# WASHINGTON'S LIFE GUARDS



BY GERALD D. DAWES, JR., SAR #196541

AND

GARY C. MITCHELL, SAR #177324

### **OUTLINE**

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- 2. ORIGIN OF THE GUARD
- 3. QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERS
- 4. PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY
- 5. TREASON WITHIN THE GUARD
- 6. JOHN DAWES
- 7. WILLIAM LOGAN
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- 9. MUSKETS
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## HIS EXCELLENCY'S GUARD ALSO KNOWN AS:

- A. THE GENERAL'S GUARD
- **B. THE WASHINGTON'S LIFE GUARD**
- C. WASHINGTON'S BODY GUARD
- D. THE LIFE GUARDS

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•WASHINGTON USUALLY REFERRED TO THE UNIT AS "MY GUARDS"

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- •CAPTAIN GIBBS SIGNED DISPATCHES AND UNIT CORRESPONDENCE
- "COMMANDANT C-in-C, Guards

### ORIGIN OF THE GUARD

Head Quarters, Cambridge, March 11th, 1776 - GENERAL ORDER

•"The General being desirous of selecting a particular number of men, as a Guard for himself, and baggage, The Colonel, or commanding Officer, of each of the established Regiments, (the Artillery and Riffle-men excepted) will furnish him with four, that the number wanted may be chosen out of them. His Excellency depends upon the Colonels for good Men, such as they can recommend for their sobriety, honesty, and good behavior; he wishes them to be from five feet, eight Inches high, to five feet, ten Inches; handsomely and well made, and as there is nothing in his eyes more desirable, than Cleanliness in a Soldier, he desires that particular attention may be made, in the choice of such men, as are neat, and spruce. They are all to be at Head Quarters tomorrow precisely at twelve, at noon, when the Number wanted will be fixed upon. The General neither wants men with uniforms, or arms, nor does he desire any man to be sent to him, that is not perfectly willing, and desirous, of being of this guard. They should be drilled men."

•"The General desires that those Colonels, who have not furnished the Arrangement of their Officers, will do it forthwith under the Inspection of the Brigadiers, who are to certify the same; he also requires the Brigadiers to see that the Returns are made, that the Commissions may issue."

# APPOINTMENT OF CAPTAIN CALEB GIBBS AS COMMANDER MARCH 12, 1776

General Washington appointed Captain Caleb Gibbs, adjutant of the 14th Massachusetts Continental Regiment, as the commander of the His Excellency's Guard, with the title of CAPTAIN COMMANDANT. In addition to protecting the person of the Commander-in-Chief, and the headquarters, when the Army was moving, he was responsible for the selection of defensible quarters for General Washington and his staff. When the General was traveling, Major Gibbs usually mounted a guard to accompany him. On several occasions, they encountered the British while on the move, and some serious skirmishes resulted.

## UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS FOR HIS EXCELLENCY'S GUARD GENERAL ORDER

•From George Washington to Captain Caleb Gibbs, 22 April 1777

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To Captain Caleb Gibbs

•Morristown. April 22. 1777

Dear Sir

•I forgot before you left this place to desire you to provide clothing for the men that are to compose my guard—but now desire that you will apply to the clothier general and have them forwarded to this place, Head Quarters as soon as possible. Provide for 4 Sergeants, 4 corporals, a drum and fife, and 50 rank and file. If Blew and Buff can be had I should prefer that uniform, as it is the one I wear myself. If it cannot, Mr. Mease & you may fix upon any other, red excepted. I shall get men from 5 feet 9 to 5 feet 10 for the Guard; for such sized men therefore make your clothing. You may get a small round Hat, or cocked one as you please. In getting these clothes—no mention need be made for what purpose they are intended; for though no extraordinary expense will attend it and the Guard which is absolutely necessary for the security of my baggage, papers &c. may as well be in the same uniform as to consist of twenty, yet the report of making a uniform (or if already made) providing a uniform for the guards creates an idea of expense which I should not wish should go forth. That your arms may also be of a piece I herewith enclose you an order on the Company of stores for 58 muskets.¹ I am Dr sir Yr most obedt servt

• (Signed) Geo: Washington

NOTE: Captain Gibbs was successful in securing blue and buff uniforms, but chose red waistcoats (probably because white were not available). These vests became symbolic of the guard for the duration of the war.

