

The Papers of Captain William Beatty, of the Maryland Line  
Now first printed from the original manuscripts in the Maryland Historical Society  
Printed in 1866 MdHs PAM 10,699

Transcribed and Annotated by John Beakes, co-author of *"Cool Deliberate Courage": John Eager Howard in the American Revolution*. Nautical & Aviation Publishing Company, Mount Pleasant, S.C., 2009.

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Note on the inside of the front cover of the original pamphlet at MdHS.

"562. Rev. Papers of Capt. Wm. Beatty of the Maryland Line. Now first printed from the original MSS. In the Md. Hist. Soc. 8, sheets, pp. 28, Nirrusabuum 1866). (15 copies \$1.00)

Cover Page

VI.

The Papers

Of

CAPTAIN WILLIAM BEATTY  
OF THE MARYLAND LINE

Now first printed from the original manuscripts in the  
library of the Maryland Historical Society

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The Cover of the original printed Pamphlet has an inscription, as follows:

Captain William Beatty's Journal  
From  
The Year of Our Lord 1776 to 1781

Maryland Historical Society  
58436 1853

Presented by  
Judge Beatty of Kentucky

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The inside cover of the original Journal has the writing "Born 19th June 1758" in the same handwriting as the Journal, so it is presumably William Beatty's

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Page 1.  
I. Journal

The Papers of Captain William Beatty, of the Maryland Line  
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June 25<sup>th</sup>, 1776<sup>1 2</sup> – I was apptd. an Ensign<sup>3 4 5</sup> in ye flying Camp<sup>6</sup> raised in the state of Md the 3d July. I reced my Warrant in Seven days recruited my Quota of men<sup>7</sup> March'd for Philadelphia the 13<sup>th</sup> August Where the compt Joined the Regt to Which it belonged after Some few days Which it took to Equip We proceeded to New York Where we arrived the 5<sup>th</sup> of September<sup>8</sup> & Continued in it a week when the whole army except a small body moved up the island within one mile of Fort Washington On the 15<sup>th</sup> of this month the enemy landed on the Island near Hell Gate<sup>9</sup> & forced the Whole of our advanced troops to retire to the main body which lay Encamped in the neighborhood of Fort Washington, The 16<sup>th</sup> <sup>10</sup> in the forenoon some of our troops met With the Enemies Van Which brought on a brisk Engagement which lasted Some time, when the Enemy gave Way, Some few days after this Happened a New England Captain Was Dressed in Woman's apparel arm'd With a Wooden gun & Sword & Drum'd out of the army for Cowardice, Sometime in October the Whole army except a garrison in Fort Washington Left York Island <sup>11</sup> the Same day that this happened I being very unwell Crossed the North river for the purpose of going in the Country to recover my health after laying two Weeks at a Dutchmans at Scrawnburg<sup>12</sup> Church Which lays nine Miles from fort Lee & five from Hackensack Town I proceeded to join our Regt, Which during this time had been on their Way from Kings Bridge to Peekskill<sup>13</sup> Where I met it in the beginning of November after laying here two or three days, We Went on board of Boats Which transported us down the North river to Kings ferry where we landed and Encamped One night the next morning We began Our march towards the Jerseys by the Way of Tappan, Hackinsack

Bridge & the Town about 10, o'clock the night after passing the last place Our Brigade Were Ordered to Fort Lee Where we arrived some little time before day. On this March We crossed a ferry on the Hackensack, about five miles below the bridge Which we crossed the day before, the day after our arrival at Fort Lee being the day the Enemy attacked Fort Washington, Which Surrendered to them in the afternoon<sup>14</sup>, The Enemies next object being Fort Lee Our army began to prepare for a retreat But before this Could be accomplished the Enemy landed above us Which Obliged Our army to make a quick retreat leaving all our Heavy Cannon & Stores & Baggage of all kinds behind, the Whole of Which fell into the Hands of the Enemy<sup>15</sup>, We now began our retreat through the Jersey<sup>16</sup> by the way of Aquuckanack Bridge Which Was tore up after Our troops had pass'd it, from this We retreated down the 2<sup>nd</sup> river to a little village by the Same name at this place With Some more Officers I quartered at a Gentlemans house Who treated us With a great deal of politeness & Hospitality. From here I march'd with a Piquot by the Way of New ark to One Pecks, about four miles from New ark towards the mountain the Whole of this march being in the night the darkness of Which together With the Intolerable bad roads made this tour of duty very hard this Was the last time I mounted Guard While in the flying Camp, From New ark Our army retreated in two Collums One by the Way of Wood bridge to Brunswick & the Other by the New-ark mountain Springfields, Scotch-Plains Quibbletown & to Brunswick, While Our army lay in the neighborhood of New ark the Sick Were Sent to Morristown; Two or three days after Our arrival at Brunswick being the first of December & the Expiration of the flying Camp troops time Our Brigade

March'd to Philadelphia leaving Our Brave General With a very Weak army<sup>17</sup> who in a little time after Was obliged to retreat across the Delaware river notwithstanding the few troops that were left With Our Hero it is well known that he in less than a month killed & took upward of 2000 of the Enemy & Obligated a very Superior force to retreat to Brunswick the Consequence of Which Was they Were obliged in the Spring to abandon the Jersey intirely, after the flying Camps arrival to Philadelphia, I was employed in assisting to Pay & Discharge Companys until the 10<sup>th</sup> of December When I set out for Home Where I arrived the 14<sup>th</sup> following<sup>18</sup>

*January 1<sup>st</sup> 1777.* I accepted a first Lts<sup>19</sup> Commission in the Contl Service<sup>20</sup> & immediately began to recruit On Which Service I Continued until some time in June When I march'd from Home With a party to join'd the Regt in Which I was to Serve I found the Regt With the army Which lay at Lincolns Gap<sup>21</sup> the 29<sup>th</sup> June. In two or 3 days after Our Division March'd towards the north river by Way of Morristown, Pumpton Smiths Cove & newbern Where We Crossed the 7<sup>th</sup> of July and march'd to Fishkills. On the foregoing March at Pumpton I went On the first Genl Court Martial I ever Sat on the 18<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>. We lay at Fishkills Monday the 21<sup>st</sup> of March'd to Peekskills 22<sup>nd</sup> March'd five Miles towards Crowtan Bridge, The 23<sup>rd</sup> We March'd 4 miles farther & Encamped On a Hill Called Mount Pleasant. It lies in Cortland's manor, The 24<sup>th</sup> a detachment of 500 Men Were Ordered out of the Division to hold themselves in readiness to March at the shortest notice, however they never Were detached, the 25<sup>th</sup> the troops were

drawn Out for the Execution of two Soldiers for house Breaking. The men were rerieved. Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> of July Our Division being Ordered to return to the Jersey again We March'd from mount Pleasant to Kings Ferry ; Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> in the forenoon the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Crossed the Ferry & in the afternoon the first Brigade Cross'd likewise The Whole Division Encamped on the West Bank of the river, Monday 28<sup>th</sup>. We march'd to Kakaa Which is 8 miles from Kings Ferry, The next day We march'd to Paramas which is about 13 miles, Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> We began our march very early this morning & made a halt about 10 o'clock at the Pasayac river about a Mile below the falls. Curiosity led me to see them they are a Curiou Worth Seeing<sup>22</sup> the Water Some Small Distance before it falls passes between two rocks about six feet from each Other then falls about 30 feet & passes between the same rocks for about 30 yards Which Widen gradually till they are near 30 feet apart at the end of these rocks the Water makes a very large pond, What makes the place of halting this day more remarkable happining in a House hear Where the troops Halted, the owners of which had a child they said was 23 years of age; the Head of this Child Was Larger than a Half Bushell; the body about the Size of a Child 7 or 8 years Old its Hands & feet Were useless to it the Skin as White as Milk notwithstanding it had Never been able to Walk Or see its Parents have taut it to read & it Would answer almost any Scriptural Quotations that were askd it. The neighbours told me that the Father & Mother Were fonder of this child than any they had, altho they had Several beside that were not Deform'd, About 2, o'clock We proceeded On Our march about 3 Miles below acquackanack Bridge on the 2d river. The Whole of this

days March Was about 19 miles, Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> This morning about the time the troops began to March One of the Inhabitants Were taken up for assisting some of our Deserters over the Second River about a mile after passing through Newark the troops Halted a Court Martial being immediately Ordered for the trial of the Tory taken in the Morning, The Court passed Sentence of Death on him which Genl Deboe Ordered to be put in Execution by Hanging the poor fellow On the limb of a Sycamore Bush close on the side of the road. the troops march'd to Springfield this Evening. Fryday august 1<sup>st</sup> 77, we marched to Quibbletown & 2d to Middle Brook the 3d by the Way of Pluckemin to Vieltown, a Shower of rain this afternoon gave me a Compleat Soaking as I passed Pluckemin I Call'd & Din'd at Mr Pawlisons this days march 17 miles.

Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> March through Morristown to Hanover Which is 9 miles from Viel town, at this place We lay encamped untill the 21<sup>st</sup> of august Only changing our ground of Encampment a little, the 9<sup>th</sup> While at this place a Soldier was shot for Desertion to the enemy, Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> the Division leaving their Tents & Baggage with a small guard, began their march by the Way of Elizabeth Town & Crossed the Sound next morning about 2, o'clock after the Whole of the Division being Safely on Staten Island We began to Penetrate it two ways the first Br. upwards & the 2d Brigade Downwards, About 10, O,cl the Whole of our forces on the Island began to move towards the Old Blazing Star Ferry to recross But the want of Sufficient N<sup>o</sup> of Boats made that business go on so slow that the Enemy had time to Cut off about 230 of our Rear, We took & brought off 9 officers & about 100 Men of the Enemy's new levies, most of the troops that got

off the Island Went to Spunktown this Evening, Saturday the 23d We march'd to Springfield Where we lay the next day, Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> The army & Fleet of the Enemy being now in the Chesapeak Bay<sup>23</sup> the Whole of our troops began to Move that Way<sup>24</sup> this day We reach'd Brunswick, 26<sup>th</sup> Princetown Where we lay untill the 28<sup>th</sup> than proceeded to Trenton & Crossed the Ferry, 30<sup>th</sup> We march'd five miles past Bristol, Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March'd past Philadelphia & Encamped On the West Bank of Skuykill Where we Continued On Sunday, Monday Sept 2d 1777 March'd to Chester & the next day to Wilmington Where We lay until the Sixth this day the troops being drawn up to march a musquet unluckily Went off and Broke a soldiers leg Which Was cut off Soon after, we march'd to Ridlick Creek & Encamped, Sondag 7<sup>th</sup> as the approach of the Enemy gave reason to apprehend an attack the Whole of the troops were ordered to throw up Breast works in front of their respective Camps We began this Work to day & Completed it On Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> about 10, O'Clock, The Enemy not thinking Proper to Continue their march On the Road by Wilmington & new-Port But Push'd to cross the Brandewine at Shadsford Obliged Our army to Move that Way the 9<sup>th</sup> We began this march about 2. O'clock in the morning, Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> Sept the alarm guns Were fir'd & the Whole army got under arms, However the Enemy did not approach the army extended its Right Higher up the Brandewine at the Same time a Battery Was began by the Park of artillery Opposite Shads Ford, Our Division being On the Right of the Army, we extended to to large stone Mill about One Mile above the Ford in this Position We lay all night, Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>25</sup> the Enemy appearing about 10, o'clock the alarm

Guns Were fired & troops drew up in Order of Battle from this time till about two in the afternoon there Was a pretty Constant Cannonade at Shads Ford there Was likewise Some Skirmishing between parties of our people & the Enemy some time about the middle of this afternoon Intelligence was received that a very strong Body of the Enemy had cross'd above Our army and Were in full march to outflank us this Obliged Our Right Wing to change their front to the right, But before this Could be fully put in execution the Enemy appear'd & made a very Brisk attack Which put the Whole of our Right Wing to flight,<sup>26</sup> However I believe this Was not done Without some Considerable loss on their Side as Some of the Right Wing behaved Gallantly at the Same time the attack Was made on the Right the British came to Cross Shads Ford Which made the fire almost general on all quarters about Sun (END OF PAGE 7 OF PAMPHLET) down the Whole of our army gave Way and retreated to Chester We lost Eight Field Pieces. I Immagin about 500 Men killed, Wounded & Prisoners<sup>27</sup> as to the Enemies loss I cant pretend to Say but I immagin it must have been Considerable as there Was a great deal of very Heavy firing Friday 12<sup>th</sup> We Continued Our Retreat to Skuykill<sup>28</sup> & the next day Passed by Philadelphia to German Town Where We Encamped, Sondag Sept 14<sup>th</sup> the Whole army Recross'd the Skuykill at the Spring Mills and on the 16<sup>th</sup> Drew up in Order of Battle in the Neighbourhood of the White Horse But a very heavy rain Coming up prevented the Enemie attacking us about 2, o'clock We began to march towards Yellow Springs where we arrived about 2, O'clock, the next morning all the Small Branches that We Were obliged to Cross On this march Were so rais'd by the



Hard rain that they took us to the Waiste & under the arms When We Waded them, none of our men preserved a Single round of ammunition that did not get thoroughly Wet the rain left off falling the morning of the 17 about break of day, In the afternoon We began our march towards the valley Forge near Which We again Waded the Schuylkill On the 18, & Continued Our march until we got Opposite the Enemy at Sweeds Ford, after laying in this position a day or two the Enemy put themselves in motion to Cross the Schuylkill & our army leaving the Passes clear at the same time march'd up the Country, to a Place called New Hanover Where We lay Some days during our stay at this place a Detachment Was sent to Mud Island<sup>29</sup> below Philadelphia from this place We March'd to Perkeomen Mills, While at this Place We Were join'd by the Maryland Militia here Were fired 13 Pieces of Cannon for our Success to the northward<sup>30</sup>, about the beginning of October We march's from the Mills toward the Enemy & on the 3d in the Evening our Whole army began their march to attack the Enemy Who lay at German town and on the morning of the 4<sup>th</sup> <sup>31</sup> about Sun rise the attack Was made With such Briskness that We had the pleasure to pursue the Enemy Intirely through German town When Cornwallis Coming With a reinforcement & Some bad management on our side obliged us to retreat this Was about 9, o'clock many of our troops Reached Pennybeckers Mills on the Perkeoman this Evening, the next day our Wounded Were sent to Reading & the army Encamped after laying at this place a few days the army mov'd towards the delaware River to the next main road between Perkeomen & that river While at this place We had the satisfaction of fireing the second feu de joy<sup>32</sup> for our nothern armys Success

against Burgoin <sup>33</sup> from this place the army movd to the Encampment We occupied the Evening before the Battle of Germantown Here we reced the glorious news of the Captivity of Burgoin & his army On this Occasion was fired a Feu De Joy of Small arms & Cannon from this Encampment <sup>34</sup> We movd Within three Or four miles of White marsh Bridge this being some time in November the next move was to the Hights near the Bridge before mentioned Where We remained until some time in December, Some few days before our army left this Encampment the Enemy Came out as far as Chestnut hill about one mile & a half in our front during their Stay We lay Continually on our arms there happened some skirmishing between our advanced Parties & the Enemies the third night the British thought proper to retreat Which they did With precipitation our army in two days after the Enemy retreated began their march for Winter Quarters Genl Sullivans Division in front Who after they had Crossed the Schuylkill On a foot Bridge near the gulf Mills Were obliged to recross by the appearance of a Body of the Enemy that Were on the West Side of the river here We lay till near night then march'd as high as Sweeds Ford Where we lay a day & night then march'd to the Gulf Hills from Which place all the army except the Md Division march'd to the Valley Forge <sup>35</sup> Where they built huts to pass the Winter in the Md Division Went to Q<sup>rs</sup> in Wilmington Where they fared very well as to Quarters but the duty Was very hard & the troops very bare of Clothing However in a few days after our arrival there We had the good fortune to take a valuable Prize of cloathing &c from the Enemy Which had ran ashore in the Delaware Some time in February 1778 the Garrison Was alarmed by some boats coming down the river full of Men

after this Was over We pass'd the remainder of our stay in quietness Which was till Some time in may When the Division mrched and Joind the army at the Valley Forge <sup>36</sup>, While We lay in Wilmington a certain John Dewick was Executed for Desertion & Piracy his Execution was on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April 1778, Some time before the division left Wilmington I went on a Detachment Under the Command of Col P Down to Bombay Hook Island & Dover in Kent County Delaware While on this Detachment We took two British navy officers 11 marines, 60 or 70 Tories.

