Close to Home:
The Williamsburg Area and the Revolutionary War.
Objectives

• Gain a renewed appreciation for the sacrifices made by both Patriot and Crown Forces.
• Gain a renewed appreciation for where you live.
• Gain a renewed appreciation for the rich tapestry of connectedness that is termed History.
Our Journey

• 1781 Southern Campaign: Battle of Spencer’s Ordinary, the Battle of Green Spring, and selected medical topics pertinent to the Williamsburg area during the Revolutionary.

• The Virginia State Navy during the Revolutionary War.

• We will address selected Families associated with the Revolutionary War activity near Williamsburg and how they continued to serve and shape the course of our Nation through World War Two.
Test Your Knowledge
Charles Cornwallis
1738 - 1805

- Educated at Eton and Cambridge
- 1757: Joined the British Army and saw action (in Germany) during the Seven Years War (1756-1763).
- 1762: Member of Parliament and argued for repeal of Stamp Act.
- 1765: Aide de Camp to George III.
- 1776: Colonel of the 33rd Regiment of Foot (held position 1766-1805).
- 1775: Major General
- June 1776: Arrived in America and took part in unsuccessful siege of Charleston SC.
- Active in Revolutionary War’s Northern and Southern campaigns.
John Graves Simcoe
25 February 1752 – 26 October 1806

- Graduate of Eton
- Godfather was Admiral Samuel Graves, RN., who commanded the Royal Navy in North America 1774-1776 and was succeeded by Admiral Howe.
- 1770: Lieutenant 35th Regiment of Foot.
- July 1776: Captain 40th Regiment of Foot. He was with Grenadier Battalion and took part in the Siege of Boston. Also present at Battle of Brandywine where he was wounded.
- 15 October 1777: Took command of the Queens Rangers
- 21 March 1778: Hancock House, Alloway Creek, NJ.
- 1 May 1778: Battle of Crooked Billet, PA.
- 30 December 1780: Arrived Chesapeake Bay under General Arnold’s command. Active ground operations began 3 January 1781 at Hood’s Point, James River.
Johann Ewald  
30 March 1744 – 25 June 1813

• Born Kassel
• 1760: 16 year old cadet in the Gilsa Regiment and saw service in the 7 Years War.
• 1761: WIA during Siege of Cassel and promoted to ensign.
• 1766: Promoted Lieutenant, Guards
• 20 February 1770: Lost his left eye in a drunken duel with a friend
• 6 March 1774: Captain, Liebjaeger Corps.
• October 1776: Arrived New York City.
• Present at Battles of Germantown and Brandywine, Siege of Charleston.
• 10 May 1778: Awarded the Pour le Virtu Militaire (Hesse-Cassell).
• 31 December 1780: Arrived in Virginia with General Arnold.
Pour le Vertu Militaire
Gilbert du Mortier, Marquis de Lafayette  
1757 - 1834

- 1771: 2nd Lt. in Musketeers
- 1773: Lt. In Noailles Dragoons
- 1775: Captain in Noailles Dragoons
- 1777: Traveled to America to fight in Revolution. Landed Georgetown, South Carolina then traveled to Philadelphia.
- 1777: Commissioned Major General, Continental Army.
- 11 September 1777: Wounded at Battle of Brandywine. Also took part in Monmouth and minor engagements.
- January 1779 to April 1780: In France
- January 1781: Ordered to Virginia
Richard Butler
1743 - 1791

• Born in Dublin, Ireland
• Merchant before the war.
• 1775: Commissioner to the NW Indian tribes.
• 1776: Major, 8th PA Infantry
• 1777: Lt. Col. 8th PA, later Colonel of the 9th PA Infantry
• Major battles: Saratoga, Monmouth
• 1781: Colonel, 5th PA Infantry
Anthony Wayne
1 January 1745 – 15 December 1796

- Attended College of Philadelphia and became a surveyor.
- 1775: Raised a militia unit in Pennsylvania.
- PA legislator 1774 – 1780
- Active in Continental Army during the Northern Campaign to include Invasion of Quebec, Philadelphia Campaign, Germantown, others
- 1 January 1781: Mutiny of Pennsylvania Line.
- May 1781: Pennsylvania Line returned to operational strength.
- Circa 10/11 June 1781: Joined Lafayette’s troops near Raccoon Ford, Orange County.
Battle of Spencer’s Ordinary  
(Battle of Hot Waters)  
26 June 1781
Spencer’s Ordinary  
26 June 1781

**Patriot Forces**
- Colonel William Butler (Continental troops)
- Major William McPherson (Cavalry)
- Major John Willis (Virginia militia)
- About 570 Troops (100 Cavalry*)

**Crown Forces**
- Lt. Col. John G. Simcoe
- Captain Johann Ewald (Jaegers)
- Captain David Shank (Cavalry)
- Troops: About 400
- Artillery: one 3 pound cannon
- About 100 cattle with drovers.
Battle of Spencer's Ordinary
Simcoe’s Map of the Battle of Spencer’s Ordinary
Simcoe’s Account

• “Trumpeter Barney, who had been stationed as a vidette, gave the alarm, and galloped off so as not to lead the enemy directly to where the cavalry were collecting their forage and watering, and, with great address, got to them unperceived by the enemy, calling out draw your swords Rangers, the rebels are coming.”

• During Captain Shank’s charge against the left flank of the Patriot Horse:
  • Trumpeter Barney dismounted and captured a French officer.
  • Sergeant Wright “…dashed Major McPherson, who commanded them, from his horse; but leaving him in pursuit of others, that officer crept into a swamp, lay there unperceived during the action, and when it was over got off.”

