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## historical.

From the Home Journal.

ng relating to General Washington's much that is authentic. Such information as he has, he thus dispenses :-"Among the Connecticut troops who were

agaged in the battle of Bunker's Hill, was a mpany under Captain Thomas Knowlton, who was mortally wounded in a skirmish on Harlem plains, on the sixteenth of September, 1776. His was one of the best diseiined companies in the crude army that gath ed so suddenly near Boston, after the blood hed at Lexington and Concord became nown. This company and others were fored into a battallion known as the Connecti-Rangers, to the command of which knowlton was appointed, with the rank of Leutenant Colonel It formed a part of the entral division of the army at Cambridge, ther Washington had taken the chief comand, and was under his immediate control. he corps soon held the same envisible posiion, as to discipline and soldierly deportment Captain Knowlton's company had done; d the commander, proud of his battallion, ade it a sort of voluntary body-guard to the meral-in-chief, and called it 'Congress

"This appellation produced some jealousy thearmy, which Washington perceived and, on the eleventh of March, 1775 (a few lays before the termination of the seige of oston,) he ordered a curps to be formed, of the men, as guard for himself, baggage, He directed them to be chosen from vaous regiments, specifying their height to be

rom five feet eight inches, to five feet ten ches, and to be handsomely and well made." consisted of a major's command-one hunred and eighty men. Caleb Gibbs, of Rhode hand, was its first chief, and bore the title Caprain Commandant, having three lieumants. When this corps was formed, that of Knowlton was no longer regarded with calousy, as a special favorite, although it continued to be so in the estimation of Washagton. It was from that corps that the unbrunate spy. Nathan Hale, was chosen for perilous duty; and when Knowiton fell, shlogton said, 'He was an honor to any

The Life Guard appear to have been Me popular. Captain Harding, of Fair-Connecticut, writing to Governor Trum all, on the twentieth of May, 1776, said :am now about fitting out a small sloop. la I have called the Life Guard, to be comdelivered by Caleb Gibbs and George wis, Esq'rs, (officers of the General's sard.) are to be attended to in the same

anner as if sent by an aid-de-camp.'

Prot'

tinent, by a line of military posts.

the brothers Howe, were hourly expected off Sandy Hook. Governor Tyron, who had prudently taken counsel of his fears, was then in safety on board the British armed Island; and Washington, who was in command of quite a strong force on York Island. occupied the mansion known as Richmond Hill, afterward the country-seat of Colonel the present Charlton and Variek streets.

50 \$ 75 \$1 00 the camp were filled with rumors of a feul conspiracy. It was alleged that, on the arri-\$5 00 rise, full armed, to co-operate with the minthe proprietors of most of the prominent his officers near the close of 1783. drinking houses in the city; and the tavern 'It was chiefly on the testimony of this of Corbie, situated 'situated south-east of woman that Hicky was arrested, tried and W. P. Custis, Esq , (the adopted son of General Washington's house, to the westward condemned. He was a dark-complexioned Washington) consisted of a blue coat with Lossing, which was read by him of Bayard's woods, and worth of Lispenard's Irishman, and had been a deserter from the white facing; white waistcoat and breeches; fore the New York Historical Society, meadows,' (near the intersection of the pres- British army several years before. He had black stock and black half-gaiters, and a round over with it. You will therefore know when a Tuesday evening, the fitth instant, Ev- ent Spring and Wooster streets.) was design- lived in Weathersfield, Connecticut, where hat with blue and white feather. This de- he is coming.' as the general rendezvous of the conspirators, where Gifbert Forbes, a blacksmith, for the Guard from Knowlton's Connecticut mainion has but little to communicate : 'gave them money, and swore them on the Rangers. He had the confidence of the Comand about which Mr. Lossing has been book to secreey.' It was also alleged that mander-in-chief, and was a favorite at Richalle by the most diligent research, to find from this house a correspondence was kept mond Hill, Having enlisted in the conspirup with Governor Tyron, on the Duchess of acy, to him was entrusted the work of de-Gordon, through 'a mulatto-colored negro stroying Washington. He first corrupted the dressed in blue clothes '

