VIRGINIA'S SOLDIERS IN THE REVOLUTION.


(Continued from Vol. XX, 281.)

SECTION IV.

Regiments of the Virginia State Line.

A note on the status of these regiments was given in the introduction (Virginia Magazine, October, 1911, v. 19, p. 407). These state regiments were regular troops of Virginia, raised in addition to the regiments in the Continental line. As with the latter, their service was not confined to the defence of the commonwealth, but several of the state regiments rendered aid to the general cause beyond the present boundaries of Virginia.
In 1782 a Board of field officers, appointed by the Governor of Virginia, made a report on the officers entitled to half-pay. The list of state organizations included in their report (see House report 191, 22d Congress, 1st session) is as follows:

First state regiment.
Second state regiment.
State artillery regiment (Marshall's).
State garrison regiment (Muter's).
Illinois dragoons (Rogers').
State cavalry regiment (Nelson's).
Illinois regiment (Clark's).
Crockett's regiment.

It seems proper to add to the list Taylor's Convention guards, an organization raised and officered by the state at the request of Congress, for the purpose of guarding Burgoyne's troops during their residence in Virginia. Although on Continental establishment, this was not a Continental line regiment, nor can it be considered as belonging to the militia.

The two legions authorized by an act passed in June, 1781, should also be included in the list of state regiments. These were raised for defence of the state at the time of the British invasion, and served until the close of the war.

**First State Regiment, 1776-1782.**

One of three regiments authorized by the General Assembly in December, 1776. Field officers for the First regiment were elected by the General Assembly, December 19-20, 1776. William Grayson was chosen Colonel, but did not accept his commission and entered the Continental service soon after. Enlistments for the state regiments were slow, Governor Henry reporting in March, 1777, that the quotas were not half full. In June, 1777, Lieutenant-Colonel Haynes Morgan was chosen by the General Assembly to succeed Colonel Grayson. In July, 1777, the First regiment commanded by Colonel George Gibson, was on the march to join General Washington. Colonel Gibson had been elected colonel of the Third regiment the previous month, and the reason of his transfer to the First regiment is not clear. It would appear, however, from the Journal of the House of Delegates, November 28, 1777, that Colonel Morgan had been placed in command of all the state infantry. By act of the General Assembly, passed in January, 1778, it was directed that the First state
regiment, "now in Continental service, be continued in the said service instead of the Ninth Virginia regiment, made prisoners by the enemy in the battle of Germantown." Colonel Gibson's regiment served under Washington till the close of the year 1779, when it was ordered to Virginia.

The details of its further service have not been ascertained. By act of the General Assembly passed in January, 1782, it was directed that the state troops be consolidated into one or more corps, with a corresponding reduction in the number of officers. This reduction was effected and the organization so formed (Dabney's legion) was placed under the command of Colonel Charles Dabney, of the Second state regiment.

FIELD OFFICERS.

Colonel.—William Grayson, December 19, 1776—January, 1777.
Declined commission.
Haynes Morgan, June 5, 1777—July (?) 1777.
George Gibson, July (?) 1777—February (?) 1781. Resigned.

Lieutenant-Colonel.—Haynes Morgan, December 20, 1776—June 5, 1777.
Promoted.
John Allsion, February, 1778—February, 1782.
Supernumerary, 1782.

Major.—Nathaniel Cocke, December 20, 1776—(?).
John Allison, 1777 (?)—February, 1778. Promoted.
Thomas Merriwether, February 2, 1778-1782. Supernumerary, February or April, 1782.

TITLES.


SECOND STATE REGIMENT, 1776-1782.

Authorized by the General Assembly in December, 1776. Field officers were elected by the Assembly, December 20, 1776. By act of Assembly, passed in January, 1778, it was provided that such state troops as had already been enlisted should be formed into a battalion of eight companies and marched to join the Continental army. The act of December, 1776, authorized the enlistment of three regiments of state troops. Officers were chosen for the Third regiment in December, 1776, and June, 1777. As we have found no later mention of the Third regiment, it seems probable that its organization was abolished and that the men already enlisted were incorporated with the Second regiment. This would
appear to be the intent of the act of January, 1778. The Second regiment probably marched in May, 1778 to join Washington's army. It remained, with the First state regiment in the Continental service till the close of the campaign of 1779. In April and May, 1780, 280 men were discharged, about 30 remaining for the war. The remnants of the state regiments appear to have been collected by Colonel Charles Dabney in the summer of 1781 and to have been under his command at the siege of Yorktown. A consolidation of all the state troops into one battalion was directed by an act passed by the General Assembly in January, 1782. The state troops were finally disbanded in April, 1783.

**FIELD OFFICERS.**

Colonel.—James Duncanson, December 20, 1776—?

*Gregory Smith, June, 1777—?

