

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

SIZE ROLL OF THE INDEPENDENT COMPANY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA
APRIL - MAY 1775

Transcribed and annotated by William C. Schneck, Jr and C. Leon Harris.

[The following transcription is from a document in the Library of Congress available at <https://cdn.loc.gov/master/mss/mgw/mgw4/033/0500/0574.jpg>. In the upper right is the notation “[1775 April - May?].” The numbers following each name indicate the height of the individual in feet and inches. Full and alternative name spellings, as well as numbers of pension or bounty-land applications if any, are in brackets. A detailed history of the company follows the transcription.]

A Size Roll of the Independant Company of Alexandria

John Kearns [John Hearn?]	5-3¼	Robert Harrison	5-9½
Francess Adams [Francis Adams]	5-4¼	Charles Littel [Charles Little]	5-9½
Martain Cockburn [Martin Cockburn]	5-4¼	Benjaman Moddy [Benjamin Moody]	5-9½
John Lomax	5-4¾	James Nisbett [John Nesbett]	5-9½
Adam Linn	5-5	Mease [James Mease]	5-9½
Robert Harper	5-5¾	Pearse [James Pearse]	5-9½
William Thompson	5-6¾		
Dennes Ramsey [Dennis Ramsey]	5-7	Robert Borguss [Robert Burgess?]	5-9¾
William Harbert	5-7	John Hambelton [John Hamilton?]	5-10
Pearson [William Pearson]	5-7	William Sanford	5-10
Andrew Stewart	5-7½	Benjaman Delany [Benjamin Delany]	5-10
Wm Saddler [William Saddler]	5-7½	John Graham	5-10
Hunter [William Hunter]	5-8	Roddy [John Roddy]	5-10
William Payne	5-7½	William Bushby	5-10
David Henley	5-8	Winsor Brown	
Richard Conway	5-8	[Windsor Brown BLWt1816-300]	5-10½
Clion More [Cleon Moore VAS2037?]	5-8	C. Broadwaters	5-10¾
James Stuart	5-8	Lun'd. Washinton [Lund Washington]	5-11
Thomas Triplet [Thomas Triplet]	5-8		
John Major	5-8¼	Samuell Arrel [Samuel Arrel]	6-¼
John Fitsgerrald [John Fitzgerald]	5-8¼	David Arrel	6-1¼
Allexander [Alexander] Henderson	5-8¼	Robert Baley	6-1¼
Allan Mcdonnald [Allen McDonald]	5-8¼	James Kirk	6-1
Sampson Turley	5-8¼	Petter Waggener [Peter Waggoner]	6-3
Doctor Rumley [William Rumney VAS2029]	5-8½		
William Hunter	5-8½		
Williamson [William Williamson]	5-8¾		
Robert Allesander [Robert Alexander]	5-9		
Daniel McCartey [Daniel McCarty]	5-9		
Roger Chive[?]	5-9¼		
Robert allison [Robert Allison]	5-9¼		
Robert McCray	5-9¼		
Doctor Wm Brown [William Brown]	5-9¼		
Richard Harrison	5-9½		
Cyrus Coupper [Cyrus Cooper]	5-9½		

A HISTORY OF THE INDEPENDENT COMPANY OF ALEXANDRIA.

The Independent Company of Alexandria, also known as the Independent Company of Fairfax, was organized on 21 September 1774 to combat the “Indian Enemy.” Its officers were Captain William Ramsey (or William Ramsay) and First Lieutenant Robert Hanson Harrison (BLWt1700-450). (Sanchez-Saavedra, E. M. *A Guide to Virginia Military Organizations in the American Revolution, 1774-1787*. Westminster MD: 2007.) On 25 March 1775 the company became a part of the revolutionary struggle in accordance with the Second Virginia Convention’s “Plan for Embodying, Arming and Disciplining the Militia”, which “recommended to the inhabitants of the several Counties of this Colony that they form one or more volunteer Companies of Infantry and Troops of Horse, in each County, and to be in constant training and readiness to act on any emergency.” During its brief existence this volunteer company’s officers were Capt. James Hendricks, 1st Lt. George Gilpin, and 2nd Lt. John Fitzgerald. After only a few months this volunteer company was replaced by Minute Men in accordance with a 21 August 1775 decision of the Third Virginia Convention entitled “An Ordinance for Raising and Embodying a Sufficient Force, for the Defence and Protection of this Colony.” This ordinance provided that “the several volunteer companies, raised in pursuance of the resolutions of a former convention, shall be disbanded, as soon as the [minute man] battalions in the several districts where the said volunteer companies respectively reside are fully and completely embodied.” According to a 22 August 1775 letter by Col. George Mason, “the volunteer Companies are all discharged & melted down in the plan for the regiments of Minute men.” On 29 September 1775, Lund Washington wrote that a great many of the members of the Alexandria Independent Company (“40 I believe”) had been selected for company and field grade positions in the Fairfax County militia regiment and minute man companies. Many of the remaining members of the Independent Company “with several others who want to join them are about to form the Company & apply to the Committee of Safety for Commissions for their officers & Continue them as Militia, but subjectd (as to themselves) to their former Lieuts....” The following provides more details of the brief history of the Independent Company of Alexandria.

Documentary History of the Fairfax County Independent Company, 1774 – 1775.
by William C. Schneck, Jr

21 September 1774. The Papers of George Mason.

“At a meeting of a number of gentlemen and freeholders of Fairfax County in the Colony of Virginia on Wednesday the twenty-first day of September, 1774, George Mason, Esq: in the chair, the following association was formed and entered into.

In this time of extreme danger with the Indian Enemy in our country, and threatened with the destruction of our civil rights and liberty and all that is dear to British subjects and freemen, we the subscribers, taking into our serious consideration the present alarming situation of all the British colonies upon the continent, as well as our own, being sensible of the expediency of putting the militia of this colony upon a more respectable footing and hoping to excite others by our example, have voluntarily, freely and cordially entered into the following association, which we each of us for ourselves respectively solemnly promise and pledge our honors to each other and to our country to perform. That we will form ourselves into a company not exceeding one hundred men, by the name of the Fairfax Independent Company of volunteers, making choice of our own officers to whom for the sake of good order and regularity, we will pay due submission. That we will meet at such times and places in this county as our said officers (chosen by a majority of the members as soon as fifty have subscribed) shall appoint and direct for the purpose of learning and practising the military exercise and discipline; dress in a regular uniform of blue, turned up with buff, with plain yellow metal buttons, buff waistcoat and breeches and white stockings, and furnished with a good flint lock and bayonet, sling cartouch box and tomahawk. And that we will each of us constantly keep by us a stock of six pounds of gun powder, twenty pounds of lead and fifty gun flints at the least. That we will use our utmost endeavours as well at musters of the said

company, as by all other means in our power to make ourselves masters of the military exercise. And that we will always hold ourselves in readiness in case of necessity, hostile invasion or real danger of the commonwealth of which we are members, to defend to the utmost of our power the legal prerogatives of our sovereign King George the 3d and the just right and privileges of our country, our posterity and ourselves upon the principles of the British Constitution. Agreed that all the subscribers to this association do meet on Monday the 17th of October next at eleven o'clock in the forenoon at the Court House in Alexandria.”¹

19 October 1774. The Fairfax Independent Company of Volunteers to George Washington.

“Alexandria Octr 19th 1774

Sir

In compliance with an order made at a meeting of forty nine subscribers of the Fairfax Independant Company, we take the Liberty to request, (if it does not interfere with the more important business you are engaged in) that you will please to make some enquiries with regard to the furnishing the company with a pair of Colours, two Drums, two Fifes, and two Halberts, if they are to be had in Philadelphia; which may be sent round by the first Vessel for Alexandria.

We leave it to you, Sir, to determine whether it may be proper or necessary to vary from the usual Colours that are carried by the Regulars or Militia. We are Sir with the greatest respect yr most Obedt hble Servts

Wm Rumney

Rob. H: Harrison

John Fitzgerald”²

30 October – 13 November 1774. Diary of George Washington.

“30... reached home abt. 3 Oclock [after attending the Continental Congress at Philadelphia]

Novr. 1. At home all day. Mr. Ramsay, Mr. Muir, Mr. Rob. Harrison & Doctr. Rumney came here to Dinner & stayed all Night.

2. The Gentlemen went away after Breakfast. I rid to the Mill. Mr. Ben. Dulany & Wife came here to Dinner & stayd all Night as did Mr. R. Thompson.

3. I went up to Alexandria after the Company abovementioned Went away. Returnd in the Aftern...

13. Went up to Alexandria Church. In the Evening Colo. Blackburn Mr. Lee, & Mr. Richd. Graham came here as a Committee from the Prince Wm. Independ. Compy.”³

29 November 1774. William Milnor to George Washington.

“Philada Novr 29th 1774

Honorable Sir

Your favour of the 17th Inst. came to hand on fryday last, I have made the strictest search, after a Sash and have sent the only one, that is to be had in this City, I am sorry to inform you, 'tis not intirely New tho' not much changed. I have bought it Conditionly if not approved of, to be returnd by the first post & taken again, I had no Alternitive, as no Other Could be had. The Epaulette is inclosed with the pamphlets—the Gorget is Making, & will Come by the Next post—after the strictest inquiry, I could find no Other Treatise on Military Discipline, but the one I have sent you...

I have Applied to two Gunsmiths, One palmer tells me he Can make one hundred by May next, And Nicholson says he can make the like Number by March, they both agree in the preece at £3.15. this

Currey. Palmer says Mr Cadvalder had agreed With him for 100 at that price, a Jersy Musquet was brought to palmer for a patern, Mr Shreive Hatter of Allexandira has one of that sort, which you may see, & if you Conclude to have any, please to inform me by the first post, as the Gunsmiths I blieve will soon be preengaged, & there is not one Musquet to be bought in this City at present, if you should chose any Alteration, from that Musquet please to let us know—Mr Fleecen assures me the Drums Coulers &c. shall be ready to come with the first Vessels & you may be assured I shall forward them with the Utmost speed. I am Dear sir with the greatest respect, Your Most Obedt humble Sert
William Milnor”⁴

16 – 19 January 1775. Diary of George Washington.

16. Went up to Alexandria to a review of the Independant Company & to choose a Com[mitt]jee for the County of Fairfax.
17. Under Arms this day also and in Committee in the Eveng.
18. In Committee all day.
19. Returnd home to Dinner alone.”⁵

16 January 1775. George Washington “Cash Accounts.”

“16 – By my Subscription to the Contingent Charges of the Independent Coy - 1.0.0”⁶

17 January 1775. “Resolutions of Fairfax County Committee
Mr. Pinkney,

Please to publish, in your gazette, the following extracts from the proceedings of the committee of Fairfax county, on the 17th of January, 1775,
George Washington, esquire, Chairman.
Robert H. Harrison, clerk.

