

LANCASTER COUNTY IN THE VARIOUS WARS.

In all the wars of our country Lancaster county was always among the first to respond.

In 1744 a company was raised in the Conestoga Valley for defense against the French in the war of France and Spain with England.

Two companies were raised in Lancaster county, by the King's command, out of 400 men from the province of Pennsylvania, called in service on June 9, 1746, to be employed in concert with the regular forces in the immediate reduction of Canada, then belonging to France.

In 1747-8 there were two regiments in Lancaster county, comprising thirty-two companies, commanded by Colonels Thomas Cookson and Benjamin Chambers. They were militia, and called "Associated Regiments."

In the French and Indian War of 1754 Lancaster county responded promptly. I could not find the number of enlisted men, but as there were forty-seven commissioned officers, the proportion of enlisted men for the population of that period must have been more than fair.

In the War of the Revolution, so soon as the people of Lancaster county learned of the Boston trouble they at once commenced preparations and publicly expressed their feelings at a meeting held in Lancaster in June, 1774, at which representatives were present from nearly all the towns or townships in the county. This meant

treason to the English crown. Two companies of "expert riflemen" were formed, and, without waiting for the other seven comprising the Pennsylvania battalion, they marched to the seat of war, arriving at Cambridge, Mass., early in July, 1775, where they rendered efficient service and were highly complimented. How many from Lancaster county joined the Continental army I have been unable to discover. I have seen the names of 577 in the regular forces, but there were many more who entered active service during the urgent calls of 1776, 1777 and 1778, taking part in the battles of Brandywine, Germantown, Long Island and Monmouth, and as members of the "Flying Camp," of which the muster rolls have never been published, also in the various campaigns in New York and New Jersey. Some authorities claim there were thirty companies of about 2,500 men.

In the war of 1812-15 with England, I find 830 names credited to Lancaster county, but there were probably some who joined the army elsewhere and were not credited to the county.

In the Mexican War of 1846-48, many entered the service from Lancaster county, of which I have not been able to see the muster rolls, but it is known that a considerable number joined various commands at Philadelphia, Harrisburg, and other points or rendezvous, and probably were so credited.

In the Civil War of 1861-5, Lancaster county responded when the news was received that Fort Sumpter had been fired upon. I find by my own actual count of the muster rolls of various organizations in the United States service the names of 11,925 credited to the county, and I know there were many more for which the county did

not receive credit, who joined regiments at other and larger places. From my personal knowledge, I know this to be the fact with entire companies.

In the War with Spain, of 1898, Lancaster county responded promptly. Three companies, one from Lancaster and two from Columbia, served in Porto Rico with the Fourth Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, commanded by Colonel D. B. Case, of Marietta. In addition to this seventy from Lancaster county, of whom sixty-five were from Marietta, joined Company I, Eighth Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, of Wrightsville, York county. About 400 entered the service from Lancaster county, all that the Government would accept.

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