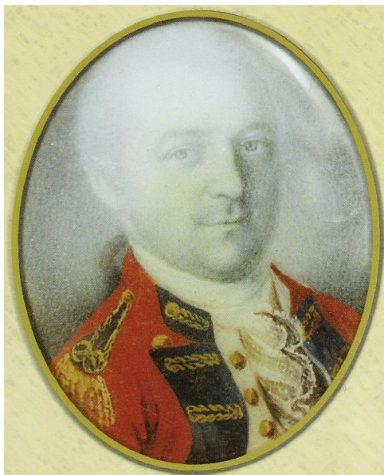


# Continental, Provincials, & all of the above...

Washington's Army and the raising of  
the Loyalist Provincial Corps at  
Philadelphia, 1777-1778.

Todd W. Braisted

## One of Many

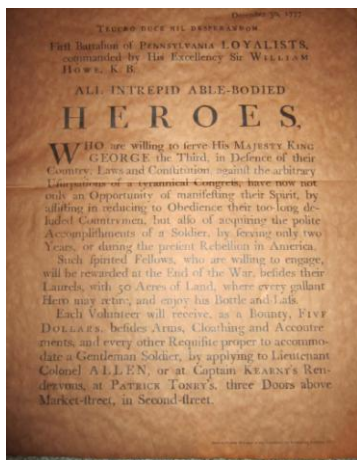


- Benedict Arnold was the most famous member of the Continental Army to join the British. But he was hardly the only one.

# The American Vicars of Bray



## New Corps



- Most historians in calculating the amount of Loyalist support in Philadelphia focus on 4 new battalions of infantry and 3 troops of cavalry. But there was much more going on there with respect to recruits.

## Joseph Galloway

- The task of cataloguing the influx of Washington's deserters fell to Joseph Galloway, Superintendent of Police, and former member of the First Continental Congress.



### Continental Army Deserters in Philadelphia to 25 March 1778

▪ English	206
▪ Irish	492
▪ Scottish	56
▪ German	88
▪ American	283
▪ Canadian	4
▪ French	<u>5</u>
▪ Total Soldiers	1134

## “Galley-men” Deserters in Philadelphia to 25 March 1778

▪ English	69
▪ Irish	157
▪ Scottish	22
▪ German	16
▪ American	75
▪ French	<u>15</u>
▪ Total	354

## The Fortunes of War

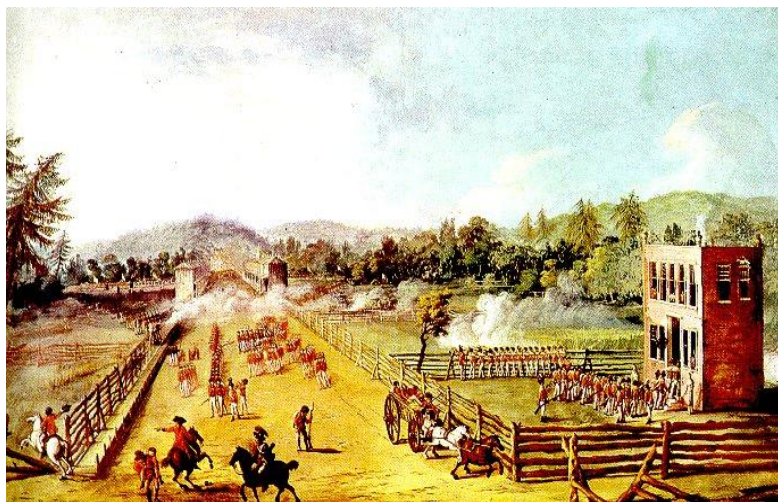


- What Galloway does not mention is the enlisting of prisoners taken by the British. While officially prohibited, by both sides, it had been actively practiced by all since the very first weeks of the war.

# Paoli



# Germantown



## Prisoners...

• Brandywine	175
• Paoli	57
• Germantown	292
• Other	<u>123</u>
• Total	647
• Enlisted	126

## Deserters...

• Cavalry	8	Artillery	106
• Rhode Island	72	Connecticut	45
• New York	42	New Jersey	285
• Pennsylvania	219	Delaware	83
• Maryland	253	Virginia	82
• North Carolina	147	Additional Regts &c	80
• Total	1422	Deserters Returned	75
• Enlisted	300		



# Artillery

- The Royal Artillery was in a constant need for additional strength. While at Philadelphia, James Pattison was offered 15 Non Commissioned Officers of the Continental Artillery, which he declined, giving them instead to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, NJ Volunteers.



## If at First You Don't Succeed...

James Dilworth of Moyland's Light Dragoons was acquitted of "desertion, and attempting to go to the enemy" in September 1777. His second attempt was more successful, enlisting on 18 March 1778 in the Maryland Loyalists. He died in their service at West Florida 25 months later.