Resolved, that the defenceless state of this county renders it indispensably necessary that a quantity of ammunition should be immediately provided; and as the same will be for the common benefit, protection, and defence, of the inhabitants thereof, it is but just and reasonable that the expences incurred in procuring the same should be defrayed by a general and equal contribution. It is therefore recommended that the sum of three shillings per poll, for the purpose aforesaid, be paid, by and for every tithable person in this county, to the sheriff, or such other collector as may be appointed, who is to render the same to this committee, with a list of the names of such persons as shall refuse to pay the same, if any such there be.

Resolved, that this committee do concur in opinion with the provincial committee of the province of Maryland, that a well regulated militia, composed of gentlemen, freeholders, and other freemen, is the natural strength and only staple security of a free government, and that such militia will relieve our mother country from any expence in our protection and defence, will obviate the pretence of a necessity for taxing us on that account, and render it unnecessary to keep standing armies among us, ever dangerous to liberty; and therefore it is recommended to such of the inhabitants of this county as are from sixteen to fifty years of age, to form themselves into companies of 68 men, to chuse a captain, two lieutenants, an ensign, four serjeants, four corporals, and one drummer, for each company; that they provide themselves with good firelocks, and use their utmost endeavours to make themselves masters of the military exercise published by order of his majesty in 1764, and recommended by the provincial congress of the Massachusetts Bay, on the 29th of October last.” Virginia Gazette (Pinkney), 2 February 1775.⁷

23 January 1775. George Washington to William Milnor.

“Mount Vernon 23d Jany 1775

Dear Sir,

Your favor of the 3d is come to hand. the Gentlemen for whom the forty musquets were intended, want no letters stamped on them; but I should think it would be an advantage to have them numbered. I cannot order Letters on the Cartooch Boxes, because I do not know the particular persons, for whom they are designed.

Your troubles, I find, are like to increase in proportion to your good nature in undertaking business, and the applications which are made to me in the military Department. I have lately received a request from the Officers of the Prince William Independant company, for the following Articles;

4 Officers Sashes like the one you sent me.

4 Gorgets Do Do dbled having the Virginia arms engraved; but some what smaller than the last.

4 Shoulder Knots exactly like the one I had.

8 Do Do for the Sergeants & Corporals, also made of Gold; but not so showy, finishing at the point of the shoulder with a round rose of gold fringe—the rose to be a little broader than the double of the Lace which it is on.

The above things are for the Prince William Company, and will be paid for by the Gentlemen to whom the enclosed Letter is directed, & to whom you are to apply for the cost. As Sashes are not to be had in Philadelphia, the Gentlen beg that New York may be tried; and the whole to be sent as soon as ready. I am at the same time, in behalf of the Fairfax Independts, to request the favor of you to send, 8 Shoulder Knots for the Sergeants & Corporals of their company, exactly in all respects like those intended for Prince William.

These last shoulder Knots for the Fairfax company you will please to charge to me; and as soon as you can ascertain what I owe you, let me know it, that I may pay the money to you, or to your order.

If Cobourn shou'd not have sailed, before this Letter reaches you, please to direct the musquet you talk'd of sending per him, to Mr [William] Grayson of Dumfries (along with the colours & Drums for Prince William) as the forty stand of arms are for that company. Pray how soon cou'd an hundred stand more, be got?

Please to inform old Mr Wilper, that we look upon the Peace, which Lord Dunmore made with the Indians to be conclusive & certain, & that I dare say it will be of lasting duration. Be so good at the same time to present him with the inclosed letter respecting his money I was to receive from Mr Cuthbert Bullet. I am, with compliments to Mrs Milnor Dr Sir Your most Obt Servt

G: Washington”⁸

6 February 1775. George Mason to George Washington.

“Gunston Hall, Feb. 6, 1775.

Dear Sir:

My friend Col. Harrison (who is now at your house) promised to spend a day or two with me on his way down. I beg the favor of you to present my compliments to him, and excuse my being under the disagreeable necessity of being from home until the latter end of this week, when if he is not gone down, I shall be very glad to see him here... Enclosed you have a copy of the plan I drew for embodying the people of this county, in which you'll be pleased to make such alterations as you think necessary. You will observe I have made it as general as I well could; this I thought better at first than to descend to particulars of uniform, &c., which perhaps may be more easily done when the companies are made up.

I suppose you have seen the King's speech and the address of both Houses in the last Maryland paper; from the style in which they speak of the Americans I think they have little hopes of a speedy redress of grievances, but on the contrary we may expect to see coercion and vindictive measures still pursued. It seems as if the King either had not received or was determined to take no notice of the proceedings of the Congress.

I beg my compliments to Mrs Washington and the family at Mount Vernon and am dear Sir yr. affec. and obdt. servant

G.M.

P.S. – I beg pardon for having almost forgot to say anything in answer to your favor respecting the choice of delegates from this county to attend the Convention at Richmond. It appears to me that the Burgesses for the county are our proper representatives upon this occasion; and that the best method to remove all doubt or objection, as well as to save trouble, will be for the County Committee to meet and make an entry and declaration of this, as their opinion.

Would it not be proper for the Committee of Correspondence to write to the two Mr. Fitzhughs, Mr. Turberville, and such other gentlemen as live out of this county and have Quarters in it, acquainting them with the orders of the Committee relative to the payment of 3/ for each Tythable, and desiring them to give their overseers, or agents here orders accordingly?

G.M.”

“Fairfax County, (Virginia) Association. Threatened with the destruction of our ancient Laws and Liberty, and the loss of all that is dear to British subjects and freemen, justly alarmed with the prospect of impending ruin, - firmly determined at the hazard of our lives, to transmit to our children and posterity those sacred rights to which ourselves were born; and thoroughly convinced that a well regulated Militia, composed of the gentlemen, freeholders, and other freeman, is the natural strength, and only safe and stable security of a free Government, and that such Militia will relieve our mother country from any expense in our protection and defence, will obviate the pretence of a necessity for taxing us on that account, and render it unnecessary to keep any Standing Army (ever dangerous to liberty) in this Colony, we the subscribers, inhabitants of Fairfax County, have freely and voluntarily agreed, and hereby do agree and solemnly promise, to enroll and embody ourselves into a Militia for this County, intended to consist of all the able-bodied freemen from eighteen to fifty years of age, under Officers of their own choice, and for that purpose to form ourselves into distinct Companies of sixty-eight men each; and so soon as the said Companies or any of them in convenient neighbourhoods and Districts are completed, to choose from among our friends and acquaintance, upon whose justice, humanity and bravery, we can rely, a Captain, two Lieutenants, an Ensign, and four Sergeants, for each Company; every Captain respectively to appoint four Corporals and a Drummer for his Company, which election of Officers is to be annual in any Company, if the majority of the Company think fit; and whenever a sufficient number of Companies shall be made up, all the said Companies are to be formed into a Regiment, under the command of a Colonel, Lieutenant Colonel, and Major, to be chosen by the Captains, Lieutenants, and Ensigns of the said Companies; which election of Field Officers is to be annual also, if the majority of the Officers think fit. have, or can procure Rifle-Guns, and understand the use of them, will be ready to form a Company of Marksmen or Light-Infantry for the said Regiment, choosing our own Officers as aforesaid, and distinguishing our dress, when we are upon duty, from that of the other Companies, by painted hunting-shirts and Indian boots, or caps, as shall be found most convenient; which regulation and establishment is to be preserved and continued until a regular and proper Militia Law for the defence of the country, shall be enacted by the Legislature of this Colony. And we do each of us for ourselves respectively, promise and engage to keep a good Firelock, in proper order, and to furnish ourselves as soon as possible with, and always keep by us, one pound of Gunpowder, four pounds of Lead, one dozen Gun-Flints, and a pair of Bullet-Moulds, with a Cartouch-Box, or Powder-Horn & Bag for Balls. That we will use our best

Endeavours to perfect Ourselves in the Military Exercise & Discipline, & therefore will pay due obedience to our Officers, & regularly attend such private & general musters as they shall appoint. And that we will always hold ourselves in readiness, in case of necessity, hostile-invasion, or real danger, to defend & preserve to the utmost of our power, our religion, the laws of our country, & and the just rights & privileges of our fellow-subjects, our posterity, and ourselves, upon the principles of the English Constitution.”¹⁰ “The above plan is bound in manuscript with George Mason’s letter to Washington.”

17 – 22 February 1775. Diary of George Washington

“17. At home all day alone.

18. Went up to Alexandria to meet & exercise the Independant Company.

19. At home all day alone.

20. Went up to Alexandria to the Choosing of Delegates to go to Richmond. Doctr. Rumney.

21. At home all day. Doctr. Rumney & Captn. [Thomas] Marshall [Fauquier County Independent Company] Dined here. Mr. [William] Grayson [Captain of the Prince William Independent Company] & Mr. Henderson came in the Afternoon & lodgd.”¹¹

21 February 1775. William Milnor to George Washington.

“Philada Febry 21st 1775

Honorable Sir

Your favour of the 22d Janry I have before me. As to Sashes, the Maker tells me, he thinks, he cannot get Silk Enough, for more than three, those he will have done in three weeks, they will come at Nine pounds each perhaps by the time, they are done we may find more Silk. The Gorgets, Shoulder Knots &c. I have bespoke & will send all, as soon as possible.

I inquired of Mr Palmer how soon he could finish One hundred Stand more of Musquets, he says by the first of July, but he declares that, by a true Estimate he finds, he has not a living price, tho., willing to finish the 40, agreeable to Contract, he cannot engage any more, for less than four pounds each.

Nicholson, and, Dunwick, would willingly engage them at the £3.15 but I am told, they will neither be so punctual, nor have it in their Power to finish them so well, if you should be pleased to order them, I shall act agreeable to your directions.

The Books Containing the Mannual Exercise &c. I have sent to Boston for, & expect to receive them in three weeks—The letter to Mr Ross, has been deliverd & the Order excepted—I have the pleasure to inform you that I mended on riding & arrived safe at home on thursday & found my family well—I am with my best respects & Complmts to Mrs Washington, Mrs Custis & Miss Posey Your Most Obedt Hume SertWilliam MilnorP.S. my respects to Mr Lund Washington & to Mr Custis informing them their Guns <will come by the first opertunity.>”¹²

15 – 16 March 1775. Diary of George Washington.

“15. Set off[f] for Richmond...

16. Went to Dumfries to review the Independant Company there. Dind & lodged with Mr. [Andrew] Leitch. Spent the Evg. at an Entertt. at Grahams...

20. Reach’d Richmond abt. 11 Oclock. Dind at Mr. Richd. Adam’s. Went to Col. Archy Carys abt. 7 Miles in the Aftern.”¹³

25 March 1775. Proceedings of the Second Virginia Convention.

“Plan for Embodying, Arming and Disciplining the Militia”

“The Convention then took into their consideration, according to the order of yesterday, the plan for embodying, arming, and disciplining the Militia; which, being read, and amended was unanimously agreed to, as follows:

The Committee propose that it be strongly recommended to the Colony, diligently to put in execution the Militia Law passed in the year 1738, entitled ‘An Act for the better regulating of the Militia,’ which has become in force by the expiration of all subsequent Militia Laws.