> that the Provincial Congress of New York he next approached the housekeeper, with appointed Philip Livingston, John Jay and whom he was on good terms. He made her Gouverneur Morris, a committee of investi- his confidante, and she pretended to favor his Quee on Dre,' is upon a ribbon Care was gation This committee traced the plot up views. to Governor Tyron, who, from his secure revid Mathews, the mayor of the city, who, it to put the poison in it. Meanwhile the housepurchase arms, and corrupt the continental

and they authorized and requested General escaped punishment. Washington to cause the arrest of Mayor Muthews, and the seizure of his papers. The of June, Washington ordered William Moromayor's residence was at Flatbush, on Long ny, the provost marshal, to execute the sen-Island, about a mile and a half from the en- tence upon Hickey that day, 'at eleven o'campment of General Greene, near Brooklyn clock in the forenoon, upon the ground be-To that officer Washington intrusted the exe- tween the encampments of the brigades of cution of the arrest; and at one o'clock in Brigadier-General Speacer and Lord Stirthe morning of the twenty-second of June, a ling.' In a letter dated 'New York, July 1, ded Mathews' house, and secured his person, as follows ;- 'Last Friday, in the forenoon, but no papers were found . Many other ar- was executed in a field, between the Colonels alarm seized the tories who were engaged in Bowery lane, (in the presence of near twenty the plot. Many of them on Long Island and thousand spectators) a soldier belonging to his Staten Island concealed themselves in the Excellency General Washington's Guard, for woods or other safe retreats.

business was on Broadway, near the Bowling | ecution, that borrid plot of assassinating the Green, was arrested on the same day. He staff officers, blowing up the magazines, and refused to make any disclosures, and was sent securing the passes of the town on the arrival to jail in irons. Early the next morning, a of the hungry ministerial myranidons." above three days to live, advised him to pre- tersection of the present Grand and Chrystie Wateersman,) that was taken from a Tory, Forbes asked to be taken before the Congress singular fact that the victim of this the first again; and there he made such disclosures, military execution in the Continental army esame month, Washington, then in New ong them were Thomas Hickey, a member of their trustworthiness!

corrupted by Hickey. We find no further mention of the Guard | before the committee that he had heard in wil in June following, when members of it company that several of the Life Guard had Session of the city of New York and of the ons, by order of Governor Tyron; and Ma- of these men. This being premised, in order was then buried with military honors. "I have seen five muster-rolls of the Guard. I augmented, he entered that corps at Morris-

ting New England from the rest of the con- had told the gunsmith he would be hanged | diately furnish me with four men of your | of Mr. Abraham Tomlinson, of Poughkeep- | ington the commission of sergeant. At the doubts in the Highlands

of being an accomplice.

ma, in a conversation with my friend, Mr. them and the foreigners.'

fifer and drummer of the corps; and having "These rumors were so generally believed resolved to poison the Commander-in-chief,

"Washington was very fond of green peas, treat, was acting through agents on shore, and it was agreed that when a dish of them among the most prominent of whom was Da- was ready for the general's table, Hickey was was alleged, had paid money to enlist men, keeper disclosed the plot to the general. The peas were poisoned, Washington made some soldiery. It was stated before the committee excuse for sending the dish away, and Hickthat Governor Tyron had offered five guin- ey was soon afterward arrested. He was general in his marches and in reconnoitering, eas bounty to each man who should enter the tried by a court martial, and, on the testimoking's service, with a promise of two hundred | ny of the housekeeper and one of the Guard, acres of land for himself, one hundred for his whom the culprit had unsuccessfully attemptwife, and fifty for each child. Some of ed to corrupt, he was found guilty of 'mutiny Washington's Life Guard were charged with and sedition, and of holding a treacherous complicity in the scheme for murdering him; correspondence with the enemies of the coloand it was alleged that members of the Guard nies,' and was sentenced to be hanged. On had been tampered with at Corbie's country the following day the expected British fleet appeared. Important events and changes im-"The investigating committee were satis- mediately occurred, and the other conspirahed of the general truth of these statements; tors who were sent prisoners to Connecticut.

"Ou the morning of the twenty-eight day detachment from Greene's brigade surroun- 1776,' an eye-witness of the execution wrote rests were made on the same day, and great McDougall and Huntington's camp, near the mutiny and conspiracy, being one of those Forbes, the gunsmith, whose place of who formed and was soon to have put in ex-

stationed there :-

" Sir-I want to form a company for my gadier-General of the Jersey Blues, and Mederacy of revolted colonies, by separa- he had paid the money with reluctance, and choice, I have to request that you will imme- The first, in point of time, is in the prospession town, and choice, I have to request that you will imme- to request that you will imme to request that you will imme- to request that you will imme to request the your will imme to request that you will imme to request the your will imme to request the your will not you will imme to request the your will not you will imme to request the your will not you will