John G. Simcoe, Journal of the Operations of the Queen’s Rangers
Simcoe’s Account

• “The enemy’s cavalry were so totally scattered, that they appeared no more: many of them were dismounted, and the whole would have been taken, had not a heavy fire out of the wood, from whence the Highland company were now driven, protected them.”

• British infantry ordered to form line.

• The drovers (North Carolina loyalist militia commanded by Captain Branson) were ordered to head toward Williamsburg with the cattle.

• British cavalry demonstrated against the Patriot infantry on the left of the British line in an attempt to make Patriots’ believe there were more British troops than were actually present.

John G. Simcoe, Journal of the Operations of the Queen’s Rangers
Ewald’s
Plan von den Gefecht bei Spencer’s Haus
Sieben Meilen von Williamsburg
Ewald’s Account

• Led German jäger troops and some British infantry on the British right flank.
• He personally captured Captain Griffauld, a French officer from the Armand Legion (per Ewald), about fifty paces into Spencer’s Orchard. Battlefield intelligence gained from the Frenchman revealed the Patriot army was close by.
• Continued through Orchard to find a line of Patriot infantry behind a fence about 200 paces away. Both sides advanced toward each other.
• British received a volley at 40 paces which “killed two-thirds of the grenadiers.” Ewald’s men charged with the bayonet as the Patriot infantry began withdrawing and hand-to-hand combat ensued. Patriot unit also began taking fire from its left flank and rear and then left the field. Ewald’s jägers (about 60) were in an area of thick brushwood and paused to regroup on a footpath through it. During this time Ewald’s lieutenant informed him that an entire column of Patriot infantry was “approaching at the quick step.”

Johann Ewald, Diary of the American War; Yale University Press, © 1979, pp.308-309.
Ewald’s Account

“I went several paces ahead on the path and suddenly ran into people. I could not help myself and cried, ‘Fire! Fire!’ The rangers fired, and a running fire broke out from the enemy’s side for several minutes. Then it was quiet again. I now observed it was time to fall back and signaled to the jägers and rangers.”

Johann Ewald, Diary of the American War; Yale University Press, © 1979, p. 309

“Toward the evening on the 27th, we joined the army and received our post behind it on Queen’s Creek to rest up a little.”

Johann Ewald, Diary of the American War; Yale University Press, © 1979, p. 312
Engagement at Spencer’s Ordinary
June 26, 1781

In the summer of 1781, thousands of troops converged on the James City County countryside, foraging for food and strategically moving toward Yorktown. Although soldiers here bore the burden of supplies, Lafayette saw an opportunity to attack. British troops were drawn to the James at Spencer’s Ordinary to create an open ground for a “chaff of action.”

Mountfield Spencer’s 126-acre farm is partially occupied by Freemont Park today. Spencer also operated an ordinary, or tavern that served travelers on the road between Williamsburg and Yorktown. This business, along with other farms and shops, was a hub for supplies.

On June 26, 1781, the rear guard of Lord Cornwallis’s large British Army, which numbered about 6,000, was passing through a church, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel John Simcoe and the Queen’s Rangers. They were reinforced by additional infantry, cavalry, and Hanoverian Junges. A contemporary source recounted that any attack on the British would be a “false dawn.”

A smaller Colonial force, though still several thousand strong, under the command of the Marquis de Lafayette was following Cornwallis’s column at a safe distance.

When Lafayette heard about the British foraging party near Spencer’s Ordinary, he sent his forward guard, Ferguson’s Line, to attack. Violent skirmishes occurred as maneuvering units collided and withdrew, causing the British to abandon their supplies. The British were forced to retreat, leaving many dead and wounded.


On the morning of June 26, 1781, Butler’s men engaged the British forces at Spencer’s Ordinary. Although a fierce battle, the American forces were ultimately victorious, driving the British from the area.
Battle of Spencer’s Ordinary
(Battle of Hot Waters)

Alexander Hamilton (No, not THAT Alexander Hamilton)

• Militia man from Augusta County.

• Served in Captain Patrick Buchannon’s Troop, Col. Thomas Hughart Regiment.

• Alexander was detailed to care for his wounded brother, James, at New Kent Hospital following the battle. James Hamilton received two gunshot wounds which fractured both bone in his lower leg. He recovered but was disabled for the rest of his life.
Battle of Spencer’s Ordinary
(Battle of Hot Waters)

Simeon Buford (Culpeper County)

- Captain commanding Elijah Kirtley’s Company (Kirtley absent sick).
- Served “...under Lafayette the whole time he was combatting Cornwallis previous to his capture at Yorktown.”
- Noted to be a “famous foot racer” by another Revolutionary War pensioner.
Battle of Spencer’s Ordinary  
(Battle of Hot Waters)

William Robert Crawley (Williamsburg City)

• Enlisted in the 22\textsuperscript{nd} Virginia State Regiment at Williamsburg, Virginia in February 1778 or 1779. He was under command of Captain Samuel Timson, Lt. Col. George Muter (probable) and Colonel Thomas Marshall. He was sworn into service by Colonel Charlton, Esq. of Williamsburg.

• Wounded in his left leg by a musket ball during the Battle of Spencer’s Ordinary. Convalesced for 3 months at Mahnor Plantation, his father’s (John Crawley) plantation a short distance south of Williamsburg.