### **EVOLUTION OF THE FINAL UNIFORM**

General Washington instructed Captain Caleb Gibbs to go to the Clothier General and secure uniforms for his personal guard. He specifically stated that he wanted his guard to wear uniform similar to his own, buff colored breeches and vest, regimental coats of dark blue faced (lapels, cuffs and turnbacks) buff colored. The details as to equipment were left up to Gibbs and what was available. The only word of caution given to Captain Gibbs was "no red." When Gibbs arrived at the Clothier General's headquarters he soon ran into problems. Most of the uniforms available were captured British and Hessian. Gibbs did manage to secure blue uniform coats, but the only breeches available were white. That was remedied by using coffee to dye them. The next problem was the waistcoats (vests). The only ones available were captured by an American Privateer and were destined for the British 5th Regiment of Foot. They were red! These red waistcoats became symbolic of the C-in-C Guard for the duration of the war.

The next problem encountered was buttons. What button would a "body guard" of one hundred and fifty men use? We do not know who thought of it, but the Continental Congress had just minted one of our earliest coins - a penny, and it had a cipher on it - "USA". Either someone in the Clothier General's Department or Captain Caleb Gibbs thought of using the "USA" cipher on the Life Guard buttons.

# WASHINGTON DESCRIBING THE MEMBERS DESIRED FOR THE HIS EXCELLENCY'S GUARD COMPANY General Orders, 30 April 1777

Sir,

I want to form a Company for my Guard. In doing this I wish to be extremely cautious, because it is more than probable that, in the course of the campaign, my baggage, papers, & other matters of great public import may be committed to the sole care of these Men. This being premised, in order to impress you with proper attention in the choice, I have to request that you will immediately furnish me with four men of your regiment: and, as it is my farther wish that this company should look well & be nearly of a size, I desire that none of the men may exceed in stature five feet ten inches, nor fall short of five feet nine inches, sober, young, active and well made. When I recommend care in your choice I would be understood to mean men of good character in the regiment, that possess the pride of appearing clean and soldierlike. I am satisfied there can be no absolute security for the fidelity of this class of people, but yet I think it most likely to be found in those who have family connections in the Country. You will therefore send me none but natives, and men of some property, if you have them. I must insist that, in making this choice you give no intimation of my preference of natives, as I do not want to create any invidious distinction between them and the foreigners. I am, yours, &c,

**Go Washington** 

### HIS EXCELLENCY'S GUARD HELMET

Captain Gibbs, first commander of the Life Guards, procured leather helmets with a bear skin crest, in lieu of the traditional tricorn hats. These apparently were captured by a privateer and were bound for the British 17th Dragoons. He had the red cloth binding removed and replaced with medium blue, and a white plume, tipped in blue placed on the left side. This unique headgear was to add to the distinctive appearance of the

Guard.

Dragoon, 17th Light Dragoons, 1777.

Black leather helmet, white metal crest, red horsehair mane. Red turban bound with white lace. Motto painted in white. White shirt, black stock. Red coat, white collar, cuffs, lapels and lining. White epaulettes and lace. White metal buttons. White waistcoat and breeches. White belts and black pouches. Black boots.



REPLICA LIFE GUARDS HELMET, SHOWING WHAT WAS REMOVED.



REPLICA LIFE GUARDS HELMET

#### **ACTUAL LIFE GUARDS HELMET**

## HIS EXCELLENCY'S GUARD FLAG

"THE FLAG IS WHITE SILK, ON WHICH THE DEVICE IS NEATLY PAINTED. ONE OF THE GUARD IS SEEN HOLDING A HORSE AND IS IN THE ACT OF RECEIVING A FLAG FROM THE GENIUS OF LIBERTY, WHO IS PERSONIFIED AS A WOMAN LEANING UPON THE UNION SHIELD, NEAR WHICH IS THE AMERICAN EAGLE. THE MOTTO OF THE CORPS, "CONQUER OF DIE," IS UPON A RIBBON."

