

THE
VIRGINIA MAGAZINE
OF
HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY



PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY
THE VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1922

VOL. XXX

RICHMOND, VA.
HOUSE OF THE SOCIETY
707 E. FRANKLIN ST.

The lower battalion consisted of the following companies: Capt. John Hopkins, Capt. David Smith, Capt. Thos. Boggs, Capt. Anthony Rader, Capt. Abraham Lincoln, Capt. Reuben Harrison, Capt. Robert Cravens, Capt. Thomas Hewitt, Capt. George Pence, Capt. James Frazier, and Capt. Michael Coger.

Nearly all of the men of this battalion resided in the present County of Rockingham, Va. Capt. Thos. Boggs seems to have been in the present County of Pendleton, West Virginia. The company of Capt. Andrew Lockridge was assigned to the Middle Battalion.

At this time, Abraham Smith was the County Lieutenant, Alexander Thompson the Colonel, and Samuel McDowell the Major, of the Augusta County Militia, and this paper shows the organization of the Militia of said County as it existed October 17, 1777.

David Laird had been the Captain of a company of militia, but on December 3, 1776, was elected a Captain of Regulars. According to Heitman's list of Revolutionary Officers, David Laird was cashiered in 1778, but his record has been cleared and his descendants have been admitted to membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution upon it.

The number of tithables in Augusta County, Virginia, in 1781 was 2,000, according to the account of Alexander McClanahan, Sheriff, filed in Court Papers No. 10, Augusta County, Virginia Records. This indicates an effective militia strength of about 1,200 in Augusta County, Va., in 1781.

The fact is stated positively on page 58 of the Court Martial Record of Augusta County, Virginia, that a portion of the Militia of said County were in the expedition against the Cherokee Indians in the summer of 1776. This fact appears with reference to a portion of Capt. James Ewing's Company, and it is evident from drafts made during the same period, as shown on pages 59, 60, 62, 63 and 64 of said record that portions of the companies of Capt. James Tate, Capt. John Hopkins, Capt. Gilmer, (John or Peachy), Capt. Abraham Lincoln, Capt. Wm. Nalle, Capt. John Young, Capt. Reuben Harrison, Capt. John Lewis and Capt. Alexander Robertson, were in the same expedition.

At this period (1776) there were twenty-nine companies of militia in territory now embraced in the Counties of Augusta, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Alleghany, Bath, Highland and a portion of the present Pendleton County, West Virginia, and since every tenth private was drafted at least 290 men, exclusive of officers, were in the Cherokee Expedition of 1776 from the counties mentioned.

The principal engagements and military movements in which the Augusta County, Va., Militia participated were as follows:

1. The expedition against the Cherokee Indians in 1776, commanded by Col. Wm. Christian.
2. A company under Captain John Lewis marched westward in 1777.
3. The expedition against the Ohio River Indians in 1778 under the

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command of General McIntosh. This expedition went to Ft. Pitt, present Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

4. Guard duty performed for the Virginia Convention in 1779.
5. The Battle of Guilford Court House, N. C., in 1780.
6. The Battle of the Cowpens, S. C., under Gen. Daniel Morgan in 1781.

7. A tour of duty under Col. Sampson Matthews when Virginia was invaded by General Arnold in 1781.

8. A tour of duty in 1781 under the command of Gen. Campbell; in the battles of Hot Water and Jamestown.

9. A tour of duty under Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel Lewis in 1781 when Col. Tarleton made his raid into Albemarle County, Virginia.

10. A tour of duty under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Samuel Vance in 1781; at the Siege of Yorktown.

11. A tour of duty under General Hand in the western portion of Virginia in 1781.

They also performed garrison duty at several forts in what is now West Virginia and in 1778 dispersed an assemblage of Tories near the Peaked Mountain in present Rockingham County, Virginia.

These statements are based upon the facts as they appear in the Court's Martial Record of Augusta County, Virginia, and in Service Records given in McAllister's History of the Virginia Militia in the Revolutionary War.

The Augusta Militia, as shown by the Court's Martial Record, were armed with the rifle and musket, chiefly with the old muzzle loading rifle, the best weapon of its day. Their marksmanship was exceptionally good. The Augusta Militia were in the general rout of the American Army at Guilford Court House, N. C., but in all other military operations in which they participated their general conduct was highly creditable to them.

August 18, 1771.

I do hereby Certifie that James Craig had dieted four Men under the command of Major Rose. Phil Rose.

From the account book of Jas. Craig, Sr., Augusta County, Va.

Received of George Craig the sum of \$90.00 per me.

David Laird.

The above being for wagoning in the Cherokee Expedition.

According to the settlement of the above acct. there appears to remain due to David Laird 3 shillings 9 Pence. Per me.

George Craig.

From the account book of Jas. Craig, Sr., Augusta County, Va.