

The Petersburg Volunteers, 1812-1813

by Lee A. Wallace, Jr.

Note: Lee A. Wallace, Jr. received a B.A. from William and Mary College and an M.A. from the University of North Carolina. He spent several years in the military with the 30th Infantry Division, during World War II, and the VA National Guard. He wrote several books about the Civil War and the American Revolution including First Virginia Infantry, Fifth Virginia Infantry, and A Guide to Virginia Military Organizations, 1861-1865 for the Virginia Regimental Histories Series. He was a charter member of The Company of Military Historians. Wallace died 1997.

Republished here in electronic format by permission of Ms. Sara Bearrs, editor of the *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, quarterly publication of the Virginia Historical Society. I would like to express by gratitude to my friend Lee Wallace for giving me his manuscript of this article and supporting documentation shortly prior to his death in October, 1997. God Speed Old Friend. - Jeff Weaver, Arlington, Virginia, September, 1998.

War against Great Britian was declared on June 18, 1812, with a determination to conquer Canada. The first offensive was Brigadier General William Hull's advance into Canada from Detroit on July 12, with an army composed largely of militia. The outposts of Fort Malden at Amherstburg, where most of the enemy was concentrated, were contacted, but Hull, overestimating their strength by tenfold, hesitated to attack. Further unnerved by the British capture of Fort Michilimackinac, which guarded the entrance to Lake Michigan, he withdrew on August 8, to Detroit. On August 16, Hull was bluffed into surrendering Detroit with the entire garrison, offering less than token resistance. This humiliating capitulation left the British in control of Lake Erie and the Michigan Territory. Indignation over the surrender swept the country, and there was a general outcry against Hull.[\[1\]](#)

On September 1 a requisition was made on Virginia for 1,500 armed militia infantrymen to march as soon as possible to the Northwestern Army in Ohio. The next day, Governor James Barbour called for the quota, to be drawn from the militia regiments in the counties of Brooke, Cabell, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Hardy, Harrison, Kanawha, Lewis, Mason, Monogalia, Ohio, Preston, Randolph, Tyler and Wood.[\[2\]](#) Point Pleasant, on the Ohio River in Mason County, was designated as the rendezvous where the militamen would be organized into regiments and battalions under the command of Brigadier General Joel Leftwich of Bedford County.[\[3\]](#) By October 12, there were 1,311 men encamped at Point Pleasant, with orders to march and join Pennsylvania militiamen at Wooster, in Wayne County, Ohio.[\[4\]](#)

In Petersburg, the organization of a company of volunteers was already underway when a public meeting was held in the town courthouse on September 8. With Nathaniel Friend presiding as chairman, a resolution was adopted providing for the appointment of a committee of 12 to raise funds for the benefit of the company by public subscription. Another resolution echoed the sentiments of the gathering as follows: "That the town of Petersburg will ever hold in high remembrance those Noble & Patriotic yougn men, who, unmindful of every other consideration, save love of country, have volunteered their services to retrieve the reputation of the republic, so

shamefully, ignominiously and disgracefully sullied by the imbecile (If not treacherous) conduct of General Hull.[\[5\]](#)

Raised as a volunteer infantry company to be mustered into Federal service for a period of one year, the Petersburg company was not a part of the quota requested of Virginia on September 1, 1812. The company was reported as having 75 enrolled on September 10, and that as soon as their uniforms were completed, they would march to Washington and tender their services to the President. It was expected that the strength would reach at least 100 before their departure. [\[6\]](#) The company met on September 12, and elected its officers, Captain Richard McRae, First Lieutenant William Tisdale, Second Lieutenant Henry Gary and Ensign Shirley Tisdale.[\[7\]](#)

The original plan for the entire company to march to Washington was abandoned, and about September 16, Captain McRae and Lieutenant Tisdale left Petersburg for the capitol. In Richmond, they visited Governor Barbour, carrying with them a letter of introduction from a M. Barbour of Petersburg, urging His Excellency "to pay them all due respect and giving them every facility in your power to accomplish their object in Washington." [\[8\]](#) News of President



Madison's acceptance of the company's services reached Petersburg before the return of the two officers on September 25. [\[9\]](#) The company was under orders to march for Ohio as soon as practicable, and it was believed that they would leave about October 10.[\[10\]](#)

Eulogistic press accounts left little doubt that the Petersburg Volunteers was the finest body of young patriots ever to be raised for the service of the country. They were credited as having the firmness of character, "which will ever command respect--that glow of patriotism, which is the presage of their future glory and renown in the annals of their country--and that nobleness of souls which disclaims fear, and is a stranger to dishonor." They would, predicted the writer, become "as celebrated in the war of their county as the immortal band who defended the pass of Thermopylae." [\[11\]](#) One Petersburg correspondent, in a letter to the Richmond *Enquirer* declared: "...this company is composed not of the dregs of society, culled from the by-lanes & alleys of the town; but of the flower of our youth and the best blood of our country...they have left the caresses of friends, and the soft repose of their private life, to treat the snows of Canada and the inhospitable wilds of the Savage."[\[12\]](#) Another letter, in the *Virginia Argus*, revealed that the men would march supplied with every comfort imaginable, and that the ladies of Petersburg had prepared the company's flag, and were busily employed in completing the uniforms and knapsacks.[\[13\]](#)

Twelve of the 14 men who had joined the Volunteers from Amelia County met on October 14 at the court house, on their way to Petersburg. Among the crowd gathered to see them off were a number of Revolutionary War veterans, and it was said to have been, "a proud scene, indeed, to see the soldier of '76 clasp the hand of the young soldiers of 1812, one by one, bestowing on them their ranks, their praises; the old soldiers then formed themselves in a line, and as the young patriots marched off, gave them 3 cheers."[\[14\]](#)

On October 16, the company of Petersburg Volunteers was enrolled in the service of the United States for a term of 12 months. Besides the officers previously elected, the company was comprised of the following: Sergeants--Robert B. Cook, John Henderson, James Stevens,

Samuel Stevens; Corporals---George T. Clough, Joseph C. Noble, John Perry, Joseph Scott, Thomas G. Scott, Norbon B. Spotswood; Musicians--Daniel Eshon, James Jackson; Privates--Richard Adams, Andrew Andrews, John W. Bentley, Joseph R. Bentley, Thomas B. Bigger, John Bignall, Robert Blick, Daniel Booker, George Booker, Richard Booker, Edward Branch, Richard H. Branch, Edmund Brown, George Burge, William Burton, James Cabiness, James G. Chalmers, Edward Chenoworth, William R. Chives, Thomas Clarke, Moses Clements, Reuben Clements, Edward H. Cogbill, Samuel Cooper, George Craddock, James Cureton, William B. Degraffenreidt, George P. Digges, Grieve Drummond, Laven Dunton, Alfred O. Eggleston, James Farrar, John Frank, Frederick Gary, James Gary, Edmund Gee, Edmund M. Giles, Leroy Graves, George Grundy, George W. Grymes, Nathaniel Harrison, William Harrison, John C. Hill, Jacob Humbert, James Jeffers, William Lacy, William Lanier, William R. Leigh, Herbert C. Lofton, Alfred Lorrain, Roger Mallory, David Mann, Joseph Mason, Nicholas Massenburg, Benjamin Middleton, Samuel Miles, Anthony Mullen, Edward Mumford, James Pace, Benjamin Pegram, Thomas W. Perry, James Peterson, Richard Pool, John Potter, Evans Rawlings, John Rawlings, William P. Rawlings, George P. Raybourne, George Richards, John H. Saunders, Thomas Scott, Richard Sharp, John Shelton, John Shore, John H. Smith, John Spratt, Robert Stevens, Ezra Stith, Nathaniel H. Wills, John F. Wiley, David Williams, James Williams, Samuel Williams, Daniel Worsham, Thomas Worsham, Charles Wynne.[\[15\]](#)

The long awaited day for the departure of the Petersburg Volunteers finally arrived on October 21, 1812. At an early hour, the company and citizens began to assemble on Centre Hill, and by ten o'clock the spacious ground was filled. An hour later, a hollow square was formed for the flag presentation ceremony. The flag, made by the "fair hands" of Petersburg, was presented on their behalf to the Volunteers by Benjamin Watkins Leigh, the illustrious sons of Chesterfield County, Petersburg lawyer and civic leader, who was to become one of Virginia's most distinguished statesmen.[\[16\]](#) In a "concise but eloquent and impressive harangue," Leigh told the Volunteers "to bear in sacred remembrance their fair donors and to preserve from hostile hands, this proud evidence of their regard for the honor and happiness of the company." Captain McRae, accepting the flag on behalf of Ensign Tisdale, who was absent, acknowledged the obligation the company was under, and pledged to the defense of the flag at every hazard.[\[17\]](#)

Following the ceremony, the company formed in ranks, and took up the line of march for their departure. Preceded by the militia cavalry, the officers of the 39th Regiment of militia, the Senior Volunteers, and the Petersburg Republican Light Infantry, the volunteers accompanied by carriages filled with ladies, and followed by a large crowd of citizens, marched down Sycamore Street, into Bollingbrooke Street, and across Pocahontas Bridge.[\[18\]](#) As they passed over the bridge, a small cannon on the armed schooner *Washington* from New York, acknowledged the volunteers with a salute. When they reached Haxall's lane, leading to Violet Bank, the Senior Volunteers, and some of the citizens, turned back for Petersburg. The procession continued to Swift Creek, where there was a brief halt for refreshments provided by John Edwards and William Rowlett. Here, the Republican Light Infantry, and many of the citizens, dropped out. The Volunteers, followed by the cavalry, militia officers, and people who had joined in from the countryside, continued the search to Ware Bottom Church, where they made camp for the night, probably in a grove of trees near the spring, which was a short distance from the church.[\[19\]](#) A "plentiful dinner, and other refreshments," hosted by citizens of Chesterfield County, was

partaken, after which the cavalry and militia officers, and others, left the Volunteers for their first encampment.[\[20\]](#)

The next day, as the company neared Richmond, they were met by the cavalry and other militia companies, with several bands, and escorted into the city to Capitol Square, where they were welcomed by Governor Barbour amid the cheering of an immense crowd. On Saturday, October 24, a public dinner, arranged for by the officers of the 19th Regiment (City of Richmond) of militia, was given for the Volunteers at Buchanan's Spring. Over 600 attended, with the Governor presiding. As it was also muster day for the 19th Regiment, the uniformed companies were present in full dress and armed. At the center, and the largest of the five, tables, were officers of the Revolutionary War, the Governor, and the Petersburg Volunteers. Seated at the next two tables were the Richmond companies, and the remaining two tables were occupied by citizens, who had subscribed for the dinner. *The Enquirer* described it as "the most sumptuous and animated feast which we have ever seen."[\[21\]](#)

Soon after the Volunteers arrived in Richmond they were visited by the celebrated Methodist missionary and historian of his church, the Rev. Jesse Lee, a native of Prince George County, and a veteran of the American Revolution, who was eminent in the early growth of Methodism in Virginia.[\[22\]](#) A member of the company, Alfred M. Lorrain, later to become a Methodist of considerable fame, recalled years later that Lee "recognized almost each soldier as the son of some highly esteemed friend."[\[23\]](#) The Volunteers solicited a sermon from Lee, and on the appointed day, the company marched to his church, which was soon packed with citizens and soldiers. The text of the Reverend's sermon, directed at the youth of Richmond, was "Shall your brethren go to war, and shall ye sit here?"[\[24\]](#)

There was considerable agitation in the Richmond newspapers for the organization of a volunteer company in the city. Praising Petersburg for its company the *Virginia Argus* on October 12 declared, "Why does not Richmond follow her example? We can only sigh over the apathy which hangs over the metropolis." In complimenting the appearance of Captain McRae's company, *The Enquirer* on October 23 stated: "Richmond ought to have sent forth a compatriot band to have fought by your side; but she sleepth in inglorious repose. Shame, shame, on the Metropolis of Virginia." The *Argus* of October 26, proclaimed their confidence in the raising of a Richmond company, and that "nothing is now wanting but the appearance of three or four distinguished young republicans, whom we could readily name, to raise the standards of their country--and hundred of the flower of our youth wold in one week join them and rally around it. Let but the experiment be made we can almost vouch for its success." The cries of the press were not in vain, in November, the Richmond Washington Volunteers was organized.[\[25\]](#) The Reverend Lee's sermon reverberated in the announcement which appeared in the *Argus* on November 5: "A roll is opened in this City for a company of Volunteers, 50 enterprising spirits have already put down their names--Will you join them? Will you follow the glorious steps of Petersburg? Or 'while they go to the battle, will you sit here' in inglorious ease?"