The Committee are further of opinion that, as from the expiration of the above-mentioned latter laws, and various other causes, the legal and necessary disciplining the Militia has been much neglected, and a proper provision of Arms and Ammunition has not been made, to the evident danger of the community in case of invasion or insurrection, it be recommended to the inhabitants of the several Counties of this Colony that they form one or more volunteer Companies of Infantry and Troops of Horse, in each County, and to be in constant training and readiness to act on any emergency.

That it be recommended, particularly to the Counties of Brunswick, Dinwiddie, Chesterfield, Henrico, Hanover, Spottsylvania, King George, and Stafford, and to all Counties below these, that out of such, their volunteers, they form each of them one or more Troops of Horse; and to all the Counties above these, it is recommended that they pay a more particular attention to the forming a good Infantry.

That each Company of Infantry consist of sixty-eight rank and file, to be commanded by one Captain, two Lieutenants, one Ensign, four Sergeants, and four Corporals; and that they have a Drummer, and be furnished with a Drum and Colours; that every man be provided with a good Rifle, if to be had, or otherwise with a common Firelock, Bayonet, and Cartouch-box, and also with a Tomahawk, one pound of Gunpowder, and four pounds of Ball, at least, fitted to the bore of his Gun; that he be clothed in a Hunting Shirt, by way of uniform; and that all endeavour, as soon as possible, to become acquainted with the military exercise for Infantry, appointed to be used by His Majesty in the year 1764.

That each Troop of Horse consist of thirty, exclusive of Officers; that every Horseman be provided with a good Horse, Bridle, Saddle, with Pistols and Holsters, a Carbine, or other short Firelock, with a Bucket, a Cutting Sword, or Tomahawk, one pound of Gunpowder, and four pounds of Ball, at the least, and use the utmost diligence in training and accustoming his Horse to stand the discharge of fire-arms, and in making himself acquainted with the military exercise for Cavalry.

That, in order to make a further and more ample provision of Ammunition, it be recommended to the Committees of the several Counties, that they collect from their Constituents, in such manner as shall be most agreeable to them, so much money as will be sufficient to purchase half a pound of Gunpowder, one pound of Lead, necessary Flints and Cartridge Paper, for every tithable person in their County; that they immediately take effectual measures for the procuring such Gunpowder, Lead, Flints, and Cartridge Paper, and dispose thereof, when procured, in such place or places of safety as they may think best: and it is earnestly recommended to each individual to pay such proportion of the money necessary for these purposes as by the respective Committees shall be judged requisite.

That as it may happen that some Counties, from their situation, may not be apprized of the most certain and speedy method of procuring the articles before-mentioned, one General Committee should be appointed, whose business it should be to procure, for such Counties as may make application to them, such articles, and so much thereof as the moneys wherewith they shall furnish the said Committee will purchase, after deducting the charges of transportation, and other necessary expenses.

Resolved, That Robert Carter Nicholas, Thomas Nelson, and Thomas Whiting, Esquires, or any two of them, be a Committee for the purpose afore-mentioned.”¹⁴

18 April 1775. William Milnor to George Washington.

“Philad[elphi]a April 18th 1775

Honorable Sir,

Your favour by Mr Whilper as well as that by yesterdays post, I have receivd, and I have acted exactly agreeable to your directions, respecting the Sashes, as I forbid the maker to proceed any farther with them, immediatly on seeing the first he made, which I sent to Mr Gilpin, The Arms are all ready to be sent Agreeable to any directions that Comes. I think you have not Mentiond the receiving the shoulder knots, which I sent some time ago by the post, & likewise the 6 Copies of Manual Exercise, The Gorgets I have not been able to get from the workmen yet, but I have them now in a persons hands who I blive will finish them soon—I am glad to hear your people have began to fish but I was very much alarmed yesterday, to see two of the Coopers returnd, whom I had sent down to the assistance of James Lawrason, as I am sure he is very backward in his preparations, I think to be on my Journey down, the begining of Next week, I have no more to Add but that I have removed from the house you saw me in, up into Arch street Near the Corner of front street, where I am Much more pleasantly situated than before, & where, I hope, to have Company of Colonel Washington as often as it may suite him to Call whilst in Philada. I am with respect & Esteem Dear Sir your Obedt Humble Servt
William Milnor”¹⁵

15 – 26 April 1775. Diary entries of George Washington

“15. Went up to Alexandria to the Muster of the Independt. Company. Returnd late at Night...

25. At home all day. A Mr. Johnson—a Muster Master [of the Fairfax Independent Company] dind here & went away afterwds. Thos. Davis came Express & returnd.”

“26. Went up to Alexa. to meet the Indt. Company...”¹⁶

28 April 1775. Robert Eden, Governor of Maryland, to his brother, William Eden.

“Annapolis, 28th April 1775...

You will have heard of Lord Dunmore’s having removed the Powder from Williamsburg. We have no King’s Ship here, should I have thought such a step to be expedient, had our Powder been worth removing. I hear the Northern Neck Militia (Lord Fairfax’s) are on their March, as Light Horse, to Williamsburg. Adieu, I hear Musquetry, exercising only I hope, for they fire regularly in Platoons.”¹⁷

1 – 4 May 1775. Diary entries of George Washington.

“May 1. Went up to Alexa. to meet the Independt. Company. Mr. Herbert came at Night.

2. Messrs. Hendks. Dalton & others Breakfasted here & Majr. [Horatio] Gates & Mr. B. Fairfax dind & lodgd here...

4. Set out for the Congress at Phila. Dind in Alexa. & lodgd at Marlborough.”¹⁸

20 June 1775. George Washington “To The Independant Companies of Fairfax—Prince William—Fauquier—Spotsylvania & Richmond [County].”: “To the Officers of Five Virginia Independent Companies

Philadelphia June 20. 1775

Gentlemen

I am now about to bid adieu to the Companies under your respective commands, at least for a while—I have launched into a wide & extensive field, too boundless for my abilities, & far, very far beyond my experience—I am called by the unanimous voice of the Colonies to the command of the Continental army: an honour I did not aspire to—an honor I was sollicitous to avoid upon full conviction of my inadequacy to the importance of the service; the partiality of the Congress however, assisted by a political motive, rendered my reasons unavailing & I shall, to morrow, set out for the camp near Boston—I have only to beg of you therefore (before I go—especially as you did me the honor to place

your Companies under my directions, and know not how soon you may be called upon in Virginia) for an exertion of your military skill, by no means to relax in the discipline of your Respective companies.

I am at liberty to inform you Gentlemen, That the Congress in a Committee, (which will, I dare say be agreed to when reported) have consented to a Continental currency—Ordered Two millions of Dollars to be struck & Voted 15,000 men; Which number I am Inclined to think will be augmented, as more Troops have embarked & are embarking for America, than were expected at the time of passing that Vote.

The Arrangement of Officers in the higher departments of the army is not yet fixed, ultimately, but I beleive they will stand thus; Genl Ward, Genl Lee, Genl Putnam, & Genl Scyler—Major Genls—The Brigadier Genls are not yet proposed—Major Gates Adjutant Genl—For other articles of Intelligence, the Gazettes will furnish you with them more precisely than I can, as the printers let no news pass by them—The Chief end of my writing to you at this time being, to Recommend a diligent attention to the disciplining of your Companies, & Seeing that they are well provided with ammunition—I shall not Enlarge as I am very much hurried with one thing and another in consequence of my appointment—I shall only add therefore that I am with sincere regard & esteem Gentlemen Your Most Obedt & Hble servant

Go: Washington

P.S. you will, I am persuaded, excuse my addressing a joint Letter to you, as I had it not in my power to write seperate ones, & could not think of departing without affording you this Testimonial of my regard. Yrs”¹⁹

8 July 1775. A letter “From the Fairfax Independent Company” to George Washington.

“Alexandria July 8. 1775

May it please your Excellency.

Your favor of the 20 Ulo notifying your Intended departure for the Camp, we Received; and after transmitting copies to the different officers, to whom it was directed, we laid it before a full meeting of your Company this day—At the same time that they deplore the unfortunate occasion, that calls you, their patron, friend & worthy citizen from them, & your more tender connections, they beg your acceptance of their most hearty congratulations upon your appointment to the supreme military command of the American confederated forces.

Firmly convinced Sir, of your zealous attachment to the rights of your Country & those of mankind, and of your earnest desire that harmony & Good will should again take place between us & our parent state, we well know that your every exertion will be invariably employed, to preserve the one & effect the other.

Your kind recommendation, that a strict attention be had, to disciplining the Company, shall be complied with, & every possible method used for procuring arms & ammunition.

We are to inform you Sir, by desire of the Company, that if at any <ti>me you shall judge it expedient for them to join the Troops at Cambridge, or to march elsewhere, they will cheerfully do it.

As the success of our arms, during the unhappy contest for our liberties, will ever afford us the highest satisfaction, and as reports heretofore have been various & unauthentic, we Intreat your Excellency, should there be any future Engagement & your leisure permit, to favour us with an Account. Let our concerns for the cause we are Imbarked in, claim your excuse for this freedom.

We now Recommend you to the favor of him, by whom Kings Reign & Princes decree justice, and wishing all your councils & operations to be directed by his gracious providence to an happy and lasting union between us & Great Britain We are with great regard for selves & the Company Your Excellency’s most Obedt & Humble servants

James Hendricks

Geo. Gilpin

Rob. H. Harrison”²⁰

“James Hendricks of Alexandria was captain of the Fairfax Independent Company... George Gilpin (1740–1813) and Robert Hanson Harrison (1745–1790) were lieutenants in the Fairfax Independent Company.”

21 August 1775. “An Ordinance for Raising and Embodying a Sufficient Force, for the Defence and Protection of this Colony.”

“Whereas it is found necessary, in the present time of danger, that a number of forces should be immediately raised, and that the militia should be settled under proper arrangements, and be thoroughly disciplined, for the better protection and defence of the country against invasions and insurrections:

Be it therefore ordained, by the delegates and representatives of the several counties and corporations within the colony and dominion of Virginia, now assembled in general convention, and it is hereby ordained by authority of the same, That there shall be forthwith raised, and taken into the pay of this colony, from the time of their enlistment, two regiments complete, to consist of one thousand and twenty privates, rank and file: Five hundred and forty-four of whom to be the first regiment, under the command of a colonel, lieutenant-colonel, and a major, eight captains, sixteen lieutenants, eight ensigns, twenty four serjeants, eight drummers, and eight fifers; and the second regiment to consist of four hundred and seventy six, under the command of a colonel, lieutenant-colonel, major, seven captains, fourteen lieutenants, seven ensigns, twenty one serjeants, seven drummers, and seven fifers; to each of which regiments there shall be allowed a chaplain, a paymaster (who is also to act as muster-master) an adjutant, quartermaster, one surgeon, two surgeons mates, and a serjeant-major.