William Brent, January 1, 1779-1782. Supernumerary, April, 1782.

Lieutenant-Colonel.—Thomas Blackburn, December 20, 1776—? June 12 (?) 1777. Resigned.

William Brent, June 14, 1777—January 1, 1779. Promoted.

Charles Dabney, 1778 (?)

Major.—William Brent, Jr., December 20, 1776—June 14, 1777. Promoted.

John Lee, February 1, 1778-1782. Supernumerary, February or April, 1782.

*Heitman.

**TITLES.**

Revolutionary army orders for the main army under Washington, 1778-1779. (Virginia magazine of history and biography, Apr. 1906—Apr. 1913. v. 13-21.)

From papers of Charles Dabney, lieutenant-colonel, Second state regiment. Includes general, brigade and regimental orders.

**THIRD STATE REGIMENT, 1776-1778.**

Authorized by the General Assembly in December, 1776. Field officers were elected by the Assembly, December 20, 1776. In March, 1777, Governor Henry reported that the three state regiments were about half filled. By an act passed in January, 1778, the troops enlisted for the Third state regiment were added to the Second state regiment, which was sent to the North in May, 1778, to join the Continental army.
FIELD OFFICERS.

Colonel.—Philip Love, December 20, 1776—? Did not accept commission.

George Gibson, June 10, 1777—July (?) 1777. Appointed Colonel of First state regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel.—Gregory Smith, December 20, 1776—June (?) 1779. Appointed Colonel of Second state regiment.

Major.—Charles Dabney, December 20, 1776—? Later lieutenant-colonel of Second Continental regiment till September, 1778. Lieutenant-colonel of Second state regiment, 1778 (?)—

ARTILLERY REGIMENT, 1777-1781?

The act authorizing this regiment was passed by the General Assembly in June, 1777. The regiment was to consist of ten companies of 68 men each, besides officers. Field officers were elected by the General Assembly, November 15, 1777. Governor Henry reported the regiment not yet nearly filled in May, 1778. In December, 1779, its strength was about 350 men. It suffered severe losses at Camden in August, 1780. The regiment returned to Virginia early in 1781, and most of the men were discharged. Those that remained were mustered into Dabney’s legion after Cornwallis’ surrender.

FIELD OFFICERS.

Colonel.—Thomas Marshall, November 15, 1777—February, 1781? Appointed in 1781 commissioner to settle public accounts in the West.

Lieutenant-Colonel.—George Muter, November 15, 1777—1780? In command of Garrison regiment in 1780.

Elias Edmunds, April 16, 1780—February or April, 1782. Supernumerary, February or April, 1782.

Major.—Thomas Mathews, November 15, 1777—? John Mazarett. In command as major, February, 1781. In list of “discriminated” officers, 1782.

STATE CAVALRY REGIMENT, 1778-1781?

Formed under an act passed in May, 1779, which authorized the governor and council to enlist as many troops of cavalry as should seem needful to meet the emergency of the British invasion of that year. Four troops were raised. An act passed in December, 1779 ordered that the battalion be reduced to three troops, to be completed and retained in the service of the state. Under Major Nelson’s command, the organization was ordered south in 1780 and was present at Camden. After Yorktown the remnants of the corps appear to have been consolidated with other state troops as Dabney’s legion.
Major-commandant.—John Nelson, June 24, 1779-1783?

This regiment was authorized in June, 1778. Its purpose was to garrison the harbor fortifications of the state. It was to consist of eight companies of 68 men each, with the usual officers. Service was to be for three years. The regiment took part in the southern campaign of 1780 under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Porterfield. In January, 1781, the strength of the organization was 174. During this year it was united to the remnants of the First and Second state regiments by order of the Governor and Council. Under an act of Assembly of January, 1782, a second consolidation was effected of the remnants of the various state organizations into a legion under Colonel Charles Dabney.

Field Officers.

Colonel.—George Muter, ?—Apr. 1, 1781. Appointed Commissioner of the Virginia War Office, 1780.

Lieutenant-Colonel.—Charles Porterfield, August 14, 1779—Jan. 10, 1781. Mortally wounded at Camden, August 16, 1780; died January 10, 1781.

Major.—Charles Magill, ?—April 1, 1781. Supernumerary, April 1, 1781.

Alexander Dick, ?—December, ? 1782.

Field Officers

Colonel.—George Rogers Clark, 1778-1781. Commissioned lieutenant colonel in December, 1777; colonel in December, 1778 and brigadier-general, January 22, 1781. Relieved of command July 2, 1783.
Lieutenant-Colonel.—John Montgomery, Dec. 1778-1783.
Major.—Joseph Bowman, December 14, 1778—August 15 (?) 1779. Died in service August 17, 1779.
Thomas Quick, or Quirk, August 17, 1779-1782(?)
George Slaughter, 1778(?)—1780(?) Promoted to be lieutenant-colonel. Became supernumerary, December, 1781.
William Lynn, or Linn, 1778(?)—1781. Killed by Indians.
*Walker Daniels.
*English. Conquest of the country northwest of the River Ohio. 1896.

