



BRITISH HUT CAMP ON THE DYCKMAN FARM

War of the American Revolution

Painted by John Ward Dunsmore

RELICS OF THE REVOLUTION

THE STORY OF THE DISCOVERY
OF THE BURIED REMAINS OF MILITARY LIFE
IN FORTS AND CAMPS ON
MANHATTAN ISLAND

By

REGINALD PELHAM BOLTON

Trustee of

The American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society

Member of

The New York Historical Society

The City History Club, Etc.

Author of

"The Defense and Reduction of Mount Washington"

"The Indians of Washington Heights," Etc.

WITH MILITARY NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS
CONTRIBUTED BY
W. L. CALVER AND JOHN WARD DUNSMORE

Published by the Author
55 Liberty Street, New York
1916

E. 363
-16269

Copyright, 1916
REGINALD PELHAM BOLTON

\$ 2.50

© JLA41882S

FEB 12 1916

20-1.

To my fellow laborers
William L. Calver
John Ward Dunsmore
Edward Hagaman Hall



PREFACE

The information which has been secured by the explorations which are herein described, has established the character, as well as the location of most of the fortified places and camps of the troops of the contending Armies of the Revolution, on and around the northern portion of the Island of Manhattan, and comparison of the facts and objects disclosed by the work, with historical records, has resulted in some addition to our knowledge of the difficulties and dangers of that interesting period in our country's history.

The work has been conducted for its own reward, the establishment of historical fact, the preservation of valuable remains, and the enjoyment and instruction of the public.

The work has been productive, as we have reason to believe, of practical and far-reaching value in the interest it has awakened in the historic past of our city in a large number of our citizens, old and young, an interest which cannot fail of beneficial effects in promoting the growth of patriotism and good citizenship.

The work has attracted hundreds of visitors, has interested and informed numbers of children, has provided a theme for many newspaper articles, and the exhibition of the poor rusted objects in public places has proved a source of keen interest to thousands of visitors from all parts of our country.

In these saddened days of world warfare and misery, it would indeed be a misfortune and one that the circle of workers would greatly deplore, if the results of their labor, and the interest evoked thereby should lead to any increased martial spirit or any approval of war as a means of settlement of even a righteous cause.

To all true Americans we believe the vision that we have helped to open, of some of the events of the strenuous throes of our dear

Preface

country's liberty, will be welcome not only as a reminder of our forefathers' determination and suffering, but as an illustration of the futility of warfare and oppression.

The Kingsbridge road is bright to-day,
Bedecked with nature's colors gay,
The yellow dust upon the sod
Is but the gold of goldenrod.

The hills around once more are green,
As when with other eyes were seen
Within this steep and narrow gorge
The royal banners of King George.

The sleepy tide by Harlem's plain
Ebbs southward, but returns again;
So came the soldiers, dim and gray,
That here made fight one bygone day.

On yonder height, where clings the pine,
Was massed the Continental line;
'Twas there with fire and musket crack
The armies struggled forth and back.

Perchance by night the battle train
Storms, fights, and then retreats again.
Perchance the pines hide misty hosts,
With sentries wan and picket ghosts.

Long silenced is their warlike shout;
Their drums are stilled, their lights are out;
And few remember those who trod
Above the green and springing sod.

Yet they are here. In trenches deep,
Yankee and Hessian soldiers sleep.
The kindly earth is their abode;
God rest them by the Kingsbridge road!

JOHN JAMES MEEHAN.

CONTENTS

I. The Search for Relics.....	9
II. Reminders of the Revolution.....	18
III. The American Army on the Heights.....	30
IV. The British and Hessian Armies on the Heights.....	40
V. Washington's Headquarters and the Camp of the 38th Foot Regiment	49
VI. Camp of the Musketeer Regiment von Donop.....	60
VII. The Van Oblienis Farm.....	64
VIII. Fort Washington, or Fort Mifflin.....	74
IX. Barracks of the Fort Washington Garrison.....	85
X. The Hessian Hut Camp.....	102
XI. Laurel Hill, later Fort George.....	109
XII. Fort Tryon, or Forest Hill.....	121
XIII. The Camp of the Hessian Body Guard.....	129
XIV. The Hut Camp of the Seventeenth Regiment of Foot.....	143
XV. The Hut Camp on the Dyckman Farm.....	167
XVI. Holland's Ferry Camp.....	185
XVII. The Nagel Homestead, or Century House.....	196
XVIII. The Exterior Forts and Encampments.....	202



