
Nicholas Greenawalt's Revolutionary War Service Timeline

Anyone who studies the early formation of the Colonial Continental Army and each State's Militias will tell you, it's hard to get it straight. Between record keeping of the times, and changing of the regiment's names and assignments between the State and Colonial Continental Congress interest, while fighting for independence, is a tangled mess.

We did our best to scour through records to unravel a timeline of Nicholas's service in his fight for America's independence. This timeline helped us to follow in Nicholas's footsteps through a pivotal moment in our nation's history.

One account of Nicholas's service indicated that he served under P. L. Bankson's Company, July 1778, before he began serving with Colonel Murray's company. This account also indicated; "...Reenlisted under Col. Stewart for 3 years. Kicked by a horse, but returned to the army at West Point. In army until Jan. 1779, unfit for service...Nicholas testified to the service, under Col. Stewart, of Benj. Long; also Thos Sullivan, Balser Meeze, Louis Houser, and Benj. Beever, all applicants for pensions from Franklin County..."¹ This particular account of Nicholas's revolutionary war service cites; Pennsylvania Archives, 2nd Series, Volume 10, Page 431.

There is no evidence that Nicholas served under P. L. Bankson's Company, or that he was kicked by a horse.

Ludwig (Louis) Houser was part of the Pennsylvania Line and filed for a pension while living in Ohio. The account indicated that Nicholas Greenawalt served in the same Company and Regiment as Louis Houser.² This account cites the Pennsylvania Archives, 5th Series, Volume 4, Page 523. Houser's Revolutionary War Pension Records do not show any testimony from Nicholas Greenawalt. The Pennsylvania Archives, 5th Series, Volume 4, Page 523 also does not indicate any connection to Nicholas Greenawalt.

June 13th 1775: George Washington was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Colonial Continental Army. He was in Boston responding to the British in Boston, where the Battle of Bunker Hill occurred.

June 14th 1775: The Continental Congress passed a resolution calling for the raising of six companies of expert rifleman from Pennsylvania, and two from Maryland and Virginia.

June 22nd 1775: The Continental Congress passed a resolution authorizing Pennsylvania to raise an additional two companies followed by a third, and with the six already authorized they were to form into a Battalion. The Pennsylvania Rifle Regiment is formally designated, and is also referred as the first "Regular" regiment of the present day Army of the United States.

June 25th 1775: The Pennsylvania Rifle Regiment was organized, to consist of 9 companies from Cumberland, Lancaster, Northumberland, Northampton, Bedford, Berks and York Counties. Local Militias started gathering, and aligning their efforts, and getting organized. **This regiment is the one Nicholas joined in May 1776.**

January 1st 1776: The Pennsylvania Rifle Regiment was re-designated as the 1st Continental Regiment.

April 24th 1776: The 1st Continental regiment was assigned to Brigadier General John Sullivan's Brigade of the Continental Army.

April 29th 1776: The 1st Continental regiment was relieved from Sullivan's Brigade, and assigned to Brigadier General Nathaniel Greene's Brigade of the Continental Army.

¹ Page 90 and 91, Nicholas Greenawalt, Louis Houser, Virginia Shannon Fendrick, American Revolutionary Soldiers of Franklin County Pennsylvania, for the Franklin County Chapter daughters of the American Revolution Chambersburg Pennsylvania, published by Historical Works Committee of the Franklin County Chapter, circa 1944

² Page 104 and 105, Ibid.

May 29th 1776: A twenty one year old Nicholas Grünenwald enlisted for a nine month obligation (May 29th 1776 to January 1777) in Allentown Northampton County Pennsylvania. He received the rank of Private, and was assigned as a rifleman in Captain Henry Shade's Company, 1st Battalion commanded by Colonel Samuel Miles's of the Pennsylvania Rifle Regiment. When Nicholas enlisted the regiment was just assigned to Brigadier General Nathaniel Greene's Brigade of the Continental Army. ³ **Nicholas was born October 6th 1754**

June 1776: The regiment mustered and began organizing at Marcus Hook, on the Delaware River, Delaware County Pennsylvania. The regiment is attached to Brigadier General Greene's Brigade of the Continental Army. Shortly after forming the Pennsylvania Rifle Regiment, the commander Colonel Samuel Miles was sent with a force to quell an insurrection in Sussex County, Delaware. British loyalists were consistently disrupting Colonial independence efforts to organize against the British. We suspect that this little insurrection was a result of the British fleet that was sitting off the coast of Delaware, at the mouth of the Delaware River, preparing to head toward Philadelphia, while the main fleet was entering the New York harbor. **It's uncertain if Nicholas was part of the force sent to Sussex County.** While training and organizing at Markus Hook, Nicholas helped support Pennsylvania's river fleet in turning back two British ships sailing towards Philadelphia.

June to July 1776: A massive British war fleet arrived in New York Harbor consisting of 30 battleships with 1200 cannon, 30,000 soldiers, 10,000 sailors, and 300 supply ships. They were all under the command of General William Howe and his brother Admiral Lord Richard Howe.

June 26th 1776: A battle was forming near Perth Amboy New Jersey between the Colonials and British soldieries, including the Hessian mercenaries. This battle would become known as the battle of Short Hills. Fortunately for the Americans, a series of mishaps occurred when transporting the Hessian forces from Staten Island New York to Perth Amboy New Jersey, slowing the British's advance to the Woodbridge area of Oak Leaf and Short Hill.

July 2nd 1776: Nicholas and his Pennsylvania regiment went to Philadelphia.

