

A Guide to  
Virginia Militia Units  
in the  
War of 1812

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## PART II

### Theaters of Action.

There were five main defense areas in which Virginia militia units participated: the defense of the Ohio frontier under the command of General Joel Leftwich; the defense of Norfolk under the command of Brigadier General Robert B. Taylor; the defense of Richmond and the establishment of encampments southeast of the capital; the defense of the lower James and the Northern Neck from British incursions; and the defense of Baltimore and Washington, D.C., under the command of Brigadier General Hugh Douglass. In three of the above areas Virginia militia units became subject to the command of regular army officers; in two instances, Virginia militia units travelled outside of Virginia: to Ohio in 1812, and to Maryland in 1814.

#### The Northwestern Army

On September 2, 1812, Governor Barbour received from the Secretary of War a request for 1,500 troops to augment the new Northwestern Army then forming in Ohio under the command of General William Henry Harrison. The new army was to replace the one surrendered by General Hull in Detroit that Summer. On September 3, 1812, Governor Barbour directed the Adjutant General, Moses Green, to issue a general order calling out the county militias of Mason, Cabell, Kanawha, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Ohio, Wood, and Monongalia to form a brigade to march to join General Harrison in Ohio. The brigade command was assigned to General Joel Leftwich, a Revolutionary War veteran from Bedford County. The brigade consisted of two regiments, the 1st and 2nd, commanded by Colonel John Connell of Brooke County, and Colonel Dudley Evans of Monongalia, respectively. Point Pleasant, on the Ohio River, was chosen as the rendezvous point for the Virginia forces. Not until October 20, 1812, were the Virginia forces ready

to cross the Ohio. The Virginia brigade advanced by way of Gallipolis, Chillicothe, and Franklington, just opposite Columbus on the Scioto River. The brigade arrived in Delaware at the beginning of November 1812 where they were joined by the Pennsylvania brigade. The two brigades formed the Right Wing of Harrison's army and proceeded down the Scioto River to Marion and Upper Sandusky, crossing Finley and onward across the dreaded Black Swamp to Meigs, near the Maumee Rapids. Leftwich arrived at Meigs on January 21, 1813. Although the Virginia force aided in the construction and defense of Fort Meigs, were not there to defend it when the main British Indian attacks came in the Spring of 1813. By April 1813, most of the Virginia militia had left the camp, six month enlistments having expired. Only the Peters Volunteers stayed on until the Summer of 1813, but were not part of the Virginia brigade under General Leftwich. Despite the Virginia brigade's departure crucial time in the Northwest, it did enable Harrison to win in the dead of Winter and eventually establish Fort Mifflin which secured the Maumee Valley for the United States. Had General Harrison not had the services of the Virginia forces, his goals would have been much more difficult to achieve.

#### Defense of Norfolk

At the outbreak of the War of 1812, Governor Barbour and the Council of State immediately realized the need for a strong force to be stationed in the Norfolk area. The militia, although called upon many times to active service in the coming years, could not hope to be adequate enough to defend the area from a determined British attack. To buttress the local defense forces of the surrounding counties of Norfolk, Princess Ann, Nansemond, Warwick, Elizabeth City, the Governor called upon the militia of the Piedmont and even the trans-mountain counties for continuous relief of the eastern cities. The first troops from the lower Tidewater counties to arrive in Norfolk were under the command of Lt. Colonel Edmund Luc

## APPENDIX 2.

I. Northwestern Army Command.

→ Brig. Gen. Joel Leftwich's Brigade  
(See Part II for brief history)

1st Regiment

November 1812 - April 1813.

Joined Leftwich at Point Pleasant, Va. (Ohio) October 16, 1812. Arrived Upper Sandusky December 18, 1812.