I

THE SEARCH FOR RELICS

The occupation of the relic hunter is particularly fascinating. The peculiar interest of the study of historical events when conducted upon the scene of their occurrence is increased by the possibilities of finding objects connected with them, and something of the passion of the explorer, of the voyager and of the miner is combined in the work of searching for sites, which culminates in the interest of actual excavation for these long hidden reminders. The uncertainty of results is an incentive to effort, and to crown the whole, there is the pleasure of possession of the objects disclosed, which constitutes the reward of the collector.

Above all, the pursuit is not only productive of interest, but is conducive to good health; even the severe labor of digging under summer sunshine, under such stimulating conditions, has proved to be beneficial to the participants. To all this is added the mental satisfaction, that by means of some personal effort, an addition has been made to the sum of human knowledge, and interest and pleasure are later found in placing the objects where the public may share in their observation and benefit by their study.

Such have been the accompaniments of the work, conducted in the scant intervals that have been available between professional occupation and daily duties, of the tracing, discovering, locating and excavating of aboriginal, colonial and military remains on the upper end of the Island of Manhattan and the vicinity, conducted during periods of nearly twenty years by Mr. W. L. Calver and the writer, frequently aided by Dr. Edward Hagaman Hall, by Messrs. John Ward Dunsmore, Jeremiah Hunter, and Percy and Leslie Spier, and at times by other interested, though perhaps somewhat less persistent fellow-workers, such as Dr. Montgomery Schuyler.

To such enthusiasts there is an invigorating incentive, in freedom to roam together over public lands, on private and vacant

Relics of the Revolution

properties, over street excavations, and along the banks of river and brook, eager expectation sharpening the vision, as the surface or broken bank is scanned for signs of one-time occupation, or for abandoned materials of interest.

Or, upon some place of possible interest indicated by a study of topographical condition or by historical records or maps, the work of digging and trenching is commenced, each member of the party taking a turn at the alternate operations of breaking the turf, or of lifting, sorting and sifting the soil, while the exposure of signs of interest concentrates the attention of all upon the selected expert, who with accustomed care, breaks out the layer of debris, or picks away the earthen casing of the half-disclosed relic. Even if actual results are disappointing, the day is never lost, for community of interest begets discussion of interesting subjects, and conversation, banter, recital and humor lighten the strenuous labor. The work, too, is seldom lacking in attraction to the passer-by, and the eager questioning of visitors has resulted in establishing many a pleasant acquaintance and some long standing friendships. The discussion of the historical events connected with the "finds" has led to a decided increase of interest in the home locality by many residents and visitors.

To children, such work always appeals, their imagination generally begetting extravagant ideas of its possible results.

"What yer lookin' for, Mister?" is a stereotyped enquiry, humorously developed into the searching question by one future humorist, "What d'yer *think* yer lookin' for?" The commonest demands are whether Captain Kidd's treasure is being sought, or gold, or worms for bait.

No little aid is given by the willing schoolboy in the lighter work of sorting or searching, and often to equally practical effect, in conveying needed supplies of ginger ale or sarsaparilla, copious draughts of which assuage the heat of labor under the summer sun. With sharpened appetite the mid-day lunch of sandwiches and cake, under the friendly shade of some rock or tree, has a keen enjoyment, though the limited time not infrequently demands

The Search for Relics

that the work proceed while the worker eats. Thus it came about that the writer was caught in a photographic snap-shot, with a sandwich in one hand, and a long-deceased Indian's thigh-bone in the other, and may go down to posterity as having been afflicted with cannibalistic tendencies.