And for the better and more orderly appointment of, the officers. Be it farther ordained. That the several field-officers shall from time to time be appointed, or approved, by the general convention of delegates; that the deputies of each district herein after described, excepting the counties of Accomack and Northampton, shall appoint one captain, two lieutenants, and one ensign, to command the company of men to be raised in such district; that the chaplain to each regiment be appointed by the field-officers and captains of such regiment; that the adjutant, quarter-master, and serjeant-major, be appointed by the commanding-officer of the regiment, the surgeon by the field-officers and captains, and the surgeons mates by the surgeon himself, with the approbation of the commanding officer of the regiment.

And be it farther ordained, That the commanding officer of the first regiment shall be allowed a secretary, to be appointed by him, who shall be allowed four shillings a day for his services.

And that the levy of the soldiers may be made general throughout the colony, and the better to avoid irregularity and confusion, Be it farther ordained. That the deputies of each district, except the counties of Accomack and Northampton, having appointed one captain, two lieutenants, and one ensign, as aforesaid, the said officers shall proceed, with the utmost expedition, to enlist within their respective districts their several companies, which are to consist of sixty eight men each; but the said officers shall not go into any other district to complete their company, until the officers in such other district have made up their company, nor, in that case, without the permission, in writing, of the committee of the county first had and obtained.

And as well to prevent the enlistment of such men as are unfit for service, as to fix the rank of such officers, Be it farther ordained, That the deputies of each district shall appoint one certain place of rendezvous within their district, whither the captain of each company, as soon as it is complete, shall resort with his men, and shall give immediate notice thereof to the chairman of the committee of deputies, who is required forthwith to summon all the members of the said committee, who, or a majority of them, being present, shall either proceed themselves to review the said company, or appoint any number of their members, not under three, for that purpose: And if it shall appear to such committee of deputies that the company is complete, of able and proper men, and that they have been regularly enlisted, according to the terms and regulations prescribed by this ordinance, the said deputies shall order and direct the captain immediately to march with his company to a the place of general rendezvous, hereafter to be appointed,

and, moreover, shall grant to the said captain a certificate of the day when the said company first appeared complete, at the particular place of rendezvous in the district; which certificate being produced to the general committee of safety, the said committee shall cause the same to be entered in a book to be kept for that purpose, and shall cause the like certificates, from all the other district committees, to be entered in the same manner: And when all such certificates shall be returned, the same committee of safety, or the majority of those present, shall, and they are hereby required, to grant commissions, under their hands, to the officers of the several companies, according to their several appointments, fixing their ranks of seniority and precedence according to the priority of the completion, of their several companies, certified as aforesaid; and if it shall appear, upon the examination of such certificates, that two or more of the companies appeared at the district rendezvous on the same day, the said committee of safety shall, in such case, determine the right of seniority and precedence amongst the several officers, by a fair and impartial ballot.

And be it farther ordained, That in case any vacancies shall happen, by deaths or otherwise, amongst the commissioned officers, the same shall be supplied, from time to time, by regular succession, in course of seniority, in the respective regiments and companies; and in case of a defect of officers to supply such succession, the commanding-officer of the regiment shall appoint the most proper person, in his opinion, to supply such vacancy, to be approved by the committee of safety.

And that the companies may be kept complete from time to time, Be it farther ordained, That if vacancies should happen among the private men, the commanding officer of the regiment shall supply the same by new recruits, in the best and most expeditious manner he may be able.

And be it farther ordained, That the soldiers to be raised shall be enlisted on the terms following, to wit: That they shall continue in the service of the publick so long as may be judged necessary by the general convention, but not be compelled to continue more than one year, provided any soldier, or soldiers, do give the commanding-officer three months previous notice, in writing, of his or their desire to be discharged at the end of such period; and if it shall be judged necessary to disband the army before the expiration of twelve months, that each soldier discharged within that time shall be entitled to, and shall receive, six weeks pay in advance. That the pay of each captain, lieutenant, and ensign, shall commence the days of their appointment by the district committees; of the chaplain, and all the subaltern officers, on the days of their respective appointments; of the common soldiers, on the days of their enlisting; and that the pay of the several field and staff officers shall commence on the day of their being called into duty by the general committee of safety; and that the several-recruiting officers may advance to each soldier, upon his enlisting, any sum he may think necessary, not exceeding one month's pay.

Provided always, That no recruiting officer shall be allowed to enlist into the service any servant whatsoever, unless he be an apprentice, bound under the laws of this colony, nor any such apprentice, unless the consent of his master be first had in writing.

And be it farther ordained, That the soldiers to be enlisted shall, at the expense of the publick, be furnished each with one good musket and bayonet, cartouch-box, or pouch, and canteen; and, until such musket can be provided, that they bring with each of them the best gun, of any other sort, that can be procured; and that such as are to act as rifle-men bring with them each one good rifle, to be approved by their captain, for the use of which he shall be allowed at the rate of twenty shillings a year; that each common soldier, not already sufficiently provided, in the opinion of his commanding-officer, shall be furnished with sufficient clothing, at the expense of the publick, to be deducted out of his pay.

And be it farther ordained, That the companies to be raised in the districts of Pittsylvania, Fincastle, Bedford, and Botetourt, and of Berkeley, Frederick, Dunmore, and Hampshire, Augusta, Albemarle, Buckingham, and Amherst, Culpeper, Fauquier, and Orange, shall consist of expert rifle-men; and shall be, by the committee of safety, allotted two to each regiment, to be employed as light infantry.

And be it farther ordained, That proper medicine chests, and necessary surgeons instruments, be provided at the expense of the publick.

And for the better protection and defence of the inhabitants on the frontiers of this colony, Be it farther ordained, by the authority, aforesaid, That there shall be appointed and raised, exclusive of the

regiments before mentioned, two companies, consisting each of one captain, three lieutenants, one ensign, four sergeants, two drummers, and two fifers, and one hundred men rank and file, to be stationed at Pittsburg; of which the company ordered by this convention to garrison fort Pitt, under the command of captain John Neavill, shall be one; also one other company, consisting of a lieutenant, and twenty five privates, to be stationed at fort Fincastle, at the mouth of Weeling; the other company, of one hundred men, and the twenty five men to be raised in West Augusta, also one other company, consisting of one captain, three lieutenants, one ensign, four serjeants, two drummers, and two fifers, and one hundred privates, to be raised in the county of Botetourt, and stationed at Point Pleasant, at the mouth of the great Kanawah; and one other company, consisting of the same number of officers and men as the last, to be raised in the county of Fincastle, and stationed at such posts as may, from time to time, be ordered and directed by the committee of that county.

And be it farther ordained, That the committees of the district of West Augusta, and of the counties of Botetourt and Fincastle, shall appoint the officers to the men in each to be raised; and the several companies last mentioned shall be enlisted in the same manner, and under the same regulations, as are before prescribed for the regiments, except that such companies are not to march to the general rendezvous which may be appointed for the said regiments.

And be it farther ordained, That the commanding-officers to be stationed at Point Pleasant, and Fort Fincastle, shall be under the direction of, and subject to, such orders as they may from time to time receive from the commanding officer at Fort Pitt.

And for settling the pay of the officers and soldiers to be appointed and levied as before directed, the same is declared to be as followeth, to wit: To a colonel, twenty five shillings per day; lieutenant colonels, twelve shillings and sixpence; to a major, ten shillings; a captain, six shillings; a lieutenant, four shillings; an ensign, three shillings; chaplain, ten shillings, an adjutant, holding no other office, six shillings; if in other office, three shillings; to a quarter-master, holding, or not holding, any other office, the same as to an adjutant; to a serjeant-major, to be appointed from amongst the most expert serjeants, by the commanding-officer of the regiment, two shillings and sixpence; to a serjeant, two shillings; a corporal, drummer, and fifer, each one shilling and eightpence; to each private soldier, one shilling and four pence; to a surgeon, ten shillings; and to a surgeon's mate, five shillings per day.

And be it farther ordained, That every commissioned and staff officer shall be allowed a tent, and every two serjeants shall have the same allowance, and every two corporals the same; and that for every six private men there shall be provided a proper and sufficient tent; and that one bell tent for each company shall also be provided, at the public expense.

And for the greater encouragement and farther promotion of the service. Be it ordained, That if any person enlisted by virtue of this ordinance shall be so maimed or disabled as to be rendered incapable of maintaining himself, he shall, upon his discharge, be supported at the expense of the publick.

And to the end that the forces to be raised may be well and speedily supplied with waggons, tents, bedding, arms, accoutrements, clothes, provisions, and all other necessaries, Be it farther ordained, That the committee of safety shall, and they are hereby required, to appoint some fit person, or persons, to provide arms and accoutrements, clothes, Waggons, tents, and bedding, upon the best and cheapest terms, and also to appoint one or more commissaries or contractors; who are hereby required to use all possible despatch in purchasing such provisions as shall be necessary for the army, and in laying of the same in such convenient place, or places, as may best suit their different stations and marches.

And for the more regular pay of the army, the said committee of safety shall appoint one or more paymasters; and it shall and may be lawful for the said committee, from time to time, to issue their warrants to the treasurer, appointed by or pursuant to an ordinance of this convention, for the paying the several recruiting officers, commissioners, commissaries, or contractors, and paymasters, by them appointed; and to all expresses, and other persons by them employed in lesser services, so much money as the said committee shall judge necessary for their several purposes-taking proper security for the due disbursement and application thereof, and making a proper and reasonable allowance to the several persons so to be appointed for their trouble and expenses in conducting either branch of business to him or

them assigned. And the said committee shall have full power and authority to displace, and remove from his office any person so by them appointed, either for misconduct or neglect of duty. And the said treasurer is hereby required to pay all such sums as he may be directed by such warrant, out of the publick money in his hands.

And be it farther ordained, That the said committee; of safety shall have full power and authority, at such times and places as they may think convenient and necessary, to call all persons, who may receive any publick money for carrying into execution the purposes of this ordinance, to a strict account; and upon examining their accounts, and finding them justly stated, to certify the same, and, if necessary, to give proper acquittals and discharges.

And whereas it may be necessary, for the public security, that the forces to be raised by virtue of this ordinance should, as occasion may require, be marched to different parts of the colony, and that the officers should be subject to a proper controul, Be it ordained by the authority aforesaid, That the officers and soldiers under such command, shall in all things, not otherwise particularly provided for by this ordinance, and the articles established for their regulation, be under the controul, and subject to the order, of the general committee of safety.