Early in June the detachment returned to Wilmington, June 5<sup>th</sup> about 9, o'clock at night We march'd from Wilmington & reached Delworthtown, next morning about 2, o'clock, Where We Stay'd till some time after day than March'd and join'd the 2d Brigade Which lay near Shadsford, in the afternoon We began our march for the Valley Forge this night We Encamped near One Mattocks, June 7 we march'd to the Warren On the Lancaster Road & quartered in that neighbourhood in Barns & Houses it being rainy Weather, June 8<sup>th</sup> We march'd & Joind the army at the Valley Forge Where We continued untill the 18<sup>th</sup> When part of the army began to march towards the Jersey this Was in consequence of the Enemies leaving Philadelphia <sup>37</sup>, June 19<sup>th</sup> the remainder of the army left the Valley Forge and reach'd Credells Ferry the 21<sup>st</sup> next day we Cross'd & Joind that part of the army that march'd from the Valley forge the day before We did, June 23<sup>rd</sup> the army left the Whole of their Tents & Baggage & March'd to Hopewell, the next day Our Tents & Baggage came up & the army Encamped from this place, a strong detachment Was Sent Out towards the Enemy June 25<sup>th</sup> the army left their Tents standing & Proceeded towards the Enemy Who Was

retreating With all Possible Dispatch this day We March'd as far as Rockey Hill Where We lay till Sun down then Continued Our march till about 1' o'clock next morning this day While We lay at Rockey Hill a Second detachment Was Sent out in pursuit of the Enemy June 26<sup>th</sup> We march'd about 5 miles this day in the afternoon We had a very great gust of rain, June 27<sup>th</sup> the army began to march about Sun rise then halted & Compleated Our men with 40 rounds of Cartridges, June 28<sup>th</sup> 1778 <sup>38</sup>, about 8, o'clock We began Our march towards English town <sup>39</sup>, Which Was about 5 Miles in Our front We had not March'd far before a Cannonade Was heard Which happened between Our advance & the Enemies rear, near monmouth Court house about a mile before We reach'd English Town We Were Ordered to leave Our Knapsack & Blankets then resumed Our March passing by English Town to a Church about two miles nearer monmouth, By this time our advanced troops had retreated nearly to this place Which Occasioned a very Sharp Cannonade between our front line & the Enemy this had not lasted long before the our front line of Infantry & the Enemy Which obliged the Enemy to give up the field With the loss of upwards of 300 killed Which Were left. this Was about 6' o'clock in the Evening Our rear line then advanced and took the ground On Which the front had been, the Whole of our army lay On their arms all night, The Enemy took the advantage of Moon Shine about 1' o'clock the Morning of the 29<sup>th</sup> and retreated to avoid the attack Intended to be made on them by day break they left a number of their Wounded Officers & Men at Monmouth Court house & Some prisoners they had taken about 5, in the afternoon of ye 29, We march'd from the field of Battle to Where We had left our Packs Where We

continued the 30th. July 1<sup>st</sup> 1778. about 1, o'clock in the Morning We began Our March Which Was Continued to Shotswood forge, Where we arrived about 8, o'clock and Halted till next morning about 1, o'clock then proceeded by Brunswick to Raraton landing Where the Whole army Encamped on the different Banks of the river; July 3d the troops took to clean & refresh themselves July 4<sup>th</sup> I obtained permission to go to Caecil County in Maryland after Some of my Baggage I Went as far as Trenton this day, July 5<sup>th</sup> 1778 I Went to Philadelphia the 6<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon I set Sail for Wilmington <sup>40</sup> Where I arrived the 7<sup>th</sup> in the Evening, the next day I stay'd at this place July 9<sup>th</sup> after Sun down I went to Newark the next day to Octarara Where my Baggage was & did My Business – July 11,th I returned as far as Newark & the 12<sup>th</sup> to Wilmington, the 13<sup>th</sup> after Sun down I went On Board a boat for Philadelphia Where I arrived the 14<sup>th</sup> July 15<sup>th</sup> about 2' o'clock in the afternoon I left the City on foot but after going about 10 miles a gentleman overtook me Who gave Me a Seat in a chaise to Bristol Where I Stay'd all night, the next morning I proceeded again on foot to Trenton Where I Breakfasted then Continued my Walk towards Princetown, by the good fortune of a Second Seat in a chaise I reach'd that place by 2' o'clock this Evening the Waggon I had with Join'd me, also J.J.J. Fryday July 17<sup>th</sup> Went as far as the Scoch Plains the next day to Mr dod's, Sunday July 19<sup>th</sup> 78 We lay by N B, It Must be Observed I left the army near Brunswick but on my return they had left that place & march'd to wards the White Plains, Monday July 20<sup>th</sup> I left Mr Dods & Went to Kackaett, the 21<sup>st</sup> I cross'd the North river at King's Ferry & Went 4 miles past Peekskills, the 22d I overtook the troops about 6 Miles from White Plains,

here We continued untill the 24, then march'd to the White Plains, Thursday July 30<sup>th</sup> I rode to the Saw pits & din'd on Osters afterwards I rode into Connecticut & Crack'd Some good Wine Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> august 1778 Our Brigade Mov'd their Encampment a little to the left, the 2d the Whole army struck tents & prepar'd to march in about 3 hours they Were ordered to Pitch their tents on the same ground, Thursday august 4<sup>th</sup>, about 5 in the afternoon I went on a three days Command toward the lines under Genl Mulenberg We march'd to Tuckahoe Heights & Encamped the next day we March,d Within four miles of Kings Bridge from here Col Morgan Was Sent forward With two Battalions the remaining two With the Genl Encamped 2 Miles Back, Thursday august 6<sup>th</sup> 1778 this Morning Our detachment March'd from their Encampment towards the lines by a Right Hand road about 2 Miles then We turned to the left to the ground We lay on the day before here We lay untill the evening then returned to our last Nights Encampment Fryday august 7<sup>th</sup> We returned to the White Plains Sondag august 8<sup>th</sup> Some time in the night We had a very heavy rain Which made the remainder of the night disagreeable, Monday august 17<sup>th</sup> a Soldier Was Shot for Desertion Tuesday august 18<sup>th</sup> I Went On the Provost Guard from Which I was releived the next day, Wednesday august 26 the tents of the Whole army Were Struck & the Whole of the Baggage loaded in Order it Was Expected to march about two Hours after we Ordered to sweep the Encampment & Pitch the tents On the Same Ground, Wednesday Septr 16<sup>th</sup> 1780\* the Whole army Struck their tents & Sent them off Early in the morning, the Troops Were Continued On their Ground

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\* This is evidently a clerical error, since the *Journal* subsequently relates in the same connection, what occurred later in 1778. - Ed. Hist. Mag.

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Untill 3 o'clock in the afternoon, then March'd about 5 miles from the plains  
Where they Halted Without their tents Some time in the night a very heavy rain  
began to fall Which lasted all night the Want of our tents made our Situation very  
disagreeable When the army left the White plains the Right Wing March'd the  
road leading by Crotans Bridge & the left Wing a road to the right of it, this  
Morning the Enemy surprised Col N Gists Regt of light Infantry Which lay about 8  
Miles below the White Plains Thursday Sept<sup>r</sup> 17 We March'd about two miles  
above Crotans Bridge Where We got our Regt in a Barn & halted till our tents  
Came up When We Encamped, Fryday Sept<sup>r</sup> 18 about 2, o'clock in the afternoon  
we March'd about two miles, the next day we march'd about 8 miles Higher up  
the Country, Sondag Sept<sup>r</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 1778 We March'd about 4 miles past  
Fredericksburg Where We lay until the 22<sup>nd</sup> On Which day Our Division march'd  
12 miles toward Fishkills at this place We lay untill the 28<sup>th</sup> When We march'd to  
Fishkills Saturday Oct 3d A Soldier of our Regt Was Shot by accident, Tuesday  
Oct<sup>r</sup> 13 We march'd to new Hackensack there We lay untill the 26<sup>th</sup> on Which day  
we returned to Fishkills the 30<sup>th</sup> a Soldier Was Executed for House Breaking,  
Monday Nov 2d I Went to new Hackensack & returned the next day, Fryday Nov<sup>r</sup>  
6<sup>th</sup> a detachment of 600 Men Were Ordered from the division to Escort the  
Convention prisoners through the Jersey <sup>41</sup> Monday Nov 23d our B march'd from  
Fishkills & cross'd North river the next day I Went forward With a Party to repair  
the roads about 5 miles from the Ferry, this night I was kindly Entertained by a M<sup>r</sup>  
Bellnap, the next day I proceeded With my Party as far as a M<sup>r</sup> Halls Within a  
Mile of Chester Thursday Nov<sup>r</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> the division arrived at Chester about 1,