if found out. It also appeared in evidence regiment; and as it is my farther wish that sie, and bears the date of 1779. The num- time of his discharge he received from the "At the time in question, a powerful land that the conspirators had corrupting agents this company should look well, and be nearly bor of the corps then was about sixty. It is Commander-in-chief the Badge of Military and naval armament, under the command of up the Hudson River, some distance above of a size, I desire that note of the men may the Highlands. James Haff, of Fishkill, exceed in stature five feet ten inches, nor fall Duchess county, confessed before the commit- short of five feet nine inches - sober, young, tee of safety, at Cornwall, that he was one of active and well made. When I recommend a number who were to join the British on care in your choice, I would be understood to vessel, Duchess of Gordon, lying near Staten their arrival—their first movement to be to mean, of good character in the regiment spike all the cannon in the newly creeted re- that possess the pride of appearing clean and soldierlike. I am satisfied there can be no of whom were on duty at the date of this re- meritorious action. The badge entitled the "Hickey and his associates of the Guard, absolute security for the fidelity of this class turn, except six who were sick at the hospital recipient to pass and repass all guards and were arrested immediately after dinner, on of people ; but yet I think it most likely to in New Windsor. This roll was certified in military posts as fully and amply as any com-Aaron Burr, situated near the intersection of the twenty-third; and, according to a letter be found in those who have family connec- August, 1782, to be true in all its contents," missioned officer, whatever.' It was the orwritten at New York the next day, 'the gen- tions in the country. You will therefore send by Majer W. Barber, who was then assistant | der of the American 'Legion of Henor.' "About the middle of June, the town and eral's housekeeper was taken up' on suspicion me none but natives. I must insist that, in inspector of the northern army; and by Wilmaking this choice, you give no intimation liam Colfax, the commander, to be the true New Windsor, near Newburgh; and there he "The late Peter Embree, of this city, who of my preference of natives, as I do not want state of said company," on the seventh of Sep- lived the quiet life of a farmer until his death val of the British fleet, the Tories were to was present at the last public act of the dra- to create any invidious distinction between tember, 1682. A week after this latter date which occurred on the eleventh of January,

isterial forces; that Kingsbridge, at the up- William J. Davis, a member of this society, . At this time the number of the Guard French army, arrived at King's Ferry, on six years of age. His body was taken to per end of the island, was to be destroyed, confirmed this statement concerning the was considerable increased, and a part of the Hudson River. The American army was Newburgh, and lay in state for three days, so us to cut off all communication with the housekeeper; but in his explanation proved them were mounted as cavalry. Caleb Gibbs then encamped at Verplanck's Point, oppos- in the centre of the reception-room in Washmain land; that the magazines were to be fi- not only her innocence but her patriotism .- | was yet the Captain Commandant, and re- | ite. The following very hastily prepared note | ington's headquarters, so well preserved as sired, or they will be red, and Washington and his staff to be mur She was the daughter of Sam Frances, a no. mained in that position until near the close from Washington to Captain Holden, was the property of the State. On Wednesday, out, and charged accordingly. dered, or seized and given up to the enemy ted innkeeper of the day, whose public house of 1779, when he was succeeded by William doubtless written at that time. It is upon a the sixteeenth of January, attended by a ci-The finger of rumor also pointed at many res- is yet standing on the corner of Pearl and Colfax, one of his lieutenants. His three small piece of paper, without date: idents of the city, and of Long and Staten Is- Broad streets, where, it will be remembered, lieutenants in 1778, were Henry P. Livinglands, as conspirators. Among these were Washington took an affectionate farewell of ston, of New York, William Colfax, of New and ready to receive Count de Rochambeau, Jersey, and Benjamin Goveres of Virginia.

"Their uniform, according to the late G. he bore a good character, and was selected scription exactly corresponds with the device The flag is made of 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, 'Coxalways taken to have each State from which the Continental army was supplied with troops represented by members of this corps. It was the duty of the infantry portion to guard the headquarters, and to insure the safe-keeping of the papers and effects of the Commander-in-chief, as well as the safety of his person. - The mounted portion accompanied the or other like movements. They were emthe general's orders to various military posts; and they were never spared in battle.

periods. At first, as I have remarked, it consisted of one hundred and eighty men. Durng the winter of 1779-'80, when the American army, under Washington, was cantoned at Morristown, in close proximity to the enemy, it was increased to two hundred and fifty. officers and privates.