Ordinarily, the War Department furnished arms for volunteer organizations raised for Federal service, but the expansion of the army had seriously depleted the government's stock. Aware of this, Captain McRae applied to the State for arms and cartridge boxes, which would be, in effect, issued on a loan basis to the Federal government. The Governor and Council agreed to grant

McRae's request, but, before arms could be carried from the state, there had to be assurances from Federal authorities that the Commonwealth would be renumeraated for any arms lost.[\[26\]](#) McRae sent two requests for these assurances to Washington but there were no acknowledgments. Finally, on October 27, McRae, writing from Petersburg, where he had returned because of illness, sent another letter, stating that he had been waiting for an answer "till patience ceased to be a virtue," and that the company, detained in Richmond since October 21 for want of arms, was "impatient to be on the march." A postscript noted that he had been advised that the Council of State would deliver the arms to the Petersburg Volunteers, "relying on receiving the sanction & assurance of the General Government."[\[27\]](#) About October 29, the Volunteers received an issue of arms from the state, and on October 31, the Adjutant General in Washington notified McRae that the arms furnished to his company by the Executive of Virginia would be returned by the General Government when called for."[\[28\]](#)

On November 2, the Petersburg Volunteers marched from Richmond, escorted from the city by the volunteer companies of the 19th Regiment, the Governor and other officials, and by hundreds of citizens. "These men," commented *The Enquirer*, "have exhibited among us, and example of decorum and good conduct, which confers the highest credit upon them.... Blessings go with them! And may victory perch upon their banners." The company, it was reported, intended to camp for the night at a Mr. Williamson's, eight miles from the city.[\[29\]](#)

Throughout their journey westward, the company was graciously received, and piled with an abundance of food and drink, to the extent that they passed almost through the state without having to purchase provisions. Upon their arrival at Louisa Court House, they were treated to "a fine soldier's dinner," consisting of "a Good Beef, Mutton, Shoat and Bacon, together with whiskey and Country brandy." While encamped at Major Branham's place in Louisa County, one of the Volunteers wrote on November 8 to their reception there: "...we met with some marks of respect. Capt. Wm. Wash. Of this county, sent a fine stalled beef, Major C. Quarles a plenty of good Cyder, Major Branham and others Vegetables, Straw & Our company are in good health and high spirits."[\[31\]](#)

The Volunteers stopped at Monticello on November 9 for a visit with the 69-year old former president, and as Lorrain remembered it:

We drew up, in military array, at the base of the hill on which the great house was erected. About half way down the hill stood a very homely old man, dressed in plain Virginia cloth, his head uncovered, and his venerable locks flowing in the wind. Some of our quizzical clique at once marked him as a fit subject of fun. "I wonder," said one, "what old codger that is, with his hair blowing nine ways for Easter Monday." "Why, of course, said another, "it is the overseer, and he seems to be scared out of a year's growth. I suspect he never saw gentlemen volunteers before." But how we were astonished when he advanced to our officers and introduced himself as THOMAS JEFFERSON! The officers were invited in to a collation, while we were marched off to the town, where more abundant provisions had been made.[\[32\]](#)

From Charlottesville, the company pushed across the Blue Ridge, passed through White Sulphur Springs, and, by way of the Great Kanawha River, reached Point Pleasant on the Ohio River. Unable to cross the river because of the ice, the company went into camp near the village for

about two weeks. Here, Captain McRae, who had been absent because of illness since late October, rejoined his company. One member wrote that the captain, "was received with every testimony of joy, almost bordering on phresnzy" and that "The inhabitants thought we were taking leave of our senses."[\[33\]](#)

As soon as conditions permitted crossing the river, the Volunteers struck tents, and began the move across. About six of the company, impatient to reach the other side, commandeered a skiff belonging to a young inhabitant, who vigorously protested, with a determination not to let the volunteers use his boat. A number of villagers, and about half the company collected at the scene, but the apparent beginnings of a brawl developed into a mutual admiration for the parties. The owner of the skiff long remembered his experience with the Petersburg Volunteers as a lesson in life, tot he extent that he wrote of it in an article which appeared thirty-one years after the incident.[\[34\]](#)

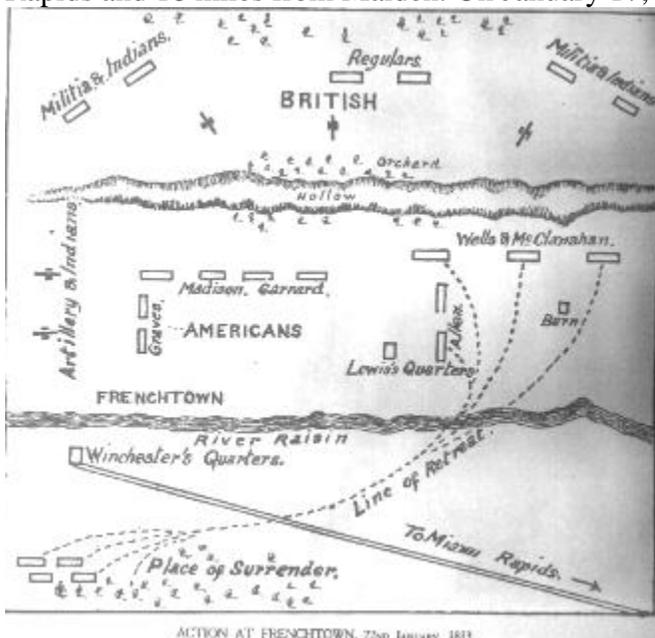
After a fatiguing march of about 60 miles from Point Pleasant, the Volunteers on December 22, reached Chillicothe, then the capital of Ohio. It was reported that "A finer company...or more elegantly uniform, has probably never passed through this place. They certainly do much honor to the state from which they came." The Volunteers were provided quarters in the statehouse, and on December 24, the Ohio legislature sponsored a Christmas Eve dinner for them at Buchanan's hotel. On the following day they were given another dinner by the citizens of the town.[\[35\]](#)

Appointed to the command of the Northwestern Army on September 12, 1812, Major General  William Henry Harrison, with headquarters at Franklinton, near the present site of Columbus, undertook laborioius preparations for a campaign to regain Detroit, and advance into Canada. The public clamoured for a winter campaign without delay, and Harrison optimistically began preparations for it, although much more time was needed to train undisciplined troops and collect supplies. His plan was to move the army in the three "wings," and have them converge at the Rapids of Maumee River, held by the British since the loss of Detroit. Typhus fever and a shortage of clothing and provisions forced the left wing made up of General James Winchester's Kentuckians, to halt at the beginning December and go into winter quarters. The center wing reached the Maumee, but failing to secure a lodgement, fell back to Fort M'Arthur 40 miles from the river. The right wing occupied Lower Sandusky (now Fremont) but could move no further. In short, by the time the Petersburg Volunteers reached Chillicothe, Harrison's campaign has pretty well bogged down, because of the inability to transport badly needed supplies over muddy, miry, and mostly impassable roads. [\[36\]](#)

Ensign Tisdale, who had been sent ahead to contact General Harrison, rejoined the company at Chillicothe on December 23, with orders that they were to march for Upper Sandusky as soon as possible. The General, reported Tisdale, had known nothing of the company's coming, otherwise he would have sent pack horses to expedite the march.[\[37\]](#) As the Volunteers left Chillicothe on, or about, December 26, a northwester brought rain, and then snow, which covered the countryside. Forcing their way through mud, ice, and snow, and crossing swollen streams, they reached Franklinton.[\[38\]](#) From there the march was continued over almost impassable roads, and on January 6, 1813, the company reached Worthington, where they were put up in local taverns..[\[39\]](#) Here, they found Captain Daniel L. Cushing's company of the 2nd Regiment of

U.S. Artillery, also en route to Upper Sandusky, and experiencing great difficulty in making their way with two wagons heavily laden with ammunition and baggage. On January 8, the march was resumed by way of Delaware, which Lorrain described as being "a handsome village--the ultimo thule of American civilization, as far as our route was concerned."[\[40\]](#) Only one cabin was passed as the company marched 40 miles through the cold desolate snow covered country to Upper Sandusky, which was reached about January 10, after 110 miles from Chillicothe.

Meanwhile, Winchester's command had broken camp, and on January 10 was encamped at the Rapids of the Maumee, visiting for Harrison, who was expected on January 20. From the Rapids, they would march against Malden. Soon after reaching the Rapids, Winchester received a request for help at Frenchtown (now Monroe) in Michigan, on the River Raisin, 35 miles north of the Rapids and 18 miles from Malden. On January 17, most of his forces left the Rapids, and after a



sharp action the next day, captured Frenchtown. Winchester with the remainder of his army, excepting about 300, left the Rapids on January 19, and arrived at Frenchtown the next day. Although a victory had been gained, Winchester was now dangerously situated within enemy held territory, and a long way from support by Harrison.

News of Winchester's move to the Rapids reached Harrison at Upper Sandusky on the night of January 16, and, the next day, he started for the Rapids by way of Lower Sandusky to order up the troops stationed there. Orders were given directing the Petersburg Volunteers and other units at Upper Sandusky to proceed to the Rapids,

using the new road cut by way of the Portage River, a distance of 60 miles.[\[41\]](#) It was expected to leave on January 18, but as a lieutenant of Cushing's artillery wrote a few days later: "From one dam'd thing & another, being out of order & wanting repairs, we have not got started as yet."[\[42\]](#) On the morning of January 21, the march began, with Major Robert Orr of the Pennsylvania line in command. There were, besides the Petersburg Volunteers, Captain Cushing's artillery, and six companies of militia. With them were 20 pieces of artillery, and a large quantity of military stores and baggage transported on wagons and sleds. After marching for nine miles, they went into camp for the night by a "little stream of very good water."[\[43\]](#)

On the morning of January 23, news was received of Winchester's capture of Frenchtown, but later in the day, a courier arrived with the sad tidings that the British and Indians had captured Frenchtown, and that most of Winchester's men had been killed or captured, and that Harrison expected an attack on his position at the Rapids. Major Orr was ordered to leave one company as guards for the artillery and baggage, which had to be left behind, and march at once to the Rapids with the remainder of his men. Camp was made early in the evening, and a heavy rain fell at dark

as Major Orr held council with his officers to make preparations for the next day's forced march to Harrison.[44]

Before daylight on January 24, Orr's troops were on the march. In the land was a train of 450 pack horses laden with salt and flour. A continuous rain softened the snow into mud, which the animals churned into what Cushing described as a "bed of mortar about a foot deep." [45] His artillery save one 6-pounder, had been left behind, and those of his company who were not struggling with it through the mire, marched through the swamp beside the road. One of the Petersburg company, writing of the grueling march, declared:

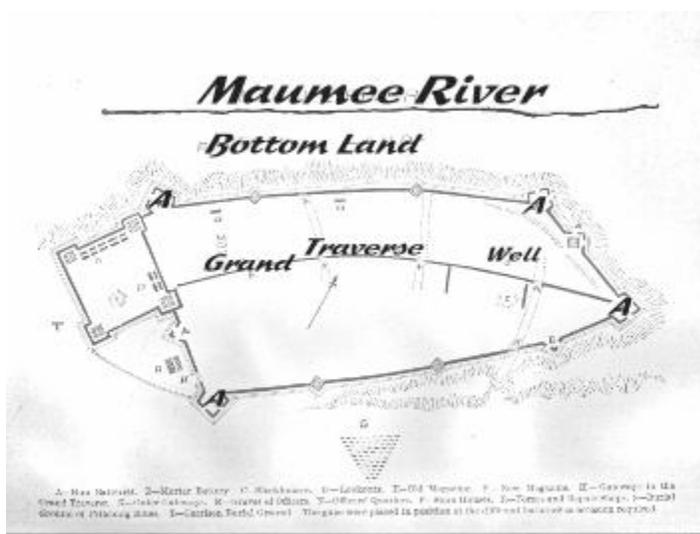
...on that day I regretted being a soldier. On that day we marched thirty miles, under an incessant rain; and I am afraid you will doubt my veracity when I tell you, that in 8 miles of the best road, it took us over the knees and often to the middle. The Black Swamp (4 miles from the Portage river, and 4 miles in extent) would have been considered impassable by all but men determined to surmount every difficulty to accomplish the object of their march. In this swamp you lose sight of terra firma altogether--the water was about 6 inches deep on the ice, which was very rotten, often breaking through to the depth of four or five feet.[46]

Moving along the old road General Hull had used the summer before, they reached the Portage River. There, they learned that Harrison had left the Rapids, and had fallen back 17 miles to the Portage. It was still raining when they camped for the night, their clothing drenched, and the tents had been left behind. Fires were built with considerable difficulty, and although they had no cooking utensils, and but few provisions, the Petersburg Volunteers managed a fairly decent supper. Flour was procured from the nearby packhorses, and baked into bread in ashes. A hog was killed, butchered and the pork was broiled on the coals--"a sweeter meal I never partook of," was the opinion of at least one volunteer.[47]

When reinforcement could be collected, Harrison proposed a return to the Rapids. Meanwhile, an attack was not held improbably on the position at the Portage, and for several nights, wrote one of the Petersburg Volunteers "we went to sleep with our muskets in our arms, and all our accoutrements fixed for action." [48] Delayed on his march from Lower Sandusky by heavy rains which began on January 24, General Leftwich with his Virginia brigade, a regiment of Pennsylvanians, and a considerable amount of artillery, reached the Portage on January 30.[49] With his forces now at about 1,700 Harrison moved up to the east side of the Maumee River, and on February 2, established camp at the foot of the Rapids. The arrival of more Pennsylvania troops nine days later, raised Harrison's strength to slightly over 2,000.

Work soon began on the construction of a strongly fortified position with eight blockhouses, elevated battery emplacements, powder magazines, and a palisade 2,500 yards in circumference. Five 18-pounders, six 12-pounders, six 6-pounders, and three howitzers, were placed in position as the fort's construction progressed.[50] Daily, the men were set to work cutting trees, splitting logs, digging, and in other endless tasks necessary for the completion of the fort, which was named for Ohio's Governor Return Jonathan Meigs.[51] It was an unusually severe winter, and the frozen ground required the most strenuous use of the spade, and in wielding the mattock and pick axe. Alfred Lorrain recalled that: "This season of fatigue was replete with hardships, as it was in the depths of winter, and we suffered from many privations. However our bodies and

minds were actively employed which rendered out condition far preferable to what followed." [52]



The Petersburg company was with a detachment of about 600 sent out on the evening of February 9, to attack an estimated 200 Indians reported to be some 15 miles down the Maumee. Marching on ice for most of the way, the area in which the Indians were supposed to be was reached about 4 o'clock in the morning, and in battle order, they quietly advanced." I could hear the men cocking their pieces," wrote one of the Volunteers, "our company to a man, were even at that moment cheerful and gay! fear was far distant from our ranks." Much to their disappointment, the Indians had left and after a pursuit of about eight miles, the detachment, the Indians had left, and after a pursuit of about eight miles, the detachment, the Indians had left, and after a pursuit of about eight miles, the detachment gave up and returned to Fort Meigs. [53] Again, on March 4, Captain McRae's company was sent out, this time with a party which was to cover the retreat of an unsuccessful expedition fitted out from the fort on February 26 to burn the British brig *Queen Charlotte* at Malden. They met the expedition at the mouth of Lake Erie, and returned with them to the fort on the following day. [54]

In late January, the Petersburg Volunteers and two companies of twelve months volunteers from Pennsylvania, were organized into a battalion under Major John B. Alexander, who was

promoted from captain of the Greensburg Riflemen, a small company of about 23.[\[55\]](#) The other company was Captain James R. Butler's Pittsburgh Blues, which had a total strength of about 39.[\[56\]](#) The two Pennsylvania companies, both of which had seen action at the battle of Missinewa, November 18, 1812, did not reach Fort Meigs until March 18.[\[57\]](#) Major Alexander, wrote one of McRae's company, "is a fine fellow as I ever knew--The most perfect harmony exists between the Pittsburgh company and ours...a generous emulation exists among them,...officers and men mingle together; we visit each others tents of an evening, sing, tell stories, play music, and drink grog, when we can get it; which by-the-by, is not often the case, sutlers not being permitted to sell spirits in the camp."[\[58\]](#)

Soon after their arrival at the Rapids the Volunteers suffered their first loss, Private Andrew Andrews who died from "diseases of a severe climate."[\[59\]](#) Conditions within the camp were far from healthful, with mud and water covering the ground, even within tents. Worse still, was the lack of wood for fires. As the timber had been cut for a long distance around the fort, wood had to be collected and hauled in by teams, for which there was "not a bushel of forage." On March 8, Private Edmund S. Gee, died, and a companion who was present wrote: "I saw him breathe his last--we consigned him to his mother earth will all the decency our circumstances would permit... All the battalion attended the funeral--likewise general Leftwich, who requested the chaplain to perform a funeral service, a thing not done on any similar occasion."[\[60\]](#) Corporal James Stevens died on March 17, and two days later Captain Cushing noted in his journal: "Our men are very sickly; no wonder lying in mud and water and without fire; not less than two or three men died every day, and I expect the deaths to increase unless the weather changes very soon."[\[61\]](#)

The advance to Malden set for early February was abandoned, and with the departure of the Kentucky and Ohio militia, whose terms of service had expired, there was no hope for a campaign until spring. Harrison left on March 5 to make arrangements for more troops, and, on the same day, his engineer officer, Captain Eleazer D. Wood, went to superintend the building of fortifications at Lower Sandusky. General Leftwich, now in command, was charged with completing Fort Meigs, but Wood, who returned on March 18, found that "...this phlegmatic stupid old granny, so soon as General Harrison left camp, stopped the progress of the work entirely, assigning as a reason that he couldn't make the militia do anything, "and that Leftwich had even permitted the timber brought in for building blockhouses to be used as fuel."[\[62\]](#)

The strength of the garrison was seriously depleted on April 2, when Leftwich and his brigade, with most of the Pennsylvania militia, left for their homes, their terms of service having ended. Wood wrote, "...and away went every Virginian belonging to the drafted militia, without the least concern as to what became of those they left behind, or caring whether the enemy or ourselves were in possession of the camp, so long as they could escape from the defense of it."[\[63\]](#) With Leftwich's departure, the command of Fort Meigs devolved upon Major Amos Stoddard, 2nd Regiment of Artillery, veteran of the American Revolution, lawyer, and former acting governor of Louisiana.[\[64\]](#)

A 15-gun salute on April 12 welcomed the return of Harrison with 200 regulars and militia. More arrived later, and by April 23, the garrison had an effective strength of about 1,600.[\[65\]](#) Work continued feverishly on completing the fort, and readying it for the siege, which was now

more than a possibility. It had been known for several weeks that Colonel Henry Proctor was collecting his forces at Malden and Detroit, and on April 18 word came that the attack would be in about 12 days.^[66] The forces which embarked at Malden on April 24 numbered slightly over 2,000, including 413 of the British 41st Regiment of Foot, 468 Canadian militiamen, and about 1,200 Indians.^[67] Landing at the mouth of the Maumee, they moved down the north bank of the river, and established their main camp about two miles below Fort Meigs. While battery positions were being prepared nearly opposite Fort Meigs, the Indians crossed the river, and surrounded the fort in the rear and on the flanks.

Inside the fort, Harrison put his men to work throwing up the "grand traverse," which could be erected only after determining the location of the enemy batteries. It was an earthen embankment 12 feet high, and extended through the middle of the fort, where the tents of the garrison were pitched, and parallel with the batteries across the river. The tents which had been left to conceal the construction of the traverse, were removed, and bombproofs were dug in its base on the sheltered side. As the men were completing the traverse, and removing the tents, the batteries played on the surrounding Indians with grape and canister, and bombarded the British at work on their emplacements across the river.^[68]

The British on the night of April 30, towed a gunboat up the river near the fort, and after firing 30 rounds, which were ineffective, withdrew before daylight. Late on the morning of May 1, the batteries on the opposite shore opened, and during the day expended about 250 rounds, but without much injury to the fort. Not more than two were killed, and four were wounded. During the night the firing was just enough to keep the garrison from rest. A heavy fire from all four of the enemy's batteries began on the morning of May 2, and, with the Indians firing from the tree tops nearest the fort, continued all day. Harrison's losses were four killed and seven wounded.^[69]



Working largely at night, the British established a battery consisting of a light gun and a mortar on Harrison's side of the river, in a broad ravine about 300 yards on the right of the fort. With these pieces, and the batteries across the river, Fort Meigs was subjected to a galling cross-fire. Some 516 rounds were sent at the fort on May 3, but the garrison suffered few losses. On May 4, Harrison refused Proctor's demand for a surrender, and late that night he received the good news that General Green Clay's Kentucky brigade of 1,200 would soon arrive.^[70] With the day, there came a loss to the Petersburg Volunteers, Second Lieutenant Gary, who died suddenly who died suddenly after a lengthy illness.^[71]

May 5 was the momentous day of the siege, and is the date upon which the fame of the Petersburg Volunteers largely rests. On Clay's arrival, 846 of his brigade, under Colonel William Dudley, landed on the north side of the river, and captured the enemy's batteries, which were without support of infantry. Instead of returning to the fort after spiking the guns as ordered, the Kentuckians lingered about, some going in pursuit of the fleeing Indians. Three companies of the 41st Regiment, some Canadian militia, with Tecumseh and his Indians rallied, and drove in between Dudley's men and the river, killing and capturing the entire force save about 170 who managed to escape to Fort Meigs.^[72] While the British batteries were being spiked, the remainder of Clay's brigade on the south bank of the river, fought their way to Fort Meigs, arriving in time for three companies of the Kentuckians to join a sortie on its way out to engage the Indians on the left flank of the fort. A detachment from Alexander's battalion, comprised of McRae's company and the Pittsburgh Blues, was included in the sallying party. The Indians were driven back into the woods, a half a mile or so, but the pursuing troops became reckless, over confident, and came very near experiencing the diameter like that suffered by Dudley's men on the north bank.^[73]

A sortie against the battery in the ravine on the right of the fort was ordered by Harrison. In support of the battery Proctor had the grenadier and light infantry companies of the 41st Regiment, two companies of Canadian militia, and Tecumseh with some 500 Indians; in all, about 850.^[74] Under the command of Colonel John Miller, 19th U.S. Infantry, the sortie consisted of detachments from seven companies of the 19th and 17th U.S. Infantry regiments, Captain Uriel Sebree's company of Kentucky militia, and Major Alexander's battalion of volunteers. The Petersburg Volunteers was the largest of the battalion's companies, with 64 under First Lieutenant Tisdale, commanding in the absence of Captain McRae who was ill as were many others in the company.^[75] The Pittsburgh Blues, led by First Lieutenant Matthew Magee in place of Captain Butler, who was indisposed, numbered about 25.^[76] No more than a dozen or so of the Greensburgh Riflemen, under Lieutenant Peter Drum, participated.^[77] In all, Miller had about 350 men.