• Captain Timson owned a plantation adjacent to Mahnor Plantation.
Battle of Spencer’s Ordinary
(Battle of Hot Waters)

Sergeant Christian Peters (Rockingham County)

• NCO in Captain Jeremiah Beasley’s company of riflemen.
• He noted in his pension statement that the Battle of Spencer’s Ordinary lasted 2 hours and 10 minutes and that they suffered 1 KIA and 14 WIA.
• Participated in the Battle of Green Spring where he was stationed on the right flank where there was little danger.
• He carried his “. . .own rifle, tomahawk, and butcher knife.”
• Was at the Battle of Cowpens.
Battle of Spencer’s Ordinary
(Battle of Hot Waters)

**Ephraim Dicken (Culpeper County)**

- Served under Captain Stewart and part of Major John Willis’ unit at Battle of Spencer’s Ordinary.
- He was wounded by a sword and taken prisoner. He was later exchanged.
- He had smallpox during the Battle of Green Spring, 6 July 1781.
Comparison of Forces Engaged
Spencer’s Ordinary

![Comparison of Forces Engaged](chart)

- **Patriot Forces**
- **Crown Forces**

### Number of Forces

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### WIA, KIA, POW

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- **WIA**: Wounded In Action
- **KIA**: Killed In Action
- **POW**: Prisoner Of War
Spencer’s Ordinary
3 Decisive Events or Factors

• Trumpeter Barney, Queen’s Rangers.
• British cohesion and morale.
• Major McPherson “showing himself too early” and necessitating Patriot infantry support. This spoiled the Patriot operational plan of cutting off Simcoe from the main army.
Battle of Green Spring
(Battle of Jamestown)
6 July 1781
Battle of Green Spring
6 July 1781

**Patriot Forces**
*General Lafayette*
- About 900 troops involved
- PA Continental Line, 2 companies riflemen, 1 company dragoons, and 3 artillery pieces under Anthony Wayne
- Light Infantry units commanded by John Mercer, William Galvan, and William McPherson with Lafayette

**Crown Forces**
*General Lord Cornwallis*
- About 7000 troops.
- Simcoe and Hessian Jaegers across the James River on the South Bank guarding portions of wagon train and securing the southern landing site.
- 76th, 80th, 43rd, Tarleton on left flank
- Guards and Hessians on right flank
- Small company of Hessian Jaegers and Loyal Legion advanced as bait.
Battle of Green Spring
Battle of Green Spring
The 17th century road to Green Spring, site of the old town of Green Spring, was the western part of the Great Road. The earliest-developed English thoroughfare in Virginia. The Great Road ran from Jamestown Island toward the falls of the James River. The road was an important thoroughfare used by freight and forward communications between settlements. Originally, the Green Spring Road connected to the James River. The road was abandoned in 1715 by the British settlers, and the town of Green Spring was deserted. By 1768, the town had declined to a single house and a few fields flanking this road. By this time, the house was the only remaining building on the site. The town had become a ghost town by 1850.

V 39
BATTLE OF GREEN SPRING

Nearby, late in the afternoon of 6 July 1781, Gen. Charles Cornwallis and cavalry commander Col. Banastre Tarleton with 5,000 British and Hessian troops clashed with 800 American troops commanded by Brig. Gen. Mad Anthony Wayne and the Marquis de Lafayette. Believing that the main British force was across the James River, and that he was attacking Cornwallis's rear guard, Wayne soon realized that he was facing far superior numbers. He started the advancing British forces by charging them, exchanging volleys, and then withdrawing his troops from encirclement and certain defeat. Dusk prevented Cornwallis from pursuing the Americans.

V 42
GREEN SPRING ROAD

The 17th century road to Green Spring, site of the old town of Green Spring, was the western part of the Great Road. The earliest-developed English thoroughfare in Virginia. The Great Road ran from Jamestown Island toward the falls of the James River. The road was an important thoroughfare used by freight and forward communications between settlements. Originally, the Green Spring Road connected to the James River. The road was abandoned in 1715 by the British settlers, and the town of Green Spring was deserted. By 1768, the town had declined to a single house and a few fields flanking this road. By this time, the house was the only remaining building on the site. The town had become a ghost town by 1850.

V 46
CHURCH ON THE MAIN

Less than one mile to the east is the site of the Church on the Main, a brick Anglican Church built by the 1760s to serve St. Marys Church Parish on Kilbourn's Island, which had become difficult for communicants to reach. The Rev. James Madison (1770-1831) was its best-known pastor, serving the church from about 1775 until 1831. After the American Revolutionary War and the discontinuance of the Anglican Church, Madison became president of the College of William and Mary (1776-1821) and Virginia's first Episcopal Bishop in 1800. By 1860 all above-ground traces of the church were gone.
Battle of Green Spring
July 6, 1781

The Revolutionary War Battle of Green Spring took place on the open fields and woods near the James River in Williamsburg, Virginia. The battle occurred on the evening of July 6, 1781, as Washington's army was retreating from Williamsburg to Virginia. The British forces under General Cornwallis were successful in driving the American forces back, effectively ending the battle.

Prior to the battle, the Marquis de Lafayette, leading a small force of Americans, had been meeting with the larger British army. Lafayette's successful retreat during this meeting led to the battle of Green Spring. The American forces were strategically placed on the southern edge of the battlefield, where British forces under General Cornwallis were engaged. The American forces were able to successfully engage the British forces and force them to retreat.

The battle resulted in a significant victory for the British forces, and it was a turning point in the Revolutionary War. It marked a significant shift in the war's direction, with the British forces gaining control of the region and moving closer to capturing the American capital, Philadelphia.
In Memory of the 5 Virginia & 12 Pennsylvania Line Patriots who died in the Battle of Green Spring on July 7, 1781 & are buried near here.