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O'clock here the men Were quartered in the adjacent Barns I lodged at a Mr Jacksons this night, the next day Brought my men & quartered them in his Barn & Myself With Other Officers in His House Saturday Nov<sup>r</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> I received Some cloathing Which Were Sent from home to me, Sondag the 29<sup>th</sup> Several of us went to Meeting at Florida about 3 Miles from Mr Jacksons, Monday Nov 30 a Smart Snow fell in the fore part of the day, Tuesday Dec 1<sup>st</sup> We Collected the Girls in the neighbourhood and had a kick up, in the Evening, the Fryday following we had the Second, Sondag Dec 6<sup>th</sup> I walked to Capt Bradner Where I spent the afternoon With the Young Ladies his Daughters, Monday Decr 7 I went with a Guard to Oxford & took my post at a Mr Sealys, the next day I was Order to Join the division With my Guard Wednesday Decr 9<sup>th</sup> We march'd from Chester by the Way of WarWick into Sussex County in the Jersey Our Men lay in Barns in the neighbourhood of a Col Brodericks, I Lodg'd at a Mr Haggs, Thursday Dec 10<sup>th</sup> 78, We began Our March this Morning through a rain Which Continued to fall until the middle of the afternoon then turn'd to Snow Which fell very fast till Some time in the night then held up We Qutrd our Regt at Sharpsburgh's Works, In company With Several Officers, I Quartered at Mr Browns Who Was Overseer of the Works, here We continued until Sondag the 13<sup>th</sup> about 2' o'clock When Our Regt alone began to March in the Morning & began to rain Which lasted untill a little time before We halted for Q<sup>rs</sup> in the at a Mr Birons On the Road leading to Morristown, the Snow Which had fell two days before & rain Which fell to day made So much Water that all the Small Creeks much Swelled & the Whole of the road so full that but a few plases that did not come Over Our Shoe tops, Monday



Dec 14<sup>th</sup> 78, March'd fro Biron to Suckeegunny Plains Where We Q<sup>rd</sup> our Men in Houses I Quartered at M<sup>r</sup> Randolph's, January 5<sup>th</sup> 79 I traveled from Cummings & cross'd the Ball-Fryer Ferry On the Susquehannah & Put up at Jolleys in Harford, the next day I got near Rogers Mills in Baltimore County & the day after ot Westminster in Frederick County, January 8<sup>th</sup> 1779, I arriv'd at Home Where I remained till the 15<sup>th</sup> of March When I set out for Camp by the way of York, Lancaster, Wilmington, Philadelphia, Trenton, and Princeton I Joined the army the 29<sup>th</sup> March, in their Huts near Middle Brook, In the Beginning of april I Went on a Detachment to Shawsburg in monmouth County here We continued very peaceable Spending our Spare time With a number of fine Ladies in this neighbourhood untill the 26<sup>th</sup> of the month in the morning before Sun rise We Were very near being Cut of by a party of British under Major Ferguson <sup>42</sup> But have a little notice of the Enemies approach We retreated about 7 Miles towards Monmouth Court House I lost my Waiter & all my Cloaths except What I had On, Several Other officers Shar'd the same fate Our loss in Men was 22, the Enemy left Shrewsbury 9, o'clock & the next day We took our Post again & Continued in it untill the last of May, then March'd for Middlebrook Where We arrived the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June about a Week after the army began their march towards Smiths Clove by Morris Town, Pumpton & Rampaugh Clove, While the army lay in Smiths Clove On the 16<sup>th</sup> July before Day Genl Wayn took Stony Point <sup>43</sup>, the 17<sup>th</sup> we march'd from Smiths Clove & Encamped at Buttermilk Falls the 20<sup>th</sup>, the 18 august before day Major Lee Surprised & took Paulis-hook <sup>44</sup> We Continued at Buttermilk Falls forwarding the Works about West Point until the 26<sup>th</sup> Nov 1779 on Which day We

march'd as far as Smith Clove through a heavy Snow that Was falling on our rout to Winter Qrs, We Continued our march by the Way of Ramapough Clove Pumton Battle Hill from Where We march'd the 3rd of December to Weeks Farm Where I Continued to forward my mens Huts till the 26<sup>th</sup> December then Set out for Maryland On the recruiting Service by the Way of Plackemin, Princeton, Philadelphia, Wilmington, Head of Elk, Baltimore, annapolis & Rock Creek from Where I went to Fredrick Where I arriv'd the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 1780 & continued until the 23d of august following <sup>45</sup> When I set out for Annapolis here I continued until the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October then march'd for our line Which Was at this time in N Carolina With a Party of recruits, by the Way of alexandria, Richmond, Petersburg & Hillsborough Where I expected to Join the line but Was disappointed by their Marching to Charlotte, some time before, Fryday Nov 24<sup>th</sup> 1780 I march'd from Hillsborough With Genl Stephens Brigade of Virginia Militia to Join the army Our rout Was by Guilford Courthouse, Salisbury from thence to Charlotte Where I arrived & Joind the line the 7<sup>th</sup> December 1780, Genl Greene had Superseeded Genl Gates in his Command of the Southern army a Day or two or before, When I Joind the troops Were Hutting Which they Compleated a few days after, Dec 16<sup>th</sup> two Companies of Lt Infantry<sup>46</sup> being Ordered out I got Comd of the Compy form'd by the late 7<sup>th</sup> Regt, Wednesday Dec 20, 80 the army march'd from Charlotte 10 Miles to fords Farm the 21<sup>st</sup> to Richardsons Creek 18 miles from Fords the 22<sup>nd</sup> to Browns Creek, 19 miles from Rlchardsons the 23d to Cedar Creek 16 miles from Browns, the 24<sup>th</sup> Pass'd by anson C-House to Haleys Ferry, 18 Miles from Cedar Creek, the 25 was taken up in Crossing the

Ferry, the 26<sup>th</sup> we reach'd Hicks Creek 15 Miles below Halys Ferry in South Carolina this being the place the Genl intended to take post at, We began to build Small Huts the 27<sup>th</sup>,<sup>47</sup> January 5<sup>th</sup> 1781 a Soldier Was Shot for Desertion, Jany 10<sup>th</sup> a very Heavy rain fell Which rais'd the river Pee Dee and small Creeks so much that the troops Were Obliged to draw Corn in lieu of Meal On the Eleventh Fryday 12<sup>th</sup> In the night I went Hunting, 13<sup>th</sup> I wrote to F----- & P----- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> The army in Consequence of a victory obtain'd by B. Genl Morgan On the 17 instant Over a Superior force of the Enemy Comd by Col Tarleton, near the Cowpens fired a Feu de Joy<sup>48</sup>, I wrote to C----- & G----- Thursday January 25<sup>th</sup> 81 Genl Stephens<sup>49</sup> Militia left us their times being Expired<sup>50</sup>

## II. Correspondence

### 1. - Captain Beatty to his Parents

Camp Near Kings Bridge September 18<sup>th</sup> 1776<sup>51</sup>

Honoured Father and Mother

as it Was your desire that I should Write to you every opportunity I Could and to tell you How things Went With us I have Endeavourd now to let you Know how I and Henry are Which I hope Will give you Satisfaction to hear that We both are in good Health and I hope these few lines may Find you and all the Family in the Same, and Like Wise All Enquiring Friends and Relations I Wrote to you from New York by Elijah Beatty Which I hope you have received by this time, it Would make me Very glad if I Could receive a letter from you that I Could Know how

you and the Family are and if you and John Beattys had Settled that affair between you, I have Something Worth telling you of What happined this Week Last Sunday the Enemy landed about three Miles below us and at the Sight of about 150 of them One Brigade and a half of New England Troops ran away in the Most Precipitated Manner and Chief of them Lost their Baggage, if they had Stood their Ground they Might have Cut them off But by their landing they Surrounded Many of our Troops in York Which had no time to get out But they have a Strong fort near York Were they are and Have three Months provision and ammunion a plenty and the Commander declares that he Will not Surrender While he has either <sup>52</sup>, On Monday Last the Enemy thought to Drive Our Troops farther Salleyd Out and Were attact by Major Mantz With the three Rifle Companys of our Battalion under his Command and Major price With three of the Independent Companys of Maryland Troops and three other Companys of Maryland Flying Camp and a Battalion of Virginians and Some Northern Troops the attact Was Very Sharp on Both sides for One hour and a half and then the Enemy Retreated One Mile and a half to their lines in all the action We Lost but about 20 Men Killed and about as Many Wounded among the Dead is One Colonel of the Northern Troops The Men all behaved With Much Bravery In Capt Goods Company there Was but two men Wounded Capt Reynolds One Capt Grooh two one of Which is the blind Cuppers Son in Fredktown, the other lernt the hatters Trade With Major Price his Wound is in the Breast the other On the back of his arm above the joint of his Wrist and so down to his fingers the Bone is not Broke Our Company Lay out form Our Tents from Sunday Morning till

teusday Night Bill Witnell and his Child is both dead four of our Men Deserted from us in Philadelphia One of Which is Thomas Hennissee and One got Drownded Comeing from New York to this place I have no More to tell you at present but that you Would Write the first opertunity.