The troops were assembled in a small ravine just outside the southeast face of the fort, out of the enemy's sight. Lieutenant Tisdale, nicknamed "Old Bluefoot" by the men, paced back and forth in front of the company, urging them to rush forward with a tremendous shout. Harrison, after passing through the ranks offering encouragement, took a post at a nearby battery to observe the attack. The word was given, and moving out of the ravine at trail arms, they advanced up a hill in full view of the enemy. As they reached the top, the companies of the 41st Regiment opened fire, but inflicted few casualties. Miller's lines moved out on a plain some 200 yards in width, and after advancing about 50 yards, halted, closed ranks, and, with the Petersburg company on the right flank, charged, firing as they went. The Indians firing from the woods with the considerable effect, came very near turning the right of Miller's line and getting into the rear, which could have been disastrous. As they were driving the enemy back in confusion, and spiking the gun and mortar in the battery, Sebree's company, outflanked by the enemy, became locked in a hand-to-hand struggle, which ended when Harrison sent in a company of regulars. About noon the fighting ceased, and Miller, his objective accomplished, returned to the fort with 42 prisoners.^[78]

The casualties of the sortie were reported as 30 killed, and about 90 wounded, of which Alexander's battalion had two killed, both members of the Pittsburgh Blues, and 29 wounded.^[79] Seventeen of the Petersburg Volunteers were wounded, most of them slightly, but three proved fatal. On May 10, Nicholas Massenburg died, George Booker died on May 12, and George Clough on May 18.^[80] The company's number of casualties was largely attributed to their exposed position on the right flank during the assault.^[81]

Harrison wrote of the "intrepidity" of the Petersburg Volunteers in his report of May 9, and Captain Wood noted in his journal: "The company of volunteers from Petersburg (Virginia) particularly distinguished themselves by their intrepid and cool conduct, while approaching the batteries under a heavy fire of musketry.^[82] No lesser tribute, however, was paid the Volunteers by an unknown post rider, who declared that they "fought like devils."^[83]

Sergeant John Henderson of the Petersburg Volunteers had charge of a battery served by others of his company. One of the, John Shore, formerly captain of a merchant vessel, and who was said to have been largely responsible for the organization of the company, was wounded by a splinter and died of lock jaw on May 8. A letter to his brother in Petersburg disclosed that the

battery was "...manned by the Petersburg Volunteers--a Battery, my dear sir, that did more execution among the enemy than any other at Fort Meigs."[\[84\]](#) Harrison in his report on May 9 wrote that "The battery managed by Sergt. Henderson was as the enemy confessed--managed with peculiar efficacy & effect with respect to the sorties which were made on the 5th inst." Henderson was recommended for promotion by Harrison, and was commissioned a lieutenant in the 2nd Regiment of Artillery. In July, one of the fort's batteries was named in his honor.[\[85\]](#)

The end of the siege on May 9 left Fort Meigs with 81 killed and 189 wounded. Along with many who were too sick for active duty, the wounded suffered much from the extreme wet and cold. Many of them lay on rails to keep above water until they could be placed in the blockhouses converted into temporary hospitals.[\[86\]](#) Dysentery prevailed in the fort, and on May 20, it was said that not more than 20 of the Petersburg Volunteers were fit for duty.[\[87\]](#) Cushing wrote on May 22 that several of the sick had died, and "...not more than could be expected, considering the fatigue and the badness of the weather they ahve experienced for the last thirty days."[\[88\]](#) At the end of the month the rolls of the Petersburg company noted 41 men as sick. John Cureton died on June 13, Corporal John Perry on the 14th, and three days later, William Lacy and George P. Raybourn died. On June 16, Captain McRae, who seems to have been sick for much of his time in service, with several of his company, Lieutenant Magee of the Pittsburgh Blues, and some fom Cushing's artillery company, left for Cleveland, where it was hoped they would regain their health.[\[89\]](#)

On July 21, Proctor, now a major general, returned for another try at Fort Meigs, then under command of General Clay, and found the fort stronger than before. A ruse to draw the garrison from the fort into the open, to be ambushed, failed, and on July 28, the "second siege" was lifted. Proctor then moved down the Maumee, along Lake Erie, and up the Sandusky River, to attack Fort Stephenson at Lower Sandusky, ten miles from Harrison's main supply depot at Seneca Town. Harrison moved his forces closer to the depot, leaving in command of Fort Stephenson 21-year old Major George Croghan, 17th U.S. Infantry, who had been distinguished himself in Miller's sortie at Fort Meigs.[\[90\]](#) Croghan had only 160 men, and one iron 6-pounder, to defend the fort, which was attacked on the first of August.



Action at Fort Stephenson, August 2, 1813.

A severe cannonade by the British on the first day had little effect on the fort. The 6-pounder occasionally replied, and was shifted about to give the impression of more artillery. Late on August 2, the 41st Regiment advanced 400 strong, with an assault column coming within 50

yards before they were discovered. Musketry sent their lines into confusion, but they rallied, and swarmed into the ditch just outside the palisade. A masked port was opened, and the 6-pounder sent forth a deadly fire of grape and slugs into the ranks of the redcoats. Another assault was attempted, and again with the same result. Proctor gave up, and left that night for Malden with almost 100 casualties. In the fort, there had been one killed, and seven slightly wounded.

Petersburg's link with the determined defenses of the fort and the 6-pounder, later dubbed "Good Bess," is found in Harrison's report of the action, which in part read: "A young gentleman private in the Petersburg Volunteers, of the name of [Edmund] Brown, assisted by five or six of that company and of the Pittsburgh Blues, who were accidentally in the fort managed the six pounder which produced such destruction in the ranks of the enemy."[\[91\]](#) Another of the Petersburg company with the 6-pounder was Edward Mumford.[\[92\]](#)

After Fort Stephenson, Harrison began organizing his forces for an offensive against Malden by water, the success of which depended upon the control of Lake Erie. Fort Meigs was reduced in size, and leaving 300 men there, including about 20 of the Petersburg Volunteers under Lieutenant Tisdale, General Caly on August 18, marched with the balance to Harrison's headquarters at Lower Seneca Town.[\[93\]](#) There, on August 28, Alexander's battalion was broken up when the Pittsburg Blues and the Greensburg Riflemen were discharged, their terms of enlistment having expired. Within a period of three weeks, when the Petersburg Volunteers were at Fort Meigs and Camp Seneca, the ranks of the company were reduced by the deaths of Samuel Miles, William Lanier, William P. Rawlings, and Samuel Williams, who had been among the wounded on May 5.

The Petersburg company was now attached to Lieutenant Colonel James V. Ball's squadron of about 400 "chosen men," selected to be the first to land on the Canadian shore. In a letter from Camp Senson on September 10 one of the Volunteers said: "I now write you for the last time (in all probability) from this place, as we shall move from this post in four or five days for Malden... Ours troops, throughout the whole camp, are in high spirits, and pant for the moment when they shall encounter the enemy." Another of the company wrote: "I merely wish to inform you, the time has at last arrived, when we have to march for Canada...should I come off even as well as at Fort Meigs, I would be contented."[\[94\]](#) Tisdale's detachment left Fort Meigs on September 7, and on the 11th rejoined the company at Lower Sandusky. En route, on Lake Erie, they had been within a short distance of the two fleets during the famous battle of September 10, which ended in Commodore Oliver Hazard Petty's defeat of the British, and opened the way for Harrison's invasion of Canada. Several of the Petersburg company had answered to the call for volunteers to serve with the fleet. Private John H. Smith was one of them, and the other was one of the two Harrisons, but which of them, William or Nathaniel, is undetermined. Former Sergeant Henderson, then a second lieutenant in the 2nd Artillery, also volunteered, and was posted in the tops with a musket. All three escaped injury.[\[95\]](#)

The army embarked on September 20 for the rendezvous points at Put-in-Bay Island, Bass Island, and Middle Sister Island, about 12 miles off the Canadian shore. On board Perry's ship, the schooner *Ariel*, late in the evening, the officers, having dined, were on deck enjoying the cool breeze. Major John Chambers, volunteer aide to General Harrison, and future governor of the Iowa Territory, was approached by one of the Petersburg Volunteers, who asked if it would be possible to obtain a cup of coffee, saying that he was still weak from malaria, and had been

unable to eat the cold and coarse rations issued to the company. Chambers felt powerless to grant the request, but within a half an hour, and to his gratification, the entire company was relishing an excellent hot supper, thanks to Commodore Perry, who, after overhearing the conversation, had ordered its preparation.[\[96\]](#)

Late in the afternoon of September 27 Harrison's army landed about three miles below Malden, which was occupied the same day. Sandwich and Detroit, just across the river, were entered on September 29. With his forces increased by the arrival of Colonel Richard Johnson's Mounted Regiment of 1,000 Kentuckians, Harrison went in pursuit of the enemy. The victory at the Battle of the Thames, 56 miles east of Detroit on October 5, ended in the disgrace of Proctor and the death of Tecumseh, but, more important, it brought to an end the fighting in the northwest. The Petersburg Volunteers, in the rear guard, did not arrive in time to share in the fighting. "I for one was right glad of it," Lorrain recalled, "for our time of service was now expired, and the word 'home, sweet home,' seemed to gather additional charms every day."[\[97\]](#) The release of the volunteer troops in the army began soon after their return to Detroit. There on the public parade ground, the Petersburg company was discharged by the following order:

General Orders - Headquarters, Detroit, 17th October, 1813.

The term of Service for which the Petersburg Volunteers were engaged, having expired, they are permitted to commence their march to Virginia, as soon as they can be transported to the South side of the Lake.

In granting a discharge to this Patriotic and Gallant Corps, the General feels at a loss for words adequate to convey his sense of their exalted merits. Almost exclusively composed of individuals who had been nursed in the lap of ease, they have, for twelve months, borne the hardships, and privations of Military life in the midst of an inhospitable wilderness, with a cheerfulness and alacrity which has never been surpassed. Their conduct in the Field has been excelled by no other Corps; and whilst in Camp, they have set an example of Subordination and Respect for Military Authority to the whole Army. The General requests Captain M'Rae, his Subalterns, Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates, to accept his warmest thanks--and bids them an Affectionate Fareweill.