By their sacrifice, they made possible the establishment of a Free United States of America.

Erected by the Williamsburg Chippies Society

In Revolution

Unknown Patriot Marker

A Patriot of the Revolution

At the Battle of Green Spring 6 July 1781

Thou that Passer-by
Tell them that Here
I Died for INDEPENDENCE.
“For six weeks the heat has been so unbearable that many men have been lost by sunstroke or their reason has been impaired. Everything that one has on their body is soaked as with water from constant perspiration. The nights are especially terrible, when there is so little air that one can scarcely breathe. The torment of several billions of insects, which plague us day and night, appears to be over now for certain.”

Ewald, Diary of the American War, p. 314.
“Added to this (insect plagues) is the unbearable heat, which increases all the time. It is often so intense that one can hardly breathe, especially after a terrible thunderstorm, when all the air seems to vanish. Moreover, the worst thunderstorms come with each evening and last through half the night. With each thunderbolt a brilliant zigzag flashes around our heads, combined with the most violent downpour.”

Ewald, Diary of the American War, p. 318.
“For eight days we were the most tormented people in this world. Ever since the billions of sand - and biting - flies left us, a small kind of insect has appeared which is completely round and no larger than a pin head. It feeds in the skin and multiplies by the hundreds in one night, making small clear boils and causing such irritation with itching that one has no rest day or night. Nothing can be done about it until the skin is broken and bleeding from scratching. A number of our men are very sick from it; their entire bodies look like people who are seized with smallpox.”

Ewald, Diary of the American War, p. 318.
Battle of Green Spring

Samuel Steele (Augusta County)

• Member of William Boyer’s command.

• During the Battle of Green Spring where he was stationed at an observation post on Sandy Point to observe British troop movements to see which way they went “...as soon as the battle ceased.”
Battle of Green Spring
Battle of Jamestown

John Dicken (Culpeper County)
Born 16 April 1759

• 22 year old rifleman during the Battle of Green Spring.

“...remained together until after the battle at Hotwater where we both was in the engagement and I was taken prsner...after the war ended Major Rucker told me that he was in the advance party at the battle of Green sp and saw an enemy and called for the best Marksman and John Dicken appeared and fired and mortally wounded a man a great distance.”

Ephraim Dicken
Battle of Green Spring
Battle of Jamestown

Belfield Cave (Orange County)
October 1756 – June 1811

- Born Montebello, Orange County, Virginia.
- 24 year-old lieutenant in Captain May Burton’s Company, Col. Thomas Mathews Regiment at the time of Battle of Green Spring.
- Promoted to captain soon after the battle and later served at the Siege of Yorktown. His 25th birthday was 5 days after the surrender.
- Escort British prisoners to Winchester following the Siege. The prisoner column passed through Williamsburg on 22 October 1781.
Comparison of Forces Engaged Green Spring

Engaged
- Patriot Forces
- Crown Forces

WIA
- Patriot Forces
- Crown Forces

KIA
- Patriot Forces
- Crown Forces

POW
- Patriot Forces
- Crown Forces
Battle of Green Spring
3 Decisive Events or Factors

• General Anthony Wayne

• General Lafayette

• Cornwallis’ failure to follow up Wayne’s retreating troops.
Queen’s Rangers
Was Biological Warfare Attempted near Williamsburg in 1781?
Was Biological Warfare Attempted Near Williamsburg in 1781?
Was Biological Warfare Attempted Near Williamsburg in 1781?

Colonel Butler’s troops “…moved quickly through the night of June 25 ‘in full speed’ and, on the way, encountered a ‘negro man with the smallpox lying on the roadside’ left there by Simcoe ‘to prevent the Virginia militia from pursuing them, which the enemy frequently did.’”

“ ’To stop the advance on York, Lord Cornwallis, instead of attacking our columns as a soldier would have done’ recalled an offended French officer, ‘had recourse to ruses such as only savage Indians are capable of employing. He had thrown into the wells heads of steers, dead horses, and even bodies of dead negroes.’”

John R. Maass, The Road to Yorktown, p. 131.

Was Biological Warfare Attempted Near Williamsburg in 1781?

“Our ungenerous enemy having as usual propagated the small pox in this part of the Country, the Commander in Chief forbids the officers or soldiers of the Army having Communication with the Houses or Inhabitants in the neighbor-hood or borrowing any Utensils from them”

General George Washington, Morning Orders 29 September; Orderly Book kept during Siege of Yorktown, p. 10; in Greene, p. 111.
Was Biological Warfare Attempted Near Williamsburg in 1781?

Ephraim Dicken (Culpeper County).

- Part of John Willis’ unit at Battle of Spencer’s Ordinary.
- Potential exposure during nighttime advance to Spencer’s Ordinary 25-26 June 1781.
- Wounded by a sword cut and taken prisoner during Battle of Spencer’s Ordinary, 26 June 1781.
- Exchanged at unknown date but possibly prior to 6 July 1781 (Green Spring battle) and definitely by late September 1781 (present in militia unit at Siege of Yorktown).
- Suffering from smallpox during the Battle of Green Spring, 6 July 1781.

SCARP Pension Statement Ephraim Dicken S30989
Was Biological Warfare Attempted Near Williamsburg in 1781?

Ephraim Dicken: Days between Possible Smallpox Exposure to Smallpox Symptom Onset
Was Biological Warfare Attempted Near Williamsburg in 1781?