I am Sir Your Most Obedient

Son W. Beatty Jn<sup>r</sup>

(Addressed)

Col W<sup>m</sup> Beatty

Living in

Frederick County

Maryland, near

Frederick Town (end of page 21)

2. - Captain Beatty to his Father

Skipack Bucks County Monday

October 6<sup>th</sup> 1777 <sup>53</sup>

Honnoured Father

I Embrace this Opertunity of informing you of the late Engagement that happened On Saturday last near Germantown On Fryday last the army Was Ordered to march about Dusk towards Philadelphia

and Reached Chestnut Hill about Day break next morning at Which time Our advance Guard attacked the Enemy's Piquet and Drove them after Which Our Division fell on the left flank of the Enemy and Drove them near two Miles at Which time they Received a Strong Reinforcement Which forced us to retreat Which Was done in Very good Order there Was about 4000 of Our Side Engaged Which began about Sun rise and lasted till 9. O,Clock, I Cannot pretend to tell the Loss on Either Side Except Our own Regiment Which had four Men Killed and 28 Wounded and four Officers Wounded I was in the action the Whole time and in the hottest of the fire, I Received a Dead Ball On my thigh the Very first fire the Enemy made, But did me no harm Only made the place a little Red, I Know no Body fell Except Unkle Michael and he fell Dead on the Spot, Capt Naff Received a flesh Wound On the thigh but is like to do Well I Expect We Shall Soon have another touch With them Which Will Soon lessen their numbers the Morning Was Very foggy <sup>54</sup> Which Was Greatly to Our Disadvantage and the Cause of the Engagement ending So Soon. I am Well at present and I hope this Will find you and all the family Like wise

I Remain With Respect your

Most obedient Son

W<sup>m</sup> Beatty

3. - Captain Beatty to his Father

Skipack October 13th 1777 <sup>55</sup>

Honoured Father

I Received yours of the 24<sup>th</sup> of last month in Which you inform me of your health and of all the Familys Which gives me Great Satisfaction, you likewise inform'd me of Your not Receiving a letter from me Since I rote from Hanover in the Jersey but I beg to be excused and am not to blame for I rote a Second letter from that place just Before I Went On Staten Island and Since that time We Have never laid One Week at One place but Continually marching, the particulars of Statten Island and Brande Wine as far as lays in my power I have Sent by D<sup>r</sup> Thomas Except a Return that Was taken at Germantown Battle Which gives an account that the Enemys loss at Brande Wine was 1976 Killed and Wounded Since I Wrote to you Concerning the Battle of Germantown it is reported by the best authority that the Enemys loss is 2000 Killed and Wounded beside the loss of two Generals Killed and two Wounded the Killed are Kniphausen and Grant, Egners and Erskine Wounded Mortally Our Success to the Northward Still Continues <sup>56</sup> Except the loss of Fort Mountgomery Which Was taken by Storm by a body of the Enemy that landed at Dobsons ferry on the North River, There has been a Smart Cannonading this three days past at the fort on Delaware <sup>57</sup> and it is reported that the Enemy Were Building a Battery on Province Island But Our fire Was So heavy the Enemy Were forced to Strike and Surrender them Selves Prisoners at that place Were taken 3 Brass Twelve pounders, 1 Capt of the artillery and Six Men 50 of the light Infantry and Officers accordingly, it is Daily Expected that We Shall have the

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other tryal for Philadelphia Our army are in high Spirits and Wait With impatience  
for the other Brush – I have no More at present Only that I am in Verry good  
health and in high Sprits I hope this may find you and all the family in health, I  
Remain With Respect and Obedience your Dutiful Son

W Beatty

N B the Breeches I hope you Will procure for I want them Verry Bad

(Addressed) Col W<sup>m</sup> Beatty

Fred<sup>k</sup>. County

Maryland

Pr. Favour<sup>d</sup>.

By Symm

4. – Captain Beatty to His Father.

English Township June 30<sup>th</sup> 1778<sup>58</sup>

Honoured Father

I With Pleasure take this Opertunity to  
inform you that I am in health Hoping this Will find you and the family in the Same  
State the Day before yesterday Was our Glorious Day, for after an action of Six  
hours Our Troops made the Enemy leave the Field With about 300 Dead besides  
40 Wounded that they could not carry off there Was 1 Captain and 3 Subalterns  
among the number and Col Monckton Killed With a number of Other officers of  
the Enemy Our loss is not Supposed to be More than 100 Killed and Wounded  
Capt Bayly By Whom this Comes Will be able to inform you the particulars of that



Days action for he Was in the Heat of it, Our Divison form'd the rear line Which Was Not Engaged at All <sup>59</sup> I am Verry Sorry that I Could not See you When you Was at Wilmington for I am informed You Was Verry Uneasy on account of Some Scandalous Reports Raised to injure my Carrachter but thank God I hope that I can produce Recommendations in the regt that Will make every Raskal hang his head that Ever attempted to injure Me, I hope you Will not make yourself uneasy On that account for I Defy any Scandalous Reports that they Can Make. I have no time to Continue at Present but the next Opertunity I Will indeavor to let you Know how things Stand With respect to Myself, I now Conclude With remaining your most obedient Son

W. Beatty

(addressed) Col. W<sup>m</sup> Beatty Maryland

avored by Capt. Bayly

5. - Captain Beatty to His Father

Camp Guildford Court House, Febry 8<sup>th</sup> 81 <sup>60</sup> <sup>61</sup>

Honoured Father

The last time I Wrote You Was from Hicks Creek <sup>62</sup> Which place We March'd from With the troops that lay there On the 29<sup>th</sup> of last Month this move of Ours Was in Consequence of the Enemies moveing Up the Kataba River Which they Cross'd the first instant and Made a Quick March by Salisbury to Sloinsford On the Yadkin Where they have lain ever Since till Yesterday When they Moved higher up the Yadkin & by Some reported to have Cross'd Or about Crossing,

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The Situation of Our army When we left Hicks Creek being much divided Obliged us to Make a very rapid March to form a Junction With Our light troops <sup>63</sup> under Genl Morgan Who at this time Were retiring before the Enemy – this day the Whole of Our Continental troops Will be assembled at this place, Our Continuance here Will entirely depend On the Movements of the Enemy, as to the Strength of the Enemy I don't immagin it to be much above 2000 regulars Which to the Shame of the States be it Said are too many for us to Engage <sup>64</sup>Without Some Providential advantage – Genl Sumter With a body of Militia tis Said are in the rear of the Enemy disturbing their rear daily Col Campbell, Shelby & others from up Wards are expected With Some rifle men <sup>65</sup> – Should We Engage the Enemy & obtain a Victory I am fully of opinion they Will not be able to Make a retreat for all our friends in these States are ready to take the advantage of Our Success, Just before We March'd from Hicks Creek Col Lee <sup>66</sup> With his Legion took George Town, Commanded by Lt. Col. Campbell Who is prisoner, Campbells Major Was Killed as to other particulars I am unacquainted With them, I hope the next time You hear from me Will be after We have expell'd Our Enemies untill Which time I Continue your most dutifull & obedient Son

W.H. Beatty

N B all our heavy Baggage is Sent to Hillsborough

(Addressed)

Mr. Lockett will be pleased

to forward this to Fredk Town by the first oppertunity

Feb 8<sup>th</sup> 81

Col. W<sup>m</sup> Beatty

Fredk County

Maryland.