By Command

Robert Butler
Acting Assistance Adjutant General

Muskets were turned in, and the company began its long journey homeward. They waited for about a week in Cleveland, expecting to receive their final pay, but when the paymaster, John G. Chalmers, a member of the company, failed to appear, the Volunteers broke up into "little social bands, in different routes," Lorrain recalled, for Petersburg.[\[99\]](#) A number went to Pittsburgh, still hoping to meet Chalmers, but after about ten days they started for home. Lorrain and three of his intimate friends, who do not appear to have been with the group at Pittsburgh, traveled to Petersburg by way of Winchester and Fredericksburg. From Petersburg on November 12, it was announced that three of the company had arrived on the 9th and "nearly all the rest, we

understand, are on the way, by different routs, and may be shortly expected to arrived. With the exception of Captian McRae, the Members of the Company generally...enjoy good health."[\[100\]](#)

The firing of cannon at dawn and sunrise on January 8, 1814, opened the festivities honoring the returned Volunteers. Three guns fired at noon brought the militia companies, the Volunteers, and many citizens, to Centre Hill, where after salutes were rendered to the company, the procession left for Poplar Spring, within the grounds which later became known as Poplar Lawn. There Postmaster Thomas Shore, brother of the lamented John Shore, who died at Fort Meigs, delivered the oration, in which he declared: "The pride of Sparta were the heroes of Thermopylae, the pride of Virginia the heroes for Fort Meigs." Appropriate selections were rendered by the band, and all joined in the singing of patriotic airs. The ball in which the dinner was held that afternoon was bedecked with a variety of flags, "among which waves conspicuously the war worn banner of the heroes of Fort Meigs."[\[101\]](#) This was not the only observance that year in connection with the Petersburg Volunteers. A number of the veterans who had removed to Richmond borrowed two field pieces from the state, and on May 7, *The Enquirer* reported: "We understand that the National Salute fired in this city on Thursday [May 5] was to commemorate the Anniversary of the sortie from Fort Meigs."[\[102\]](#)

Traditionally, President Madison reviewed the company on its way home in 1813, and at the time, conferred upon Petersburg a sobriquet, "The Cockade City of the Union," which is usually shortened to "The Cockade City." Madison, searching for something complimentary to say, possibly thought of the leather cockade ornamenting the soldiers' hats. Thus, Petersburg is furnishing the volunteer company which had served so well at Fort Meigs, was the ornament, or cockade, of the Union. There seems to be some historical basis for this cherished legend, but contemporary evidence as to exactly when the incident occurred is lacking. As the Volunteers traveled homeward in separate groups Madison could not have reviewed the company in its entirety, but it may have been that some of the returning soldiers stopped to see him in Washington. Another possibility is that the sobriquet was conferred at the time McRae was in Washington during July 1814 settling accounts with the War Department.[\[103\]](#)

Whatever may have been the circumstances of its origin, the sobriquet does not seem to have come into general usage until several decades after the war. On March 14, 1817, President Harrison, upon special invitation by the citizens of Petersburg and the veterans of the Volunteers, was honored with a public dinner at Poplar Spring. Many toasts were given, but nowhere in them, or in the lengthy press accounts of the occasion do we find mention of "The Cockade City of the Union."[\[104\]](#) Lafayette visited Petersburg on October 29-30, 1824, and at the ball following the banquet given in his honor on the first night: "A crowd of the Canada volunteers from Petersburg, were by name introduced to him. He received them with a soldier's hand, and looked upon them with a soldier's eye." Another dinner was given him at Niblo's Tavern on the second night, and immediately after a toast was drunk in his honor, the 67-year old general rose, and gave the following: "The Petersburg Volunteers and the Petersburg Canada Company in the late war."[\[105\]](#) Again the newspaper accounts of these events covering two days, we find no mention of the "Cockade City." There were other occasions where, seemingly, Petersburg's appellation would have been mentioned. Finally, on July 4, 1838, a toast was drunk to the town of Petersburg: "The Cockade of the Union, a proud cognomen won by her gallantry in the late war; may she maintain it to the last moment of her existence."[\[106\]](#) The sobriquet, "The Cockade

of the Union," was phrased the same in 1843, 1846, and in 1848, and throughout this period there are references to the "Cockade Town" in the press.[\[107\]](#) "City" first appears in the sobriquet after 1850 when Petersburg became a city, and to this day it has continued as "The Cockade City of the Union."

Interestingly, it is "The Cockade City of the Union" on the monument to McRae and the Petersburg Volunteers erected in Blandford Cemetery in 1857. Apparently, no one questioned the inscription.[\[108\]](#) The story of this imposing monument begins with the tragic death of McRae, who had left Petersburg for Washington on May 29, 1854. On June 1, after a squall, his body was found floating in the Potomac at the mouth of Aquia Creek. There were wounds about the head, and foul play was generally suspected, but the mystery has never been resolved. He was interred in Blandford Cemetery with military honors on June 4. Funds for a monument were raised by popular subscription in 1856, and on January 12, 1857, the marble shaft was erected, not only to honor McRae but as a memorial to his company. The gilded eagle with spread wings on top of the shaft, and the iron fence ornamented with military trophies, were added a little later.[\[109\]](#)

Superlatives for the Petersburg Volunteers would have to include John F. Wiley, Thomas Bell Bigger, and Reuben Clements. Wiley, who had been among the wounded at Fort Meigs, represented Amelia County in the House of Delegates, 1835-1837, 1840-1841, and in 1843, was elected councillor of state. He was reelected in 1846, and as senior councillor in 1848, Wiley was lieutenant governor. In 1849 he was again elected and served until the expiration of his term in 1852.[\[110\]](#)

Thomas Bigger removed to Richmond after his return from the war. In 1844 he was appointed postmaster, and served until his resignation in 1862. He joined the Richmond Light Infantry Blues in 1820, and was captain of the company from 1832 until 1839, when he was commissioned lieutenant colonel of the 19th Regiment, Virginia Militia. He was later made colonel of the regiment, and in 1845 resigned his commission. Bigger was among those who accompanied the remains of Captain McRae from Richmond to Petersburg in 1854. When he died at the age of 86 on May 5, 1880, the 67th anniversary of the sortie at Fort Meigs, the *Daily Dispatch* declared him as the last survivor of the Petersburg Volunteers.[\[111\]](#) This was erroneous for in Petersburg former corporal of the company, Reuben Clements, was still very much alive and quite active.[\[112\]](#)

On August 5, 1848, Clements and Captain McRae, the only survivors of the company then left in town, had been guests of honor at the dinner given for Petersburg's two companies just returned from Mexico, and among the many toasts was one to them as "The representatives of another age, and other scenes--an age and scenes that won glory to our country..."[\[113\]](#) Clements was custodian of the flag carried by the Volunteers, and in 1854 he loaned it to Captain Joseph V. Scott of the Petersburg Grays, to be carried in a parade. It was a tragedy, to say the least, when the flag was destroyed in a fire which swept through Scott's room on Bollingbrook Street.[\[114\]](#) Clements saw in 1861, companies of Petersburg youth march away for the second war since his own, 49 years before. Not long after the death of Bigger in Richmond, the old veteran had a fall and suffered complications which eventually led to his demise on October 7, 1881, at the age of 91 years. On Sunday, October 9, the Petersburg Grays, Petersburg Artillery, Old Grays

Association, and the Association of Mexican War Veterans, turned out to bury in Blandford Cemetery with military honors, the remains of the last known survivor of the Petersburg Volunteers.[\[115\]](#)

1. A court martial found Hull guilty of cowardice and neglect of duty, and sentenced him to be shot. President Madison, because of Hull's services in the American Revolution, spared his life. Hull was dropped from the army, and spent much of his remaining years writing in defense of his campaign; see *Dictionary of American Biography* V (New York, 1932), pp. 363- 364.

2. William Eustis, Secretary of War, to Gov. James Barbour, Sept. 1, 1812, Executive Papers (September 1812), Virginia State Library, Richmond, Va.; *The Enquirer*, Richmond, Va., Sept. 8, 1812. All of the named counties are now located in West Virginia.

3. *Virginia Argus*, Richmond, Va., Sept. 3, 1812. Leftwich was elected by the General Assembly, Jan. 19, 1809, as brigadier general of the 12th Brigade, Virginia Militia (*Calendar of Virginia State Papers* X, p. 43), which was composed of regiments in the counties of Bedford, Patrick, Franklin, Campbell, and Henry.

4. Brig. Gen. Joel Leftwich to Governor Barbour, Oct. 12, 1812, Executive Papers (October 1812), Virginia State Library.

5. *Virginia Argus*, Sept. 17, 1812, Nathaniel Friedn was mayor Petersburg, 1812-1813, and Edward Pescund, secretary of the meeting, served as mayor, 1818-1819.

6. *Virginia Argus* Sept. 10, 1812.

7. *Ibid.*, Sept. 14, 1812.

8. M. Barbour to Governor Barbour, Sept. 15, 1812, Executive Papers (September, 1812), Virginia State Library.

9. Petersburg *Republican* quoted in *The Enquirer*, Sept. 29, 1812; *Virginia Argus*, Oct. 1, 1812. They returned with the commissions of the company's four officers. The commissions were made out about Sept. 21, but, from the compiled service records in National Archives Record Group No. 94, the date of the appointments for these officers was back-dated to Sept. 12, 1812, the date on which they were elected.

10. *Virginia Argus*, Oct. 1, 1812.

11. *Ibid.*, Sept. 14, 1812.

12. Reprinted in the *Virginia Argus* Oct. 12, 1812.

13. *Ibid.*, Oct. 12, 1812.

14. *The Enquirer*, Oct. 23, 1812.

15. Compiled service records, Capt. Richard McRae's Co., filed under "Major Alexander's Independent Battalion Virginia Volunteers (War of 1812)," National Archives, Record Group No. 94. The file heading is curious in that Alexander's battalion consisted of only one Virginia company, McRae's, and two from Pennsylvania. A roster of the company may be found in the *Petersburg Intelligencer*, Oct. 23, 1812. A broadside in commemoration of the Petersburg Volunteers, 8"x11 «" , of an undetermined date prior to 1845, in the Centre Hill Mansion Museum in Petersburg, features a roster of the company, with the omission, however, of Pvt. John McCellah, who was enlisted between May 31 and Oct. 16, 1813. The roster on the broadside was reproduced in Henry Howe, *Historical Collections of Virginia* (Charleston, S.C., 1845 [reprinted, 1969] pp. 245-246. Another broadside, 13 «" x 18 «", in commemoration of McRae's company, printed by James Monroe Hamilton Burnet of Petersburg in 1849 is displayed at Center Hill. It is similar, including the same roster, but more elaborate, than the older one, and is printed on silk.

16. Benjamin Watkins Leigh (1781-1849) attended the College of William and Mary, and in 1802, began law practice in Petersburg. He was first lieutenant of the Petersburg Republican Light Infantry from 1805 until 1807, when he was elected captian. Leigh had resigned October 1812 (*The American Constellation*), Petersburg, Va., Oct. 7, 1834). After serving in the House of Deleages, 1811-1813, he removed to Richmond; see *Dictionary of American Biography*, VI, pp. 152-153.

17. *The Enquirer*, Oct. 27, 1812. An ensign, the lowest commissioned rank in the infantry, was charged with carrying the unit's colors.

18. The Senior Volunteers, apparently composed of citizens over military age, was organized at the outbreak of the war as a home guard company, and still existed in 1814. The Petersburg Republican Light Infantry was a volunteer militia company attached to the 39th Regiment (Petersburg), was organized in 1805.

19. Ware Bottom Church built in 1723 and has long since disappeared, A rough boulder marks the approximate site, south of the present road (Route 10) to Hopewell, about 300 yards east of the railroad overpass.

20. *Petersburg Intelligencer*, Oct. 23, 1812; *The Enquirer* Oct. 27, 1812.

21. *The Enquirer*, Oct. 27, 1812.

22. James Lee (1758-1816) was a Methodist zealot before he was drafted in to the army in 1780. Refusing to bear arms throughout his three months of service, Lee served as a wagon driver, sergeant of prisoners, and acted as an unofficial chaplain. He labored for Methodism for the remainder of his life, and has been ranked near Bishop Francis Asbury. Relations between the two were intimate, but they did not always agree. Lee was the author of *A Short History of the Methodists in the United States*, published in 1810 (*Dictionary of American Biography*, VI, pp. 112-114).