William Worsham.

- Served as a captain and was a guide for Lafayette.
- Captured near Point of Fork in May 1781 by Tarleton's troops and held prisoner for 2 months. (Captured on his way home the day after his discharge from the militia.)
- He was released after the Battle of Green Spring and "...returned to his residence in Amelia with the small pox on him."

SCARP Pension Statement William Worsham S6436.
Smallpox

- Virus: Variola virus.

- Transmission
  - Respiratory tract (droplets)
  - Skin inoculation
    - Conjunctivae common site of inoculation – from rubbing eyes with contaminated fingers

- Incubation period
  - 10 to 14 days (range 7-19 days)

- Rash lasts about 3 weeks and has several stages.
Smallpox

Facial smallpox rash: phil.cdc.gov/phil photo ID 10481
Adult arm smallpox rash: phil.cdc.gov/phil photo ID 13275
Smallpox
Variolation

Vaccinia scabs (left above): phil.cdc.gov/phil photo ID 13232
Scab container, Ethiopia (left bottom): phil.cdc.gov/phil photo ID 15838
Variolation vial from India (right top): phil.cdc.gov/phil photo ID: 3219
Smallpox
Bruce Jenner

- 17 May 1749 – 26 January 1823
- Father of Immunology
- Founding member of the Royal Society of Medicine
- MD from St. Andrews
- Vaccination vice Variolation

Smallpox Vaccination
Editorial Cartoon from 1802
Continental Army Smallpox Inoculation Hospitals 1777

- DUMFRIES
- COLCHESTER
- ALEXANDRIA
Medical Care for the Troops

• Dr. William Rickman headed Virginia Hospital System for the Continental Army from 1776/7 to Spring 1781 (submitted resignation in Fall 1780). He may have been replaced by Dr. James McClurg.

• 1778: rejected W&M b/c too many partitions blocked free circulation of air.

• Private homes less than ideal due to cost and need for increased staff.

• Governor’s Palace seriously considered but not used until Yorktown siege.

• “Vinyard” Hospital outside of Williamsburg on road to Yorktown for both Continental troops and Virginia militia by early 1777; private homes used as well.

Gillett, Mary C.; The Army Medical Department 1775-1818. Army Historical Series; Center for Military History, United States Army; 1981.
Medical Care for the Troops

  
  Norton stipulated that he be given first choice to repurchase the home in the same condition as it was sold to “the public” by him if “the public” should sell it at the end of the war.

- **Bracken-Carter House (AKA Richard Crump House)** (Dr. James Carter)

- **Bucktrout House** (James Hubbard)

- Total for these three properties: 3500 pounds (572,530 USD)

Military Hospital in Williamsburg, Executive Communications 1777; Department of Archives, Virginia State Library; in The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, Vol. 30, No. 4 (Oct., 1922) p. 389

Close to Home: Bucktrout House (James Hubbard)

Francis Street (now a CW historical home hotel).

1200 pounds (196,296 USD).
Close to Home: Bracken-Carter House (AKA Richard Crump House) (Dr. James Carter)

Francis Street (now a CW historical home hotel).

1000 pounds (163,580 USD).

Market Square area.

1300 pounds (212,654 USD).
Continental Army Hospitals in Virginia 1780-1781

Primary Hospital in the South by mid-summer 1781

CHARLOTTESVILLE
BEAVER DAM
HANOVER

CHESTERFIELD COURT HOUSE

Gillett, Mary C.; The Army Medical Department 1775-1818. Army Historical Series; Center for Military History, United States Army; 1981.
Medical Care for the Troops
Siege of Yorktown

  • September 1781: 250 Continental soldiers hospitalized in 3 Williamsburg hospitals (Governor’s Palace and 2 churches).

• Siege of Yorktown: combat casualties, few; sickness, much.
  • New England troops hit hard. Intermittent Fever most common. Blankets were in short supply.
  • By the surrender, 600 Patriot troops too sick or wounded to be cared for at the camp hospitals. 400 were moved to Williamsburg and 200 to Hanover.
  • November 1781: 186 patients at Williamsburg (23 with smallpox, 49 with dysentery or wounds.)
  • December 1781 74 patients remained in Williamsburg and 32 in Hanover.
  • January 1782: 55 in hospital at Williamsburg (19 wounded).
  • Spring 1782: Williamsburg Hospitals closed.

Gillett, Mary C.; The Army Medical Department 1775-1818. Army Historical Series; Center for Military History, United States Army; 1981.
WHAT? Waaiiiit a minute....

- 1778: The senior Continental Army physician (medically trained in Europe) deemed College of William and Mary unsuitable for hospital purposes.
- 1781: The French military physicians considered College of William and Mary to be perfect for a hospital facility.

“. . .beg leave to represent that the College has at very considerable expense been lately repaired, white washed and thoroughly cleaned for the reception of Scholars who are expected to return to their Studies on Monday next at which time the vacation ceases, that there are a large and valuable Library and Apparatus in it which might probably be damaged in the removal, perhaps totally ruined. That several young gentlemen of the country have been accustomed to receive maintenance and education there, as Scholars on certain Foundations established by different Benefactors.”

Military Hospital in Williamsburg, Executive Communications 1777; Department of Archives, Virginia State Library; in The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, Vol. 30, No. 4 (Oct., 1922), pp. 389
Medical Care for the Troops

- Hospital Physician and Surgeon, Williamsburg Hospitals: Dr. Tilton
- General Washington took an active part in finding hospitals after Yorktown and wished as many as possible to be in Williamsburg.
- French took in remaining sick and wounded following the fire at the Governor’s Palace.
- Continental troops moved out as soon as possible after Yorktown due to disease threat.
- January 1782: Smallpox epidemic in Continental Army after return to New England from Virginia. Inoculation was ordered in January and completed by May 1782. (2000 inoculated by end of January 1782.)

