

The Filson Club  
INCORPORATED  
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

MILITIA OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA

1777-1790

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1975

## MILITIA 1777-1790

When Montgomery County was organized, William Preston was appointed to serve as the county lieutenant, and William Ingles to serve as colonel with James Robertson, Gent., lieutenant colonel, and Walter Crockett, major. Among the first captains mentioned are James McCorkle, Joseph Cloyd, John Draper, Jeremiah Pearce, William Buchanan, Robert Buchanan, Enoch Osbourne, John Cox, Jehu Stephens, Andrew (Andy) Thompson, Daniel Trigg, John Taylor, Michael Woods, Thomas Burk, and Thomas Ingles. James Montgomery replaced William Buchanan, who was in Kentucky service.

In 1778, Henry Francis replaced Andy Thompson who was about to remove out of the state. Other captains mentioned during the year were John Lucas who replaced Burk, James Moore on waters of the Bluestone, John Henderson who became captain in part of Captain Trigg's Company, Captain James Maxwell, William Doak who became captain with William Ward his first lieutenant, John Hays, second lieutenant, and John King, ensign.

In 1779, William Love became captain, with James Crawford first lieutenant, Francis Kincannon second lieutenant, and Jarvis Smith as ensign. Richardson Owen became captain with Benjamin Johnson his lieutenant. Henry Patton was recommended as captain to replace Joseph Cloyd, who replaced Walter Crockett, who in turn became lieutenant colonel in place of James Robertson who had resigned. James Byrn replaced Captain John Taylor, removed, and Henson Gardiner became captain in that part of Captain Cloyd's Company that lies on Walkers Creek and down the New River, with Richard Estis first lieutenant. Thomas Inglis (Ingles) was recommended as captain, and Flour (Flower) Swift was recommended for the same with Matthew Lindsay to serve as constable.

In 1780, Captain John Cox informed the court that he intended to travel to another state, and the court was induced to certify that he "is a man of good character, a friend to American Liberty, and in every respect entitled to the respect and countenance of all honest men." The same year James Newell was recommended as captain to replace Henry Francis who had been killed in battle.

In 1781, Abram Trigg, Frederick Edwards, and Samuel Ewing were appointed captains, with Ewing to replace Peirce (Pearce) who was about to leave the county. The territory of Montgomery County became large enough at this time to warrant a division of the county into two battalions, numbered first and second, and sometimes known as "the Upper and Lower Battalions."

In 1781, Major Cloyd became lieutenant colonel of the first battalion with Daniel Trigg as major. Jehu (sometimes erroneously called John) Stephens became colonel in the second battalion, with John Taylor as major. Several new captains were appointed in the same year: John Montgomery replaced Jeremiah Pierce, removed, Andrew Hatfield recommended to replace John Lucas, removed, and William Ward recommended to replace William Doak, resigned. James Finley became captain to replace Jehu Stephens, who was promoted, and John Hays became captain for the head of North Fork of Holston in part of Captain Ingles Company.

In 1782, Stephen Saunders took the oath as captain of the militia, and Jehu Stephens took the oath as lieutenant colonel. Robert Moffett was recommended as captain, Charles Morgan was sworn as captain and James McDonald recommended as captain in the lower part of Captain Coxes Company. Colonel William Ingles resigned his position in the militia because of poor health, and was replaced by Joseph Cloyd. Daniel Trigg became major when Cloyd was promoted, and Abraham Trigg replaced his brother Daniel as major. John Ward was recommended as captain in place of William Ward, who had resigned. James Montgomery was sworn in as captain. Thomas Burk was recommended as captain to replace Andrew Hatfield who had resigned. Benjamin Bailey was recommended as captain in place of Captain Bobbet who had resigned. John Hays was sworn in as captain, and Israel Lorton was recommended as captain in place of Abram Trigg, promoted. Thomas Burk was recommended a second time to replace Andrew Hatfield who had resigned.

On June 15, 1782 the Governor of Virginia requested a meeting of the field officers of the Montgomery County militia with the officers from Washington County, "to concert and settle some proper Plan for the defence of both Counties." The meeting was held at Fort Chiswell, at the Montgomery Courthouse on July 2. Those present were William Preston, Walter Crockett, Joseph Cloyd, Daniel Trigg, John Taylor, and Abraham Trigg for Montgomery County, and Arthur Campbell, William Edmondson, Aaron Lewis, and James Dysart for Washington County. Also in attendance was the District Commissioner Major Patrick Lockhart.