23. Alfred M. Lorrain (1791-1863) was born in Chester Town, Kent County, Maryland, and while an infant, his family moved to Petersburg, Virginia. In 1804 he went to sea as a cabin boy, and was a sailor for seven years, ending his nautical career as a second mate. After his service with the Petersburg Volunteers during the War of 1812, Lorrain was converted to Methodism, and in New Orleans, in 1822, he was licensed to preach. He moved to Xenia, Ohio, the same year, and from 1824 to 1861, traveled on almost all of the Ohio circuits. He was a frequent contributor to the *Ladies Repository*, and from 1854 to 1855 edited the *Western Seamans' Pilot*. At the request of the conference held in Springfield, Ohio in 1861, he wrote his autobiography, *The Helm, The Sword and The Cross: A Life Narrative.*, published in 1862. He was also the author of two volumes of "sea sermons" (*Minutes of the Annual Conference, M.E. Church, Cincinnati Conference*, 1863; William Coyle, ed., *Ohio's Author and Their Books* [Cleveland, 1962], p. 395.)

24. Alfred M. Lorrain, *The Helm, The Sword and the Cross: A Life Narrative*, (Cincinnati, 1862), pp. 100-102.

25. The Richmond Washington Volunteers under Capt. Richard Booker (1790-1853) left Richmond in July 1813, and was subsequently attached to the 20th Regiment of U.S. Infantry, which participated in the St. Lawrence Campaign. On Dec. 29, 1813, Major General James Wilkinson, commanding the Northern Army, with headquarters at Malone, N.Y., published orders expressing appreciation for the services of the Volunteers, and ordered them to march for Richmond, Va., to be discharged from the service (*Virginia Argus*, Nov. 19, 1812, July 15, 1813; *Niles' Weekly Register*, IV, pp. 5-6; "Thanks in General Orders To The Richmond Volunteers, War of 1812," *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, II [1894], pp. 94- 95; Certificate No. 11066WC, Mrs. Selena Booker, Pension Files, National Archives, Record Group No. 15).

26. Capt. Richard McRae to Governor Barbour, Oct. 11, 1812; Governor Barbour to Captain McRae, Oct. 12, 1812; filed in the compiled service record of Capt. Richard McRae, Alexander's Ind. Bn. Va. Vols (War of 1812), National Archives, Record Group No. 94.

27. McRae to Thomas H. Cushing, Adj. Gen. Of the U.S., Oct. 27, 1812; filed in compiled service record of Captain McRae, National Archives, Record Group No. 94.

28. *The Enquirer*, Oct. 30, 1812; Cushing to McRae, Oct. 31, 1812, filed in compiled service record of Captain McRae, National Archives, Record Group No. 94.

29. *The Enquirer*, Nov. 3, 1812.

30. McRae to James Madison, July 5, 1814, Madison Papers, Manuscripts Division, Library of Congress.

31. *The Enquirer* Nov. 17, 1812.

32. Lorrain, *The Helm, The Swor and The Cross*, p. 103. Two contemporary accounts, however, state that the entire company, and not just the officers were entertained by Jefferson (*The Enquirer*, Nov. 20, 1812; *Niles' Weekly Register*, III, p. 202).

Petersburg Intelligencer, in *The Enquirer*, Jan. 7, 1813.

34. "Scene at Point Pleasant," *American Pioneer* II (April, 1843), pp. 174- 175. The article was published anonymously under "Clio," with an editor's note that "The gentleman who communicated the above, could not be induced to have his proper name inserted. He is a respectable citizen of Cincinnati at this time," (*ibid.*, p. 175). The Point Pleasant story also appears in Henry Howe, *Historical Collections of Virginia*, pp. 246-247.

35. *The Supporter*, Chillicothe, Ohio, Dec. 26, 1812; *Niles' Weekly Register*, III, p. 282; *The Enquirer*, Jan. 5, 1813.

36. Robert B. McAfee, *History of the Late War in the Western Country* (1816), (Bowling Green, Ohio, 1919), pp. 159, 182-191, 209-213.

37. *The Enquirer*, Jan. 7, 1813.

38. Lorrain, *The Helm, The Sword, and The Cross*, p. 107.

39. Harlow, Lindley, ed., *Captain Cushing in the War of 1812* (Columbus, Ohio: The Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society, 1944), p. 76. This publication includes Cushing's Orderly Book, several letters, and a roster of his company, cited hereinafter as Lindley, ed., *Cushing*.

40. Lorrain, *The Helm, The Sword, and The Cross*, p. 107.

41. Alexander A. Meek to General John S. Gano, Jan. 18, 1813, in "Selections from the Gano Papers, III" *Quarterly Publication of the Historical and Philosophical Society of Ohio*, XVI (1920), p. 28.

42. Alexander A. Meek to General John S. Gano, Jan. 18, 1813, in "Selections from the Gano Papers, III" *Quarterly Publication of the Historical and Philosophical Society of Ohio*, XVI (1920), p. 33.

43. Lindley, ed., *Cushing* pp. 77-78.

44. *Ibid.*, pp. 78-79.

45. *Ibid*, p. 79.

46. Letter from a private in McRae's company to a friend in Petersburg, March 28, 1813, published under "Picture of a Soldier's Life," in *Niles' Weekly Register*, IV, pp. 166- 168.

47. *Ibid.*, , p. 167.

48. *Ibid.*,

49. McAfee *History of the Late War in the Western Country* pp. 259- 260.

50. "Journal of the Northwestern Campaign of 1812-13,... Bvt. Lieut. Colonel Eleazer D. Wood, Capt. Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army," in George W. Cullum *Campaigns of the war of 1812-5 against Great Britian, Sketched and Criticised: With Brief Biographies of the American Engineers*. (New York 1879) pp. 370-373, citred hereinafter as Wood's "Journal."

51. The origin of Governor Meigs' singular name is discussed in Benson J. Lossing *The Pictoral Field Book of the War of 1812* (New York, 1868), p. 255n.

52. Lorrain, *The Helm, The Sword, and the Cross*, P. 124.

53. Lindley, ed., *Cushing*, p. 87, "Picture of a Soldier's Life," *Niles' Weekly Register*, IV, p. 167.

54. Lindley, ed., *Cushing*, p. 89-90, "Picture of a Soldier's Life," *Niles' Weekly Register*, IV, p. 167.

55. Greensburgh, (Pa.) *Gazette*, quoted in *The Enquirer*, Feb. 9, 1813; *Pittsburg Gazette*, Jan. 29, 1813; compiled service record of Capt. John B. Alexander, Alexander's Ind. Bn. Vols. (War of 1812), National Archives, Record Group No. 94; Muster roll, Capt. John B. Alexander's Co. Volunteer Riflemen (Pennsylvania); Dec. 31, 1812, National Archives, Record Group 94 (Entry 55, Muster Rolls of Volunteer Organizations: War of 1812).

56. Muster Roll, Capt. James R. Butler's Co. Light Infantry (Pennsylvania), Jan. 18, 1813, Alexander's Ind. Bn. Vols. (War of 1812), National Archives, Record Group No. 94 (Entry 55). For a history of the Pittsburgh Blues, see John Niebaum, "The Pittsburgh Blues," *Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine*, IV, (1921) pp. 110-122, 175-185, 259-270, V (1922) pp. 244-250.

57. Lindley, ed. *Cushing*, p. 88; Niebaum, "The Pittsburgh Blues, Part III," *Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine*, IV (1921), p. 261.

58. "Picture of a Soldier's Life," *Niles Weekly Register*, IV, p. 167.

59. Letter by Richard McRae, April 20, 1854, filed with the compiled service record of Pvt. Andrew Andrews, Captain McRae's Co., Alexander's Ind. Bn. Va. Vols. (War of 1812), National Archives, Record Group No. 94.

60. "Picture of a Soldier's Life," *Niles' Weekly Register*, IV, p. 167.

61. Lindley, ed., *Cushing*, pp. 91-92.

62. Wood's "Journal", pp. 378-397. 63. *Ibid.* Letters were received from Harrison on March 29, urging the Virginia and Pennsylvania brigades to stay a few days longer, and Cushing, who does

not appear to have shared Wood's harsh opinion of the Virginians, wrote: "These calls and invitations will not do; the government has not been punctual enough in paying their troops for them to stay longer." (Lindley, ed., *Cushing*, p. 94). In February 1822 Leftwich was appointed major general, 1st Division, Virginia Militia (*Calendar of Virginia State Papers*, X, p. 502). He died on April 20, 1846.

64. Stoddard was wounded during the siege, and died on May 11 of tetanus; see *Dictionary of American Biography*, IX, pp. 51-52.

65. Lindley, ed., *Cushing*, p. 125.

66. *Ibid.*, pp. 96. 100.

67. Alexander C. Casselman, ed., *Richardson's War of 1812* (Toronto, 1902), pp. 165-166.

68. Wood's "Journal," pp. 389-390; Lindley, ed., *Cushing*, p. 102.

69. *Ibid.*, pp. 102-103.

70. Green Clay (1757-1826), a native of Powhatan County, Va., migrated to Kentucky about 1777. He had little schooling, but with a knowledge of surveying, and by acquiring land, accumulated a fortune. He served in both houses of the legislature, and became a major general in the Kentucky militia at the outbreak of war in 1812 (*Dictionary of American Biography*, II, pp. 172-173).

71. *The Enquirer*, June 4, 1813.

72. McAfee, *History of the Late War in the Western Country.*, pp. 291- 295.

73. *Ibid.*, pp. 288-289. *Niles' Weekly Register* IV, p. 210; Neibaum, "The Pittsburgh Blues, Part III," *Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine*, IV (1921), p. 261; Lorrain, *The Helm, The Sword and The Cross*, p. 133.

74. McAfee, *History of the Late War in the Western Country.*, p. 290.

75. *The Enquirer*, June 4, 8, 1813; see also Muster Roll, Captain McRae's Co., May 31, 1813, Alexander's Ind. Bn. Vols. (War of 1812), National Archives, Record Group No. 94 (Entry 55).

76. Niebaum, "The Pittsburgh Blues," *Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine.*, IV (1921), pp. 181-182; Muster Roll, Capt. James R. Butler's Co., Feb. 28, 1813-May 31, 1813, Alexander's Ind. Vol. Bn., (War of 1812), National Archives, Record Group No. 94 (Entry 55).

77. Muster Roll, detachment of Volunteer Riflemen under command of Lieut. Peter Drum, May 31, 1813, Alexander's Ind. Vol. Bn. (War of 1812), National Archives, Record Group No. 94 (Entry 55).

78. Wood's "Journal," pp. 399-400; Lorrain, *The Helm, The Sword, and The Cross*, pp. 133-136.

79. *Niles' Weekly Register*, IV, p. 192; Wood's "Journal," p. 400.

80. Muster Roll, Captain McRae's Co., Alexander's Ind. Bn. Va. Vols. (War of 1812), Feb. 8-May 31, 1813, National Archives, Record Group No. 94 (Entry 55). The others wounded in the sortie were Sergeant Herbert C. Lofton (promoted March 17, 1813); Corporals Joseph Scott, Thomas G. Scott; Musicians Jackson; and Privates Blick, Cooper, Chives, Drumond, Leigh, Thomas Perry, Stith, Thomas Scott, Samuel Williams, and John F. Wiley. The muster roll does not substantiate the wounding of the following as indicated on the broadsides in the Centre Hill Mansion Museum: Musician Eshon, and Privates Edmund Brown, Joseph Mason, and Samuel Stephens. An ode to the memory of George Booker by "J.T.W." of Amelia County, June 30, 1813, appeared in the *Virginia Argus*, July 8, 1813.

81. *The Enquirer*, June 3, 4, 8, 1813.

82. *Niles' Weekly Register*, IV, p. 211; Wood's "Journal," p. 400.

83. *The Enquirer*, June 4, 1813.