Speculation and imagination are brought into play when some new or unusual object is found. Often these objects are incased



Relic Hunters at Work

in a mass of caked rust and sand, and ere shape can be determined the crust must be picked away with some hand tool. One worker's expertness in this direction has become a standing joke with his fellows, who maintain that out of a given shapeless block he may fashion the result "to order." And when the partial disclosure of some buried object has been made, the excitement and interest are communicated to explorers and visitors alike, as with knife and scraper, trowel or gouge the material is dug away and the

Relics of the Revolution

whole of it is tenderly lifted to daylight. The little objects, such as buttons, are carefully handled and their surfaces cleaned with ancient toothbrushes, the larger "goods" with wire sink-brushes and the coarsest objects with a light hammer or pick. The process of excavation has been developed by practice. The purpose is to get *below* any layer or stratum of material which is encountered and thus ensure the removal of every part of it. For this purpose a hole is sometimes sunk a short distance away and the material is approached by a trenching process. If possible the material is exposed from the south, so as to secure the light of the sun upon the uncovered material. When the material lies deep, as in the case of pits dug by the soldiery of the Revolution, the work of heaving the material up is divided by cutting a step and having a second shoveller receive the soil at half the depth of the excavation. Recent excavations in hut sites have involved the use of a wheelbarrow, at which each explorer takes turn as the motive "mule."

The methods and tools employed in field work have been developed by experience and vary with the character of the material which is sought. Local aboriginal remains are nearly always accompanied by masses of oyster shells, which involve severe labor if excavated from the surface, and therefore, a hole is dug at one side of the debris, and the material is thus exposed and removed sideways. Experience in the rubbish heaps of old Colonial dwellings has led to the method of attack from the lowest point by digging to a depth a little below the bottom of the layer and dropping the frail debris into the sifter.

The casual fire-place, or camp-pit is difficult of definition, and its limits cannot always be traced. The level of debris is then reached by sinking or trenching, the top soil is removed in strips, exposing the layer of rubbish or ashes, which is then pried up by a fork, lifted and placed in a sieve. The camp huts discovered in recent years are located by the floor level to which a hole is dug and then excavating proceeds along this level in all directions till the limit of the floor is reached.

The Search for Relics

All kinds of tools have been tried and their respective virtues tested on this work. The most effective is a spade-fork of four tines which is used to cut up turf, and also to disturb layers of shells or of packed debris. A pointed shovel is used to lift the soil so as to ease the labor of penetration. A flat hoe is carried to scrape the layers of material together, and to scrape the face of the excavation occasionally and thus disclose its composition; also to pile up the loose material ready for the shovel. A set of light and short tools is carried on exploring expeditions, and the heavy tools brought into use after a "place" is located. A short flat shovel is most useful in working in narrow holes, such as graves, fireplaces or huts.

The best hand tool for small work and for getting objects out of their place is an asparagus cutter or a small trowel, which may be used to slice away the debris, as it is found sometimes in layers. A small hand-rake or scratcher with wide claws is used for removing shells, and for breaking up hard beds of packed sand or trodden earth.

The sieve or sifter is an apparatus of the highest effectiveness, competing with the trained eye of the explorer; and oftentimes proving itself the better of the two in discovering small objects hidden in the soil. Its effect is to dissect the artificial materials from the soil, and thus to decide the nature and value of the material and decide the value of the place for further exploration. The sieves used for exploring are sometimes the common cheap ash-sifters, which can be used up as required or left on the ground, if found inconvenient for carriage. For regular and heavy work a larger form is used, made of galvanized wire, with a mesh of about half an inch square, strongly bound with hoop iron to a wooden box-frame, the shape of which, by preference, is oblong. With such a sieve very rapid sifting may be effected in dry soil, and about a ton of earth may be passed through in a short day's work, provided the stuff is not only dry but free from roots and stones, by which unfavorable adjuncts the labor is often much increased. Where much material has to be handled one shoveler

Relics of the Revolution

can keep two sifters busy, each taking turn to sift and shovel at short intervals.

An effective addition to the means of exploration is the sounding rod or probe, which was devised by Mr. Calver, a slender and pointed steel rod set into a wooden handle, which can be pressed down into the soil, to locate obstructions and objects hidden below the surface. Practice makes perfect, and the constant use of this



Explorers and Visitors

implement affords the user almost as valuable service as an eye that could see below the sod. An object such as a stone can be determined by prodding its hard surface, and its size can be defined by piercing the soil around it. The feeling of an oyster shell is quite distinct, as it can be pierced by a sudden thrust, while a human bone is quite distinctive to the sense of feeling on the rod, and a tree root has as characteristic a "feel" as a bone or

The Search for Relics

a piece of metal. When a hard floor has been traced by the rod, the work of exploration consists in removing the top soil and heavy material down to a point just above the floor line, which is indicated by judgment. The surface of a floor can be located by the "sounder" very accurately. Then the layer of soil on the floor is sliced down by a flat shovel so as to avoid breaking the floor whether it be of brick or hard beaten sand or clay. This soil, if of promising appearance, is put through the sifter unless the objects left lying on the floor are readily discernible to the eye. The floor surface or any unusual object which crops out of the soil is brushed with a wire sink-brush, disclosing the nature of the surface.