→ Lt. Col. John Connell (Brooke)

## COMPANIES:

Capt. John Elson (Brooke)

Capt. William Fowler (Brooke)

Capt. David Pugh (Brooke)

Capt. George Park (Hampshire)

Capt. Lewis Bonnett (Ohio)

Capt. Pergerine Wells (Ohio)

Capt. Jesse Ice (Monongalia)

→ Capt. Isaac Heiskell (Hampshire)

2nd Regiment

November 19, 1812 - April 9, 1813

Lt. Col. Dudley Evans (Monongalia)

## COMPANIES:

Capt. Nathan Ashby (Monongalia)

Capt. Leonard Cupp (Monongalia)

Capt. James Morgan (Monongalia)

Capt. Daniel Stewart (Monongalia)

Capt. Ephraim Dunn (Hampshire)

Capt. John Simmon<sup>1</sup> Riflemen (Cabell)

## II. Norfolk Commands

Lucas and Wills Regiment (also 4th V.M.)  
August 1, 1812 - January 31, 1813

Lt. Col. Edmund Lucas (Greensville) Died December 5, 1812  
Maj. Langley C. Wills (Surry) November 30, 1812 - January 31, 1813

*This command was organized under authority of General Orders, June 22, 1812, issued by the Virginia Adjutant General. This was in response to a request from the Secretary of War on July 18, 1812, directing that Virginia provide a force of 500 militia to serve for a six month tour at Norfolk. The regiment was stationed at Fort Norfolk for the entire period. The regiment rendezvoused at Smithfield in early August and arrived at Portsmouth on August 8.*

## COMPANIES:

Capt. Mark Anthony Artillery (Bedford)

Capt. Richard Blunt (Southampton)

Capt. Thomas Maclin (Brunswick)

Capt. William Pritchett (Brunswick)

Capt. Arthur Smith (Isle of Wight)

Capt. James Sykes (Greensville)

Capt. Allen Temples (Prince George)

1st Virginia Regiment

February 6, 1813 - August 14, 1813

Lt. Col. James Clarke (Powhatan)

Maj. Wiley Campbell (York)

Maj. Gawin L. Corbin (at Hampton)

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY

(77th and 114th Regiments)

BRIGADE: 18

DIVISION: 1

Regimental Command: 77

Lt. Col. William Yause - September 19, 1807

Maj. Daniel Collins - May 11, 1802

Maj. Samuel McGuire - September 19, 1807

Maj. Isaac Means, Jr. - June 5, 1813

Regimental Command: 114

Lt. Col. Samuel Poston - October 13, 1807

Maj. John Higgins - October 13, 1807

Maj. John Largent - November 8, 1803

! About half of Hampshire County's militia units served in the Northwestern Army under General Leftwich, while the other half served in Richmond camps.

## COMPANIES:

Capt. Samuel Cockerill (77)

July 29, 1814 - February 22, 1815 [7th V.M. - Saunders]

Capt. John Dean (77)

February 10 - March 31, 1815

On march to Richmond.

Capt. Ephraim Dunn

September 21, 1812 - April 9, 1813 [2nd V.M. - Evans]

Capt. Isaac Heiskell Riflemen

November 21, 1812 - April 9, 1813 [1st V.M. - Connell]

Lt. Thomas Hook (114)

February 14 - April 8, 1815

On march to Richmond.

Capt. George Park

November 19, 1812 - April 9, 1813 [1st V.M. - Connell]

Capt. Jonathan Pugh (114)

February 14 - April 8, 1815

On march to Richmond.

signed  
discharge

## HANOVER COUNTY

(74th Regiment)

BRIGADE: 2

DIVISION: 4

Regimental Command:

Lt. Col. William Trueheart - September 9, 1805

Maj. Thomas Starke - December 8, 1805

Maj. Parke Street - March 19, 1810

Maj. William Hundley - April 13, 1814

Many Hanover County units were called into service in the spring of 1813 under General Orders of March 20, June 2, and June 30, 1813, when it appeared that the British fleet was about to launch an invasion up the James or York river. Later, other units were sent to Norfolk and some were called up in the summer of 1814 for service in and around Richmond.

## COMPANIES:

Capt. Patrick Anderson

March 20-29; June 27-29; July 1-2, 1813

Capt. James Atkinson Artillery

March 20 - July 2, 1813

Also served under Lt. Col. William Jones and Maj. John Turberville.

Capt. Edmund Berkeley

March 20-29; June 28-29, 1813

Capt. Nathaniel Bowe

Lt. John D. Hendrick

(July 21-26, 1813) June 27 - July 26, 1813 [Colonel Cocke's Detachment]

Capt. Bentley Browne

March 20-29, June 28-29, July 1-2, 1813

Capt. Charles P. Goodall

March 20-29, June 27-29, July 1-2, 1813

Capt. Hezekiah Henley Riflemen

February 7 - May 14, 1813 [1st V.M. - Clarke]

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