And whereas it is judged necessary, for the better protection of the country in, times of imminent danger, that certain portions of the militia throughout the whole colony should be regularly enlisted, under the denomination of minute-men, and more strictly trained to proper discipline than hath been hitherto customary, and, to this end, that the whole colony should be divided into proper and convenient districts:

Be it therefore ordained, by the authority aforesaid, That this colony be immediately formed and divided into sixteen districts, in the following manner, to wit: One district to include the counties of Accomack and Northampton; one other, the counties of Princess Anne, Norfolk, the borough of Norfolk, and the counties of Nansemond and Isle of Wight; one other, the counties of Southampton, Sussex, Surry, Brunswick, Prince George, and Dinwiddie; one other, the counties of Mecklenburg, Lunenburg, Charlotte, Halifax, and Prince Edward; one other, the counties of Amelia, Chesterfield, and Cumberland; one other, the counties of Henrico, Hanover, Goochland, and Louisa; one other, the counties of Pittsylvania, Fincastle, Bedford, and Botetourt; one other, the counties of Buckingham, Amherst, Albemarle, and Augusta; one other, the counties of Elizabeth City, Warwick, York, James City, the city of Williamsburg, and the counties of Charles City and New Kent; one other, the counties of Gloucester, Middlesex, Essex, King and Queen, and King William; one other, the counties of Lancaster, Northumberland, Westmoreland, and Richmond; one other, the counties of Culpeper, Orange, and Fauquier; one other, the counties of Caroline, Spotsylvania, King George, and Stafford; one other, the counties of Prince William, Fairfax, and Loudoun; and one other district to include the counties of Berkeley, Frederick, Dunmore, and Hampshire; and the inhabitants of West Augusta are to compose one entire district.

And be it farther ordained, That within the district containing the counties of Accomack and Northampton there shall be forthwith raised one regiment, consisting, of six hundred and eighty men, from the ages of sixteen to fifty, to be divided into ten companies, sixty eight each rank and file, to be under the command of a colonel, lieutenant-colonel, and major, ten captains, twenty lieutenants, ten ensigns, thirty serjeants; and each company shall be allowed a drummer and fifer, and the said regiment shall be allowed a chaplain, adjutant, quarter-master, surgeon, two surgeons mates, and a serjeant-major, as hereafter directed. [This unit would later be designated the 9th Virginia Regiment].

And be it farther ordained, That within each of the other districts there shall be immediately enlisted one battalion, consisting of five hundred men rank and file, from the age of sixteen to fifty, to be divided into ten companies of fifty men each, who are to be under the command of a colonel, lieutenant-colonel, and major, ten captains, ten lieutenants, ten ensigns, and, twenty serjeants, each company to be allowed a drummer and fifer, and the battalion to be allowed a chaplain, adjutant, quarter-master, surgeon, two surgeons mates, and a serjeant-major, as hereafter directed.

And be it farther ordained, That the colonels, lieutenant-colonels, majors, captains, lieutenants, ensigns, and commissaries of musters, for the said regiment, and the several battalions, shall be appointed in the following manner, to wit; The committees of the counties of Accomack and Northampton shall each

appoint six of their members as deputies to meet in one general committee, at such time and place as shall be appointed by the chairman of the committee of the said county of Accomack, which place shall be most central and convenient for the meeting of such deputies, and notice thereof shall be given by such chairman to the chairman of the committee of the said county of Northampton, at least ten days before the time of meeting; which deputies having met, according to such appointment, shall settle the number of minute-men to be enlisted in each county, and shall proceed to the choice of the several officers aforesaid. And to prevent inconveniencies which may arise from the deputies so to be appointed not being able to attend, the committee of each county shall appoint six others of their members to supply the places of such as are first named, and whose attendance at the general committee may be prevented by sickness or any other accidents.

And be it farther ordained, That the committees of the several counties of Elizabeth City, Warwick, York, James City, Charles City, and New Kent, shall in like manner appoint four of their members, and the committee of the city of Williamsburg two of their members, as deputies to meet in the general committee for their district; that the committees of the several counties of Princess Anne, Norfolk, Nansemond, and the Isle of Wight, shall in like manner appoint four of their members, and the committee of the borough of Norfolk two of their members, to meet in one general committee for that district; and that the committees of the several other counties shall in like manner appoint three of their members, as deputies to meet in one general committee for their respective districts; which respective committee of deputies shall meet at such time and place as shall be appointed by the chairman of the committee of the county first named in such district, the place to be most central and convenient, and ten day notice at least of the time and place to be given by such chairman to the chairman of the several committees of the counties and corporations within the district: And the committee of deputies, having so met, shall settle the number of minute-men to be enlisted in each particular county, city, or borough, and shall appoint the same officers as are directed for the district of Accomack and Northampton, having regard to the difference of numbers, as before directed.

And to prevent the inconveniencies which may arise from the inability of any of the deputies to attend the general committee, Be it farther ordained, That the committees of each particular county, city, or borough, at the time of nominating such deputies, shall appoint three others of their members to supply the places of such of their deputies as may be prevented from attending the general committee of delegates, by sickness, or any other accident.

And be it farther ordained, That the chaplain, adjutant, quarter-master, surgeon, and serjeant-major, shall be appointed by the field-officers and captains of each district, and the surgeons mates by the surgeon himself, with the approbation of the commanding-officer of the district. The surgeon to each battalion is to be previously engaged, but not paid except when he is attending the battalion, which shall be as often as they shall be called together upon training duty, or actual service; and the surgeons mates to be in pay only when the battalion is called into actual service; and the chaplains and quarter-masters are to attend their respective battalions wherever they may be stationed.

And be it farther ordained, That the several officers appointed for that purpose shall immediately proceed to enlist the minute-men within their respective counties, city, or borough; and the said officers shall not go into any other county, city, or borough, to complete; their quotas, until the officers in such other county, city, or borough, have completed their quotas, nor, in that case, without the permission of the committee of such other county, city, or borough, in writing, first had and obtained.

And as well to prevent the enlistment of such men as are unfit for service, as to fix the ranks of the officers of the several companies, Be it farther ordained, That the committee of each county, city, and borough, shall appoint one certain place of rendezvous within their county, city, or borough, whither the captain, and other officers, of each company, as soon as the same is complete, shall resort with their men, and give immediate notice thereof to the chairman of the committee, who is required to summon all the members of the said committee; who, or a majority of them, being present, shall either proceed themselves to review the said company, or appoint any number of their members, not under three, for that purpose. And if it shall appear to such committee that the company is complete, of able and proper men, and that

they have been regularly enlisted, according to the terms and regulations proscribed by this convention, the said committee shall grant to the captain a certificate of the day when the said company first appeared complete, at the particular place of rendezvous in the county, city, or borough; which certificate being produced to the general committee of safety, the said committee shall cause the same to be entered in a book to be kept for that purpose, and shall cause the like certificate from the other counties, city or borough committees, to be entered in the same manner. And when all such certificates shall be returned, the said committee of safety, or a majority of those present, shall, and they are hereby required, to grant commissions, under their hands, to the officers of the several companies, according to their several appointments, fixing their rank of seniority and precedence according to the priority of the completion of their companies, certified as aforesaid; and if it shall appear, upon examination of such certificate, that two or more of such companies appeared complete at the rendezvous of the county, city, or borough, on the same day, the said committee of safety shall, in such case, determine the right of seniority and precedence, by a fair and impartial ballot.

And for settling the rank of the field-officers, the committee of delegates in each district shall certify the day when the battalion in each district appeared completely embodied; and the committee of safety, upon receipt of such certificate, shall grant commissions to and fix the ranks of such officers, in the same manner as is directed in respect to other officers.

And be it farther ordained, That each minute-man so to be enlisted shall be furnished with proper arms at the publick expense, and until such can be provided shall bring into service the best gun that he can procure; and for every good rifle, to be approved by the respective captains, there shall be allowed to the owner making use of the same at the rate of twenty shillings a year, and moreover, there shall be provided at the expense of the public, for every minute-man not already furnished, one hunting shirt and pair of leggins.

And it is hereby ordained, That a tent for every commissioned and staff officer, one for every two serjeants, One for a drummer and fifer, one bell tent for every company, and one for every six men, shall be provided at the expense of the publick.

And be it farther ordained, That the minute-men in each respective district, so soon as they are enlisted, and approved, as before directed, shall be embodied, and formed into separate battalions, and shall be kept in training under their adjutant for twenty successive days; at such convenient place as shall be appointed by the committee of deputies in each district; and, after performing such battalion duty, the several companies of each battalion shall in their respective counties be mustered, and continue to exercise four successive days in each month, except December, January, and February, at such times and places as shall be appointed by their respective captains, care being taken that such appointments do not interfere with battalion duty.

And be it farther ordained, That, in order to render them the more skilful and expert in military exercise and discipline, the several companies of minute-men shall twice in every year, after the exercise of the twenty days, be again embodied, and formed again into distinct battalions within their districts, and shall at each meeting continue in regular service and training for twelve successive days, at such convenient places within each district as shall be appointed by each committee, of deputies, and at the stated times following; to wit: The district of Princes Anne, &c. to begin the first day of May, and the fifteenth of October; that of Elizabeth City, &c. on the fourth day of May, and the twentieth day of October; that of Southampton, &c. on the fourth day of May, and twentieth of October; that of Mecklenburg, &c. on the sixth day of May, and twenty second of October; that of Amelia [which included Chesterfield], &c. on the tenth day of May, and twenty fourth of October; that of Henrico, &c. on the twelfth day of May, and twenty sixth of October; that of Buckingham, &c. on the fifteenth day of May and twenty sixth of October; that of Pittsylvania, &c. on the twentieth day of May, and thirtieth of October; which are to be considered as forming the general southern district.

And be it farther ordained, That the several districts Containing the counties of Accomack, Gloucester, Lancaster, Caroline, Culpeper, Prince William, Berkeley, and West Augusta, shall meet in battalion on the same days before-mentioned, beginning with Accomack, and proceeding in regular order,

as herein arranged; which last mentioned districts are to be considered as forming the general northern district.

Provided always, That if either of the days before mentioned should happen to be on a Sunday, the time of beginning the exercise shall be on the day succeeding.

And be it farther ordained, That the officers and minute-men shall be allowed one day's pay for every twenty miles travelling to the place appointed for the general rendezvous of the several battalions, and the same for returning home; and moreover, sixpence per day in lieu of provisions. And the several battalions, whilst they continue on duty, shall be furnished with proper and necessary provisions, to be provided by a commissary or contractor, to be appointed in each district by the committee of deputies, whose duty it shall be to provide necessaries for the battalion of his district, or any detachment therefrom in their march, in case they should be called to service in any other part of the country; and the officers and minute-men in the several companies of each battalion shall be also allowed six pence per day each, besides their pay, for the four days they shall exercise in their respective counties, in lieu of provisions.