July 5th 1776: The Pennsylvania Rife Regiment was ordered to Trenton New Jersey, and then onto Perth Amboy New Jersey. While at Perth Amboy the Pennsylvania regiment was to organize with other State regiments and battalions ⁴ to cross over the harbor into New York. The Pennsylvania Regiment would be assigned to Major General Nathanael Greene's Division of the Continental Army. Pert Amboy colonists were exchanging fire from on the shore at a British ship anchored in the harbor. The British return fire caused damage to a tombstone located in the St. Peter's Church cemetery. ⁵

July 24th 1776: Nicholas and his regiment arrived at Perth Amoy New Jersey with 867 officers and men, and a battalion of 406 officers and musketry men.

August 10th 1776: Colonel Miles's Pennsylvania Rifle Regiment was ordered to cross the harbor to New York.

August 11th 1776: Nicholas and his Pennsylvania Rifle Regiment were in New York assigned to Major General John Sullivan's Division of the Continental Army. This same day Colonel Samuel J. Atlee's Pennsylvania Musketry Battalion was order over to New York, and on August 12th General John Glover and William Smallwood Maryland's Battalions, under the command of Brigadier Lord Sterling, were ordered over to New York.

August 12th 1776: The Regiment is relieved from Major General Nathanael Greene's Division and reassigned to Brigadier General John Sullivan's Division, Nixon's Brigade commanded by Brigadier General John Nixon.

August 27th 1776: *The Battle of Long Island New York*

³ Page 218, Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Vol. X, Samuel Hazard, Published under the direction of Matthew S. Quay, Secretary of the Commonwealth, Edited by John B. Linn and William H. Engle M.D, Printed by the Pennsylvania Secretary of the Commonwealth, Dept. of Public Instruction, Pennsylvania State Library, Harrisburg Pennsylvania, 1880

⁴ The Flying Camp was a military formation employed by the Continental Army in the second half of 1776.

⁵ Perth Amboy History Club May 1930, and NJ Coastal Heritage Trail sign, Pert Amboy New Jersey.

The battle of Long Island was the largest engagement of the Revolutionary War. The British, after their raid on Boston, were attempting to take New York City. General Howe was at the head of a 15,000 British soldiers, who would meet Washington's army in the Battle of Long Island. Washington is outnumbered two to one.

At the Battle of Long Island New York, **Nicholas's Pennsylvania Regiment** is attached to Colonel William Alexander, Lord Stirling's Brigade, under the command of Major General John Sullivan. Colonel Miles's Regiment was one of several regiments that were stretched out along a three mile line along a densely forested ridge. Nicholas and his Pennsylvania Riflemen of about 400 men were stationed at Bedford Pass; the eastern edge and left flank of the three mile long line, just northeast of modern day Flatbush New York City. Colonel Atlee's Pennsylvania Musketeers were sent to the guard the right flank of Flatbush with General Alexander.

On the morning of August 27th, Colonel Miles moved the Pennsylvania Rifle Regiment two miles west in an attempt to head off the British troops that were heading along the Jamaica Road. They were too late. Instead of meeting the enemy head to head, Nicholas and the regiment met the tail end of a 10,000 man column of soldiers. The British moved so quickly and quietly that they completely surprised Miles and his 400 Pennsylvanians. The sheer numbers of British were able to cut off Miles and his men from retreating, and after a brief skirmish half of the regiment (including Miles) surrendered. Outflanked, Nicholas and the other half scattered into the woods and made their way back to the regiments along the ridge.

August 28th 1776: As the Continental Army began to retreat into Brooklyn Heights, they faced possible capture by the British, or even total surrender. From the Pennsylvania Rifle regiment, Colonel Atlee, Lt. Colonel Piper, Colonel Samuel Miles;⁶ 1st Lt George West; and 2nd Lt Yost Dreisbach were captured, along with their men. Those that surrendered initially were the lucky ones. The remainder of the regiments along the ridge now had enemy combatants to the front and rear. They fought as long as they could before they were forced to flee as well. Some made it out, but others were killed or captured.

With a number of their field officers and soldiers captured, and his troops scattered, Washington was driven back. He then ordered three battalions to be considered as a regiment under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Brodhead. Brodhead took charge of the battalion when its leader, Samuel Miles, was captured by the British. Washington then orders Lt. Colonel Brodhead to withdraw to Manhattan. As Washington continued withdrawing into New Jersey with the main body of the Army, the American garrison on Manhattan Island and Fort Washington were left to its fate. Washington's objective was to escape the encircling grasp of the British while evacuating tons of supplies before they could be captured by the superior British force.

With the main body of his Army and supplies, Washington withdrew north of White Plains and into New Jersey, while the British returned to Manhattan. Nicholas was in this group of men retreating to New Jersey.

The majority of the battle's casualties came from the outflanked regiments, including Pennsylvania Miles's Regiment and Atlee's Battalion. During the night, the Continental Army crossed the East River in small boats and escaped to Manhattan, and then they evacuate New York City; retreating up through Manhattan Island to Harlem Heights. Washington now changes tactics, avoiding large scale battles with the British by a series of retreats. He would use this tactic in other future battles.

August 31st 1776: The Pennsylvania Regiment was relieved from Nixon's Brigade and assigned to Brigadier General Thomas Mifflin's Brigade of the Major General William Heath's Division within the Continental Army. Mifflin had been the first Continental Army's Quartermaster General, since his appointment on August 14th 1775. Mifflin was reassigned to a Brigade on August 15th 1776.