Gillett, Mary C.; The Army Medical Department 1775-1818. Army Historical Series; Center for Military History, United States Army; 1981.
James Tilton, MD
1745 - 1822

• 1771: MD from College of Philadelphia and Lt. in militia
• January 1777: His unit (1rst Delaware Regiment) destroyed during Battle of Princeton.
• 1777: Head of Hospitals for Continental Army.
• Worked in smallpox hospital in Dumfries, Virginia.
• Served Virginia during Yorktown Campaign.
• Delaware Representative to Congress 1783-1784
• 1813-1815 Surgeon General of the United States Army.
Thomas Tudor Tucker, MD
1745 - 1828

- MD from Edinburgh
- Directed Governor’s Palace Hospital in Williamsburg during Summer 1781. (Primary hospital for Continental Army.)
- Family Connections in Bermuda
- Was captured by the British at the fall of Charleston and later exchanged.
- US Representative from South Carolina 1789 - 1791
Veterans Day Memorial
Governor’s Palace
**Virginia State Navy**

**Virginia Committee of Safety**  
**December 1775 to July 1776**

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<th>Appointed 5 naval captains</th>
<th>Vessels Acquired</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• James Barron</td>
<td>Armed Boats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Richard Barron</td>
<td>LIBERTY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Richard Taylor</td>
<td>PATRIOT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Thomas Lilly</td>
<td>Brigs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Edward Travis (Wmg/Jamestown family)</td>
<td>LIBERY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ADVENTURE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Schooner</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ADVENTURE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Galley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Several contracted to be built on various rivers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Virginia State Navy
The Commodores

• John Henry Boucher. March 1776 – November 1776
• Walter Brooke. April 1777 – September 1778
• James Barron. July 1780 – end of the war.
Virginia State Navy
Naval Personnel

• **Naval Staff**
  - Paymasters
  - Muster Masters
  - Surgeons
  - Chaplains

• **Seamen** *(1776 objective: 1300 men to serve 3 years from 3 March 1777)*
  - Able Seaman *(paid 3 shillings a day).*
  - Ordinary Seaman *(paid 2 shillings a day).*
  - Landsman *(paid 1 shilling 6 pence a day).*

• **Marines**
The Virginia State Navy Personnel (589 Identified)

**Officers: 239**
- Commodore: 3
- Captain: 40
- Lieutenant: 68
- Midshipman: 79
- Master: 12
- Paymaster: 1
- Physician: 36

**NCOs and Enlisted: 350**
- Gunner/Gunners Mate: 19
- Carpenter/Carpenters Mate: 13
- Boatswain/Boatswains Mate: 13
- Seaman
  - Seaman: 245
  - Ordinary Seaman: 8
  - Able Seaman: 18
- Other: 60
The Virginia State Navy
Vessels by end of 1776

• Galleys: Henry, Hero, Lewis, Manly, Norfolk, Revenge, Page, Safeguard.
• Brigs: Liberty, Mosquito, Northhampton, Raleigh.
• Schooners: Liberty, Adventure.
• Sloop: Scorpion
• Armed Boats: Liberty, Patriot.

24 small transports were contracted to be built in Fall of 1776.
4 large galleys and 2 thirty-two gun frigates contracted to be built in October 1776.
The Virginia State Navy
Shore Facilities

Naval Magazines
• James River
• Potomac River
• Rappahannock River
• York River

Rope Walk
• James River at Warwick

Hospital
• Hampton

Headquarters
• Hampton

Shipyards
• Chickahominy River
• Eastern Shore of Virginia
• Gosport
• James River
• Mattapony River
• Portsmouth
• Potomac River
• Rappahannock River
• South Quay
Virginia State Navy
Provincial Convention/General Assembly of Virginia
Williamsburg/Richmond, Virginia

- **6 May 1776**: Established a Board of 5 Naval Commissioners
  - Thomas Whiting was the senior commissioner during the existence of the commission Summer 1776 – Summer 1779

- **May 1779**: Abolished the Naval Commission and split its duties between the Board of War/Board of Trade. (Economical measure.)

- **May 1780**: Abolished the Board of War and Trade and appointed individual commissioners to various duties in an attempt to increase economy and efficiency.
May 1780 Session
Refocused on protecting the coast of Virginia and voted to add new vessels to the navy and to refit and ready for service the ships Thetis, Tempest, Dragon; the brig Jefferson, and the galleys Henry, Accomac, and Diligence.

October 1780 Session:
Increased pay, bounties for seamen and naval officers. Allowed for impressment in certain cases.
Marine hospital established in Hampton, Virginia. All mariners taxed 9 pence per month to support the hospital.
Officers and seamen given full value of any prizes taken by them.
Virginia State Navy
Medical Personnel

- **Dr. Walter McClurg, RN (retired).** Arrived in Hampton by 1746. Ran a smallpox inoculation hospital. Used a large brick house in Hampton owned by Robert Wallace October 1778 to October 1781. Physician for armed boats LIBERTY and PATRIOT.