From THE PICTORIAL FIELD-BOOK OF THE REVOLUTION, Vol. II, by Benson J. Lossing, 1852



## THE HICKEY MUTINY TREASON WITHIN THE LIFE GUARDS

**Thomas Hickey** was a Continental Army soldier in the Revolutionary War, and the first person to be executed by the Continental Army for "mutiny, sedition, and treachery".

Born in Ireland, Hickey came to America as a soldier in the British Army and fought in the French and Indian War. He later joined the Patriot cause when the American Revolution broke out, and became part of Washington's Life Guard. Hickey was jailed on 15-Jun-1776 for passing counterfeit money; during this incarceration, he told another prisoner he was part of a conspiracy. Hickey was convicted of mutiny and sedition by a court-martial on 26-Jun-1776, and two days later was hanged on the Common in the presence of 20,000 spectators.

Following the Hickey mutiny, the Life Guards were completely reconstituted with native born soldiers. Both John Daws and William Logan were members of this reconstituted unit.

### JOHN DAWS 5<sup>th</sup> Great-grandfather of GERALD D. DAWES, Jr. (Chip)

### DESCENDANTS OF JOHN DAWS TO GERALD D. DAWES, Jr.

John Daws, 1750-1817, Lunenburg CO., VA., Mecklenburg CO., VA.

Thomas Daws 1795-1850, Mecklenburg CO, VA, Jackson CO, TN

William Daws 1823-1907, Mecklenburg CO, VA, Jackson CO, TN

John Savage Daws 1855-1945, Jackson CO, TN, Jackson CO TN

Oliver Daws, 1890-1976, Conejos CO, CO, Putnam CO, TN

Willie Savage (Bill) Dawes, 1910-1981, Jackson CO,

TN

Gerald D. Dawes, 1937-2022, Jackson CO,

TN

Gerald D. Dawes Jr, 1962-

**Zachary Dawes, 1992-**

Charles Dawes, 1996-

## JOHN DAWES BIO INFORMATION

John Daws' father was James Daws, born by 1729, Lunenburg CO, VA
John married Elizabeth Moore in Mecklenburg CO, VA
John & Elizabeth had 10 children each named in John's Will of 1817
They were from the part of Lunenburg CO which became Mecklenburg

CO when that county was formed in 1765

Elizabeth Moore's parents were Thomas Moore & Mary Farrar (daughter of Judith Jefferson and George Farrar)

George Farrar's ancestor William Farrar was a subscriber to the third charter of the Virginia Company arriving in Virginia in 1617

## Service record of John Dawes

- John Daws enlisted in the 14<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment (Captain Edward Garland's Company) on 08-March-1777 and transferred into the Commander in Chief's Guard on 01-May-1777 in Morristown, NJ
- Battle of Brandywine, NJ 11-Sep-1777
- Battle of Germantown, PA 04-Oct-1777
- Battle of Monmouth, NJ 28-Jun-1778
- At Valley Forge Dec 1777 Jun 1778
- Discharged West Point, NY 16-Nov-1779

## **WILLIAM LOGAN BIO INFORMATION**

FATHER - DAVID LOGAN MOTHER - JANE LOYAL MCKINLEY

BORN 1706-CO. ARMAGH, N. IRE. BORN 1719-COUNTY ARMAGH, N. IRE.

PARENTS EMIGRATED TO PHILADELPHIA IN 1737, MARRIED 22 MAY, 1739, PENNSYLVANIA

MAY, 1740, DAVID RECEIVED A HEADRIGHT GRANT FOR LAND IN VIRINIA

William LOGAN was born on FEB 11, 1745,

in Tinkling Springs, Augusta Co., Virginia.

WILLIAM LOGAN BAPTIZED JULY 16, 1749 AT TINKLING SPRINGS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, AUGUSTA CO., VA.

MARRIED NANCY AGNES MCCOUN, AUG. 5, 1775, BOTETOURT CO. VA.