September 19th 1776: Before the three battalions were reorganized as a regiment under Lieutenant Colonel David Brodhead, the men from the three battalions mutinied and appeared on the parade under arms. From these events about one hundred fifty of the men then deserted. Their complaints were no pay, in need of clothing and blankets, and not receiving particular species (meat) rations. The men had received their pay on August 1st, but when they received their

⁶ While on Long Island Colonel Miles was captured and taken prisoner, held in a Nova Scotia fort known as Liverpool, and held until he was exchanged in April 1778.

pay on September 1st, some of the men immediately deserted. The desertion was blamed on the loss of the field officers, like Colonel Miles, who were captured by the British. About thirty men attempted to desert, but were stopped by Lieutenant Lang who parried and trusted his bayonet at a corporal, who was acting as the leader of the deserters. This same corporal also drew and cooked his piece; attempting to fire it at an Ensign Davis.

At the end of September 1776 Washington's army occupied the northern tip of Manhattan Island and the ground to the West of the Bronx River north of Kingsbridge. From his positions on the rest of Manhattan, Lieutenant General Howe determined he could outflank the Americans with a landing at Throg's Neck to the East of the Bronx. The British landing on 12th October 1776 was held by Pennsylvania, New York and Massachusetts troops, forcing the British to re-embark on their boats and land further up river at Pell's Point.

The Pennsylvania Rifle regiment recorded 15 men were dead or missing.⁷ Sometime during late September, a number of deserters from Colonel Miles and Colonel Atlee's battalion returned to their Delaware County camp, and immediately wrote a petition to the Committee of Safety of the Province of Pennsylvania. In the petition the soldiers from Pennsylvania, who returned from New York willing and desirous, informed the Committee on their reason for returning to their Valley Forge camp.

Nicholas was also one of the men returning to the Delaware County camp from White Plains, and he is listed as one of the petitioners.⁸ One of his Pension File Index Cards indicated his desertion. The following petition is transcribed.

“...Our Commanders told us, the Subscribers, that if we went out of the Province that we should be used well, return in six weeks from the time we left the Province. We were out of the Province upwards of Two Months and not used according to promise. We never had half of our Provisions Given us that was allowed to us by the Honourable the Assembly of the Province of Pennsylvania. We lost our Chief Commander on Long Island, and not knowing who to apply to for Redress when out of the Province we returned for Redress, and hope your Honours will take it into your Constitution. Your Petitioners did not leave New York for Cowardice but for bad usage, and we are willing to fight to Defend the Province where we were Inlisted...”

On October 5th 1776 the Council of Safety determined that the three battalions established as a regiment by George Washington should be rearranged. Two battalions would be returned to the service of the Continental Army to serve during the war, and one would be retained in the service of Pennsylvania until January 1st 1778, unless sooner discharged. This Pennsylvania unit would become known as the Pennsylvania State Regiment of Foot which would be largely organized from the men and officers of Colonel Samuel Miles's rifle battalion and Colonel Samuel J. Atlee's musketry battalion. It was briefly commanded by Colonel John Bull, and on July 6th 1777 Colonel Walter Stewart took command.

After the Battle of Long Island, the British led by Lieutenant General William Howe began to extend his own command in a line running from New Rochelle in the south to the village of Scarsdale in the north. Washington then began to deploy his force in a lengthy defensive line in Westchester County, 20 miles northeast of New York City in an area known as White Plains.

At the urging of the Continental Congress, Washington had to leave some 2,800 troops, commanded by Col. Robert Magaw, to occupy Fort Washington and another 3,500 troops under Major General Nathanael Greene to defend the opposite shore at Fort Lee. Their mission was to disrupt and prevent the British fleet from moving upriver above the forts and into the Hudson River Valley.

After Washington decided that Manhattan Island could not be held, he deployed his force in a lengthy defensive line in Westchester County, with the northern part at White Plains. White Plains was located 20 miles northeast of New York City. It was a rural and sparsely populated farming community. The terrain consisted of gently rolling hills and valley which where the Bronx River was. His objective was to escape the encircling grasp of the British while evacuating tons of supplies before they could be captured by the superior British force.

⁷ Proceedings and papers read before the Lehigh County Historical Society, by Lehigh County Historical Society

⁸ Page 197, Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Vol. X, Samuel Hazard, Published under the direction of Matthew S. Quay, Secretary of the Commonwealth, Edited by John B. Linn and William H. Engle M.D. Printed by Pennsylvania. Secretary of the Commonwealth, Pennsylvania. Dept. of Public Instruction, Pennsylvania State Library, Harrisburg Pennsylvania, 1880

October 6th 1776: Nicholas celebrates his 22nd birthday while camped in New Jersey.

October 8th 1776: Nicholas's Pennsylvania regiment is re-designated as William Alexander, Lord Stirling's Brigade of the Continental Army. Nixon's Brigade and Mifflin's Brigade was aligned with Stirling's Brigade.

October 22nd 1776: Washington and his army arrived back to New York, this time at White Plains. Joining their advance unit, which started arriving the day before, Washington and his troops, began fortifying the three surrounding hills. At White Plains, he deployed his army along a width of three miles, including passing through the town of White Plains. The left flank was commanded by Brigadier General William Heth, the center was commanded by Washington himself, and the right flank was commanded by Brigadier General Israel Putnam. The British Commander Lt. General Howe was at New Rochelle, where he was not in any hurry to move against Washington. This gave the Americans time to arrive safely at their new position.