6. Captain Beatty to his Father

Camp Buffalo Creek 10 miles from Guildford Court House 3<sup>d</sup> March 81 <sup>67</sup>

Honoured Sir

about the 8<sup>th</sup> of last Month While on our retreat to Virginia I Wrote you from Guildford Ct House. Our army the 10<sup>th</sup> following left that place & On the 14<sup>th</sup> Crossed Boyds & Irvins ferries On Dan river the Enemy pursuing us Closely all this Way Our retreat Was Covered by Col Lee's Legion, Whites & Washington's Horse, five Companys of Light Infantry & Some Rifle Men, Militia the Whole Was Commanded by Col Williams <sup>68</sup> Who Was appointed to that Command Genl Morgan being Sick absent Notwithstanding the Enemies Superior Strength & the Close pursuit they gave us Our Retreat Was So Well Conducted that We lost nothing in it but Some extent of Settlement Which if it Was not for the effect it Might have in the general Cause & On Some Individuals it had Much better be in the possession of a British Tyrant than in that of a free & Independent State for Certain I am that above three fourths of the people Where the British has been in this State are the greatest Villians On Earth, therefore a tyrant ruler Would become them better than an Independent Goverment, The day after We retreated from Guildford the Enemies advance being So near Our light troops Rear that Col Lee found an ambuscade

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With Some of his Horse & entirely two officers & 22 Men he killed a Lt & 14 Men & took a Capt & 8, all belonging to Tarletons Horse besides those Many other prisoners have been taken While they lay in Hillsborough Where they March'd to after We had Cross'd the Dan, they had a Piquet Cut off Consisting of an officer & between 20 & 30 Men, Yesterday Was brought into Our Camp prisoners of a Lt Col of new levies & a Lt of the 23<sup>d</sup> Regt the Cols name is fields he Was a prisoner in Fredrick When the n,c, tories Where there, after Our army had Cross'd Dan We Cross'd another Small River Called Banister about Seven Miles from the former & March'd as far as Virginia as Halifax Court House <sup>69</sup> Which is about Six Miles north of Banister at this place We lay Untill the 20<sup>th</sup> of Febry on Which day We began to return to n. c, by the Same Way We left it ever Since Which time We have been maneuvering <sup>70</sup> the night before last We lay all night & all day Yesterday within 10 Miles of the Whole British army they Have left Hillsborough & lay at that time on the ground where the Battle Was fought between Governor Tryon & the n, c,. Regulators in the year 70 We lay on the road leading from Hillsborough to Guildford Ct House about 15 miles from the latter, last night We mov'd to this place Which is north of the road We lay in Yesterday & it is reported the Enemy have mov'd across roads 22 miles South of Guildford. Our light troops Who have been Considerably Strengthened by Militia & Riflemen from Virginia & this State are Some Where between us and the Enemy Yesterday there happened a Skirmish between Some of ours & the British Parties there Was nothing Material but a few Wounded On each Side, Lees Legion & Some Riflemen the parties Conversd on our Side, Our army has

been Considerably Reinforced by the Militia of this State & Virginia We expect daily to be join'd by 1000 Back Woods Rifle Men under Col Campbell<sup>71</sup> When he joins it is generally thought that We Shall press the Enemy early & perhaps bring on a general Engagement Which I think they Will try to avoid untill they Recross the Yadkin Which Seems to be their intention by the Rout they March. We have reports in Camp that Genl Sumter & Marion are Driving all before them in S. Carolina that Lord Rawden March'd from Camden With about 4 or 500 Men to join Lord Cornwallis in this State So Soon as the former left Camden tis Said Sumter took it, it being garrisoned by none but Invalids & a few new levies – On the 25<sup>th</sup> of last month Col Lee being informed of about 300 Tories Who Were Assembled about 25 Miles from Hillsborough On the road leading to Guildford to Join the British he March'd & fell in With them in the Evening & Killed about 200 few of the others Escaped Without a Wound, I have never received a line from You Since I left home Should be extremely glad to hear how You & all the family are also how the State of Maryland Comes on in raising recruits to Compleat their Regiments, I Wish With all my heart the States in general Would exert themselves in that particular I am Sure We Want nothing but a few

Expell the Enemy from our Country I wrote by Lt Price for Some articles they will be Sent for I am in the greatest Want of them & there is not a possibility of getting them here Please to remember my best respects to all the Family Who I hope with Yourself are all in perfect Health I have been in Very good State of Health ever Since I left Home, Believe me Sir to be with the Sincerest respect your most



## End Notes

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<sup>1</sup> Less than two weeks before the Declaration of Independence

<sup>2</sup> There is a note on the inside cover of Beatty's Journal that says "Born 19th June 1758. This would mean that it was just a few days after his eighteenth birthday when he joined the Flying Camp.

<sup>3</sup> These companies had a Captain, Two Lieutenants, and one Ensign. The officers in Beatty's company were:  
FREDERICK COUNTY-MIDDLE DISTRICT. [FREDERICK COUNTY.]

Capt. Philip Meroney

1 Lt. Elisha Beall

2 Lt. John Hellen

**Ensign William Beatty, Jr**

Capt. Jacob Good

1 Lt. John Baptist Thompson

2 Lt. John Ghiselin

Ensign John Smith

Capt. Peter Mantz

1 Lt. Adam Grosh

2 Lt. Peter Adams

Ensign John Richardson \*

(Maryland Archives Online. *Muster Rolls and Other Records of Service of Maryland Troops in the American Revolution* Volume 18, Page 44

<sup>4</sup> The Continental Congress passed a resolution on June 3, 1776 to call forth a "Flying Camp" to be furnished by Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware, as follows: "FLYING CAMP.

### RESOLVES OF CONTINENTAL CONGRESS.

3 June, 1776.

"Resolved, That a flying camp be immediately established in the middle colonies; and that it consist of 10000 men ; to complete which number,

Resolved, That the colony of Pennsylvania be requested to furnish of their militia 6000, Maryland, of their militia 3400, Delaware government, of their militia 600.

Resolved, That the militias be engaged to the first day of December next, unless sooner discharged by Congress."

(Reference: Maryland Archives Online. *Muster Rolls and Other Records of Service of Maryland Troops in the American Revolution* Volume 18, Page 29)

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<sup>5</sup> Maryland responded to Congress's request for a Flying Camp with their own Resolution, which interestingly limited these troops geographically to the Middle Colonies. The Maryland Convention was not willing to let these troops go into New England, or to let this unit serve for more than six months.

RESOLVES OF THE MARYLAND CONVENTION OF JUNE, 1776.

25 June, 1776.

"Resolved unanimously, That this province will furnish 3405 of its militia, to form a flying camp, and to act with the militia of Pennsylvania and the Delaware government in the middle department; that is to say, from this province to New York inclusive, according to the request of the Congress in their resolutions of the 3d day of this instant June."

These companies were to serve within said limits until 1 December, 1776, unless sooner discharged by Congress. None were to be compelled to serve out of said limits or beyond 1 December. They were to be arranged in 4 battalions and 1 company, each battalion consisting of 9 companies. Warrants were to be issued, by the President of the Convention, to the persons appointed by the Convention, to enroll the non-commissioned officers and privates. A captain was to enroll 30, a lieutenant 20, and an ensign 16 men. Enrollments, even if not completed, were to be returned to the Convention, or Council of Safety, by July 20th. If any enrollments were not complete, the Convention, or Council of Safety, could commission the persons to whom the warrants were directed or any other persons, as would best promote the service. Enrollments were to be of those who voluntarily offered themselves. All who enrolled were to sign the following enrollment: "We the subscribers, do hereby enroll ourselves to serve as militia of Maryland in the middle department, that is to say, from this province to New York inclusive, until the first day of December next, unless sooner discharged by the honourable Congress according to the resolutions of the Convention of Maryland, held at Annapolis the 21st day of June, 1776."

(Reference: Maryland Archives Online. *Muster Rolls and Other Records of Service of Maryland Troops in the American Revolution* Volume 18, Page 29)

<sup>6</sup> Flying Camp - "a mobile, strategic reserve." [Encyclopedia of the American Revolution](#) by Mark Mayo Boatner P. 371.