DIED JULY 17, 1796, LINCOLN CO., KENTUCKY

### WILLIAM LOGAN

William LOGAN was born on FEB 11, 1745, in Tinkling Springs, Augusta Co., Virginia. He was christened on JUL 14, 1749, in Tinkling Springs, Augusta Co., Virginia. He died on JUL 17, 1796, in , Lincoln Co., Kentucky.

He married Nancy Agnes McCown in Botetourt Co., Virginia. The marriage date is Aug. 5, 1775, the date of the marriage bond. Agnes and William were with Daniel Boone in Kentucky. They assisted with the building of Harrodsburg.

William Logan was a pioneer settler of Lincoln Co., KY when it was part of Kentucky Co, VA. In 1779 he was listed as a member of the company of militia at Logan's Station (St. Asaphs; Fort), commanded by his brother, Capt. (later Gen.) Benjamin Logan.

He served in the Virginia Militia from 1776 to 1784 from Augusta and Kentucky counties, Virginia.

# WILLIAM LOGAN 5th Great-grandfather of Gary C. Mitchell DESCENDANTS OF WILLIAM LOGAN TO GARY C. MITCHELL

WILLIAM LOGAN, 1749-1796, BOTETOURT CO., VA., LINCOLN CO., KY.

HUGH LOGAN, 1776-1847, BOTETOURT CO., VA., PULASKI CO., KY.

LINCOLN LOGAN, 1799-1844, LINCOLN CO., KY., PULASKI CO., KY.

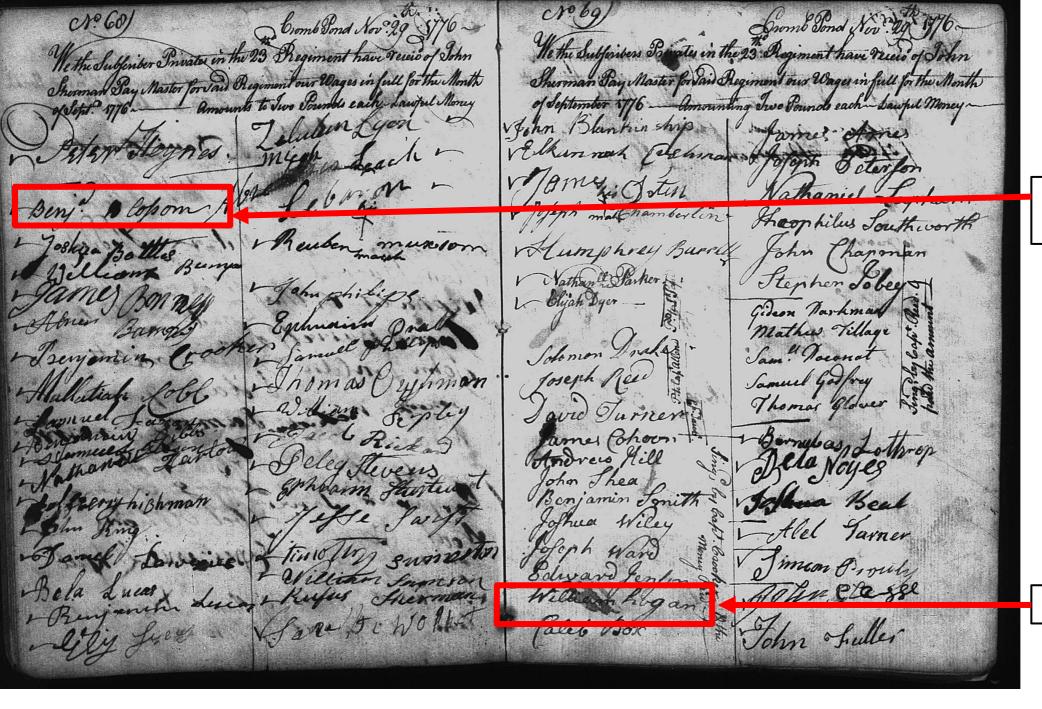
COLUMBUS HUGH LOGAN, 1822-1914, PULASKI CO., KY., PLATTE CO., MO.

HETTIE FLORET LOGAN, 1855-1945, CLAY CO, MO., PLATTE CO., MO.

ADELINE ELLEN PATTON, 1889-1973, PLATTE CO., MO, JACKSON CO., MO.