October 28th 1776: The Battle of White Plains

On October 28th 1776, the British regiments attacked directly against the American positions, while the Hessians attempted a flanking maneuver against the American right flank. The British were forced back with heavy casualties, but the Hessians took up a position beyond the American left flank, which was held by inexperienced New York and Massachusetts militiamen. The fight lasted only a few minutes before the militia fled. The fleeing militia exposed the flank of the Delaware troops. The appearance of the advancing Hessians threw the Delaware troops into confusion.

Although many companies formed and repulsed several Hessian attacks, pressure against their front continued and the supporting troops were breaking for the rear. Unable to sustain a defense, the remainder of the Delaware troops was forced to make an orderly withdrawal from the field. After the loss of Chatterton's Hill, Washington had little choice but to withdraw farther north, beyond the Croton River, to Castle Hill.

The battle for White Plains ended in the evening of October 3rd 1776. By November 1st Washington's Army withdrew the hills north of White Plains. A few days later the British Commander Lt. General William Howe withdrew his army from White Plains and returned to New York City.

November 16th 1776: The last position the Americans held on Manhattan Island was the area around Fort Washington on the northern tip, known as Harlem Heights. Major General Nathanael Greene commanded the American positions, leaving him with the discretion to withdraw if he considered it necessary. Pennsylvania's involved in this conflict were: Colonel John Shee's 3rd Pennsylvania Battalion, Colonel Robert Magaw's 5th Pennsylvania Regiment, and Colonel Baxter's Bucks County militia. The Pennsylvanians assigned to the fort were mostly from the Colonel Atlee's Musket Battalion, who was among those that were captured by the British. With all his troops pinned in Fort Washington under heavy fire, Colonel Robert Magaw was forced to surrender to the Hessian General Knyphausen.

At the time of this engagement, Nicholas was with the main body of Washington's troops withdrawing into New Jersey from the battle of White Plains.

It was sometime in November, as Washington's troops were returning to their defensive positions, that Nicholas would be changed with desertion in November 1776 while camped at Coryell's Ferry, which is present day New Hope Pennsylvania. The ferry is located just north of Trenton on the main road between Philadelphia to East New Jersey and New York.⁹ As you read the descriptions of the fights that Nicholas was in, the desertion charge is fully explained.

December 3rd 1776: Washington arrived the Eastern bank of the Delaware River, to find boats and floats ready to convey the American Army to Pennsylvania on the other side. All attempts of the British to enter Pennsylvania either at Trenton or "Coryell's Ferry," having failed.

December 8th to 25th 1776: Washington's and Lord Cornwallis armies remained facing each other, on opposite sides of the river. Cornwallis believed Washington would be forced to surrender his army on reaching the banks of the Delaware, at Trenton, and the war would be short. How different from this situation might have been had the British succeeded in entering Pennsylvania at "Coryell's Ferry," we can now only imagine, and, with grateful hearts, be thankful.

⁹ Oliver Randolph Parry and Richard Randolph Parry 1907 & 1915

December 5th 1776: Captain Henry Shade was reassigned as a Captain within the 10th Pennsylvania Regiment, and on October 199th 1777 he was court marshaled, and discharged. When Captain Shade was reassigned on December 5th, Nicholas was then commanded by a newly appointed Captain John McGowan.

After taking command, Captain McGowan charged Nicholas for desertion that occurred October 1st to November 1st 1776. McGowan filed the charge while camped at Coryell's Ferry, which is present day New Hope Pennsylvania. The ferry is located just north of Trenton on the main road between Philadelphia to East New Jersey and New York.¹⁰ As you read the descriptions of the fights that Nicholas was in, the desertion charge is fully explained.

December 26th 1776: The Battle of Trenton

Nicholas and his Pennsylvania Rifleman served under Major General Nathaniel Green, who was with Washington when he crossed the Delaware River. Green was Washington's choice to attack Trenton from the North. A few Pennsylvania men did attempt to cross further down the river as part of General (Lieutenant Colonel) John Cadwallader column, but these men were most likely from Colonel Atlee's Pennsylvania Musketeers.

Because Washington still had the majority of his army with him after his withdraw from the battle at White Plains, he would soon claim two important victories at the Battle of Trenton and the Battle of Princeton. Participating in a part of the left wing was Nicholas and his Pennsylvanian Regiment under the command of Major General Nathanael Greene.

Trenton was occupied by three regiments of British Hessian mercenary soldiers commanded by Colonel Johann Rall for a total of about 1,400 men. Washington's plan of attack would be carried out by 3 columns in a predawn attack while the Heissan troops and officers would be drunk and tired from their Christmas cheer, hopefully catching them suffering from hangovers.

Washington decided to cross the Delaware at three points.

- The first column would be commanded by Acting Brigadier General (Lieutenant Colonel) John Cadwallader, and would include men of the Rhode Island regiment, a few Pennsylvanians, and the Delaware militia who commanded two guns. Cadwalader's column would land a force of Continentals and militia farther down the river. The column would launch a diversionary attack against the British garrison at Bordertown New Jersey, to block off reinforcements from the south. But the column never made it across the river because of the weather.
- The second column contained 700 Pennsylvania militia men under the command of Brigadier General James Ewing. This column were to cross the Delaware river at Trenton Ferry, seize the bridge over the Assunpink, and prevent enemy troops from escaping
- Washington would command the main body of some 2,400 veteran troops and 18 cannons from Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York. The main body was lead by Major Generals John Sullivan's and Nathanael Greene's army divisions. Sullivan would attack the town from the south and Greene from the north. They crossed the Delaware River at McKonkey's Ford (Ferry), some 9 miles above Trenton, and surprise the Hessians from the north.