- **Dr. James McClurg.** College of William and Mary graduate. Medically educated at Edinburgh (graduated 1770).Returned to Virginia in 1773 and lived in Williamsburg. Joined Virginia State Navy in 1776. Became Director for the general hospital in Williamsburg in 1776.
James McClurg MD
1746 - 1823

College of William and Mary graduate.
Medically educated at Edinburgh (graduated 1770).
Returned to Virginia in 1773 and lived in Williamsburg.
In 1776 he joined Virginia State Navy and was also director of the general hospital in Williamsburg.
First Chair of WM Anatomy and Medicine, 1779 to 1784.
Virginia delegate to the 1787 Constitutional Convention.
3 times mayor of Richmond Virginia

1797 – 1798
1800 – 1801
1803 – 1804

Married Elizabeth Seldon (married 22 May 1779).
Close to Home: James McClurg
The Virginia State Navy
Chickahominy Shipyard

• April 1777: Navy Board purchased 115 acres on the Chickahominy River, 12 miles above its confluence with the James River. Cost was 595 Pounds.

• Location safer than Gosport Naval Yard.

• James Maxwell was appointed Naval Agent in January 1777. He was to superintend VSN shipyards. He lived at the Chickahominy Shipyard. His salary was 300 pounds annually.

• In 1781, most VSN vessels were located at Chickahominy shipyard, or on the James River near the Chickahominy River, or at the mouth of the James River.
The Virginia State Navy

The Destruction of the Chickahominy Shipyard

• Phillips and Arnold and 2500 British and allied troops landed at Burwell’s Landing near Williamsburg on 20 April 1781. They entered Williamsburg against minimal opposition (Virginia militia evacuated without a fight; some College of William and Mary students offered brief resistance.)

• 3 British raiding parties dispatched on 20 April:
  • Mouth of the Chickahominy
  • Up the Chickahominy River to the Shipyard
  • Yorktown
The Virginia State Navy
The Destruction of the Chickahominy Shipyard
21 – 22 April 1781

• Destroyed by British raid led by Lt. Colonel Abercrombie 21-22 April 1781.

• Ship THETIS (20) (under construction) was burned.

• Galley SAFEGUARD destroyed.

• Naval stores and buildings burned.

• Galley LEWIS, Lt. Joseph Saunders commanding, tried to escape to the James River but was stopped by British forces; VSN crew scuttled the galley to prevent its capture.

Surviving VSN vessels transferred to Osbornes Wharf
The Virginia State Navy
Engagement at Osbornes Wharf
27 April 1781

**Virginia State**
- 6 ships, 8 brigs, 5 sloops, 2 schooners, and smaller vessels.
  - 12 surviving Virginia State ships
  - 6 or more privateers taken into state service.
  - Vessels included TEMPEST, APOLLO, WILLING LASS, WILKES, MARS, AMERICAN FABIUS, MORNING STAR, RENOWN, JEFFERSON.
  - Primary ships: TEMPEST (16), RENOWN (16), JEFFERSON (14).
  - 78 men out of 750 men needed to man the ships present for duty. (10% of the men needed were present.)
- 200-300 Militia

**British**
- British troops under command of Benedict Arnold sent to Osbornes Wharf from Petersburg by General Phillips.
Battle of Osborne’s Landing Relative to Jamestowne Island
SKETCH of the Action at OSBURNS.
April 27th, 1781.

Explanation:
A. 1st Position of Queen's Rangers.
B. 2nd Position of 1st
C. 80th and 70th Reg.
D. Capt. Fuge with 3 Six Pounders.
E. Lt. Rogers with three Pounders.
F. Yagers.
G. The Tempest American Frigate & other Vessels harried & taken.
H. American Millstone.
The Virginia State Navy
Engagement at Osbornes Wharf
The Outcome

- British artillery, musket fire, and infantry boarding parties were effective against the poorly manned VSN ships.

- A patriot ship exploded and burning fragments caused the TEMPEST to begin burning. TEMPEST was then abandoned by its crew. British infantry were able to capture the abandoned ship and extinguish the flames.

- Arnold reported 12 vessels captured and 9 sunk
“. . . The crew, exposed to the raking of Lieutenant Rogers’ cannon and whoever appeared on deck to the fire of the Yagers, and despairing of assistance from the remainder of the ill-stationed fleet, were frightened and took to their boat to escape: the Yagers beginning a severe fire on them, some jumped overboard. Lt. Spencer, with difficulty, stopped the firing, and parleying with the boat’s crew, they surrendered, and as they were directed, rowed to the shore in possession of the King’s troops. Lt. Fitzpatrick, with volunteer Armstrong, and twelve of the Queen’s Rangers, leaped into the boat and rowed on board the ship. . .”

Battle of Osborne’s Landing
Lieutenant William Harwar Parker

“. . .the fire became so sharp from the enemy we blew up the vessel we were in and made our escape to the opposite shore - I never saw so great a shower of shots . . . A vessel commanded by Capt. James Markham was near us at the time of the attack, and every man in the vessel either killed or taken prisoner, (the Capt. not excepted) except one man who jumped overboard in my presence, and made his escape by swimming, but not without encountering many sharp shot; I was told that it was Lieutenant William H. Parker.”

Peter Conway, 27 Sept 1830
Pension Application of William Harwar Parker R82.