C. VIRGINIA BROWN, 1912-2008, PLATTE CO., MO., JACKSON CO., MO.

GARY C. MITCHELL, 1948-PRESENT, JACKSON CO., MO.



23<sup>rd</sup> CONTINEMTAL REGIMENT NOVEMBER 29, 1776

PAY FOR SEPT., 1776

Benjamin Logan, William.'s Brother

William Logan

WILLIAM LOGAN, 12<sup>TH</sup> VIRGINIA,
COLONEL JAMES WOOD
CAPT. JOSEPH MITCHELL'S COMPANY
JUNE 30, 1777
ENLISTED APRIL 1, 1777
TAKEN INTO WASHINGTON'S GUARDS, JUNE 10, 1777

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### MUSTER ROLL

#### **WASHINGTON'S GUARDS**

#### CAPTAIN CALEB GIBBS

AUGUST 11, 1777

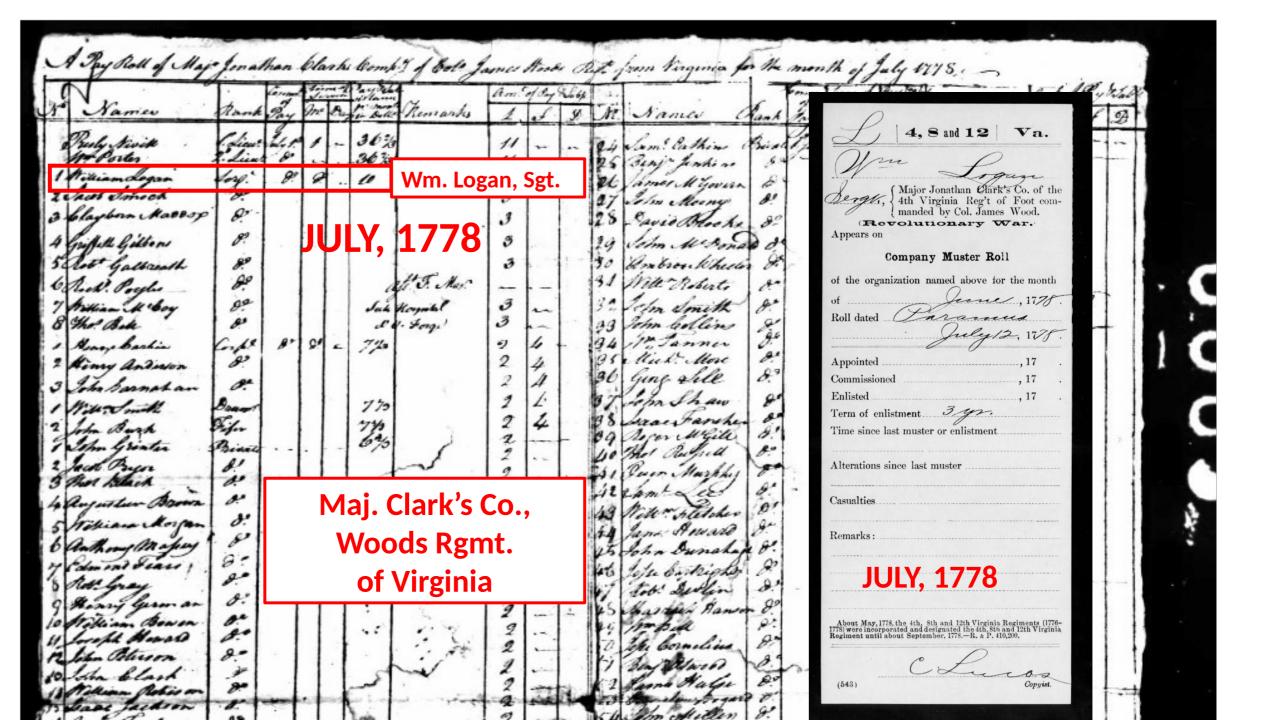
AUGUST 11, 1///
Commander-in-Chief's Continental Troops.
Um Logan  (His Excellency, General Washing-
His Excellency, General Washington's Guards, commanded by Capt. Caleb Gibbs.*
Appears on Muster Roll
of the organization named above for the month
ortaken Clug 11, 1777.
Roll dated
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Appointed, 17
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Term of enlistment
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Remarks:
Next muster roll on file May 1778
*This organization was also known as The Commander-in-Chief's Guard.
(543) J. b. C. Mariet.