Depending on the success of the operation, the Americans would possibly follow up with separate attacks on Princeton and New Brunswick.

The force paraded in the afternoon of December 25th 1776, and then set off for the Delaware where they embarked in a flotilla of the characteristic Delaware River boats. It was a cold dark night and the river was running with flowing ice. At about 11pm on the 25th it started to snow and sleet heavily. Washington's force did not reach the east bank until around 3am December 26th.

The soldiers were badly clothed and many did not have shoes. Washington's men then marched to Trenton, some of the men leaving traces of blood on the snow. About four miles from their crossing point, on the Tavern Road in Birmingham New Jersey; Washington split his force into two columns. Major General Nathanael Greene, along with Washington, will led one column toward the Scotch Road path to the Pennington Road to attack the Hessian garrison from the north. General John Sullivan was sent south to the River Road and turn west to attack the Hessian garrison.

¹⁰ Oliver Randolph Parry and Richard Randolph Parry 1907 & 1915

On the north side of Trenton, General Green deployed four regiments to cover the main roads leading out of Trenton, King and Queen Streets. Only two Americans were wounded, both during the Americans' rush to capture Hessian artillery before they could be used in the battle. These wounded were officers: Captain William Washington (the General's cousin), who was badly wounded in both hands, and young Lieutenant James Monroe, the future President of the United States. Monroe was carried from the field bleeding badly after he was struck in the left shoulder by a musket ball, which severed an artery. Doctor John Riker clamped the artery, keeping him from bleeding to death.

Washington had turned the tide, chasing the British forces from the Delaware River and putting them on the defensive, if only for a few days. When the Continental Congress heard of Washington's victory at Trenton, they had renewed confidence in their Commander-in-Chief and it bolstered enlistments and reenlistments for 1777.

While in Trenton all but a handful of Washington's men's enlistments were going to expire on December 31st 1776, and he knew that the army would collapse unless he convinced them to stay.¹¹ This is also when Nicholas's nine month enlistment to expire. On December 30th 1776, Washington appealed to his men to stay one month longer for a bounty of ten dollars,¹² and on January 1st 1777 the money from Congress arrived in Trenton and the men were paid.

On January 2nd 1777 the Battle of the Assunpink Creek erupted. Assunpink Creek was the southern defense position in the battle of Trenton. This battle is also known as the Second Battle of Trenton, and in a Colonial American victory. On the night after the Battle of the Assunpink Creek, General Washington's army silently slipped away from Lieutenant General Charles Cornwallis and his troops. Washington left behind several soldiers to tend to large campfires, to disguise the departure of the American soldiers. Throughout Washington and his Army marched over a back road toward Princeton and reached the Quaker Bridge over Stony Brook, about a mile south of town.

December 31st 1777: After the battle of Trenton, Nicholas's nine month enlistment expired.

January 1st 1777: After the battle of Trenton, Nicholas and the Pennsylvania Regiment was reorganized and redesignated as the 1st Pennsylvania Regiment, to consist of 8 companies.

Nicholas hadn't been paid since December 1st, and after he received his pay on January 1st, he reenlisted for an additional three months. Nicholas and other Pennsylvania Rifleman went on to fight in the battles of Princeton under Brigadier General Nathaniel Greene and Brandywine under the command of Brigadier General Hugh Mercer and his unit known as the Flying Camp.

- The Flying Camp consisted of a small and strong army of horseman, dragoons, and at times foot soldiers. The men recruited for the Flying Camp were from three colonies: 6000 from Pennsylvania, 3400 from Maryland and 600 from Delaware. They were to serve until December 1st 1776, unless discharged sooner by Congress, and to be paid and fed in the same manner as regular soldiers of the Continental Army. Brigadier General Hugh Mercer of Virginia was commissioned as its commandant.

January 3rd 1777: The Battle of Princeton

After the battle of Trenton, Nicholas and his Pennsylvania Regiment had less than 200 troops remaining. They were then consolidated and assigned to a unit known as the Flying Camp commanded by Brigadier General Hugh Mercer.

Taking the back roads from Trenton, the Patriots moved to the south around the British and swung towards Princeton. Major General Nathanael Greene's assignment was to advance to the Princeton-Trenton highway to stop its traffic and destroy its bridge over Stony Brook. Major General Sullivan's division would lead the main attack force toward the rear of the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University). The British were known to have outposts on the roads to the north, east and west, but an abandoned road went into town from the west, which Sullivan took.

¹¹ Page 227, Ketchum, Richard (1999). *The Winter Soldiers: The Battles for Trenton and Princeton*. Holt Paperbacks; 1st Owl books edition.

¹² Page 285, McCullough, David (2006), 1776, New York: Simon and Schuster Paperback

Washington ordered Brigadier General Hugh Mercer and 350 infantrymen to act as a blocking force 2 miles southwest of Princeton on the Post Road at Stony Creek Bridge. Mercer's objective was to prevent the British Commanders General Cornwallis or General Leslie from reinforcing Lieutenant Colonel Charles Mawhood, and to prevent an escape from Princeton toward Trenton.