"The pay of the officers and privates of ilv. the corps, per month, was as follows .- The dollars and sixty cents; sergeants, ten dollars; sion of the Hon Schuyler Colfax, of Indicorporals and drummers, seven dollars and ana-a grandson of the Captain Commandant thirty cents; drum-major, nine dollars; pri- He also possesses a still more interesting pavates, six dollars and sixty cents.

dant of the Guard at the close of 1779, while Colfax, to pay to Melanethon Smith and Co. Washington was stationed at Morristown, and the amount of one month's pay, which that than at any other period during the war. He that they were to wait for reimbursement unwas born in Connecticut, in the year 1760, til the corps should be paid by Congress .he was shot through the body. When he camp. became commander of the general's Guard, a corned, and as his time was short, not having place of execution was not far from the in- with him; and he gave the young man many as Forest, a private in the Guard, tokens of his esteem. One of these the fampare himself. This had the desired effect .- streets, a little cust of the Bowery. It is a lily of General Colfax yet possess. It is a corps was Uzul Knapp, of New Windsor, Colfax was at the surrender of Cornwallis at live of Stamford, Connecticut, where he was and by Mr. Smedley, to cruise to the that between twenty and thirty other persons was a member of the Body-Guard of the Yorktown, and remained with the army until born in October, 1758. At the of eighteen ward, etc., etc. On the sixteenth of in the city were immediately arrested. Am. Commander-in-chief, who were chosen for it was disbanded late in 1783 He then set | years he enlisted in the Continental army, ork, issued the following order; - 'Any or- Washington's Life Guard, and Johnson, a fi- 'A new organization of the Guard took ried Hester Schuyler, a cousin of General the war:' and he was continually on duty fer, and Greene, a drummer, of the same place at the close of April, 1777, when Wash Philip Schuyler. In 1793, he was commiseonspiracy to assassinate Washington and weary of the service, and would go on board by cautious, because it is more than probable 1812. He was appointed a Judge of the Coman the seaboard and Canada, by taking hundred and forty pounds sterling, for weap- lie import, may be committed to the sole care when he was seventy eight years of age. He

4 %

endorsed, "Captain Gibbs's Guard."

Holden, Esq., of this city, whose father, by Washington, in August, 1781, and was Captain Levi Holden, was Lieutenan; Commandant of the Guard, under William Col- soldiers who had served three years with brafax. It then consisted of fourteen non-commissioned officers and fifty-one privates, all every one who should perform any singularly Rochambeau, with the first division of the 1856, when he was little more than ninety-

"Mr. Holdon :- Have the Guard clean, who is to be here to breakfast this morning. " Yours, etc., G. Washington. " Saturday.

" The barga is to go over for the count One of the gentlemen of the family will go

" I would remark that the fourteenth on a flag that belonged to the cavalry of the September, that year, fell on Saturday, the was invited by a committee of arrangements Guard, which is preserved in the museum at day of the week on which the above note was at Newburgh, to participate with them, on

> Guard, for December, 1782, when Captain Plattsburgh The venerable Sergeant Knapp Holden was temporary commandant of the was among the invited guests who were precorps, and is a signed by him. That roll con- sent. The ceremonies consisted of a civic tains the names of twelve non-commissioned and military procession, an oration, and a officers and forty-seven privates.

in the possession of Peter Force, Esq , of riage with the orator, and also upon the plat-Washington City, and is dated March second, form creeted upon the green in front of the 1783; and the fourth is in the State depart- old headquarters. When the orator had conment at Washington, dated June fourth, 17- cluded. I was invited to introduce Sergeant 83, which is signed by Colfax, with his cer- Knapp to the audience an audience of at tificate that 'the above list includes the whole | least five thousand people-who testified their of the Guard,' and is indersed. 'Return of respect for the venerated here by huzzas of the non-Commander-in chief's Guard, who | which almost brought echoes from Beacon are engaged to serve during the war.'

names being different. The number of the old man arose, leaned firmly upon his staff, ployed as patrols, videttes, and bearers of corps at that time was sixty-four. There were five sergeants, three corporals, three fifers and two drummers. The Drum-Major four months to a day, from that time, his "The corps varied in numbers at different | was Diah Manning, of Norwich, Connecticut, whose grave, situated a few yards from the feast, were mourners at the barial, vault of General Jabez Huntington, I visited a few years ago. Manning was the jailer at Norwich during the French Revolution When Boyer, afterward president of Hayti, was brought to Norwich, among other French In the spring it was reduced to its original prisoners, in 1697, he was treated with great number; and in 1783, the last year of service | kindness by Mr. Manning. The prisoner it consisted of sixty four non-commissioned did not forget it, and when President of St. Domingo, he sent presents to Manning's fam-

The fifth roll that I have seen, containcommander and lieutenants, each, twenty-six | ing the names of the Guard, is in the possesper which bears the autographs of the Guard. "William Colfax became Captain Comman- These were appended to an order accepted by when the number of the corps was greater firm had advanced, with the understanding and at the age of seventeen he was commis- This order is dated February, 1783, just besioned a Lieutenant in the Continental army. fore the seditions Newburgh Addresses were He was in the battle at White Plains, where girculated among the officers of the American