<sup>7</sup> Entry in the Maryland Archives. "Frederick County. At the request of Lt. John Hellen, I have this day Reviewed and Passed twelve able bodied effective men for the Flying Camp. I also Reviewed and Passed, on the 14th Instant, twenty four effective men for the Flying Camp for Ensign Wm. Beatty, Jr., eight of which



he requests may be appropriated for Lt. John Hellen's Warrant. Given under my hand this 20th day of July, 1776.

Joseph Wood, Jr.

(Reference: Maryland Archives Online. *Muster Rolls and Other Records of Service of Maryland Troops in the American Revolution*. Volume 18, Page 48.)

<sup>8</sup> By the time that Beatty's Unit of the Flying Camp reached the New York area, the American Army had already been pushed off Long Island. Howe had landed at Gravesend on August 22, passed through Jamaica Pass on August 26. The famous "Maryland 400" defense of Gowanus Creek was on August 27. Howe confronted the main lines on Brooklyn Heights on August 29. Washington (with Glover's Marbleheaders manning the boats) evacuated Brooklyn Heights and got his entire force safely back to Manhattan the night of August 29.

<sup>9</sup> The British landed a force at Kip's Bay on the eastern shore of Manhattan on September 15. Putnam's division had to rush out of New York City (then only on the tip of Manhattan) to get away safely to Harlem Heights and join the rest of the American Army before the British could cut him off.

<sup>10</sup> This is the Battle of Harlem Heights, where Howe assaulted the main American position on September 16, 1776. The Americans were in fixed fortifications, and inflicted twice as many casualties on the British as they received.

<sup>11</sup> Washington retreated out of Manhattan up the Bronx River to White Plains, where they were attacked by Howe on October 28, 1776. Beatty makes no mention of this Battle. All of John Eager Howard's biographies say he took part in that Battle, although details of his involvement have not been found. The mention of White Plains in Howard documents does suggest that at least part of the Flying Camp participated in some way, as Howard was in the Flying Camp at that time.

<sup>12</sup> A map of the area shows "Schralenburg" during this era. There is apparently no longer a town of that name, but there is a Schralenburg Road in Bergen County, New Jersey. (Reference: *A Battlefield Atlas of the American Revolution* by Craig L. Symonds, P. 28)

<sup>13</sup> Washington's Army crossed the Hudson from Peekskill to Haverstraw on November 10, and marched to Hackensack. (Reference: *A Battlefield Atlas of the American Revolution* by Craig L. Symonds, P. 29.)

<sup>14</sup> Fort Washington, the last remaining American position on Manhattan, surrendered to the British on November 16, 1776. This was a disaster of major proportions for the Americans. 2,800 Americans (including Otho Holland

Williams of Maryland) surrendered, and went into a horrible captivity in New York. Stores, ammunition, and artillery were also lost.

<sup>15</sup> The evacuation of Fort Lee left another post to the British, and represented another major loss of artillery, ammunition, and stores. At least the American army got away.

<sup>16</sup> This is Beatty's description of his part of the miserable American retreat across New Jersey after the loss of the New York campaign. The American Army virtually melted away. Washington had started out defending New York with some 20,000 men. By the time he had been pushed across the breadth of New Jersey and reached the Delaware River, his force had dwindled to some 3,000.

<sup>17</sup> The Maryland Convention's Resolution about the Flying Camp had limited their service until December 1, 1776. Washington's Papers show that he tried mightily to keep the Flying Camp under arms, but both Beatty and John Eager Howard stuck to their Flying Camp commitment, and ended their service on December 1. As a result, both Beatty and Howard missed the battles that literally saved the Revolutionary cause, Trenton on Christmas Day, 1776, and Princeton on January 2, 1777. Beatty's Journal reflects his regret that he was not there to support Washington during those trying times.

<sup>18</sup> Beatty arrived home to Frederick County, Maryland 11 days before the Battle of Trenton.

<sup>19</sup> Beatty must have performed well in the Flying Camp, where he served as an Ensign. After six months of service in that capacity, he was commissioned a Lieutenant in the Continental Service.

<sup>20</sup> The Maryland Archives have the following entry for Beatty: Beatty, William Lieut 10 dec 76 paid Capt 14 Sept 78. (Reference: Maryland Archives Online. *Muster Rolls and Other Records of Service of Maryland Troops in the American Revolution*. Volume 18, Page 189.)

<sup>21</sup> Lincoln's Gap is in the vicinity of Morristown, New Jersey. There is a Revolutionary War era map that shows this encampment.

<sup>22</sup> The Passaic River Falls were a sightseeing spot in the eighteenth century. James McHenry accompanied George Washington there in July, 1778. McHenry said that they were not as impressive as Niagara Falls or other falls on the Mohawk River. None the less, Washington was impressed as they were the first falls he had seen. (Reference: *George Washington in the American Revolution* by James Thomas Flexner. P. 318.)

<sup>23</sup> In the summer of 1777, Howe decided to attack Philadelphia from the South. He embarked a large part of his army onto British ships, which first tried to penetrate the Delaware Bay, and then decided to attack via the Chesapeake Bay. They passed by Baltimore in late August, and landed at Head of Elk on August 25.

<sup>24</sup> Washington shifted his army south to meet Howe and defend Philadelphia.

<sup>25</sup> This is the Battle of Brandywine, September 11, 1777.

<sup>26</sup> The Americans right was routed at Brandywine when Cornwallis led a force that attacked the American lines from the unexpected position to their far right.

<sup>27</sup> It is estimated that the Americans lost 1,000 in killed, wounded and prisoners at Brandywine, and that the British losses were half that. (Reference: A Battlefield Atlas of the American Revolution by Craig L. Symonds, P. 53.)

<sup>28</sup> For several weeks the Americans and British maneuvered in the area around Philadelphia. Beatty describes his own unit's daily activities during this jockeying for position between the armies.

<sup>29</sup> Samuel Smith of the Maryland troops was one of the men sent to the Mud Fort, which was in the Delaware River south of Philadelphia. It's position was intended to keep the British fleet from being able to get to the city and provide supplies. Although Smith performed gallantly (and was awarded a sword by the Congress for his efforts there) the Fort inevitably had to be evacuated due to superior British force.

<sup>30</sup> The American victory at Bennington, Vermont was on August 16, 1777, and the victory at Freeman's Farm (the first of the two major engagements at Saratoga) was on September 19, 1777.

<sup>31</sup> This is the Battle of Germantown, October 4, 1777. Both Beatty and John Eager Howard were heavily engaged this day, when the American troops befitted themselves well. They were finally beaten by a bad decision to try to root out the defenders of the Chew mansion (Cliveden), a heavy fog, and the unfortunate arrival of some American troops at a spot on the Battlefield where they wound up firing on other Americans.

<sup>32</sup> A *feu de joy* was a form of military celebration, in which musket fire was timed to progress from one man to the next, producing a continuous roar. (Reference: Encyclopedia of the American Revolution. Mark Mayo Boatner. P. 366.)

<sup>33</sup> The second celebratory firing the Beatty mentions was for the American victory at Bemis Heights on October 7, 1777 (the second of the major battles at Saratoga.)

<sup>34</sup> This last celebratory firing is for Burgoyne's surrender to Gates on October 17, 1777.

<sup>35</sup> Most of Washington's Army wintered at Valley Forge in 1777-78. The Maryland troops had a much better situation in their winter quarters in Wilmington, Delaware.

<sup>36</sup> The Maryland troops marched from Wilmington to Valley Forge at the end of the Winter of 1777-78, and spent a few weeks there before moving with the Army into New Jersey before the Battle of Monmouth. Although Beatty does not mention it, it is probable that the Maryland troops received instruction in Von Steuben's new Manual and techniques during that time.

<sup>37</sup> William Howe resigned his command while he occupied Philadelphia, and returned to England. He was succeeded by Henry Clinton, who sent Tories and supplies back to New York via ships, while he marched his army across New Jersey to return to his New York base.

<sup>38</sup> This is the Battle of Monmouth, June 28, 1778, where Washington attacked the rear of Clinton's army, as it marched from Philadelphia to New York.

<sup>39</sup> The Maryland troops (including Beatty and John Eager Howard) were not in the advanced American force commanded by Charles Lee that made the initial contact with the British. The Marylanders were at Englishtown with the main army, and were called forward late in the afternoon to help stem a British advance.

<sup>40</sup> Interesting that the preferred mode of transportation between Philadelphia and Wilmington was by boat.

<sup>41</sup> Convention prisoners were (presumably) prisoners from Burgoyne's Army that had surrendered at Saratoga.

