap in 1779. On the contrary, I have found a sketch of a light infantry cap worn in 1779 during the time of Stony Point. The cap was of leather with visor, a leather plate in front, a turban ringing the cap around the bottom and in front of the leather plate. The top of the cap from the plate to the rear was covered with horsehair. However the 2nd probably would not have any hair. The reason for this is in Capt. Robt. C. Gamble's Orderly Book as adjutant of the First Light Infantry Regiment under the command of Col. Christian Febiger. On Oct 22, 1779, Gamble writes "... Gen'l Wayne has observed with Great Concern That the Virginians are the only troops in the Light Infantry that has not procured Hair for their Caps."
2. In reply to the NWTAs request to find what procedure our regiments paid salutes, I want to quote Brigadier General Peter Muehlenbergs Orderly Book. (Muehlenberg was the Brigadier General of the 1st Virginia Brigade in 1777. The 2nd was in the Second Brigade under Geo. Weedon.) On July 15, 1777, the General Orders For the Virginia Brigades read "... It was yesterday directed in Gen'l Orders 'that neither Officer nor Soldier should pay a salute, or pull off the hat to the Commander in chief or other Officer passing by.' And the total disregard of the order is a proof of how little pains Officers take to acquaint either themselves or their men with the orders of the day."
3. The ladies were destined to walk at all times no matter what as after orders of June 25, 1777 explain "... Waggon Masters....are also to prevent women from getting into waggons except leave in writing..."

**Troops Wintering at Valley Forge, Pa. 1777—1778**

January 1, 1781

**Brig. Gen. Anthony Wayne's Brigade**

1st Pa.	James Chambers	Thomas Robinson	James Moore
2d Pa.	Henry Bicker	Henry Miller	Wm. Williams
7th Pa.	Wm. Irwin	David Grier	Samuel Hay
10th Pa.	George Nagel	Adam Hubley	James Grier

January 1, 1781

**Second Pennsylvania Brigade**

4th Pa.	Lambert Cadwalader	Wm. Butler	Thomas Church
5th Pa.	Francis Johnston	Persifer Frazer	James Taylor
8th Pa.	Daniel Broadhead	Stephen Bayard	Frederick Vernon
11th Pa.	Richard Humpton	Caleb North	Francis Mentges

1779

**Brig. Gen. Enoch Poor's Brigade**

3d N.H.	Alexander Scammell	Henry Dearborn	James Norris
1st N.H.	Joseph Cilley	George Reid	Wm. Scott
2d N.H.	Nathan Hale	Jeremiah Gilman	Benjamin Titcomb
2d N.Y.	Philip Van Cortland	Fred'k. Weisenfels	Nicholas Fish
4th N.Y.	Henry B. Livingston	Pierre R. de Roussi	Benjamin Ledyard

**Brig. Gen. John Glover's Brigade**

4th Mass.	William Shepard	Ebenezer Sprout	Warham Parks
1st Mass.	Joseph Vose	Elijah Vose	Thomas Cogswell
13th Mass.	Edward Wigglesworth	Dudley Coleman	John Porter
15th Mass.	Timothy Bigelow	Henry Haskell	Hugh Maxwell

**Brig. Gen. Ebenezer Learned's Brigade**

2d Mass.	John Bailey	Ezra Badlam	Andrew Peters
9th Mass.	James Wesson	James Mellen	
8th Mass.	Michael Jackson	John Brooks	William Hull

**Brig. Gen. John Paterson's Brigade**

10th Mass.	Thomas Marshall	Joseph Thompson	Nathaniel Winslow
14th Mass.	Gamaliel Bradford	Barakieh Bassett	Samuel Tubbs
11th Mass.	Benjamin Tupper	Noah M. Littlefield	Wm. Lithgow
12th Mass.	Samuel Brewer	Samuel Carlton	Tobias Fernald

and Regiments as ar-  
r and spring of 1777

**Brig. Gen. George Weedon's Brigade**

2d Va.	Christian Febiger	Richard Parker	Ralph Faulkner
4th Va.	Isaac Read	Thomas Gaskins	Issac Beall
10th Va.	John Green	Lewis Willis	Samuel Hawes
3d Va.	Thomas Marshall	William Heth	John Hays
14th Va.	Charles Lewis		George Stubblefield and S.J. Cabell

MAJOR

ohn Webb  
thomas Snead

**Brig. Gen. Peter Muhlenberg's Brigade**

1st Va.	James Hendricks	Robert Ballard	Edmund B. Dickinson
5th Va.	Josiah Parker	Abraham Buford	Thomas Gaskins
9th Va.	George Matthews	Burgess Bail	John Fitzgerald
6th Va.	John Gibson	Charles Simms	Samuel Hopkins
13th Va.	Wm. Russell	Richard Campbell	Richard Taylor
German Regt.		Ludowick Weltner	Daniel Burchardt

Alexander Morgan  
George Slaughter  
ohn Thornton

No  
Hulk



Judith Allen

the said E. I. among them, and could give an account of the same. The said report being taken, and Mr. Jackson's account being taken to print the paper, it was then accepted by the town, and remained for many years in Faneuil Hall. It is now in the Art Museum. Before printed, it stood with a copy of the same on a smaller scale, and it is a copy of the same, and a "small folio" copy, sold by Stuart to Jane F. Duff, and now owned by Mr. Agassiz's house, of Faneuil Hall, called the sketch. It is only a copy of the same.

The name of the sketch is a portrait of Judith Allen, by the artist John Valley, Esq. in 1778.