And be it farther ordained, That every officer of minute-men who shall absent himself either from battalion duty or the private musters, in their counties, without sufficient excuse, to be judged of and allowed by a court-martial, shall be subject to the following fines, to wit: The colonel, for every day's absence from battalion duty thirty shillings; the lieutenant-colonel, twenty five shillings; the major, twenty shillings; a captain, twelve shillings; a lieutenant, eight shillings; and ensign, six shillings; a serjeant, five shillings; a corporal, drummer, and fifer, four shillings; and each private minute-man three shillings; an adjutant, twenty shillings; a quarter-master, twelve shillings; and a serjeant-major, six shillings. And for non-attendance at private musters, without a sufficient excuse, to be allowed as aforesaid, the officers and minute-men shall, for every day's absence, be subject to the following fines, to wit; a captain, twelve, shillings; a lieutenant, eight shillings; and ensign, six shillings; a serjeant, five shillings, a corporal, drummer, and fifer, four shillings; and each private minute-man, three shillings. The several fines above-mentioned to be imposed by a court-martial, to consist of the field officers and captains of the district, or any seven of them, whereof a field officer shall be one, and deducted out of the pay of the delinquent, if so much shall be due to him; if not, to be levied on his estate, in manner as directed for fines imposed on the militia. And if any officer or soldier, during the time of his attendance on training duty, in battalion or companies, as herein directed, shall refuse to obey the commands of his superiour officer, or behave himself mutinously or refractorily, or shall in any other manner transgress the rules of good order and decency, every such offender shall or may be confined, for any time not exceeding twenty four hours, or fined, in any sum not exceeding one month's pay, as shall be determined by the judgment of a court-martial, to beheld as aforesaid; the fines to be deducted, or levied, as before directed.

Provided always, That the commanding officer or captain of any company may, when occasion shall require, give leave of absence to any inferiour officer or minute-man; but they shall not be entitled to pay during such absence.

And as well for the ease of the minute-men, as that they may be returned in regular rotation to the bodies of their respective militias, Be it farther ordained, That after serving twelve months sixteen minute-men shall be discharged from each company by the commanding-officer or captain of the company, and the like number at the end of every year, beginning with those who stand first on the roll, and who were first enlisted: and if those who stand first should choose to continue in the service, taking the next in succession desirous of being discharged, and so from time to time proceeding in regular progression.

Provided, That the officer shall not have it in his option to discharge a less number than sixteen in every year, whose places shall be supplied by new enlistments, to be taken in the manner first directed.

And for the more regular pay of the battalions, Be it farther ordained, That one paymaster shall be appointed by the committee of safety for each of the sixteen districts; and the pay of the officers and soldiers, when on duty in their counties, or in battalion, or when drawn out into actual service, shall be as followeth, to wit: To a colonel, fifteen shillings per day; a lieutenant-colonel, twelve shilling and sixpence; a major, ten shillings; a captain, six shillings; a lieutenant, four shillings; an ensign, three shillings; a serjeant, two shillings; corporal, drummer, and fifer, each one shilling and eightpence; and a private man,

one shilling and four pence per day; a chaplain, ten shillings per day; a surgeon, when the battalion is in training duty, or actual service, ten shillings per day; a surgeons mate, five shillings; an adjutant, holding no other office, six shillings; if in other office, three shillings; a quarter-master to be appointed, and allowed the same as an adjutant; a commissary of musters to each battalion, appointed by the committee of deputies, ten shillings per day, for each day of his attending the battalion, or separate companies; and to a serjeant-major, to be chosen by the commanding-officer out of the most expert serjeants, two shillings and sixpence per day.

And be it farther ordained, That the pay of the several officers and minute-men in each district shall commence from the completion of their respective battalions, and their meeting at the general rendezvous to be appointed as aforesaid.

And be it farther ordained, That the exercise to be performed throughout the several battalions and companies shall be that recommended by his majesty in the Year 1764.

And be it farther ordained, That there shall be appointed by the general convention one adjutant-general to the regular forces who shall rank as youngest lieutenant-colonel; whose business it moreover shall be, once in twelve months, to visit the several particular districts arranged as aforesaid in the two general southern and northern districts to superintend the conduct of the different adjutants, and see that they do their duty in the several departments, and also to take particular care that there is a due conformity in their exercise and evolutions, so that when the different battalions join in brigades there may be no mistake nor confusion: Of all which the adjutant general; shall, once in every year make a full report to this convention, and for his trouble and expenses in traveling he shall be allowed twelve shillings and sixpence per day.

And be it farther ordained, That the several volunteer companies, raised in pursuance of the resolutions of a former convention, shall be disbanded, as soon as the battalions in the several districts where the said volunteer companies respectively reside are fully and completely embodied.

Provided, That any officer or volunteer of the said companies may be, if appointed to any office in the companies or battalion of minute-men, or enlist as private minute-men in such companies.

And be it farther ordained, That the commanding-officer of the regulars, or any battalion, where occasion requires, shall grant one or more warrants for impressing any carts, waggons, horses, boats, or other necessaries which may be requisite, from time to time, for publick service; and the person receiving such warrant, shall cause every article so impressed to be fairly appraised by: two different freeholders, who are most convenient to the place of impressment, to be chosen by him and the owner of such article, his steward, or overseers; and in case the two appraisers; so chosen should disagree, they shall choose an umpire; which appraisers and umpires shall first take an oath, to be administered by the officer ordering the impress, or any justice of the peace in the county, that they will make a true and just appraisement; and the valuation or hire of such article or articles so impressed shall be paid by the publick, as justice may require And moreover, the commanding-officer of the regulars or battalions, shall have power to issue his warrant for impressing any artificers that may be judged necessary for the publick service; and if their wages cannot be agreed on, the same shall be settled in the manner last mentioned

And whereas the counties of Accomack and Northhampton, from their particular situation, are exposed to many dangers, Be it farther ordained, That the committee of deputies, if they judge it necessary, may keep two of the companies to be raised in their district in constant training, at the expense of the publick, in the same manner as directed for the regulars.

And be it farther ordained, That the field-officers and captains of the regular forces, in case of any invasion or insurrection in any quarter where they may be stationed, shall immediately give notice to the captains or their superior officers of the minute-men residing in the next adjacent county, who shall, with all expedition, march the men under their command to the place of danger; and such officers not being the first in command in the district shall immediately give notice to the commander in chief of the districts, that they may judge what is farther necessary to be done. And moreover, the field-officers and captains of the regiments, at the time of their summoning inn the minute-men, shall immediately give notice thereof to the president of the committee of safety, who is hereby required, without loss of time, to summon the said

committee, that they may give such farther necessary orders and instructions as the exigency of affairs may require.

And be it farther ordained, That every officer of the minute-men receiving notice from any other officer of the minute-men, in any other county than that wherein the regular forces are stationed, of any invasion or insurrection, shall forthwith raise the men under his command, and send intelligence to the commanding-officer of the minute-men of that county, and also the commanding-officer of the militia, or, being himself commanding-officer of the minute-men of that county, shall immediately raise the men under his command, and proceed to oppose the enemy, taking care to dispatch intelligence to the commanding-officer of the district, and also to the officer of the minute-men in the next adjacent county, who is to proceed in the same manner as the officer first receiving such intelligence is directed to do. But the several officers of the minute-men thus to be raised shall be subject to such farther directions and instructions as shall be given them either by the committee of safety, or a council of field-officers and captains, to be held for that purpose. And the commanding-officer of the militia receiving such intelligence shall immediately summon a council of his field-officers and captains, to consider and determine whether it is necessary to march his militia, or what part thereof, to the place of danger, and act according to their decision; giving immediate notice, if the importance of the case, in the opinion of the said council of war, shall require it, to the general committee of safety, whose orders and directions the said commanding-officer and his militia are hereby directed to obey.

And for settling the proper rank amongst the officers, as well of the regulars, as of the minute-men and militia, whenever they are joined in actual service, Be it farther ordained, That in such case the several officers of the regulars shall take rank of the minute-men of the same rank, and the officers of the minute-men shall take rank of the officers of the militia of the same rank; but the minute-men shall not be under the command of the militia officers, nor the militia under the command of the minute officers, unless drawn out upon duty together.

Provided, That when the county-lieutenant is called out with his militia, in junction with the regulars or minute-men, he shall rank as a colonel; and the colonels, if their county-lieutenants be present, shall rank as lieutenant-colonels only; and the lieutenant-colonels as majors, in ease of the presence of their county lieutenant and colonel.

And be it farther ordained, That every officer or militia man, and every officer and minute-man, who shall refuse, or unreasonably delay, conforming to the above directions, in every particular, shall, for every refusal or delay, forfeit and pay the several sums following, to wit: Every lieutenant of a county the sum of two hundred pounds, every colonel two hundred pounds, every lieutenant-colonel (either of the minute-men or militia) the sum of two hundred pounds, every major of the minute-men or militia the sum of one hundred pounds, every captain the sum of seventy five pounds, every lieutenant the sum of fifty pounds, every ensign the sum of ten pounds, every serjeant and corporal the sum of five pounds; and every soldier or minute-man, failing to appear, and not bringing with him his arms, shall forfeit and pay the sum of five pounds. Every delinquency of officers in the above respects to be judged of, and the said fines to be imposed, by a general court-martial; and if any officer shall refuse or neglect to pay the said fine, within one month, he shall be cashiered, and moreover be liable to a stoppage of his pay, towards discharging the said fine,

Provided, That if any officer shall think himself aggrieved by the sentence of such court-martial, he may appeal to the committee of safety, whose judgment shall be final; and every private soldier, or minute-man, refusing or neglecting to pay the same, or to give security to pay the same in one month after conviction, shall be subject to such corporal punishment as may be inflicted by a court-martial, not extending to life or member.

And be it farther ordained, That the commander in chief shall have power, as occasion may require, to appoint one brigade-major, to be approved by the committee of safety; and such brigade-major shall be allowed six shillings for every day he is employed on duty.

And be it farther ordained, That the committee of safety shall, and they are hereby empowered, to provide proper winter-quarters for the regular soldiers, and minute-men when called into actual service, as they may see occasion, and issue their warrants from time to time for the payment of the same.

And whereas, by the expiration of several of our militia laws, and the act of our general assembly making, provision against invasions and insurrections, which there is little prospect of having revived in any reasonable time, it is judged necessary, in the present time of danger, that the remainder of the militia not included in the minute-men should be armed, accoutred, trained, and disciplined, in the best manner the circumstances of the country will admit of, Be it therefore ordained, That in each county within this colony there shall be a county-lieutenant, colonel, lieutenant-colonel, and major, to be commissioned by the committee of safety upon the nomination of the committees of the respective counties; that all free male persons, hired servants, and apprentices, above the age of sixteen, and under fifty years, except such as are hereafter excepted, shall be enlisted into the militia by the commander in chief of the county, and formed into companies of not less then thirty two, nore more than sixty eight rank and file, to be placed under one captain, one lieutenant, and one ensign, all of whom shall be commissioned by the committee of safety, upon the nomination of the committees of the countes aforesaid. And the commander in chief of each county shall, within three months after passing this ordinance, deliver to each captain a list of the names of the men appointed for his company; and every captain receiving such list shall summon his company to meet him within a fortnight, at such convenient time and place as he may appoint, in order to lay a proper foundation for training and disciplining them in the most effectual manner.