<sup>42</sup> This is probably the flamboyant and effective Patrick Ferguson, who was to be killed at King's Mountain.

<sup>43</sup> "Mad Anthony: Wayne surprised a British garrison at Stony Point ( on the Hudson River, about 35 miles north of New York City) on July 16, 1779.

<sup>44</sup> "Light Horse Harry" Lee (Robert E. Lee's father) surprised and overwhelmed a British garrison at Paulus Hook (South of New York City on the Jersey shore of the Hudson River) on August 19, 1779.

<sup>45</sup> Beatty was home on recruiting duty from January 20, 1780 to August 20, 1780. During this time, the Maryland troops had left the Northern Army in April, 1780 and marched under the command of Baron De Kalb south to join the Southern Army. While they were enroute to reinforce the American Army at Charleston under Benjamin Lincoln, Charleston fell on May 12. Horatio Gates was dispatched to the South to take command, and suffered a disastrous defeat at Camden, South Carolina on August 15, 1780. He was relieved by George Washington's most trusted subordinate, Nathanael Greene, in early December, 1780. Beatty and the troops he had recruited reached the Southern Army shortly after Greene had taken command.

<sup>46</sup> Shortly after taking command, Greene decided that he needed to split his force. He personally led his main army, which included William Beatty, east to a "camp of repose" on Hicks Creek at Cheraws, South Carolina. The other portion of the army, the Light Army under Daniel Morgan, traveled southwest from Charlotte to the northeastern tip of South Carolina on the Pacolet River.

<sup>47</sup> The Maryland Archives show the following roster of officers for the Second Maryland Regiment, January 1, 1781:

2ND REGIMENT.

Col.	John Gunby	17 Apl '77	17 Lieut. Christr.	Richmond	27 May '78
<b>Lt. Col.</b>	<b>John E. Howard</b>	<b>11 Mch '79</b>	22 do	George Jacobs	14 Sept do
Major	John Dean	do do 27 do		John Carr	12 Apl '79
2 Capt.	Benj. Brookes	1 Jan '77	32 do	William Adams	8 June do
7 do	Alex. Trueman	do do 37 do		Nicholas Gassaway	
12 do	Jonathan Morris	14 Apl do	42 do	Arthur Harris	26 Oct do
17 do	Walker Muse	10 June do	47 do	Thomas Price	11 Feb '80
22 do	William Wilmot	15 Oct do	52 do	William Murdoch	1 Apl do
27 do	John Jordan	20 Dec do	57 do	Zedekiah Moore	10 Sept do
<b>32 do</b>	<b>Wm. Beatty</b>	<b>14 Sept '78</b>	62 do	Mark McPherson	1
					Jan '81
37 do	Thomas Mason	8 June '79	2 Ensign	Jacob Crawford	26 Jan '80
42 do	John Gassaway	2 Apl '80	7 do	William Smoote	do do
2 Capt.	Lt. Adam Hoops	15 Dec '79	12 do	James Arthur	17 June do
7 do	Edward Dyer	10 Sept '80		Surgeon	Walter Warfield
12 Lieut.	Jno. A. Hamilton	1 Feb '78			

(Reference: Maryland Archives Online. *Muster Rolls and Other Records of Service of Maryland Troops in the American Revolution*. Volume 18, Page 362.)

<sup>48</sup> The *feu de joie* that Greene's army fired was to celebrate the victory of Daniel Morgan over Banastre Tarleton at Cowpens on January 17, 1781. John Eager Howard, William Washington, and Andrew Pickens were Morgan's key subordinates at that battle.

<sup>49</sup> Stevens commanded Virginia militia at the Battle of Camden, where they fled precipitously, much to Stevens' embarrassment. At his next battle (Guilford Court House on March 15, 1781), he placed sharpshooters behind his lines with orders to shoot any man who abandoned his post. Otho Williams referred to Stevens as "the gallant Stevens."

<sup>50</sup> When Stevens and his militia returned to Virginia, they escorted the British prisoners from Cowpens north.

<sup>51</sup> This letter of September 18, 1776 was written two days after the Battle of Harlem Heights.

<sup>52</sup> This was Magaw at Fort Mifflin. Beatty's comments reflect the Americans' confidence in that fixed fortification. That confidence was misplaced; Magaw surrendered on November 16, 1776. This loss was a disaster to the American cause, with some 2,800 men taken prisoner.

<sup>53</sup> This letter of October 6, 1777, was written two days after the Battle of Germantown.

<sup>54</sup> A thick fog on the day of the Battle was one of the factors that slowed the American advance at Germantown, and contributed to the British holding the field at the end of the day.

<sup>55</sup> This letter of October 13, 1777, was written nine days after the Battle of Germantown.

<sup>56</sup> So far in the Saratoga campaign, the Americans had won victories at Bennington, Vermont on August 16 and at Freeman's Farm on September 19, 1777.

<sup>57</sup> This is the Mud Fort where Samuel Smith was fighting.

<sup>58</sup> This letter of June 30, 1778 is written two days after the Battle of Monmouth.

<sup>59</sup> As per his Journal, Beatty confirms that his part of the Maryland troops was in the rear part of the American Army, and was not engaged at Monmouth.

<sup>60</sup> This letter is written on February 8, 1781, three weeks after the Battle of Cowpens, and six days before the American Army under Nathanael Greene crossed the Dan River into Virginia and left the pursuing Lord Cornwallis and his Army on the South side of the Dan, unable to cross. This portion of the war is called "The Race to the Dan." After the Battle of Cowpens, Greene had to unite the two halves of his force, one that had been under his personal command at Cheraws, South Carolina, and Daniel Morgan's Light Army, which fought 140 miles to the East at Cowpens.

<sup>61</sup> This letter is written from Guilford Court House, where an important Battle will occur a few weeks hence on March 15, 1781. It is generally believed that Greene had time to study this ground during the Army's February stop here, which helped him plan the disposition of his troops for the Guilford Court House fight.

<sup>62</sup> Hicks Creek was the location of Greene's "camp of repose" at Cheraws, South Carolina.

<sup>63</sup> Beatty is referring to Greene's effort to unite his force and win the "race to the Dan."

<sup>64</sup> Not enough troops came in to fill the American ranks. Greene decided that he had to retreat into the safety of Virginia on the north side of the Dan River, to refit and regroup. He would have to wait until he had more men to seek battle with Cornwallis.

<sup>65</sup> Thomas Sumter, "The Gamecock," was an independent South Carolina militia commander who pestered the British successfully, but who was an irritation to Nathanael Greene because he would not submit to central coordination. Campbell and Shelby were successful leaders of "over-mountain" riflemen, who attracted and commanded units of tough frontiersmen. Both Shelby and Campbell were part of the American forces at King's Mountain, the American victory on October 7, 1780. King's Mountain is not mentioned in Beatty's writings, and it happened while he was marching south from Maryland to meet up with Greene's army.

<sup>66</sup> "Light Horse Harry" Lee, father of Robert E. Lee, was an outstanding cavalry commander. His *Memoirs* are a fine piece of Revolutionary War history, written in a robust, colorful style. Historians seem to think that he is a very reliable source, except when he is writing about his own exploits. John Eager Howard reviewed much of Lee's work (both Lee's original work and his son Henry, Jr's revision, which was written after "Light Horse Harry's" death,) and is cited for it in the text.

<sup>67</sup> This letter of March 3, 1781, is written after Beatty and his troops have crossed back into North Carolina and are seeking battle with Cornwallis. The Battle of Guilford Court House happens twelve days later, on March 15, 1781.

<sup>68</sup> Colonel Otho Williams commanded Greene's screening force of about 700 men on the final retreat to the Dan, and when the American army re-crossed back into North Carolina in late February. Williams was chosen for this important post after Daniel Morgan was forced to retire to his home in Virginia due to poor health - probably sciatica and hemorrhoids. John Eager Howard was Williams' infantry commander in this screening force.

<sup>69</sup> Halifax Court House was the location north of the Dan River where Greene had rested his army, refitted, and drawn recruits after the "race to the Dan."

<sup>70</sup> Greene had his army change positions every day, as he maneuvered to try to bring Cornwallis to battle at a time and place that gave advantage to the Americans.

<sup>71</sup> Greene had been reinforced from many sources while he was at Halifax, Virginia, and troops continued to be drawn to his army as he maneuvered to bring Cornwallis to battle.