Allen was born in Dedham, Mass. He was a soldier in Cotton's regiment in 1775, and fought in Bailey's in 1776. He was a major in the British army, after serving some time in the war. He was killed in the battle of the Clouds, near the present site of the Massachusetts State House, on the 10th of October, 1778. He was with the regiment of the army during the siege.

After the news came of the death of Judith Allen, Colonel James M. Allen, who was sent to the British army, with a detachment of the army, under orders from the

Mr. Lynch: The reference to the French coat's sleeves is: "...red Cuff and Blush sleeve made to button underneath." George Heasam to the Board of War, October 10th 1778.

Allen

## 2nd Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line

The 2nd Virginia was raised by the Virginia Convention of 1775 to serve for 1 year. The commanding officer was Col. William Woodford from July, 1775 to Sept. 3, 1776. The unit had 8 companies of approximately 600 men total.

The 2nd was sent to halt attacks by the former royal governor, Lord Dunsmore. The unit's victory at the Battle of Great Bridge, Va. against the 14th Regiment of Foot, Tories and black units meant that Lord Dunsmore had lost his base at Norfolk and soon left the area.



On Feb. 13, 1776, the 2nd was accepted for service into the Continental Line and expanded to 10 companies. In early summer, the unit left for New England to join the Continental Army.

The 2nd was involved in the Battles of Long Island, Harlem Heights and White Plains in New York during 1776. They were also in the Battle of Trenton, N.J. in which they helped capture over 1,000 Hessians.

1777 found the unit in the Battles of Princeton and Elizabethtown, N.J. and Brandywine and Germantown, Pa. They spent the hard winter at Valley Forge with Gen. Washington and the troops. On June 28, 1778, the 2nd fought in the Battle of Monmouth as the British Army withdrew from Philadelphia.

On July 15, 1779, the regiment's light company stormed the British works at Stony Point, N.Y. using bayonets on unloaded muskets. The 2nd's line companies were among those captured at Charleston on May 12, 1780.

In October, 1781, the light company was the only Virginia unit not to mutiny and were present for the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. The line companies were exchanged and continued to serve until between June and August of 1783. Of all the Virginia regiments, the 2nd had the longest record.

The recreated 2nd Virginia Regiment is based in the Chicago metropolitan area.



2nd VIRGINIA REGIMENT  
CONTINENTAL LINE - AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The 2nd Virginia regiment was 1 of 2 regiments raised by the Virginia Convention in June of 1775 to serve for a maximum of 1 year. The commanding officer of the 1st Virginia Regiment and commander-in-chief of the 1st and 2nd regiment was Col. Patrick Henry. The commanding officer of the 2nd Virginia was Col. William Woodford who commanded the unit from July, 1775 to Sept. 3, 1776. Each regiment at that time had 8 companies totalling approximately 600 men.

Because Patrick Henry's military ability was questionable, he was left with the 1st Virginia regiment to guard Williamsburg while the 2nd regiment was sent to counter the attacks on the people of Virginia by the former Royal Governor-Lord Dunsmore. The illustrious history of the 2nd Virginia started with their victory over the British 11th Regiment of Foot, Tories, and Black units. At this battle of Great Bridge, Virginia 31 members of the British detachment were killed or wounded. The end result was that Lord Dunsmore lost his base at Norfolk and soon left the Virginia area.

On February 13, 1776, the 2nd Virginia regiment was accepted for service in the Continental Line which, compared to modern times, would be the regular army. The regiment was expanded to 10 companies. In the early summer of 1776, the unit left for New England to join the Continental Army under General Washington.

The regiment was involved in the Battle of Long Island (Aug. 27, 1776); the Battle of Harlem Heights, NY (Sept 16, 1776); and White Plains (Oct. 28, 1776) all of which are in New York. They were also in the Battle of Trenton, NJ (Dec 26, 1776) in which they helped capture over 1,000 Hessian (German Mercenaries) who were hired by the King of England.

In 1777, the regiment participated in the Battle of Princeton, NJ (Jan 1); the capture of Elizabethtown, NJ (Jan 23); the Battle of Brandywine, Pa (Sept 21); and, the Battle of Germantown, Pa (Oct. 4). The spent a hard winter at Valley Forge. In 1778, they fought in the Battle of Monmouth, NJ (June 28) as the British Army was withdrawing from Philadelphia.

In 1779, the Light Infantry Company of several regiments were combined into 2 Light Infantry Regiments of 4 companies each. These light infantry troops acted as scouts and flankers. These 2 regiments, of which the Light Company of the 2nd Virginia was a member, stormed the British works at Stony Point using bayonets on unloaded muskets. In 1780, the line companies were among those captured during the Siege of Charleston, SC. The unit, on being exchanged, served their country until they were furloughed between June and August, 1783. In October of 1781, the 2nd Virginia Regiment was the only Virginia regiment that did not mutiny. The unit was present for the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. Of all the Virginia regiments, the 2nd had the longest service record.

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The reactivated 2nd Virginia regiment was formed to help commemorate the Bicentennial by participating in selected parades, ceremonies, educational programs, and other activities. We try to select activities that will not only be a contribution to the Bicentennial but are also "fun" events. The regiment is a member of the Brigade of the American Revolution which is active from the Mississippi to the East coast and of the Northwest Territorial Alliance which is active in the Wisconsin-Illinois-Indiana area. These 2 organizations coordinate either the activities that the 2nd Virginia engages in. The activities include firelock (rifle) matches, demonstrations at historic sites with displays similar to the one shown, and special programs involving 10-15 different authentically uniformed units of the Revolutionary period.

The cost of becoming fully equipped member for the campaign season varies with your skills. You can assemble your own weapon, uniform, and accoutrements to save some money. Or, you can purchase many of the items already made. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED talk to one of the members and get an application blank.