Provided, That the members of his majestys council, and the committee of safety, the president of the convention, treasurer, attorney-general, auditor, clerk of the council, clerk of the secretarys office, clerk of the general convention, and clerk of the committee of safety (each of which exempts furnishing a stand of arms for a soldier) all clergymen and dissenting ministers, the president, professors, students, and scholars of William and Mary college, the keeper of the publick jail, all overseers of four tithables residing on a plantation, and all millers, and persons concerned in iron works and, shall be exempted from such enlistment.

And be it further ordained, That if any commander in chief of any county shall fail to do his duty as above directed he shall forfeit and pay the sum of two hundred pounds.

And be it farther ordained, That every militia man so to be enlisted shall furnish himself with, a good rifle, if to be had. Or otherwise with a tomahawk, common firelock, bayonet, pouch, or cartouch-box, three charges of powder and ball, and appear with the same at the place appointed for mustering, and shall constantly keep by him one pound of powder and four pounds of ball, to be produced whenever called for by his commanding-officer.

Provided always, That no person shall be subject to the penalties hereby inflicted, for the not providing or producing the quantity of powder required, who shall make it appear to the court-martial that he has used his best endeavours to procure such powder, and hath not been able so to do; also, that if it be certified by a court-martial that any soldier enlisted is so poor as not to be able to purchase the arms aforesaid, then such arms shall, by order of the committee of the county, be procured so soon as may be, at the expense of the publick. And if any person shall presume to sell or buy, any arms thus provided, he shall forfeit and pay the sum of six pounds; and all arms so purchased and delivered to any such poor soldier shall on his death, or removal out of the county, be delivered to the chief officer of the militia in the county, or to the captain of the company, to which such poor soldier did belong, to be by such officer delivered to any other poor soldier whom the commanding-officer shall adjudge unable to provide himself with arms as aforesaid.

And be it farther ordained, That there shall be a private muster of the several companies in each county once a fortnight, except in the months of December, January, and February, and the officers and soldiers shall be on the place appointed by ten o'clock, in the forenoon, and moreover, there shall be a general muster in every county, in the months of April and October in each year, and the officers and soldiers shall appear on the parade by eleven o'clock in the forenoon.

And be it farther ordained, That if any officer, when on duty, shall misbehave, he shall be subject to the censure of a court-martial, who shall, if they see cause, certify, such misbehaviour to the committee of the county, city, or borough, by whom such officer was nominated, who shall have full power to displace and remove such officer from his post, if they shall judge it expedient for the good of the publick; and if any soldier shall, at any general or private muster, refuse to obey the command of his officer, or shall behave himself refractorily and mutinously, or misbehave himself at a court martial, it shall and may be lawful for the commanding-officer then present to cause such offender to be tied neck and heels, for anytime not exceeding five minutes.

And be it farther ordained, That every captain, or in his absence the next commissioned officer, shall make return of all delinquencies in his company, either at general or private musters, to the next court-martial; and the better to enable him so to do, the senior serjeant being first sworn by a magistrate shall act as clerk, and call over the roll at each muster. And the lieutenant or other chief officers of the militia, shall and may order the other officers and soldiers under him to go armed to their parish churches on Sundays, and to any licensed meeting-houses, whenever he judges it necessary.

And be it farther ordained, That it shall and may be lawful for the field-officers and captains of every county, or the major part of them, whereof a field-officer shall be one, and they are hereby required, to meet at the courthouse of their respective counties the day next following the general muster in the months of April and October in every year, if fair, (if not, the next fair day) then and there to hold a court-martial; which court shall have power to adjourn from day to day, and to inquire of the age and abilities of all persons enlisted, and exempt such as they shall adjudge incapable of service, and of all delinquents returned by the captains for absence from musters, or appearing without arms, powder, or ball. And the said court, the better to conduct the business before them, shall and may appoint a clerk, to whom the president of the court shall administer an oath well and faithfully to perform the duties of his office; and the said court shall allow such clerk, so appointed, such salary as they may judge his services entitle him to. And every county-lieutenant, or the next officer in command, if the lieutenant should be absent on necessary business, failing to appoint a general muster, as before directed, shall forfeit and pay one hundred pounds; and every colonel, lieutenant-colonel, or major, failing to appear with their proper arms at any general muster, shall forfeit and pay ten pounds; and every captain failing to muster and exercise his company once in every fortnight, except as before excepted, shall forfeit and pay forty shillings for every neglect; and failing to appear at any general muster, shall forfeit and pay fifty shillings. Every lieutenant failing to appear at any muster twenty shillings, and every ensign, for the like failure, the sum of twenty shillings; and every soldier not appearing, or appearing without proper arms, five shillings; or for not bringing with him three charges of powder and ball, three shillings; or failing to bring into the field, when required by his commanding-officer, one pound of powder and four pounds of ball, five shillings. And every captain, or in his absence from muster the next commanding-officer, failing to return the list of the persons who shall not appear at muster to the courts-martial, or who shall appear without proper arms, powder, and ball, shall forfeit and pay ten pounds; provided, if the person so failing shall, at the next court-martial, or in case of his inability to attend at the succeeding court-martial, offer a reasonable excuse for any such delinquencies, such excuse shall and may be admitted, and the party complained of discharged of all and every the penalties aforesaid.

And be it farther ordained, That the captain of each company shall and may appoint one drummer and one fifer, who shall be paid for their attendance the same as is allowed in the minute service; and the said captains shall provide drums, fifes, colours, and halberds, at the publick expense, to be reimbursed out of the fines; and every clerk of a court-martial shall deliver a list of the fines imposed by the court-martial to the collector, within twenty days, under the penalty of one hundred pounds, to be imposed by the next succeeding court-martial.

And be it farther ordained, That every officer, of the militia within this colony shall, at all times that he acts on duty, at any private or general muster, appear armed in the following manner, that is to say: every county lieutenant, colonel, lieutenant-colonel, and major, with a sword, and every captain and lieutenant with a fire-lock and bayonet, and a sword, and three charges of powder and ball; every ensign

with a sword; every serjeant and corporal with a sword and halberd, under the penalty of twenty shillings; all the said fines to be levied by a court-martial, and appropriated to the purchasing arms and ammunition for the use of such as are not able to procure the same.

And be it farther ordained, That the soldiers shall be allowed six months after enlisting to provide themselves with arms, and in the mean time shall bring with them such arms as they have, under the penalty of five shillings, to be inflicted by a court-martial; and that all arms of the militia shall be exempted from executions or distresses, and all officers and soldiers shall be exempted from arrests in civil cases, during their continuance at, going to and returning from musters.

And be it farther ordained, That if any exempted miller or overseer shall presume to appear at any muster of the militia or minute-men, or in any muster-field, on the day on which such muster shall be appointed, the party so offending shall forfeit and pay twenty shillings, to be assessed upon him by the next court-martial, upon a certificate of the offence to them made, by the captain or chief officer present at such muster, or the information, on oath, of any person whatsoever, and levied, accounted for, and appropriated, in the same manner as the other fines ordered by the court-martial. And that all fines and penalties incurred by infants or servants, for breach or neglect of duty in any particular service by this ordinance required of them, shall be paid by the parent, guardian, or master, of such infant or servant; and if the breach or neglect of such servants is not occasioned by their masters influence or direction, then the fines incurred by them, and so paid by their masters, shall be repaid to their masters, by the farther service of such servants after the times they are bound to serve are expired.

And be it farther ordained, That if any collector, appointed by a court-martial, shall refuse to collect the fines imposed by such court-martial, after having undertaken the same, he shall forfeit and pay one hundred pounds; and if any collector refuses, or unreasonably delays, to pay all fines by him collected to the receiver who shall be appointed by a court-martial, he shall forfeit and pay double the amount thereof.

And be it farther ordained, That the several militia officers to be appointed, before they enter on the execution of their office, shall take the following oath, to be administered before the committee of the city, borough, or county, to wit:

I A. B. do solemnly swear, that I will be faithful and true to the colony and dominion, of Virginia; that I will well and truly execute the office of county-lieutenant of the county of _____ (or the office of as the case may be) according to the best of my skill and judgment. So help me God.

And be it farther ordained, That every county-lieutenant, colonel, lieutenant-colonel, major, and captain, at the time of holding every court-martial, and before holding the same, shall take the following oath, which shall be first administered by the next in command to the presiding officer then present, and then be by him administered to the rest of the officers, to wit:

I A. B. do swear, that I will do equal right and justice to all men, according to the ordinance of the general convention by which I am appointed to this office. So help me God.

And every person accepting a commission in the militia, who shall neglect or refuse to qualify himself to act under the same, by taking the oath before mentioned, at the next meeting of the committee of his county, city, or borough, after receiving his commission, every such person shall forfeit and pay the sum of five pounds.

And be it farther ordained, That the fines imposed by this ordinance on the chief officer for not enlisting the men in his county, and on the commanding-officer present in the county for not appointing general musters, shall be to the use of the county, for providing arms, and shall and may be recovered before a court-martial.

And be it farther ordained, That all officers failing to attend a court-martial shall be subject to the same penalties as the chief officer for not appointing general musters; provided, if no court-martial is held immediately after the next general muster, then by the next succeeding court-martial.

Provided always, That nothing in this ordinance contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to the inhabitants of the city of Williamsburg or borough, of Norfolk, so as to oblige them to muster or serve in the militia out of the said city or borough; but that such inhabitants shall be enlisted and trained

within the limits of the said city and borough, in the same manner as is directed by this ordinance, but under a colonel, a major, and the necessary number of captains and other officers, all of whom shall be nominated by the committees of the said city and borough respectively, and commissioned by the committee of safety. And the said militia officers, as well as soldiers, shall be liable to all the penalties before directed to be inflicted on the officers and soldiers in the counties, either for neglect of duty or misbehaviour, in any respect whatsoever, to be adjudged by the courts of hustings both in the said city and borough, without whose orders and directions neither of the said militias shall at any time be obliged to march out of the said city or borough.

And be it farther ordained, That the commanding officer of the militia of every county, of the city of Williamsburg, and borough of Norfolk, shall appoint so many patrollers, as he may think fit, under proper captains, who shall receive a reasonable allowance for their trouble, at the laying of every county levy.

And be it farther ordained, That all quakers, and the people called Menonists, shall be exempted from serving in the militia, agreeable to the several acts of the general assembly of this colony made for their relief and indulgence in this respect.

And be it farther ordained, That if the officers and militia should at any time be called out into actual service, they shall be under the same rules and regulations, be subject to the same penalties, and shall receive the same pay, as are appointed, prescribed, and allowed, to and for the regulars and their officers.