"All of these muster-rells and pay-rolls,

"The last survivor of the members of this silver stock-buckle, set with paste brillients. Orange county, New-York He was a natled at Pompton, New Jersey, where he man- as a common soldier, to serve 'for and during corps, who, it afterward appeared, had been ington, was in Morristown, in New Jersey. sioned by Governor Howell, General and His first active service was at White Plains, two hundred and thirty thousand Continental On the thirteenth of that month he issued the Commander-in chief of the militia of New in the autumn of 1776. He was with Woos- soldiers, and the fifty-six thousand militia. "One Bowen, who was suspected, testified following circular to the colonels of regiments Jersey He was a presidential elector in 17- ter at Ridge field; and was at Peckskill when who bere arms during the Revelution, and 98; and in 1810 he was commissioned a Bri. Forts Chinton and Montgomery were stormed went forth to fight for freedom in America. was and taken by the British in the autumn of probably not two hundred are now out of the suspected of being engaged in an alle- deserted, and that others were uneasy and Guard. In doing this I wish to be extreme- active during the earlier period of the war of 1777. He passed the following winter among spirit land! Precious indeed should they the snows of Valley Forge, and in May he seem to this generation, for in the next they At that time the British Ministry the Duchess of Gordon if they could. For bes that, in the course of my campaign, thy bag- mon Pleas of Bergen county, which office he joined the Light Infantry of Lafayette at Bar- will all be gone. the anxious to open a communication be- confessed that the mayor had paid him one gage, papers and other matters of great pub- held until his death, which occurred in 1838, ren Hill. He was with him in the battle of Monmouth, in June; and in the winter of 1780, when number of the Life Guard was

Merit, for six years' faithful service. This "The second is in the possession of Horace | honorary badge of distinction was established conferred upon non-commissioned officers and very, fidelity, and good conduct, and upon

> ' After the war, Sergeant Knapp settled in vic and military pageant, and a vast assemblage of people, it was baried at the foot of the flag-staff, on the slope near that venerated building, around which cluster so many memories of Washington and the Continental army. It is a most appropriate burial-place for the mortal remains of the veteran guards-

"Pardon me for mentioning, in conclusion, a personal incident, which will ever appear to me a sacred 'picture on memory's wall.' I the eleventh of September, 1855, in the cel-"Mr. Holden also has a pay-foll of the ebration of the anniversary of the battle of public dinner. By request I occupied a sent "The third muster-roll that I have seen is by the side of the old guardsman, in the car-Hill and the Storm-King And, when he "These two rolls vary but little, only three | was about to retire from the dinner-table, the and, with solemn but unfaltering voice, invited the whole company to his funeral. Just spirit went home, and many who were at the

"It is that introduction to which I refer as the cherished picture in my memory. The man, the place, the occasion, invested it with rare interest; and I shall ever feel that I then enjoyed a privilege vouchsafed to few men on

"There, near the very spot where he had kept faithful vigils three-quarters of a century before, was the same majestic river flowing at his feet; the same mountain-peaks, on which beacon-fires gleamed during the old war for independence, were standing, with outlines all unchanged, within the sweep of his dim vision; the same old house-with its room with seven doors and one window, wherein the great leader of the Continental army had labored, muscd, and reposed-was still there to welcome his tottering feet; there was the same green slope, whereon he and his companions had watched and sported, himself the last survivor of them all. In the miast of such wonderful associations, he stood like a Nester, with the men and wemen of the three generations that he had lived, crowding around him to do reverence to his age and services; and I, not yet born when he had strong attachment was formed between the except that of captain Gibbs, are in handwrit- lived half a century and more, was permitson of Philip Livingston visited him; told "The venerable Embree, just mentioned, Commander-in-chief and the young subaltern. ing so exquisitely neat and true, that it ap- ted to lead him by the hand, and to speak him he was grieved to find he had been con- was present when Hickey was hanged. The Washington often shared his tent and his table pears like engraving. The penman was Thom- his name to the multitude! It was a privi-

"Excuse me for recalling the scene in such a presence as this. But I know there are hearts around me that beat in sympathy with my own ; and it should be remembered that the time is near-it is even at the doorwhen to have seen a soldier of that old war will be considered a great privilege, and the recipient of it will be gazed upon with the

"They are golden sands in the hour-glass

I'm The Grafton Bank, at Grafton Mass.