It was the unanimous opinion of the officers that 200 men be permitted to be "drawn out" by the Governor for the defense of the frontier, and to be sent to the following districts: On New River in the neighborhood of Captain Pearis, 30 men; Sugar Run 20; Captain Moorehead of Bluestone, 25; head of Clinch 25. In Washington County there was to be 20 men at Richlands, 30 men at Castle Woods, 20 men at Rye Cove, and 30 men in Powells Valley. The distance from Captain Pearis's to Sugar Run was 10 miles, to Captain Moorehead's 30 miles, to Captain Maxwell's at head of the Clinch, 16 miles, which was nearest the Washington line. To Richlands was 24 miles, to Castle Woods 30, to Rye Cove 25, and to Powell's Valley 26 miles, in all 164 miles. The officers also agreed that the two counties would provide the number of men ordered, without calling on any of the neighboring counties for assistance unless there was an emergency, or "on the approach of a large body of the Enemy."

One of the greatest problems the officers had was providing for the men while on duty. The officers recommended to Major Lockhart that he purchase 200 bushels of corn in Montgomery County, at places convenient to where the militia was on duty, at three shillings a bushel (being the current price). They were convinced that this would be a saving due to the transportation of grain from Botetourt County where some grain was on hand. In addition County Commissioners and Commissaries of Specifics were to assist with the delivery of provisions for the troops of each county. They had in addition warrants to impress whatever else was necessary.

There was an objection to that part of the Governor's instructions ordering the direction of the militia of both counties, while on duty, under that of the County Lieutenant of Montgomery County who lived "upwards of 180 miles from Powell's Valley, and not less than 90 miles from the Richland District in Washington, which renders it impossible and useless for him to have these men under his direction, for which reason he declines that part of the Command." The officers present then recommended that the troops in each county be under the supervision of the commanding officers of their own counties, believing that "the Defence of the frontier will in all probability be better conducted."

Because of the usual manner the Indians attacked the settlements, the officers felt that it was necessary to have the proper number of scouts for each district to discover their approaches. For immediate safety of the inhabitants the officers directed that two be employed in each district.

Some of the records of Montgomery County are missing for 1783 and 1784, and in 1785 nothing is mentioned about the militia. In 1786, however, the records show that Walter Crockett was recommended as county lieutenant, Jehu Stephens as colonel of the first battalion, William Love, major, Daniel Trigg, colonel, and Henry Patton as major of the second battalion. Alexander Mairs replaced Henry Patton who was promoted, and George Peery replaced James Moore who had died. William Hayse (Hays) replaced John Hayse as captain. Menitree Jones was recommended as captain to serve in place of James McDonald. William Bowen was captain in place of Captain Morgan removed, and Andrew Crockett replaced Frederick Edwards as captain. John Inglis became captain in half of Lorton's Company, and Robert Davis was recommended to replace Captain Buchanan. John Stone was recommended to replace William Boone as captain.

On September 26, 1786, "Agreeable to the requisition of Patrick Henry, Esqr., Governor of Virginia, the following is the rank and date of such persons Commissions as are hereinafter named:

"John Adams, a Captain, dated March 24, 1784 to take rank from March 12, 1783; John Adam, Capt., dated November 5, 1782 to take rank from November 5, 1782; James Findley, Capt., dated Jan. 10, 1782 to take rank from Nov. 9, 1781; William Davis, Capt., dated May 28, 1783 to take rank from May 27, 1783; Daniel Trigg, Col., dated April 5, 1782 to take rank from \_\_\_\_\_ 5, 1782; Abram Trigg, Major, dated April 5, 1782 to take rank from March 5, 1782; Henry Patton, Capt., dated Sept. 11, 1779; Thompson Sayers, Second Lieut., dated Jan. 10, 1782 to take rank from Sept. 10, 1780; Andrew Crockett, First Lieut., dated Jan. 10, 1782 to take rank from April 5, 1781."

In November 1786, records show that John Preston was appointed captain of the militia February 3, 1784. In February 1787, George Paris, Manitree Jones, and Thomas Patton were appointed captains, with Henry Patton, major, Daniel Trigg, colonel, and Abram Trigg, lieutenant colonel.