Finally, when an object is secured it is often a mis-shaped mass of rusty sand if its composition be of iron or steel, and this is best broken away immediately, while damp, by a few sharp picking blows with a tool such as the asparagus knife. When the coarse coating is removed, which in the case of a cannon ball may be very similar to the casing of a cocoanut, often an inch thick, the finer cleaning is left for later treatment. But the interest attaching to bronze objects and to pewter and silver buttons is such as to brook no delay, so a well-worn tooth brush is brought into an extension of active service, and removes the thin crust of soil without destroying the characteristic color of the coin or badge, or the delicate design of the button-face. If the latter be evidently very frail as is usually the case with silver or gold faced buttons, the object is not cleaned in the field, but is placed in a little matchbox filled full of sand, and is thus protected from jar or shock on the way home, and also from the effects of too hasty drying, which is destructive to such material as bone or ivory.

Glass, chinaware and pottery are now recognized as of intrinsic value and interest. Its character forms an excellent index of dates of the material it accompanies, and with sufficient care, the bulk, if not all, of the component parts of a vessel or plate may often be collected and the object is restored to its original shape.

Relics of the Revolution

In some recent finds the entire fractured portions of broken plates, bowls, and cups have been secured from the "dump," and reconstructed complete by patient cleaning, matching and cementing. The process of restoration of chinaware and particularly of earthenware and more especially still of Indian pottery, is one requiring time, a delicate hand, and unlimited patience.

The matching of such scraps of broken ware, after being



An Interesting Moment

thoroughly washed, beats the game of puzzle pictures by a mile, both in the quality of patience it demands and the interest it creates. The pieces which match are determined by the "clinch" together of the fractured surfaces, and are then marked with India ink so as to be readily identified. In order to build up the structure of the vessel they are strapped together temporarily with strips of "passe-partout" or gummed paper, and gradually

The Search for Relics

extended into as complete a condition as the extent of the find admits. Then they are broken apart and all small pieces first united, and later the sections thus made up are joined, till perhaps the whole object comes together, a masterpiece of care and a personal triumph added to the satisfaction of the collector.

The most fruitful fields for new discovery have been the banks or cuts formed by streets or by cellar construction, or by the washing away of hillsides or river banks. The processes of nature, in this direction, can be aided by an occasional dislodging of some of the soil on the crest, so as to expose a fresh surface.

The practiced eye detects old buried surface lines, or the line of any artificial disturbance, the red mark of fire, or the black of decayed debris. On the hill-tops the layers of soil are thin, and any buried debris may be expected to be found lying below it on the rock surface. In the valleys, the processes of farming and of nature have often buried quite deeply the aboriginal or other remains, and the steel sounder must be the guide.

So, by watchful observation, by prodding, scratching, digging, and trenching the soil, by measuring, mapping and comparing the surface indications, the sites of the villages and tepees of the aborigines, of the abandoned homes, barns and out-houses of the colonists, and of the forts, campsites and barracks of the soldiery, who at one period or other during its past, occupied the heights and vales of upper Manhattan, have been located and uncovered, and by patient cleaning, reconstructing, and comparing, a large number of interesting evidences have been secured, ere the advance of brick and mortar and paving had smothered all chance of their further observation and preservation.

II

REMINDERS OF THE REVOLUTION

The delay in the development of the upper part of the Borough of Manhattan as a residential district long preserved its ancient character, and its recent opening has disturbed the surface to an unusual extent, on account of the great variety of its topography. Thus an unusual opportunity was afforded to secure a number of long-hidden reminders of the warfare which resulted in the emancipation of our country, in which New York occupied the central position and took throughout a strenuous part. These have been found with, and often quite intimately associated with, objects of aboriginal or of colonial character.