Nicholas was part of Mercer's flying camp taking up his position on Post Road at the Stony Creek Bridge. With Mercer in this position, Washington intended to move his force north and east along the Back Road and rapidly close on the 1,200-man British garrison at Princeton. At around eight in the morning of January 3rd Lieutenant Colonel Mawhood was marching his 800 men to Trenton to join up with Cornwallis. In the morning fog as he was drawing near Stony Creek, Lieutenant Colonel Mawhood spotted Mercer's force to the south marching northeast toward the bridge to take up his blocking position. At first, Mawhood thought that Mercer's column was a Hessian column.

As soon as Mawhood realized that they were Americans, his force fell back to a defensive position, and Mercer and Mawhood forces met at Clark's Orchard. Both sides deployed quickly into a line, and began opening fire on one another at a range of only 50 yards while unlimbering a pair of field pieces each. After his men fired only one volley, Lieutenant Colonel Mawhood ordered his men to make a bayonet charge. The militia panicked and retreated south toward the Back Road. During the assault, Mercer was mortally wounded, including seven stab wounds. Washington moved forward with Acting Brigadier General (Lieutenant Colonel) John Cadwalader's Pennsylvania militia to prevent a complete rout of their forces. Washington, Cadwalader, and Major General Nathanael Greene then moved among the troops to rally them. Washington rode into the middle of the battlefield and rallied the fleeing militia. When Mawhood spotted the head of the new Patriot reinforcements arriving on the scene, he fell back and took up a defensive position.

Once the main body of his force had moved up, Washington led his men against the British line. At a distance of 30 yards, he halted and ordered his men to attack the British. Knox was able to bring up his cannon force and joined in the fight. The combined Patriot attack nearly enveloped Lieutenant Colonel Mawhood's infantry before breaking his line. The British troops broke and some headed to New Brunswick while the rest, including Mawhood, broke through the lines and headed for the bridge and Trenton. The Patriots chased the fleeing British and captured 50 prisoners before Washington recalled them and continued advancing toward Princeton.

The rest of the action consisted after the British retreating through the town and then northward as the Americans moved behind them. One of the last engagements was with about 200 British soldiers who barricaded themselves in Nassau Hall, a thickly walled building that served as the College of New Jersey. The Americans fired two cannon shells into the building and then made a charge, forcing the British to surrender.

Washington was unable to occupy Princeton because of he knew that Cornwallis would be counterattacking soon. He left a detachment of soldiers to destroy Stony Creek Bridge, which would delay the British army. Washington wanted to push on to New Brunswick, but his troops were too tired. Cornwallis had heard the fighting begin and hurried to bring up reinforcements from Trenton. Seeing the bridge gone, Cornwallis sent his men across the icy stream and pressed ahead. The British vanguard spotted the withdrawing Patriot force but was unable to catch up with them.

Washington continued north, and later that day they arrived in Pluckemin area of present day Bedminster, New Jersey. The area was protected by the Watchung Mountains to his east, and with Morristown units behind him, Washington was now safe. Washington would use the protection of the Watchung Mountains to erect the first and second Middlebrook encampments. This position was on high ground, which allowed him to monitor the area between Perth Amboy and New Brunswick, as well as to identify and disturb British movements between Manhattan and Philadelphia.¹³

Washington spent the summer encamped in the Watchung Mountains. When he learned of Lieutenant General William Howe's movement southward, Washington marched his army south to Wilmington Delaware. He arrived on August 25th 1777, while that same day the British Commander Lieutenant General Howe landed his army at Elk Head. He would soon move the army into winter quarters at Morristown.

Nicholas and the Pennsylvania regiment's promise at the end of the battle in Trenton for an extra month enlistment were up at the end of January 1777, and we believe that the regiment went back the Valley Forge encampment. We do know

¹³ The Papers of George Washington: Revolutionary War Series volume 10, June – August 1777, accessed October 18, 2006

that Nicholas reenlisted in April 1777 as a private and rifleman for three more years. He was assigned to the newly formed Pennsylvania State Regiment of Foot, in Captain James Francis Moore's Company, Commanded by Colonel Walter Stewart.¹⁴ This regiment saw action in the battles of Germantown, Monmouth, and the battle at Block House opposite New York.

March 10th 1777: Roll of Captain Hercules Courtney's Company, Muster-roll of the Third Company of Pennsylvania artillery, Commanded by Hercules Courtenay; First Lieutenant Worsley Ernes, mustered March 10, 1777, by Lodk. Sprogell, commissary general of musters...Nicholas Grenewalt.¹⁵

April 1777: While camped at Valley Forge, Nicholas re-enlisted as a private and rifleman for three more years. He was assigned to the newly formed Pennsylvania State Regiment of Foot, in Captain James Francis Moore's Company, Commanded by Colonel Walter Stewart.¹⁶ They were still assigned to William Alexander, Lord Stirling's Brigade of the Continental Army.

May 22nd 1777: Nicholas and the 1st Pennsylvania Regiment was relieved from Lord Stirling's Brigade, and assigned to the 1st Pennsylvania Brigade of the Continental Army.

September 11th 1777: The Battle of Brandywine

The Pennsylvania State Regiment of Foot was part of Brig. General John Armstrong's unit in an area south of Chadd's Ford. After an exchange of fierce fighting, Nicholas and his regiment were then assigned to Major General Nathanael Greene's division, who was assigned to meet the main British assault.

The hamlet of Chadds Ford played host to one of the largest and deadliest battles of the American Revolutionary War, today called the Battle of Brandywine. On July 1777, Lieutenant General William Howe's army took 264 British transports south toward Philadelphia from their encampment in New Jersey. As they approached Philadelphia, Howe was informed of the American fortifications and a small naval force in and along the Delaware River that was blocking his path. He changed course to the Chesapeake Bay, planning to land at Elk Ferry Maryland, and march his troops some 30 miles northeast to Philadelphia.