84. *Ibid.*, May 29, 1813. "Captain Jack Shore," wrote Lorrain, was "the darling of our crew," and as a kinsman of General Harrison, "had more than once taken tea with his distinguished cousin, 'sub rosa,' in the grand marquee." (*The Helm, The Sword, and the Cross*, pp. 138-139).

85. *Ibid.*, June 8, 1813; Lindley, ed. *Cushing*, p. 47; compiled service record of John Henderson, Captain McRae's Co., Alexander's Ind. Bn. Vols. (War of 1812), National Archives, Record Group No. 94. Henderson was described by the *Petersburg Intelligencer* as a "true honest son Hibernia," who had "served for many years in the floating dungeons of Britain," and had "migrated to this land of liberty, in search of those blessings and privileges denied of him in the country of his nativity. He entered the ranks here with all that zeal and devotion so characteristic of the Irish," (*Virginia Argus*, May 31, 1813). He was commissioned on June 20, 1813, but his career in the regular service was not especially commendable. At Fort Meigs, July 21, 1813, he was tried, but acquitted on six charges, which involved, "Unexemplary & disorderly conduct,... being in a evident state of inebriety," (Lindley, ed., *Cushing*, pp. 52-53). Henderson was dismissed from the service on April 2, 1818 (Charles K. Gardner, *A Dictionary of the Army of the United States*, 2nd ed., [New York, 1860], p. 224), and is believed to have been the John F. Henderson who died in New Orleans, La., in 1858 (Petersburg, Va., *Daily Express*, June 5, 1858).

86. Wood's "Journal," pp. 401-402.

87. *Virginia Argus*, June 3, 1813.

88. Lindley, ed., *Cushing*, p. 108.

89. *Ibid.*, p. 112.

90. George Croghan (1791-1849), a Kentuckian, attended the College of William and Mary, 1809-1810. At the battle of Tippecanoe he served as a volunteer aide-de-camp to Harrison, who recommended his appointment as captain in the Regular army; see *Dictionary of American Biography*, II, p. 557.

91. *Niles' Weekly Register*, IV, p. 389.

92. Gen. Orders, Headquarters, Seneca Town, Aug. 8, 1813, in Lindley, Ed., *Cushing*, P. 55. Since 1850 "Good Bess" has occupied a position on the site of Fort Stephenson in the heart of Fremont, Ohio; see Julia M. Haynes, "Fremont in History," *Ohio Archaeological and Historical Publications*, X, (1901-1902), pp. 49-66, and Lossing, *The Pictorial Field-Book of the War of 1812*, p. 507n.

93. *Virginia Argus*, Sept. 8, 1813.

94. *Ibid.*, Sept. 27, 1813.

95. John Cook Wyllie, ed., "Observations Made During a Short Residence in Virginia," (Letter from Thomas H. Palmer, May 30, 1814) *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, LXXVI (1968), p. 409; *Virginia Argus*, Sept. 30, 1813.

96. James Cooke Mills, *Oliver Hazard Perry and the Battle of Lake Erie* (Detroit, 1913), p. 174.

97. Lorrain, *The Helm, The Sword, and The Cross*, p. 153.

98. *The Enquirer*, Nov. 16, 1813.

99. Lorrain, *The Helm, The Sword and The Cross*, p. 154. Chalmers was alleged to have lost the money gambling. Finally, forty years after the Petersburg Volunteers had been discharged, Congress, on March 3, 1853, appropriated \$10,334.31, to be paid to the survivors, or their heirs. The provision was included in the act making an appropriation for the support of the army for the year ending June 30, 1854; see George Minot, ed., *The Statutes at Large and Treaties of the United States of America From December 1, 1851 to March 3, 1855*. X, Boston, 1855, p. 217.

100. *Virginia Argus*, Nov. 14, 1813.

101. *Ibid.*, Jan. 17, 1814; *The Enquirer*, Jan. 11, 1814.

102. Executive Papers (May 1814), Virginia State Library.

103. The Madison Papers (Library of Congress) include two letters written by McRae while in Washington in 1814, but there is no evidence that he met the President. It is plausible that the sobriquet was conferred before the company left for the war, when McRae and Tisdale visited Washington in September 1812, at which time they did see Madison. Had the company been reviewed at any time by Madison, it is unlikely that Alfred Lorrain would have failed to record the event in *The Helm, The Sword and the Cross: A Life Narrative*.

104. *The Enquirer*, March 25, 1817.

105. *Ibid.*, Nov. 5, 1824.

106. *The American Constellation*, July 6, 1838.

107. *The Republican*, June 26, 1843, Dec. 4, 1846, Aug. 9, 1848. *The Little Cockade*, a newspaper edited by Supple and Ellyson, appeared in January 1841, but was short-lived. An edition dated Jan. 26, 1841 (Vol. I, No. 3) is the collections of the Petersburg Public Library.

108. The inscriptions on the monument, now weather-worn and barely legible in places, are, fortunately, recorded in M. Clifford Harrison, *Home to the Cockade City*, (Richmond, 1942), pp. 32.-34.

109. *Daily South-Side Democrat Petersburg, Va.*, June 2, 1854; *Daily Richmond Enquirer*, June 5, 6, 7, 1854; *Daily Express Petersburg, Va.*, May 19, June 17, 1856, Jan. 13, 1857, March 3, 5, 1857; James G. Scott and Edward A. Wyatt, IV., *Petersburg's Story A History* (Petersburg, 1960), p. 128.

110. Earl G. Swen and John W. Williams, *A Register of the General Assembly of Virginia 1776-1918* (Richmond, 1918), pp. 139, 141, 149; *The Republican*, Aug. 9, 1848.

111. *Richmond Daily Dispatch*, May 6, 1880.

112. Clements was promoted to corporal sometime between May 31, and Oct. 16, 1813 (Compiled service record, Reuben Clements, *Alexander's Ind. Bn. Va. Vols. [War of 1812]* National Archives, Record Group No. 94).

113. *The Republican*, Aug. 9, 1848. The Brunet broadside lists twelve survivors of the Petersburg Volunteers, July 4, 1849: Richard McRae, Reuben Clements, Petersburg; Thomas B. Bigger, John Bignall, Richmond; John Wiley, Amelia Co.; Edward H. Cogbill, Chesterfield Co.; John H. Saunders, Powhatan Co.; Alfred O. Eggleston, Cincinnati, Ohio; Shirley Tisdale, Thoams Clarke, Ala.; Nathaniel H. Wills, Tenn.; and Anthony Mullen, whose residence was unknown. Alfred Lorrain, however, was still living, in Ohio, and John Henderson is believed to have been still alive. Pension files in the National Archives (Record Group No. 15) show that Saunders left Powhatan County in 1852 for Richmond, where he died on April 23, 1861, Thomas Clarke died in Marengo County, Ala., on Feb. 3, 1851, and Nathaniel H. Wills died on Dec. 6, 1857, at Jonesboro, Tenn.

114. *Index-Appeal*, Petersburg, Va., Oct. 8, 1881. Joseph V. Scott, son of Joseph Scott, who was wounded at Fort Meigs, and died at the age of 60 on March 16, 1846, served as captain of the Petersburg Grays, 1847-1860. In April 1861 he was elected captain of the Cockade Rifles, which became Co. E, 3rd Regiment of Virginia Volunteers (1861-1865). He was promoted to major on Nov. 6, 1861, to lieutenant colonel on April 27, 1862, and was mortally wounded on June 30, 1862.

The Petersburg Volunteers, 1812-1813 - Roster

Strength of the Company

From the Roll of Oct. 16 - 18, 1812:

Present for Duty	Present Sick	Absent Sick
2 Lieuts. 1 Ensign 4 Sergeants 6 corporals 2 Musicians 81 privates	4 privates	1 captain 2 privates

On the roll for the period from February 8 to May 31, 1813, we find 39 officers and men present for duty, 40 officers and men were present but sick, one private was absent sick, one sergeant was on furlough; one lieutenant, one sergeant, one corporal, and four privates were dead.

ADAMS, RICHARD: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, pres. Sick on 5/31/1813 and pres. On 10/16/1813.

ANDREWS, ANDREW: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812. Enclosure document in his file, "Richard McRae, Capt., Petersburg Volunteers, Petersburg, 20th April, 1854: Sir: In reply to your enquiry as to the death of Andrew Andrews private of the Petersburg Volunteers, I have to state that his was the first member of the corps who fell a victim to the diseases of a severe climate--he died at Fort Meigs about the first of February 1813.

BENTLY, JOSEPH R.: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813 and 10/16/1813 rolls.

BENTLY, JOHN W.: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813, and 10/16/1813 rolls.

BIGGER, THOMAS: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813, and 10/16/1813 rolls.

BIGNALL, JOHN: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813, rolls. Pres. sick on 10/16/1813 roll.

BLICK, ROBERT: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812. Wounded on 5/31/1813, and absent on furlough on 10/16/1813 roll.

BOOKER, DAVID: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813 (sick), and 10/16/1813 rolls.

BOOKER, GEORGE: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812. Died at Miami Rapids 5/12/1813, of wounds received in action on 5/5/1813.

BOOKER, RICHARD: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812. Promoted in the Regular Army per 5/31/1813 roll.

BRANCH, EDWARD, Jr.: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813 (sick), and 10/16/1813 rolls.

BRANCH, RICHARD H.: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812 (sick), 5/31/1813, and 10/16/1813 rolls.

BROWN, EDMUND: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813, and 10/16/1813 rolls. Enclosure, claim for arrears under Act of August 1852, Jesse Brown widow of Edmund Brown died a member of Petersburg Volunteers. On this 22 June 1853 appeared Jesse Brown, resident of Lunenburg County wife of Edmund Brown who volunteered at Petersburg on or about 25 Oct. 1812 - wounded at Fort Meigs (no record of this in the muster rolls). In 1833 he went to Texas and died there in October 1836, leaving widow Nancy Brown (?) Now living in Halifax County and three children: Jesse Brown, Washington Brown and John Brown.

BURGE, GEORGE: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812 (sick), 5/31/1813, and 10/16/1813 rolls.

BURTON, WILLIAM: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813, and 10/16/1813 rolls.

CABANESS, JAMES: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813, and 10/16/1813 rolls.

CHALMERS, JAMES G.: Pvt. Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812 roll. Account settled on 1 October 1821 balance against him \$17,127.25. Reported on 10/29/1821 as dead, representatives unknown, insolvent.

CHENIWORTH, EDWARD: Pvt., Enl. On 10/16/1812. Pres. On 10/28/1812. Due pay to Edward Cheniworth estate on 10/29/1853.

CHIEVES, WILLIAM R.: Pvt., Enl. On 10/16/1812. Pres. On 10/28/1812. Present wounded per 5/31/1813 roll. Pres. On 10/16/1813.

CLARKE, (CLARK) THOMAS: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813, and 10/16/1813 rolls.

CLEMENTS, MOSES: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813, and 10/16/1813 rolls.

CLEMENTS, REUBEN: Pvt./Corp., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813 (sick), and 10/16/1813 (as corporal) rolls. Lived at Petersburg 1850-1871, married Virginia Minitree on 12/31/1829 in Petersburg, she died on 2/17/1849. Pension statement, dated 1/15/1872: "Reuben Clements age 81 years married at Petersburg 31 December 1829, that he served the full period of 12 months in the military service of the United States in the War of 1812. "That he is the identical Reuben Clements who enlisted in Captain Richard McRae's Company better know as the Petersburg Canadian Volunteers... honorably discharged at Detroit Michigan on the 16 day of October 1813 that his said company was attached to what was called at Fort Meigs the Independent Battalion commanded by Major Alexander that the companies belonging to and constituting said Battalion were the Pittsburg Blues and the Greensburgh Blues, and that his commander in chief was Genl. Wm. H. Harrison subsequently President of the United States. That he at no time during the late rebellion against the Authority of the United States adheared to the cause of the Enemies of the Government, giving them aid or comfort..."