Additions made later in the year included Alexander Mears (Mairs), Andrew Crockett, and Robert Sayers who were captains, and William Love who took oath as major. John Inglis and George Peery took oaths as captains, and William Ward lieutenant colonel, and Robert Davis as captain. James Newell was recommended as captain and took oath the same year. Walter Crockett took oath as county lieutenant, John Stone same as captain, and Israel Lorton as captain. Jesse Evans was recommended as captain for the lower battalion.

In 1787, a new company was formed out of Mairs and Patton's companies, and Daniel Howe was recommended to serve as the new captain. He took the oath as captain the following year. James Anderson was also recommended as captain. In 1788, Francis Preston took the oath as captain of the Light Infantry, and in 1789 Jesse Evans was again recommended as captain.

In 1790, Christian Snidow was recommended as captain, Daniel Trigg recommended as county lieutenant in place of Walter Crockett who had resigned. Abram Trigg was recommended as a proper person to serve as lieutenant colonel in place of Daniel Trigg, promoted. Bird Smith took oath as captain in the "2nd Troop of Militia Cavalry." George Pearis was recommended to serve as major, in room of Henry Patton, promoted. Christian Snidow was again recommended to serve as captain in place of Thomas Burk, resigned, and Henry Farley was recommended to serve as captain in place of George Pearis, promoted.

Many of the lists of the companies which follow are not dated. However, using the dates of oath of office, dates of recommendation, resignation or promotion of the officers, an approximate date can be affixed to each one.

It must also be pointed out that spelling of names and rank varied greatly from writer to writer. The spelling in this text is the one found in the original copy, and all abbreviations remain as such. The notes at the end of each list give additional information found in the original for which there was no room in a columnar arrangement. A few notes were added by the compiler. It was the custom for each male in the captain's neighborhood, age eighteen to fifty, to be a member of the militia. This did not necessarily imply that the individual performed military service during the Revolutionary War. In fact, the dates which must be affixed to some of the lists are in a period after the War was over. However, most of the lists are filed in a book titled Revolutionary War Service although three lists came from other sources. Doack's list, and that of Flower Swift came from the Wisconsin Historical Society, Preston Papers of the Draper Collection, 5 QQ 67 and 5 QQ 70. One of Osburn's lists came from the Campbell-Preston Papers in the Library of Congress.

The remaining material about the militia came from the following sources: Orders of Montgomery County, William Preston Papers in the Virginia State Library, Montgomery County Militia records filed at Christiansburg Courthouse, but also on microfilm in the State Library Archives. I also acknowledge the use of Lewis Preston Summers, Annals of Southwest Virginia.

FLOWER SWIFT COMPANY

Flower Swift, Capt.  
James Cook, Lieut.  
John McCoy  
Daniel McCoy  
David McCoy  
Samuel Cox  
Joseph Davis  
John Fannin  
Thomas Fannin  
John Clonsh  
Edmond Clonsh  
William Connar  
William Johns  
Jacob Ellet  
James Barnet  
Jacob Coulson  
Isaac Coulson  
Benjamin Hartgrove  
George Martin  
John Sweney  
Charles Morgan  
Jesse Julin  
Henry Morgan, Sargant  
Edward Norton  
Timothy Murphy  
John Hill  
William Stuard  
Joshua Hanks  
Charles Cole

Pearse Nolan  
Samuel Jacson  
Thos. Fields (deleted)  
Joseph Powel  
Abraham Vanhooser  
Isac Edwards  
William Baman  
Jesse Little  
Samuel Mehuren  
William Williams (son of Shad.?)  
John Nelvil  
Jorge Melvin  
William Sugs  
Christefer Sutton  
Edmund Pugh ?  
Abraham Johns  
Jam. Chancey ?  
Chars. Quillin  
Timothy Spencer  
Richard Coal  
James Johns, Sargt.  
William Morgan  
James Gosset  
Peter Elread  
Vallentine Vanhooser  
David Arwin  
Joseph Laws  
Lemuel ? Pruet  
Thomas Vaughn

NOTE: There are four lists for the men of Flower Swift's Company, and none of them are dated. The first three lists are from records in Christiansburg, the fourth from the Preston Papers of the Draper Manuscripts.