The hills of Washington Heights and Inwood were not only the scene of fierce conflicts around Fort Washington in the year of the Declaration of Independence, as well as of several sharp engagements between the forts crowning the hilltops, and squadrons of the British fleet in the Hudson River below, but for seven long years thereafter, these hills and vales formed the camping ground of the British, Hessian and Tory troops which garrisoned the island of New York, and stubbornly blocked its recapture by the American forces.

Relics of these periods of its history therefore include objects left by American military organizations, during their construction and defence of its fortifications, many reminders of the fighting in the shape of missiles and other military objects, and in various places, quantities of debris attest the presence of alien troops including nearly every military corps of the then British army, and of its subsidized aides.

Within the old mansion of Colonel Roger Morris, Washington's Headquarters in the fall of 1776, there have been gathered, as a place of convenient access and appropriate associations, situated as it is immediately within the locality from which they have

Reminders of the Revolution

been taken, a considerable collection of these objects showing the military life and warfare of the Revolutionary period.

In times gone by, such objects were so little regarded that they were scattered in careless possession, and given away or sold to junk dealers or sent to be melted down in the foundry. Most of the relics of which local families were possessed have long been lost or scattered. Fortunately greater interest and attention have now been awakened, and from the possession of local residents and from the discarded debris of old houses, the writer has rescued many interesting objects. By the application of assiduous study and labor, the principal positions occupied by the garrisons have been decided, and from them have been extracted by excavation, many curious and some really valuable historical relics.

These objects have all been carefully grouped in the collection in the guard-room of the Headquarters House, in such a way as to preserve their association with the particular locality in which they were found. Their value in this relation seems to be greater than a mere assortment and display of objects of similar character could possess, because they identify the character of the several places in which they were discovered. Thus, a few bullets or musket flints, more or less, added to others, afford no particular information, or instruction, but the fact that such objects were found at a particular place in association with other objects indicates their similar purpose and throws light on bygone conditions. If broken buckles, pipes and bayonets indicate the presence of soldiery at one spot, the same objects at another place identify its use by similar occupants. And even such humble objects as broken bottles, cracked crockery, and discarded tobacco pipes, which in themselves may be of small interest, when found closely associated with the numbered buttons of the British troops, are useful indications of historical value. Such simple evidences have in several instances led to explorations which have resulted in the identification of certain sites as military camping grounds, with much advantage to the study of local history.

Relics of the Revolution

The value of local antiquities is discounted when they are loosely combined in a single exhibit, and the comparison of various specimens from different localities seems to be of less educative value and of less civic interest than their display in connection with the locality in which they were discovered, although the value of the comparison of individual specimens is by no means to be ignored, and the collection at Headquarters is arranged with some groups of objects for this purpose.

The local centres around which most of such objects have been discovered are chiefly the military positions on the Heights which were fortified, fought over, or garrisoned during the Revolution, such as Fort Washington, Fort George, Fort Tryon, and a number of garrison camps around the Inwood Vale.

Separate cases in which the relics are grouped in the Guard Room are devoted to such particular localities, and some displays of objects of similar character are brought together in other cases for purposes of comparisons and illustration of bygone habits and methods.

Of the evidences of actual fighting, there are to be seen shot and shell of a variety of sizes, which by dimension and by location can sometimes be traced to the artillery of the defenders, or to that of the assaulters of Mount Washington and its outlying works. As the Americans possessed but two guns of sufficient caliber to throw solid shot of a weight of eighteen pounds, and these cannon were mounted to discharge toward the river, such cannon-balls, when found on the Hudson side of the Heights, may be attributed, as well as others of larger dimensions, to the weapons of British frigates. Shot of smaller sizes when found on the known line of advance of the British and Hessian troops toward Fort Washington are presumably American, but others of all sizes and weights can, from their location in the vicinity of the fortifications, be regarded as those which were fired by the field guns and howitzers of the invading forces. Some of these missiles thus tell their own story very clearly.