Chadd's Ford was at the point where the Nottingham Road crossed the Brandywine Creek on the route from Kennett Square to Philadelphia. It was the last natural line of defense before the Schuylkill River. The Brandywine Creek, a shallow but fast-flowing creek, was fordable at a comparatively small number of places that could be covered fairly easily. At Chadd's Ford, made up of 2 fords about 450 feet apart, the creek was 150 feet wide and commanded by heights on either side. The surrounding area had thick forests and low hills, surrounded by farms, meadows, and orchards.

By September 3, the majority of Howe's army, recovered from malnutrition suffered during the month-long sail, started marching toward Philadelphia. The next five days saw the two armies positioning themselves along the White Clay Creek, west of Newport and Wilmington, but neither general engaged. Washington expected Howe to march toward him in Wilmington as the city was situated between Howe at Elk Head and his destination of Philadelphia. Howe, however, preferred to meet the rebel force elsewhere, thus preventing Washington from making use of the advantageous ground he occupied there. He feinted north towards Pennsylvania, forcing Washington to change his defensive ground. The latter chose the Brandywine River in Chadd's Ford. The Continentals reached the Brandywine on the 9th and camped on its east side. There they prepared to make a stand.

South of Chadd's Ford was covered by 2 brigades of Pennsylvania militia, commanded Brigadier General John Armstrong. General Greene's 1st Division was assigned the primary defense of Chadd's Ford. Greene's troops straddled the Nottingham Road leading east from the Brandywine Creek. To Greene's right was Brig. Gen. "Mad" Anthony Wayne's 4th Division. Col. Thomas Procter's Continental Artillery Regiment was placed to Wayne's right, on the heights at Chadd's Ford. The British pushed the Americans back and took possession of Battle Hill. After the loss of the hill, Washington's priority for the rest of the battle was the successful withdrawal of the remainder of the army.

¹⁴ Ibid

¹⁵ Page 1054 to 1057, Continental Line, Pennsylvania Archives, Series 5, Volume 4, Edited by Thomas Lynch Montgomery, 1906

¹⁶ Ibid

Upon hearing of the ensuing battle to the north, the British launched an attack on the weakened American center at Chadd's Ford. They rapidly drove the Americans back and captured most of Washington's artillery pieces. Washington had no choice now but to break off the fight and escape eastward with his remaining army. Fighting continued until dusk, by which time ammunition was running low or was completely gone. Washington's army retreated to Chester, 12 miles east.

Washington attributed the defeat to bad intelligence reports rather than to a lack of fighting skill on their part. He also had made a serious error by leaving his right flank open. Even though Howe claimed a victory, he once again allowed the American army to escape. On September 12th 1777 Washington issued orders for the troops to press on to Germantown. The exhausted British did not pursue the Americans through the night, but remained behind, camping on the battlefield, and treating the wounded and burying the dead.

The Battle of Brandywine was one of the largest land battles, as the only battle in which Washington and Howe fought head-to-head. The victory was a great morale booster for the American army. It is thought to be one of the first battles in which the Ferguson rifle was used, and in which the Betsy Ross flag was flown.

Although Howe had defeated the American army, the unexpected resistance he had met prevented him from destroying it completely. The American morale had not been destroyed; despite losing the battle, the Americans had good spirits hoping to fight the British again another day. British and American forces maneuvered around each other for the next several days with only minor encounters such as the Paoli Massacre on the night of September 20-21.

- Nicholas was in another fierce fight, first as part of Brigadier General John Armstrong two brigades defending the area south of Chadd's Ford, and then as part of Major-General Nathanael Greene's division who was fighting the main British assault.

October 4th 1777: The Battle of Germantown

The Pennsylvania Regiment is still assigned to Greene's division, and participates in the assault of the British right flank.

The campaign in Philadelphia had begun quite badly for the American forces. Washington and the Continental Army had suffered successive defeats at the Battle of Brandywine and the Battle of Paoli that left Philadelphia defenseless. After the seizure of the revolutionary capital by Charles Cornwallis on September 26, 1777, William Howe left 3,462 men to defend it and moved 9,728 [3] men to Germantown, 5 miles (8.0 km) north, determined to locate and destroy the American forces. Howe established his headquarters at Stenton, the former country home of James Logan.

With Howe's forces thus divided, Washington saw an opportunity to confront the British. He decided to attack the British garrison in Germantown as the last effort of the year before the onset of winter. His plan was to attack the British at night with four columns from different directions with the goal of creating a double envelopment. Washington hoped to surprise the British and Hessian armies in much the same way he had surprised the Hessians at the Battle of Trenton.

After dusk on October 3, the American army began the 16 miles (26 km) southward march to Germantown in complete darkness. As the attack was to occur before dawn, the soldiers were instructed to put a piece of white paper on their hat to identify friend from foe. They were not detected by the jaeger pickets, and the British and Hessian forces remained unaware that American troops were advancing on them. At dawn, most of the American forces were well short of their intended attack positions, and they had lost the element of surprise.