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MUSTER ROLL
WASHINGTON'S GUARDS
COMMANDER:
CAPTAIN CALEB GIBBS

Wm. Logan, Pvt.

Commander-in-Chief's Continental Troops.
Wm. Logan.
The Independent Co. commanded by Capt. Caleb Gibbs.*  (Revolutionary War.)
Appears on
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of the organization named above for the month
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*This organization was also known as The Commander-in-Chief's Guard.
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/E 49)	9	trans

Wm. Logan, Sgt., Captain Neville's Co. 8<sup>th</sup> Virginia, November, 1779

#### WILLIAM LOGAN SERVICE, 1780-1784

CAPTAIN BENJAMIN LOGAN'S COMPANY (8<sup>TH</sup> Va.), in Kentucky (Lincoln) County, at and near Logan's Station (Fort), probably in 1779.

Captain Benjamin Logan, Lieutenant John Logan, William Logan (Benjamin and John Logan are William's brothers)

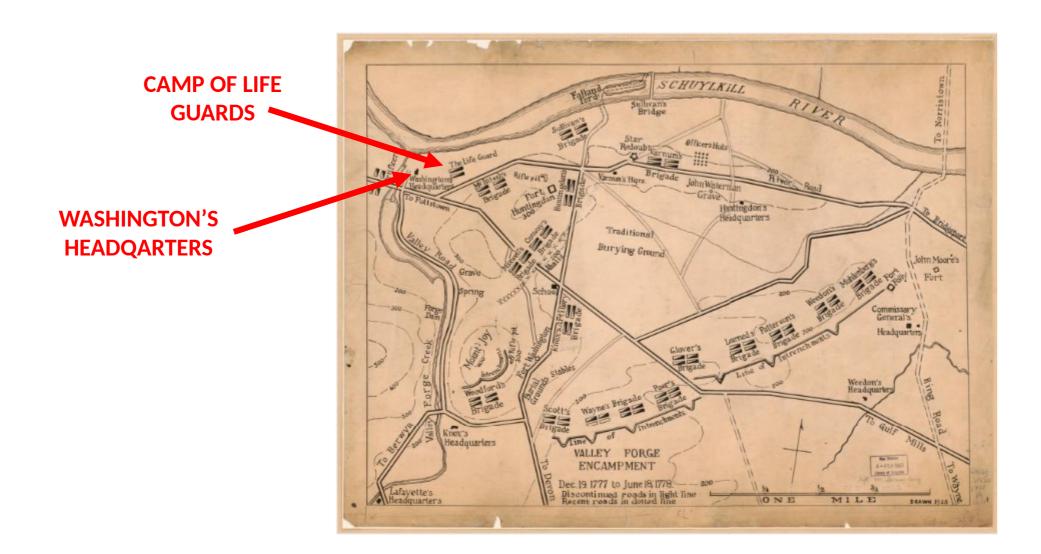
Wm. Logan appointed Ensign in Captain Samuel McCutcheon's Company of Virginia Militia. (Qualified on 20 Mar 1782.)

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Will	ian Si	ogan	-
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Vol. 176; page	196		
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# First to train under Baron Frederick von Steuben at Valley Forge

In the spring of 1778, as a testament to the unit's professionalism and military standards, the Life Guards were selected by Baron Frederick von Steuben to fulfill the role of demonstration unit for the Continental Army. After being trained by von Steuben in the new American Drill, the Lifeguards moved among units of the Continental Army demonstrating von Steuben's methods and principles.