Parker wrote in third person when documenting his Revolutionary War experience for his 1792 pension application (lightly edited):

“. . . was Lieutenant of the Tempest under the command of the said Capt Markham and with him made an attempt in a boat to get on shore and escape from the Enemy, but the Captain proposing upon a heavy fire, to surrender your Petitioner desirous of still serving his Country determined not to be a prisoner jumped over board and swam to the shore at the hazard of his life . . . That he took the earliest Opportunity of engaging in the Defence of his country after his escape and engaged as a Volunteer in Colo. Mercers light horse and was in the engagement at Green Spring and had a valuable horse wounded in action . . . Continued to act ag’t the Enemy . . . until the Capture of Lord Cornwallis at York.”
Battle of Osborne’s Landing
Lieutenant William Harwar Parker
(1753-1815)

- VSN 22 Sept 1777 to November 1781.
- 1777: Midshipman on the TARTAR (Captain Richard Taylor).
- Later promoted to lieutenant. Became TARTAR’s commander after Taylor was wounded.
- Transferred to TEMPEST (Captain Markham) and was aboard during Battle of Osbourne’s Landing.
The Virginia State Navy
28 April 1781 - 1787

- Armed Boat LIBERTY “sole survivor” of VSN naval ships at Battle of Osborne.
- VSN personnel took part in the Siege of Yorktown by collecting supplies and transporting troops.
- Soon after the Yorktown Siege was ended, the Commonwealth of Virginia discharged most of its naval staff, including surgeons, chaplains, etc. This was due to financial constraints faced by the government.
- 1782-1783 activity mostly transporting prisoners during prisoner exchanges; these activities overseen by Commodore Barron.
- Once peace signed, all ship building stopped. Two vessels were kept to be revenue cutters. These were the PATRIOT and the LIBERTY. Both vessels continued to be active through 1787.
- LIBERTY was the longest serving vessel of the Revolutionary War (including Continental Navy ships).
The LIBERTY (James Barron) and the PATRIOT (Richard Barron) (re)captured a British transport ship, the OXFORD with 217 Highlanders aboard. The prize was taken to Jamestown and the Highlanders marched to Williamsburg.

They were divided into 14 groups and each group later marched to different Virginia counties where it was hoped they would assimilate into the populace and take up the Patriot cause.

Troopship OXFORD taken by James Barron; Virginia Gazette, June 22, 1776, 62
Highlanders marched to back country; Virginia Gazette, June 29, 1776, 32
6 April 1776
The Revolutionary War’s Zimmerman Telegram?

• VSN ship capture of British packet vessel
  • Dispatches from England being forwarded by Dunmore to Maryland Governor Richard Eden (a pretended Patriot sympathizer who in fact was trying to divide Patriot factions and was planning direct action against them.)
• Alexander Ross. He was commissioned to raise Royalist-allied Indian forces in the West and to capture New Orleans to block supply route to the Colonists.

Selby, John; The Revolution in Virginia 1775-1783; Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Distributed by University of Virginia Press; ©1988; p. 92
Epilogue
Lord Cornwallis

- 1786: Knighted.
- 1786: Governor of India
- 1794: Return to England and became Chief of Ordnance
- 1798: Lord Lieutenant of Ireland
- 1805: Governor of India but died soon after arriving in the Subcontinent.
Epilogue
John Simcoe

- 1790: MP for Cornwall
- 1791-1796: Governor of Canada
- 1794: Major General
- 1797: Brief service on Haiti suppressing slave revolt.
- 1798: Lt. General.
- 1806: Appointed commander in chief of India but died in England before departure.
Epilogue

Johann Ewald

- 1788: Joined the Danish Army as a Lt. Col. after being passed over for promotion in Hesse. Raised a Jaeger Corps.
- 1790: Elevated to Danish Nobility.
- 1795: Promoted to Colonel.
- 1802: Promoted to Major General.
- 1806: Helped guard neutral Denmark against French and Prussian excursions during Napoleonic War during this Period.
- 1812: Appointed to command the Holstein Division of the French XI Corps. The Holstein Division did not accompany Napoleon to Russia.
- 1 May 1813: Retired from service
- 25 June 1813: Died from complications of “dropsy” (congestive heart failure).
- Wrote a book entitled “Essay on Partisan Warfare” (based on his American experiences and later used by the British during the Napoleonic Peninsula Campaign)
Epilogue
Richard Butler

- October 1781: Tapped by Washington to receive Cornwallis’ sword during the surrender at Yorktown; Butler gave that honor to Ebenezer Denny*
- 1784: Commissioner to the NW Indians and later judge for Allegheny County, PA.
- 1791: Major General in the Militia and fought under General St. Clair during the Battle of Wabash against the Western Confederacy of Indians. KIA 4 November 1791.

Ebenezer Denny: Young Lt. in the 4th PA. His first battle was at Spencer’s Ordinary. He rose to command his company at Battle of Green Spring when the rest of the company officers killed or wounded. Later he was St. Claire’s ADC at the Wabash and carried official report to SecWar Henry Knox in Philadelphia. Denny later became the first mayor of Pittsburgh in 1816.
Epilogue
Anthony Wayne

• Settled in Georgia after the war.
• Elected to the House of Representatives
• Recalled to military duty as commander of US forces during the Northwest Indian War and defeated the Indians at the Battle of Fallen Timbers, 20 August 1794.
• Wayne died 15 December 1796 while on active duty.
Epilogue
Lafayette
Epilogue
Lafayette

Midshipman John Willis from Virginia also accompanied Lafayette.
U.S. Navy Expedition to Explore the Dead Sea and the River Jordan 1847-1848
Epilogue

Belfield Cave

• Returned to Orange County.
• Ran an Ordinary and was responsible for upkeep of certain roads in Orange County.
• 1799: Justice of the Peace, Orange County.
• (By) 1801: Colonel of the 3rd Virginia Regiment.

Belfield Cave Jr. substituting for his father.