One American column, however, consisting of militia, had managed to reach the British camp. These troops halted near the mouth of Wissahickon Creek, firing a few rounds from their cannon at Knyphausen's camp before withdrawing. The three remaining columns continued their advance. The one under the command of General John Sullivan, moved down Germantown Road, the column of New Jersey militia under the command of General William Smallwood moved down Skippack Road to Whitmarsh Church Road and from there to Old York Road to attack the British right flank, and the one under the command of General Nathanael Greene, which consisted of Greene's and General Adam Stephen's divisions and General Alexander McDougall's brigade, moved down Limekiln Road.

Nathanael Greene's column on Limekiln Road caught up with the American forces at Germantown. Its vanguard engaged the British pickets at Luken's Mill and drove them off after a savage skirmish. Adding to the heavy fog that already obscured the Americans' view of the enemy was the smoke from cannons and muskets, and Greene's column was thrown into disarray and confusion. One of Greene's brigades, under the command of Gen. Stephen, veered off course and began following Meetinghouse Road instead of rendezvousing at Market Square with the rest of Greene's forces. The wayward brigade collided with the rest of American Gen. Wayne's brigade and mistook them for the redcoats. The two American brigades opened heavy fire on each other, became badly disorganized, and fled. The withdrawal of Wayne's reserve New Jersey Brigade, which had suffered heavy casualties attacking the Chew house, left Conway's left flank unsupported.

The large, main attacks on the British and Hessian camp had been repulsed with heavy casualties. Washington ordered Armstrong and Smallwood's men to withdraw. Maxwell's brigade, still having failed to capture the Chew House, was forced to fall back. Part of the British army rushed forward and routed retreating Americans, pursuing them for some nine miles before giving up the chase in the face of resistance from Greene's infantry, Wayne's artillery guns and a detachment of dragoons, as well as the nightfall.

November 12th 1777: The 1st Pennsylvania Regiment is officially designated the 13th Pennsylvania Regiment of the Continental Army.

In May 1778, as France entered the war on the side of the Americans, the British commander-in-chief in North America, Sir Henry Clinton, was ordered to evacuate Philadelphia, and to concentrate his troops at the main British base in New York City.

1777/1778: We're still researching to determine if Nicholas was not at the Valley Forge 1777/1778 winter encampment of the Continental Army. This was a major documented point in the Revolutionary War, and turning point for Washington's leadership. According to a web site, <http://valleyforgemusterroll.org/index.asp>, Muster Rolls, there is no Greenawalt at Valley Forge encampment from December 19, 1777 to June 19, 1778.

June 28th 1778: The Battle of Monmouth

In Monmouth County New Jersey, General George Washington of the Continental Army attacked the rear of the British Army column as they were leaving the Monmouth Courthouse; modern day Freehold Borough New Jersey. The British commander Cornwallis, pressed his attack and captured Washington's position. Washington began consolidating his troops in a new line, and ordered Major General Nathaniel Greene on nearby Combs Hill to flank the British line. This maneuver required Cornwallis to withdraw. Finally, Washington tried to hit the exhausted British rear guard on both flanks, but darkness forced the end of the engagement. Both armies held the field, while the British's General Clinton withdrew undetected at midnight to resume his army's march to New York City.

While Cornwallis protected the main British column from any further American attack, Washington had fought his opponent to a standstill after a pitched and prolonged engagement; the first time that Washington's army had achieved such a result. The battle demonstrated the growing effectiveness of the Continental Army after its six month encampment at Valley Forge.

July 1st 1778: The 1st Pennsylvania Regiment was consolidated with the 10th, 11th, and 13th Pennsylvania Regiments, and they were all both designated as the 1st Pennsylvania Regiment. Thomas Sullivan and Nicholas were both recorded as belonging to John Bankson's Company July 1778. "...afterwards Col's Murray's..."¹⁷

July 21st 1780: The Battle of at the Blockhouse opposite New York:

This would have been Nicholas's last engagement, at the blockhouse located at Bregen Point New Jersey, which was the scene of a small skirmish known as the Toms River Blockhouse Fight. The was manned by patriot Capt. Joshua Huddy's New Jersey Artillery of twenty-five men, was besieged by a force five times its size. Area commander Major John Cook, six militiamen and two loyalists were taken prisoner. The village was torched and completely destroyed except for two houses saved for civilian refuge.

¹⁷ Page 213 and 413, Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Volume 10, Edited by John B. Linn and Wm. H. Engle M.D., Lane S. Hart, Printer, Harrisburg Pennsylvania, 1880

The unlawful execution of Capt. Huddy led to stalled peace treaty negotiations in Paris following this overwhelming loyalist attack on the privateer base and salt warehouses at Toms River Sign erected by the board of chosen freeholders to commemorate Ocean County's role in the American Revolution on its 225th Anniversary, 2001-2008.

January 17th 1781: The 1st Pennsylvania regiment was consolidated with the 10th Pennsylvania Regiment and re-designated as the 1st Pennsylvania Regiment; concurrently furloughed at Trenton, New Jersey and relieved from the 1st Pennsylvania Brigade.

January 1st 1783: at Ashley Hills, South Carolina, to consist of 9 companies, and assigned to the Southern Department.

June 1st 1783: relieved from Southern Department and assigned to the Middle Department.

June 11th 1783: Furloughed at Philadelphia.

November 15th 1783: Disbanded

May 22nd 1826: Nicholas started to receive a monthly pension of \$8.00 for his Revolutionary War service as a private in the Pennsylvania Continental Line. Nicholas was 79 years old living in Franklin County Pennsylvania when he was placed on the pension roll June 14th 1826 to receive an annual pension of \$96.00. When Nicholas died on September 28th 1831, he had received a total pension of \$507.64

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