- William Shoemaker of the 2<sup>nd</sup> New Jersey Regiment was apprehended as part of a Loyalist attempt to reach Staten Island in September 1777. Returned to his regiment, he was taken prisoner with a small detachment of the corps at Squan in April 1780, starting his career in the Loyalist 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, New Jersey Volunteers...

## Loyalist Prisoners



- One group of deserters from the 3<sup>rd</sup> New Jersey Regt. was unique in that they were Loyalists who had enlisted in order to escape a sentence of death for high treason. The 35 men mostly deserted over the winter and made their way into Philadelphia, enlisting in different corps.

## Deserter of Significance



- “...a certain Mr. John Biddle has lately gone into the Enemy, who has an Exact Draft of your Camp; before he went in he told a Person confidentially that he could put the Enemy in a Way of investing it in such a Manner as to cut off your Communication with the Country, and thereby prevent the Supply of Provisions &c.”



## Restoring Discipline & Order

- Washington was put to great pains to stop the bleeding from the army. Floggings of 100 lashes were common, although in several cases executions were necessary, such as that of Corporal Thomas Harnet of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Pennsylvania, taken at Paoli and “joined the enemy.”



## If You Desert, Do Not Lead an Attack



- Martin Hurley deserted from the British 44<sup>th</sup> Regiment at Boston in 1775. He became an ensign in the 1<sup>st</sup> New Jersey Regiment. He was shot and captured leading his men attacking the Chew Mansion. He was court martialed and executed by the British within days of the battle.

## Daniel Gill

- Not all stories bear close scrutiny today, although accepted as fact by the government for issuing pensions in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Daniel Gill of Hartley's Regiment for instance stated "at the battle of Iron hill, I was taken a prisoner by the enemy and was held by them nine months and made my escape from the enemy at Charleston, South Carolina and after having thus escaped again entered into the service of the United States ."



## Edward Warren

- Edward Warren, a deserter from the 1<sup>st</sup> New York Regiment, became infamous in 1779 for being the only Provincial actually executed during the command of Sir Henry Clinton, being found guilty of desertion and captured in arms on board a rebel privateer.

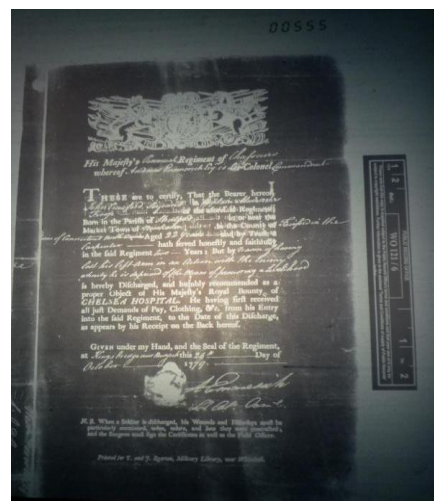


## Abraham Stevens

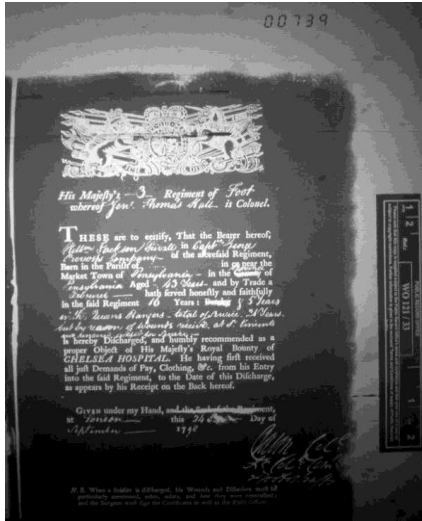
- Some deserters returned to their ranks, only to desert to the British later, whether at New York or Charleston. Stevens, a soldier of the 1<sup>st</sup> New York, deserted for 2 weeks at Philadelphia, only to do it again outside of New York in November 1780, this time joining the American Legion and providing intelligence to the British.
- Abraham Stevens 1st York Regiment commanded by General Clinton. About 300 Men in the Regiment. 20 men in his Company all enlisted for three years but are obliged to serve during the war. Has not drawn any Flour or Bread for 9 Days. They receive a pound of Fresh Beef but no other Provisions. Clothes exceedingly bad. Has not received pay for fourteen Months. A number of Men of the Regiment had agreed about a month ago blow up the Magazine at West Point but it was prevented by two of them having given information to their Officers. There are four Regiments gone to Albany a Fortnight ago, Gunsfords, Weisenfeldt's, Courtlands & Du Bois's.

## Short Timers

- Some careers of the deserters were but brief. John Crawford deserted from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Connecticut Regiment on 10 June 1778 and enlisted in Emmerick's Chasseurs 4 days later. In a severe action with Indians in the Bronx on 31 August 1778, Crawford lost an arm, effectively ending his military career.