### MAP OF CAMPS OF UNITS AT VALLEY FORGE



## Washington's Headquarters at Valley Forge



## **Soldier's Cabin Valley Forge**



## Valley Forge Muster Roll - John Dawes

Last Name: **Daws**Last Name Alternate:

Last Name Alternate Alternate:

Suffix:

Rank: Corporal State: Virginia

Regiment: **14th Virginia** Brigade: **2nd Virginia** 

Division: **5th** 

Company: Washington's Guard

LifeGuard: **Yes**Discharge Date:
Date of Birth:

Spouse First Name:

Comments for DEC 1777: **Life Guard**Comments for FEB 1778: **Life Guard**Comments for APR 1778: **Life Guard**Comments for JUN 1778: **Life Guard** 

Remarks: TRANSFERRED TO LIFEGUARD MAY 1, 1777.

First Name: **John**First Name Alternate:

ID: VA29315

Gender:

Rank Type: NCO

Ethnicity:

Regiment Commander: Col Charles Lewis
Brigade Commander: BG George Weedon
Division Commander: MG William Alexander

Company Commander:

Enlistment Date:

Reason:

Date of Death: Spouse Last Name:

Comments for JAN 1778: **Life Guard**Comments for MAR 1778: **Life Guard**Comments for MAY 1778: **Life Guard** 

Reference:

# Valley Forge Muster Roll – William Logan

Last Name: **Logan** Last Name Alternate:

Last Name Alternate Alternate:

Suffix:

Rank: **Private**State: **Virginia**Regiment:

Brigade: 1st Virginia

Division: 5th

Company: Washington's Guard

LifeGuard: **Yes**Discharge Date:
Date of Birth:
Spouse First Name:

Comments for DEC 1777: **Life Guard**Comments for FEB 1778: **Life Guard** 

Comments for APR 1778: On Roll without Comment Comments for JUN 1778: On Roll without Comment

First Name: William
First Name Alternate:

ID: VA29474

Gender:

Rank Type: Rank and File

Ethnicity:

Regiment Commander:

Brigade Commander: **BG Peter Muhlenberg**Division Commander: **MG William Alexander** 

Company Commander: Enlistment Date:

Reason:

Date of Death: Spouse Last Name:

Comments for JAN 1778: Life Guard

Comments for MAR 1778: On Roll without Comment Comments for MAY 1778: On Roll without Comment

Reference:

## BATTLES OF THE LIFE GUARDS

	<u>BATTLES</u>	DATE		<u>OUTCO</u>	ME
1.	BATTLE OF BOSTON, N	MASS.	MARCH, 17	776	LOSS
2.	BATTLE OF LONG ISLA	ND, N.Y.	AUG., 1776	LOSS	
3.	BATTLE OF TRENTON,	N.J.	DEC. 26, 17	776	WIN
4.	BATTLE OF PRINCETO	N, N.J.	JAN. 2, 1777	WIN	
5.	BATTLE OF BRANDYW	INE, N.J.	SEPT. 11, 177	7	LOSS
6.	GERMANTOWN, PA.,		OCT. 4, 177	77	LOSS
7.	WHITE MARSH, N.J.		DEC. 5-8, 1	777	TIE
8.	VALLEY FORGE	DEC.,17	77-JUNE, 17	78	
9.	MONMOUTH, N. J. JU	JNE 28, 1	778	TIE	
10.	SIEGE OF YORKTOWN	, VA.	SEPTOCT.,	1781	WIN

### **SUMMARY**

- 1. OUR ANCESTORS WERE TYPICAL OF COLONIALISTS OF THE PERIOD.
- 2. THEY SERVED IN THE FIRST ELITE MILITARY UNIT OF U.S. SERVICE.
- 3. THEIR SERVICE INCLUDED SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ACTIONS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR.
- 4. AFTER SERVING THEY WENT BACK TO THEIR FAMILIES AND LIVED NORMAL LIVES PROVIDING FOR THEIR FAMILIES AND OUR ANCESTORS.
- 5. THEY EXEMPLIFY THE DESIRE AND EFFORT THAT ALL THOSE WHO FOUGHT FOR AND WON OUR LIBERTY AND FREEDOM.

### GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

# THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING US TO PRESENT OUR ANCESTORS TO YOU,

# MEMBERS OF WASHINGTON'S LIFE GUARDS!

GERALD D. DAWES, JR., SAR #196541

AND

GARY C. MITCHELL, SAR #177324