FLOWER SWIFT COMPANY

Flower Swift, Capt.  
John McCoy  
Daniel McCoy  
David McCoy  
Jahn Cook  
Joseph Davis  
Edmond Clonsh  
David Fulton  
John Studivan  
William Audin ?  
Herman Cox  
Nathan Shelley  
Charles Morigin  
Henry Morigin  
John Carey ?  
Henry Norton  
Samuel Cox  
Benjamin Cox  
William Williams  
John Williams  
James Briend  
John Clonsh  
William Johnes  
John Curel  
William Norton  
William Steward  
John Simons  
Samuel Mehurin  
Nathan Ward  
James Hust  
Saml. Blevins

QUAKERS

Jacob Ellet  
Isrel Ellet  
William Ruddick, Junr.  
William Ruddick Senr.  
Sollomon Ruddick  
John Bedsolt  
David Rease  
Calop Rease  
Francis Rease  
Thos. Davis  
John Ruddick  
John Cox  
Tho. Davis, Junr.  
Jacob Adams  
William Cox  
Benj. Cox  
Thomas Carr  
Thomas Stanfield  
Samuel Stanfield  
Thomas Peirson  
Jesse Cox  
Richard Cox  
Amos Williams  
James Williams  
James Pendry  
Henry Pendry  
Thomas Kingworthy  
Jacob Creg ?  
Samuel Freirson  
John Kenworthy  
Thomas Johnson  
John Martin  
William Rankin

NOTE: Under eighteen, David McCoy. Not fit, Samuel Cox,  
Benjamin Cox, William Johnes, William Norton, Jacob Ellet,  
William Ruddick, Senr., and Thomas Peirson.



FLOWER SWIFT COMPANY

Flower Swift, Capt.  
James Cock, Lieut.  
John McCoy  
Daniel McCoy  
David McCoy  
Edmond Clonsh  
John Clonsh  
John Fannin  
Thomas Fannin  
Henry Norton  
Henry Morgan  
Charles Morgan  
Absolum Burton  
Thomas Hughey  
Benjamin Hartgrove  
James Barnet  
Nathan Shelley  
Samuel Cox  
Jorge Martin  
Joseph Davis  
James Armstrong  
William Williams  
Jacob Coalson  
William Stuard  
Nathan Ward  
John Swenney  
Isaac Coalson

Pearse Nolan  
Samuel Jacson  
James Brent  
Edmond Pugin  
William Stuard  
John Docry  
Jorge Docry (Doirey?)  
John Lashley  
Joshua Hanks  
Charles Quillin  
Samuel Mehuren  
Abraham Vanhooser  
Vaulentine Vanhooser  
Eliga Steavens  
William Morigin  
Morigin Morigin  
John McClain  
Joseph Laws  
Isac Edwards  
Calep Winfery  
Jonathan Ashworth  
William Ellet  
William Johns  
William Conner  
Jese Julin  
Thoms. Fields  
John Simmons

FLOWER SWIFT'S COMPANY FROM PRESTON PAPERS 5 QQ 70

Flower Swift  
David Fulton  
Samuel Meherring  
John Loe  
Edmond Clonch  
William Williams  
John Cook  
Caleb Winfry  
Jonathan Ashworth  
John Pickrel  
Jeremiah Clonch  
Samuel Cox  
Harman Cox  
John Clonch  
Jonathan Essery  
Thomas Essery  
John Loe  
Wennery Norton  
John Dotson  
William Jones  
Joseph Mee ?  
John McCoy  
Daniel McCoy  
Isaac Winfry  
John Flaning, Junier  
Isaac Little  
Nathan Ward  
William Stuart  
Sammuel Chaney  
John Larison  
William Norton  
David McCoy  
Daniel Loe  
Samuel Loggins  
Timothy Spencer

QUAKERS

Stephen Bond ?  
Jacob Ellet  
Thomas Davis  
William Reddick  
Thomas Carr  
James Pendry  
Thomas Ranson ?  
Frances Reece  
David Reece  
Charles Davis  
Ezrael Ellet  
William Ellit  
Benjamin Cox  
John Reddick  
Thomas Davis  
John Bedsolt  
John Kinworthy  
Thomas Kinworthy  
Christopher Hufacy  
Caleb Reece  
Sollomon Reddick  
William Reddick  
John Cox  
Sammuel Cox  
Jacob Simmons  
Jesse Cox  
Amos Williams  
Jacob Greggs ?  
William Cox  
Elisha Bedsolt  
Richd. Cox  
Thos. Stanfield ?  
Wm. Rankins  
Jonathan Essery

NOTE: Stephen Bond and Thomas Ranson are sick.

## OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

As required by law, Montgomery County kept a list of those persons who took the oath of allegiance to the Commonwealth of Virginia, 1777-1779. These records have been preserved and can be found at the courthouse in Christiansburg.

The first list found is that of William Davies, recorded in the following words: "A List of thos that has teaken the Oath of fidlety before me, William Hay, Edward Jons the 29 of Aprile, 1778, Alexander Mcglacfen Aprile 28, 1778, Joseph Smith free of his prentisship 9th May 1778, Bryan Bumton free of his servitude 22 May 1778, James Gorman Oct. 1778. (Signed) Wm. Davies."

The next list was kept by James McCorkle and the introduction to the names reads as follows: "We whose names are hereunto subscribed do swear or affirm that we renounce and refuse all allegiance to George third King of Great Britain, his heirs successors and that, I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Commonwealth of Virginia as a free and independent State and that I will not at any time do or Cause to be done any matter or thing that will be make known to some one Justice of the Peace for the said State all treasons or traiterous Conspiracies which I now or hereafter shall know to be formed against this or any of the United States of America."

James McCorkle was assigned to record the names of the men who swore allegiance to the State from several companies. The names which follow included dates beginning September 30, 1777, but the list was signed by McCorkle and dated December 5, 1777. At the end of the list he noted the names of those that refused as follows: "Those that refused in Capt. Ozburns Compy. Joseph Caldwell, Robert Ozburn, James Sturgill, an old inno<sup>f</sup>ensive Ignorant man, Elisha Collins, Coxes Compy. Solomon Reddick, Do. (Ditto), William Reddick, Do."

Capt. Coxs Compy.  
David Cox  
Zachariah Pennett?  
Jno. (his mark) Riddle  
John Cox  
Andrew Baker  
John Henderson  
James McDaniell  
William Probut  
Geo. Reves  
John Hamon  
Sam: Ray  
Jas. Mulkey  
Francis Farmer  
Ricd. Chapman  
Robert Parsons  
James Parsons  
Jeremiah Harrison  
Robert Stephenson  
Alexander Henderson  
Daniel Blevens  
Charles Smith  
Redmont McMahan  
Clement Lee  
Jno. Blevins  
Wm. Porter  
Wm. Lee  
David Fulton  
Dosswell Rogers  
John Rice  
Joseph Wallen  
John Wallen  
John Llannes?  
Thomas Wallen  
William Ridel  
Harman Cox  
Jeremiah Cloynch  
Marshel Duncom  
Samwill Cox  
Wm. Henderson  
Jno. Collens  
Samuel Collens  
Wm. Graves of Thompson's Compy.  
Lieut. Henry Francis  
Peter Hutcheson, of my own

Henry Stobough  
Jno. Diskins of Draper's Co.  
Robt. Logun of Stephens Co.  
Jas. Logun of Do.  
Jno. Divir of Do.  
Archd. McCaver, Surry Co., Car.  
Jno. Westrope, a traveller  
Wm. Shaw of Capt. Stephen's Compy.  
Jas. Finley, Senr. of Do.  
Christopher Elms, Thompsons  
Jos. Dougherty, Draper's Compy.  
Wm. Arbuckle  
Wm. Ewing, Thompsons  
Sam Paxton, Do.  
Jas. McCrosky, Do.  
Peter Laughlin, Do.  
Capt. Ozburn's Compy.  
Ezekiel (his mark) Young  
Francis (his mark) Stogil  
Jeremiah (his mark) Ozburn  
William Landreth  
Capt. Enoch Ozburn  
Robt. Baker  
Jno. Medley  
Isaac Weaver  
Wm. Hash  
Stephen Ozburn  
Jonathan Ozburn  
Wells Ward  
Jno. Hash  
Joshua Pennington  
Jas. Ward  
Ephraim Ozburn, Junr.  
Timothy Roark  
Ephraim Pennington  
Ephraim Ozburn, Senr.  
Stephen Ozburn, Senr.  
George Ewing, Junr. Thompson's  
John Fluty, Robt. Buchanan's  
Alexr. Buchanan, Do  
Henry Long, McCorkle's  
Jas. Thompson  
Josiah Ramsey  
Samuel Newberry