And be it farther ordained, That the court-martial of every county, city, and borough, in this colony, shall appoint some person, not being a member of such court, to receive all the militia fines inflicted by this ordinance; who, before he enters into the execution of his office, shall give bond, with sufficient security, payable to the members of the said court, sitting at the time the same shall be entered into and taken, and their successours, with condition for the due payment of all monies that shall come to his hands by virtue of his said office, which bond shall not become void on the first recovery, but may be prosecuted and put in suit from time to time, by and at the cost and charges in the law of any party or parties injured, until the whole penalty therein mentioned shall be recovered. And if any receiver hereafter to be appointed shall fall or delay to account with the court-martial, or to apply the money by him received as he shall be directed, after deducting at the rate of five per cent. which he shall be allowed for his trouble by the court-martial, that then, upon motion or complaint made to the county court, or court of hustings of the city of Williamsburg or borough of Norfolk, respectively, by any officer or soldier of the militia, against such receiver, such court shall give judgment and award execution against him and securities, his executors, or administrators, for the same, and cause the money to be appropriated to the uses directed by this ordinance, in such manner as the court-martial shall appoint; provided, that such receiver, and his securities, their executors, or administrators, have ten days previous notice of such motion.

And be it farther ordained, That this ordinance shall, by command of each colonel, be publicly read at the head of his regiment, as soon as the same is embodied and formed, and once in six months thereafter, under the penalty of one hundred pounds, to be paid by such colonel for every neglect; and the same shall also be publicly read at every meeting of a battalion of the minute-men in each district, and at every general muster, by the order of the colonel, county-lieutenant, or chief officer then present, under the penalty of one hundred pounds, to be paid by any such officer for every neglect.

And whereas it is declared by this ordinance, that four hundred and twenty five men, under proper officers, shall be stationed at the several forts upon the frontiers of this colony, It is hereby ordained, That as soon as the treaty of peace shall be concluded with the several tribes of Indians bordering on the western parts of this colony, it shall be in the power of the committee of safety, if the convention is not sitting, to disband the whole, or such part thereof as to them shall seem most expedient and consistent with the good of this colony.”²¹

22 August 1775. George Mason (at Richmond) to Martin Cockburn Esqr

“The 3000 Troops (exclusive of the Western frontier Garrisons) first proposed to be raised, are reduced to 1000, to be form'd into two regiments, one of eight, the other of seven Compys:—These 15 Compys: are to be raised in the 15 Western-Shoar Dirtricts, the Captains & subaltern Officers to be appointed by the Committee of the respective Districts, form'd by a Deputation of three members from the Committee of each County in the District—The first Regiment is commanded by Colo Henry, Lieut: Colo Christian & Major Eppes—the Second Regiment, by Colo Wm Woodford, Lieut: Col: Chas Scott & Major Spotswood— A Regiment of Minute Men of 680, Rank & file, is to be raised in the Eastern Shoar District, & a Regiment of 500, rank & file, in each of the fifteen Districts on the Western Shoar, with the same Field & Staff Officers, Chaplain, Surgeon &c as the regiments of regulars & wth the same pay, when upon duty in the District, or drawn into actual service—The officers to be appointed by the District Committees, & Commissioned by the Committee of Safety—The Militia officers are all to give up their present Commissions, & to be nominated by the respective Committees of the Counties, the Militia Companys to be exercised once a Fortnight, except the three Winter months, & general County musters twice a year. Arms, Tents, &c to be provided for the Minute men at the public charge. These are the great out lines of our plan of Defence, which I think a good, tho' a very expensive one: the particulars wou'd take up too much room for a common Letter; particular rules are drawn up for the better regulation & Government of the Army, to which both the Minute Men and Militia are subjected, when drawn out into actual service; the volunteer Companies are all discharged & melted down in the plan for the regiments of Minute men...”²²

29 September 1775. Lund Washington to George Washington.

“Mount Vernon Septmbr 29th 1775

Dr Sir...

Our Committee has made Choice of their Militia officers Colo. West Cty Lieutenant McCarty & Broadwater Colos. Robt H. Harrison mjr the Captns Lieutenants & Ensigns are disperse'd in different parts of the Cty a great many of them are taken out of our Company 40 I believe altogether for the Minute Service & Militia, I believe the Captns for the militia are Gilpin, Harrison, Phil: & Gerrard Alexander, Triplett, (Thos) Moody, Dulany, Ed. payne, James Wren, Pollard, Waggoner, Cockburn, John Seale, John Hunter, and one more which I cannot recollect the remains of our [Fairfax Independent] Company with several others who want to join them are about to form the Company & apply to the Committee of Safety for Commissions for their officers & Continue them as Militia, but subjectd (as to themselves) to their former Lieuts...”²³

Endnotes

1

The Life of George Mason, 1725 – 1792, Including his Speeches, Public Papers, and Correspondence; With an Introduction by General Fitzhugh Lee, Volume I, by Kate Mason Rowland, 1892, pages 181 – 182, available online at: https://books.google.com/books?id=F0F6TuWe_LwC. Also noted in “Founders Archives,” available online at: <http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/02-10-02-0113>, which noted: “This blue and buff uniform chosen for the Fairfax Independent Company was almost certainly the uniform [George Washington] wore at the Second Continental Congress when he was chosen commander-in-chief of the American forces. Lund Washington’s account of the work done by GW’s indentured tailor Andrew Judge indicates that in November 1774 Judge made ‘1 Suite Regimentals’ for GW. The following month he also made regimentals for Lund Washington and John Parke Custis (Lund Washington’s Mount Vernon account book, 1772 – 86, f. 32...).” See also The Papers of George Mason, 1725 – 1792, edited by Robert A. Rutland, in three volumes, Chapel Hill, N.C., 1970.

² “Founders Online,” available online at: <http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/02-10-02-0113>, which notes: “in the hand of William Rumney... The letter is addressed to GW ‘now in Philadelphia...’”

³ The Diaries of George Washington, Volume III (1771 – 75, 1780 – 81), edited by Donald Jackson and Dorothy Twohig, 1978, pages 288 – 291, available online at: <https://www.loc.gov/resource/mgwd.wd03/?sp=306>, <https://www.loc.gov/resource/mgwd.wd03/?sp=307>, <https://www.loc.gov/resource/mgwd.wd03/?sp=308> and <https://www.loc.gov/resource/mgwd.wd03/?sp=309>.

⁴ “Founders Online,” available online at: <http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/02-10-02-0130>.

⁵ The Diaries of George Washington, Volume III (1771 – 75, 1780 – 81), edited by Donald Jackson and Dorothy Twohig, 1978, page 303, available online at: <https://www.loc.gov/resource/mgwd.wd03/?sp=321>.

⁶ “Founders Online,” available online at: <http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/02-10-02-0158>.

⁷ The Journals of Each Provincial Congress of Massachusetts in 1774 and 1775..., 1838, page 41, available online at: https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Journals_of_Each_Provincial_Congress.html?id=iFVMkRsFQh4C. “Saturday, October 29, 1774, A.M. The committee appointed to take into consideration what military exercise is best for the people of this province now to adopt, reported; the report was read and accepted, and Ordered, That Major Foster bring in a resolve accordingly; who, in obedience to the above order, reported the following resolve, which was read and accepted, and ordered to be published in the Boston newspapers. Resolved, That it be recommended to the inhabitants of this province, that in order to their perfecting themselves in the military art, they proceed in the method ordered by his majesty in the year 1764, it being, in the opinion of this Congress, best calculated for appearance and defence.”

⁸ “Founders Online,” available online at: <http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/02-10-02-0174>.

⁹ The Life of George Mason, 1725 – 1792, Including his Speeches, Public Papers, and Correspondence; With an Introduction by General Fitzhugh Lee, Volume I, by Kate Mason Rowland, 1892, pages 184 – 185, available online at: https://books.google.com/books?id=F0F6TuWe_LwC.

¹⁰ American Archives: Fourth Series, Containing a Documentary History of the English Colonies in North America, from the King’s Message to Parliament, of March 7, 1774, to the Declaration of Independence by the United States, Volume I, by Peter Force, 1837, page 1145, available online at: <https://books.google.com/books?id=ZU0MAQAAMAAJ>.

¹¹ The Diaries of George Washington, Volume III (1771 – 75, 1780 – 81), edited by Donald Jackson and Dorothy Twohig, 1978, page 323, available online at: <https://www.loc.gov/resource/mgwd.wd03/?sp=327>.

¹² “Founders Online,” available online at: <http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/02-10-02-0202>, notes not transcribed.

¹³ The Diaries of George Washington, Volume III (1771 – 75, 1780 – 81), edited by Donald Jackson and Dorothy Twohig, 1978, page 313, available online at: <https://www.loc.gov/resource/mgwd.wd03/?sp=331>.

¹⁴ The Proceedings of the Convention of Delegates for the Counties and Corporations in the Colony of Virginia, Held at Richmond Town, in the County of Henrico, on the 20th of March, 1775, 1816, pages 6 – 7, available online at: https://books.google.com/books?id=Y_hOAQAIAAJ.

¹⁵ “Founders Online,” available online at: <http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/02-10-02-0263>, notes not transcribed.

¹⁶ The Diaries of George Washington, Volume III (1771 – 75, 1780 – 81), edited by Donald Jackson and Dorothy Twohig, 1978, page 323, available online at: <https://www.loc.gov/resource/mgwd.wd03/?sp=341>.

¹⁷ Naval Documents of the American Revolution, Volume 1, American Theatre: Dec. 1, 1774–Sept. 2, 1775, European Theatre: Dec. 6, 1774–Aug. 9, 1775, edited by William Bell Clark, 1964, page 243, available online at: http://www.ibiblio.org/anrs/docs/USHistory/E3/ndar_v01.pdf.

¹⁸ The Diaries of George Washington, Volume III (1771 – 75, 1780 – 81), edited by Donald Jackson and Dorothy Twohig, 1978, page 323, available online at: <https://www.loc.gov/resource/mgwd.wd03/?sp=341>.

¹⁹ “Founders Online,” available online at: <http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-01-02-0008>.

²⁰ “Founders Online,” available online at: <http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-01-02-0042>.

²¹ The Statutes at Large; Being a Collection of all the Laws of Virginia from the First Session of the Legislature, in the Year 1619, Volume IX (1775 – 1778), edited by William Waller Hening, 1821, pages 9 – 35, available online at: <http://vagenweb.org/hening/vol09-01.htm>. Also printed in the 25 August 1775 edition of the Virginia Gazette (Purdie). The Proceedings of the Convention of Delegates for the Counties and Corporations in the Colony of Virginia, held at Richmond Town, In the County of Henrico, On Monday the 17th of July 1775, 1816, available online at: https://books.google.com/books?id=Y_hOAQAIAAJ, noted (page 20), that this bill passed on 21 August 1775.

²² Calendar of Virginia State Papers and Other Manuscripts, 1652 – 1781, Preserved in the Capitol at Richmond, Volume I, edited by William Pitt Palmer, 1875, page 269, available online at: <http://books.google.com/books?id=pKwFAAAQAAJ>.

²³ “Founders Online,” available online at: <http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-02-02-0061>.