TITLES.


Pay roll of Capt. Edward Worthington's company of cavalry, stationed at the Illinois, under command of Col. George Rogers Clark, commencing June 17, 1778 and ending June 1, 1779. (William and Mary college quarterly historical magazine. Oct. 1898. v. 7, p. 120-121).

Appended: Capt. Charloville’s volunteers; also a pay roll of Capt. Joseph Bowman’s company from 24 Jan. 1778.

A list of officers of the Illinois regiment, and of Crockett’s regiment, who have received land for their services. A list of officers of the Illinois regiment who have not received lands for revolutionary services. A list of non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the Illinois regiment, and the western army, under the command of General George Rogers Clark, who are entitled to bounty in land. A list of Captain Francis Charloville’s volunteers, entitled to two hundred acres of land each. [Richmond, 1834?]

24p. 4°. (Document no. 32, appended to Journal of Virginia House of delegates, 1833-34.)

Prefixed is a report by J. H. Smith on the “Illinois claims.”

Crocketts Regiment, 1780-1782.

This was a regiment authorized by act of Assembly passed in December, 1779, to be raised for the defence of the western limits of the state. The act provided that the corps of infantry under the command of Colonel [George] Slaughter should be attached to the new organization. Colonel Joseph Crockett was commissioned to command the regiment, which was ordered to reinforce Colonel George Rogers Clark at the West. Crockett’s command served about eighteen months under Clark in the Northwest against the Indians and in the unsuccessful expedition against Detroit.

Field Officers.
Lieutenant-Colonel.—Joseph Crockett, 1780—January, 1782.
Major.—George Walls, 1781(?)—1783.

Illinois Troop Light Dragoons, 1779-1782 (?)

Authorized for service in Illinois by act of Assembly passed at the session beginning in May, 1779. The act provided for a troop of thirty-two men, to be officered by a captain, lieutenant and cornet. Lieutenant John Rogers was commissioned captain of the troop, which marched to join Colonel G. R. Clark in the fall of 1779. The troop appears to have been in service till the close of the war.
Officer?

Captain.—John Rogers, 1779-1782.
Lieutenant.—James Merriwether, 1779-January 1, 1781. Entered continental service, 1781.
Cornet.—John Thurston, 1779(?)-?

TITLES.

The last pay abstract of a troop of light dragoons in the service of the commonwealth of Virginia under the command of Capt. John Rogers, Oct. 1, 1781-Feb. 14, 1782. (William and Mary college quarterly historical magazine, Oct. 1899. v. 8, p. 103-104).
With record of Rogers’ services in the Revolution.

CONVENTION GUARDS REGIMENT, 1778(?)-1781.

This was a regiment raised for guarding the British troops captured at Saratoga, during their detention in Virginia. In view of the prospective transfer of the prisoners, the Virginia House of Delegates, on December 19, 1778, passed a resolution empowering the governor to raise a regiment of 600 men to act as a guard. On January 9, 1779, Congress adopted a resolution providing that a battalion of 600 men, properly officered, should be raised by the governor and council of Virginia for the same purpose. Enlistment was to be for one year, on continental establishment, the officers to be appointed by the Virginia authorities. The regiment appears to have served from January, 1779 to June 5, 1781, when it was discharged.

FIELD OFFICERS

Colonel.—Francis Taylor, March 5, 1779-June 15, 1781.
Lieutenant-Colonel.—Francis Taylor, December 24, 1778-March 5, 1779.
William Fontaine, March 5, 1779-June 15, 1781.
Major.—William Fontaine, December 24, 1778-March 5, 1779.
John Roberts, March 5, 1779-May 1, 1781.

SPOTSWOOD’S LEGIONS, 1781-1783.

An act of Assembly passed in June, 1781, authorized the formation of two legions, to consist each of six companies of infantry and one troop of cavalry of 100 men each. These were to serve during the war, but not to take the field or do duty except in case of actual or threatened invasion.
Brigadier General Alexander Spotswood was placed in command of the legions. They appear to have served from the summer of 1781 to November 4, 1783, when they were disbanded by the governor.
FIELD OFFICERS OF FIRST LEGION.

Lieutenant-Colonel commanding.—John Taylor, 1781—
Major.—William Lindsay, 1781—
          Robert Forsyth, 1781—

FIELD OFFICERS OF SECOND LEGION.

Lieutenant-Colonel commanding.—Everard Meade, 1781—
Major._________________
          ______________