CLOUGH, GEORGE T.: Corp., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812. Died at Miami Rapids on May 18, 1813 of wounds received in Action of May 5, 1813.

COGBILL, EDWARD H.: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813 (sick), and 10/16/1813 rolls.

COOK, ROBERT B.: Sgt./Engin, Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812 as Sgt., 5/31/1813, (promoted to Ensign on 5/12/1813) and 10/16/1813 rolls.

COOPER, SAMUEL: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813 (wounded), and 10/16/1813 (sick) rolls.

CRADDOCK, GEORGE: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813 (sick), and 10/16/1813 rolls.

CURETON, JAMES: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812 and 5/31/1813 (sick) rolls. Died at Miami Rapids on June 13, 1813.

DEGRAGGENREIDT, WILLIAM: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812 (sick in Petersburg), 5/31/1813 (sick), and 10/16/1813 rolls. Estate of William DeGraffenreidt rec'd from Treas. Dept. 108.26, travel home from place of discharge 735 miles. Wrote his brother (Dr. Joseph Degraffenreidt of Lunenburg Co.) on 1 May 1825 that he had concluded to go to New Orleans.

DIGGES, GEORGE P.: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812 and 5/31/1813 (sick). Absent on furlough 10/16/1813 roll.

DRUMMOND, GRIEVE: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812 and 5/31/1813 (wounded) rolls. Absent on furlough on 10/16/1813 roll.

EGGLESTON, ALFRED O.: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. On 10/28/1812. Appointed 2nd Lieutenant 12th U.S. Infantry on March 30, 1813 and resigned on April 5, 1814. Still living in 1849.

ESHON, DANIEL: Musician, Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. On 10/28/1812 and 5/31/1813. Enlisted in the Regular Army on 9/1/1813.

FARRAR, JAMES R.: Pvt./Asst. Surgeon, Listed on 10/28/1812 muster roll.

FRANK, JOHN: Pvt./Corp., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813 (private), and 10/16/1813 (corporal) rolls.

GARY, FREDERICK: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813 (sick), and 10/16/1813 rolls. Claim papers state that he married Ann T. Shackelford in Chesterfield Co., VA on 12/18/1816 and that he died in Macowpin Co., Illinois on 3/17/1841.

GAREY, JAMES: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812 and 5/31/1813 (sick) rolls. Absent on furlough on 10/16/1813 roll.

GEE, EDUMUND: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812. Died at Miami Rapids, 3/8/1813.

GILES, EDMUND M.: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812 and 5/31/1813 rolls. Appointed lieutenant of Light Artillery 8/1/1813 in the Regular Army. Resigned 11/30/1814. Res. of Amelia Co., VA.

HARRISON, NATHANIEL: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813, and 10/16/1813 rolls. A 1/31/1833 statement says that "company went to Cleveland [Ohio] and waited there seven or eight days but Chalmers the paymaster didn't show up--went to Pittsburgh and waited ten days for Chalmers who still didn't appear and then on to Petersburg.

HARRISON, WILLIAM L. H.: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813, and 10/16/1813 rolls. A 7/30/1853 document says, "William Harrison deceased without being married; left a brother Geo. W. Harrison.

HENDERSON, JOHN: Sgt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812 and 5/31/1813 rolls. Promoted to Regular Army on 6/20/1813. He was born in Ireland, Sergeant 2nd Artillery Aug. 1812 to May 1813; 3rd Lieutenant 2nd Art. 5/20/1813; 2nd Lieutenant 2nd Artillery 6/26/1813; transferred to Corps of Artillery 5/12/1814; honorably discharged 6/15/1815; reinstated 12/2/1815; dismissed 4/2/1818.

HILL, JOHN C.: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813 (sick), and 10/16/1813 rolls.

HUMBERT, JACOB: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813, and 10/16/1813 rolls. On 31 May 1853, Circuit Court for City of Petersburg appointed John Pollard, Francis Major, William Pannill and Thomas Bond were appointed to appraise estate of Jacob Humbert, deceased.

JACKSON, JAMES: Musician, Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813 (wounded), and 10/16/1813 rolls.

JEFFERS, JAMES: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813, and 10/16/1813 rolls. Deceased by 5/31/1853.

LACY, WILLIAM: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812 and 5/31/1813. Died at Miami Rapids on 6/17/1813.

LAMB, WILLIAM: Pvt., Enl. On 10/16/1812. Pres. On 10/28/1812, NFR.

LANIER, WILLIAM: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812 and 5/31/1813 rolls. Died at Lower Seneca on 9/9/1813.

LAVEN, DUNTON: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813, and 10/16/1813 rolls.

LAWSON, BENJAMIN: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813 (sick), and 10/16/1813 rolls. Lawson sent the following to Secretary of War John Armstrong on June 4, 1814 from his home in Amelia Co., VA:

In looking over the list of officers lately published in one of the newspapers of this state I perceive my name with the rest as a second lieutenant of Artillery in the consolidation of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Regiments of which appointment I have never been notified.

In the month of August last whilst in the service of my country as a Petersburg Volunteer then under the command of Genl. Harrison I received a letter from James Pleasants, Jr. a member of Congress from this District enclosing another from you which notified me of a appointment of a 3d Lieutenancy of Artillery in the Second Regiment--which appointment I declined to accept for the following reasons, 1st at the time of receiving it I was in a very feeble state of health and continued so for several months afterward and even had I possessed a I had not the frame of adaments consequently I felt myself at the time unfit for military life.

I am not a wealthy man and at the time I joined the Petersburg Volunteers I was pursuing the study of law and if I remained longer in the Army I should have been obliged to have relinquished all hopes of ever succeeding in that profession consequently I did not think a 3d Lieutenancy sufficient inducement to prompt me to remain in the army.

Thirdly I am led to believe that the recommendations which my friends forwarded to the War Office in my absence place my character in as fair a point of view as many other young men who applied for military appointments....

LEE, WILLIAM R.: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813 (wounded), and 10/16/1813 rolls.

LOFTON, HERBERT C.: Pvt./Sgt. Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812. Promoted to Sgt. On 3/17/1813. Pres. on 5/31/1813 (wounded), and 10/16/1813 rolls. Died prior to 5/31/1853, when accounts were paid.

LORRAIN, ALFRED M.: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813, and 10/16/1813 rolls.

McCLELLAN, JOHN: Pvt., Enl. ?. Pres. On 10/16/1813 roll, which says he enlisted on 10/16/1812, but this seems to be in error.

MALLORY, ROGER: Pvt./Corp., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813 (as corporal), and 10/16/1813 rolls.

MANN, DAVID: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813, and 10/16/1813 rolls.

MASON, JOSEPH: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813, and 10/16/1813 rolls. Dead prior to 1853.

MASSENBURG, NICHOLAS: Pvt., Enl. On 10/16/1812. Pres. On 10/28/1812. MWIA on 5/5/1813, and died at Miami Rapids on 5/10/1813.

MIDDLETON, BENJAMIN: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813, and 10/16/1813 rolls.

MILES, SAMUEL: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. On 5/31/1813. Died at Sandusky, OH on 9/6/1813.

MULLEN, ANTHONY: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813 (sick), and 10/16/1813 rolls.

MUMFORD, EDWARD: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812 and 5/31/1813 (sick). Discharged on 9/13/1813.

NOBLES, JOSEPH C.: Corp., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813, and 10/16/1813 rolls.

PACE, JAMES: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813, and 10/16/1813 rolls.

PEGRAM, BENJAMIN: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813, and 10/16/1813 rolls.

PERRY, JOHN: Corp., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812 (assistant to Deputy Commissary), 5/31/1813 (sick), rolls. Died at Miami Rapids on 6/14/1813.

PERRY, THOMAS W.: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813 (wounded), and 10/16/1813 rolls.

PETERSON, JOHN: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813, and 10/16/1813 rolls.

POOLE, RICHARD: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813 (sick), and 10/16/1813 (sick) rolls.

POTTER, JOHN C.: Pvt./Corp./Sgt., Enl. On 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812. Promoted to Corp. 5/12/1813. Pres. 5/31/1813. Promoted to Sgt. In Regular Army on 8/18/1813.

RAWLINGS, EVANS: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813, and 10/16/1813 rolls. Died prior to 10/1853, when claim was filed.

RAWLINGS, JOHN: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813, and 10/16/1813 rolls. Died prior to 10/8/1853.

RAWLINGS, WILLIAM P.: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812 and 5/31/1813 rolls. Died at Lower Seneca on 9/11/1813.

RAYBOURN, GEORGE P.: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812 and 5/31/1813 (sick). Died at Maimi Rapids 7/13/1813. Apparently a resident of Amelia Co., VA.

RICHARDS, GEORGE: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813, and 10/16/1813 rolls.

SAUNDERS, JOHN H.: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813, and 10/16/1813 rolls. Filed a claim for \$108.26 on 5/14/1853, then a resident of Richmond and 67 years old.

SCOTT, JOSEPH: Corp., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813 (wounded), and 10/16/1813 rolls.

SCOTT, THOMAS G.: Corp/Sgt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812 as corporal, 5/31/1813 as sergeant and wounded (promoted to Sgt. On 5/12/1813). and 10/16/1813 rolls.

SCOTT, THOMAS G.: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813 (wounded), and 10/16/1813 rolls. Died prior to 5/31/1853.

SCOTT, THOMAS: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813 (wounded), and 10/16/1813 rolls.

SHARP, RICHARD: Pvt., Enl. On 10/16/1812. Pres. On 10/28/1812. Absent sick on 5/31/1813. Absent on furlough on 10/16/1813.

SHELTON, JOHN: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813, and 10/16/1813 rolls.

SHORE, JOHN: Pvt., Enl. On 10/16/1812. Absent sick on 10/28/1812 in Petersburg, VA. Died at Maimi Rapids on 5/8/1813 of wounds received at Fort Meigs on 5/5/1813.

SMITH, JOHN H.: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813, and 10/16/1813 rolls. Buried in Blandford Cem., Petersburg, stone states he was a native of Newton-Limuvaddy, County of London-Derry, Kingdom of Ireland, died on November 30, 1837, aged 50, wife Ann Smith.

SPRATT, JOHN: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813, and 10/16/1813 rolls. Died on 10/11/1853.

SPOTSWOOD, NORBON B.: Corp., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813, and 10/16/1813 rolls.

STEVENS, JAMES: Sgt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812. Died on 3/17/1813 at Miami Rapids.

STEVENS, ROBERT: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813, and 10/16/1813 rolls. Died prior to 5/31/1853.

STEVENS, SAMUEL: Sgt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813, and 10/16/1813 rolls.

STITH, EZRA: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812 and 5/31/1813 (wounded) rolls. Discharged on 9/13/1813.

WILEY, JOHN F.: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813 (wounded), and 10/16/1813 rolls.

WILLIAMS, DAVID: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813 (sick), and 10/16/1813 rolls.

WILLIAMS, JAMES: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813 (sick), and 10/16/1813 rolls.

WILLIAMS, SAMUEL: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813 (wounded). Died at Miami Rapids on 8/20/1813.

WILLS, NATHANIEL H.: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813 (sick), and 10/16/1813 rolls.

WORSHAM, DANIEL: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813 (sick), and 10/16/1813 rolls.

WORSHAM, THOMAS: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813, and 10/16/1813 rolls.

WYNN, CHARLES: Pvt., Enl. 10/16/1812. Pres. 10/28/1812, 5/31/1813, and 10/16/1813 rolls.