## Career Soldiers



- Some deserters however became career soldiers with the British. William Jackson, a soldier in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Pennsylvania Regiment taken prisoner at Paoli, served six years in the Queen's Rangers and then afterwards in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Foot, serving into the 1790's.

## Provincial Acquisitions

- Shortly after the Battle of Brandywine, there were 543 Provincials serving with Howe's Army, divided amongst the Queen's Rangers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, New Jersey Volunteers and Guides & Pioneers.
- By the time of the Battle of Monmouth, there were 2016 Provincials with Clinton's force, not including detachments of recruits and baggage guards sent on ship to New York.

## Provincial Recruits

- Pennsylvania Loyalists 255
- Maryland Loyalists 452
- Roman Catholic Volunteers 280
- West Jersey Volunteers 226
- Royal Hunters 111
- Philadelphia Light Dragoons 126
- Bucks County Light Dragoons (56)

## Additions to Regiments

- Queen's Rangers 159
- 1st Battalion, New Jersey Volunteers 27
- 2nd Battalion, New Jersey Volunteers 115
- 3rd Battalion, New Jersey Volunteers 27
- New Hampshire Volunteers 65
- King's Orange Rangers 34
- Black Pioneers 18
  
- Guides & Pioneers (190)

## New Corps & Recruiting Parties

- Volunteers of Ireland
- Emmerick's Chasseurs
- Caledonian Volunteers
- Royal American Reformees
- New York Volunteers
- Independent Companies (Hierlihy's)

## Where the Deserters & Prisoners Went

• Pennsylvania Loyalists	45
• Maryland Loyalists	85
• Roman Catholic Volunteers	44
• West Jersey Volunteers	11
• Royal Hunters	22
• 1 <sup>st</sup> Troop, Philadelphia Light Dragoons	12
• 2 <sup>nd</sup> Troop, Philadelphia Light Dragoons	5
• Bucks County Light Dragoons	8



## Where the Deserters & Prisoners Went (Continued)

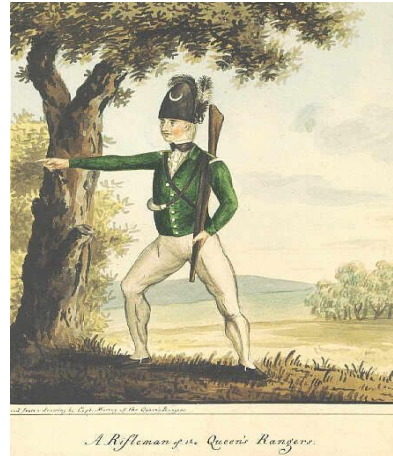
• Queen's Rangers	21
• Guides & Pioneers	49
• 1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion, New Jersey Volunteers	6
• 2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion, New Jersey Volunteers	15
• 3 <sup>rd</sup> Battalion, New Jersey Volunteers	10
• New Hampshire Volunteers	5
• King's Orange Rangers	4
• Caledonian Volunteers	9
• Volunteers of Ireland	25
• Emmerick's Chasseurs	11

## Where the Deserters & Prisoners Went (Continued)

• Royal American Reformees	6
• DeLancey's Brigade	10
• New York Volunteers	2
• Royal Fencible Americans	1
• King's American Regiment	2
• Loyal American Regiment	2
• 5 <sup>th</sup> Battalion, New Jersey Volunteers	2
• 6 <sup>th</sup> Battalion, New Jersey Volunteers	1
• Total	413

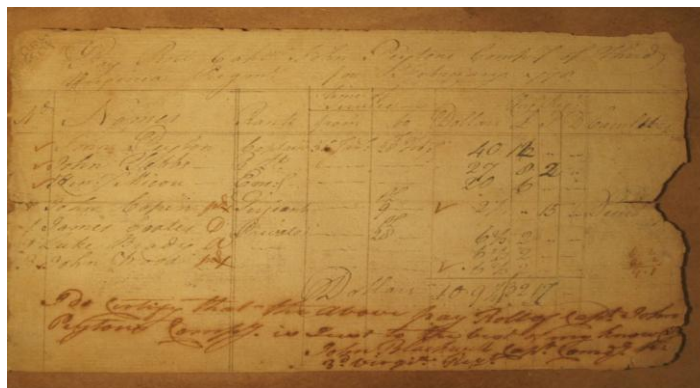
## Post Campaign Additions

- Even after the campaign was over, some deserters and prisoners who had returned, along with others who had disappeared into the shadows, eventually made their way into Provincial units.



## Records

- Most researchers focus on Continental or Loyalist records. Seldom do they look at both.



# Thanks!

- Remember, for all your Loyalist needs, please visit:
  - [www.royalprovincial.com](http://www.royalprovincial.com)