Reminders of the Revolution

The largest shells, of which exploded segments have been found at Fort George, and one complete unexploded example in the Inwood Valley, were doubtless thrown by the bomb ketches of the British, as were the various sizes of wicked looking double-headed bar-shot, which were distinctly marine missiles, the purpose of which was to injure the rigging of opposing vessels, but which were here used to "scour the woods" occupied by the patriotic forces at the time of the assault of Mount Washington. The phrase is used in the log-book of H. B. M. frigate "Pearl" of 30 guns, which on November 16, 1776, took part in the assault on the hills. One of her bar-shot, found at Fort George, in line with her position off Tubby Hook, retained a number of the iron spikes and nails with which it had been filled between the heads.

Of smaller missiles, iron grape-shot and canister balls are probably from foreign guns, while humble buckshot and small-sized bullets are those of the hunting rifles used by many of the provincial forces. Portions of weapons from the scene of actual contest include broken bayonets, sword-blades and pike points, musket locks and flints, rusted ramrods and innumerable leaden bullets.

Among the remains of garrison life, a dumb but definite witness has been found, bearing direct evidence of the character of the participants. This is the metallic military button, which by its distinctive character or design and particularly by an inscribed number, indicates the corps of which its one-time owner was a member. Over the ground on which the hand-to-hand fighting of the assault and defence took place, and in greater numbers around the sites of camps and barracks, have been found many of the numbered buttons of the British regiments which were engaged or encamped, and others, even when lacking such distinctive markings, by their character and materials can be traced to the use of their antagonists or prisoners. Buttons of many of the British regiments, known to have been brigaded with, or to have occupied the same quarters as Hessian troops, are found

Relics of the Revolution

associated with buttons of plain patterns, but of distinctive military character, which are undoubtedly those of the German mercenaries.

It is of interest to learn that specimens of many of these buttons are no longer to be found in England, and that all trace of their character would have been lost had it not been for those discovered on Washington Heights. The remarkable collection of these military buttons, which Mr. W. L. Calver's industry and skill has brought together, includes examples of every military organization of the British forces with the sole exception, at this date, of the Fifty-fifth foot.

Some of the ornamental buttons are of a high order of artistic design, especially those of French origin, and Capitaine Bottet, the author of the interesting work "*Le Bouton de l'armée Française*" has identified some of our local specimens as those worn by officers or men of the army of Rochambeau.

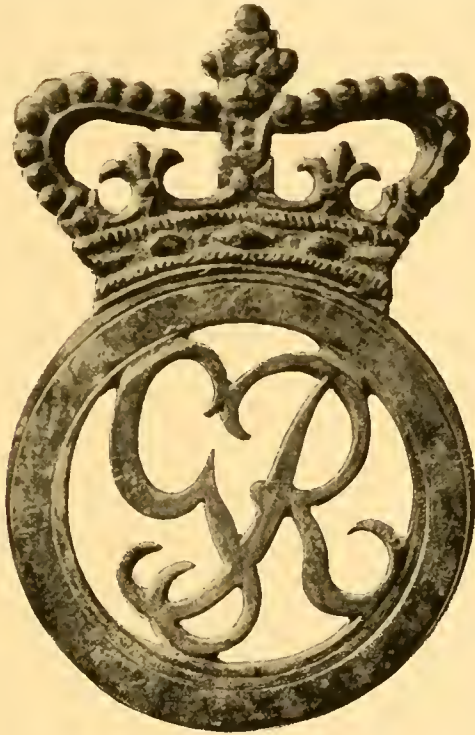
In connection with these objects, several fine specimens of numbered and engraved belt-plates have been found, notably specimens of those of individual officers or men of the Royal Fusileers, of the Twenty-eighth and Thirty-eighth Regiments and of the Coldstream Guards, more details of which are given in the description of the camp sites upon which they were discovered.

A volume might be written upon the subject of such remains, were the purpose of this record that of detailed military history of each of the classes of objects discovered, but it must suffice to say, that a small but earnest band of experts has united in forming an organization known as "the American Buttonist Association," which by comparison of specimens, interchange of information, and correspondence with American and foreign authorities on military history, has established a branch of historical study akin to that of numismatics and not only of an interesting, but of a distinctly valuable historical character.

While the numbered button has thus earned a place among the materials for the compilation of history, many humbler objects that were found associated with the buttons have gained thereby

Reminders of the Revolution

an identification not otherwise possible. Around, and sometimes even in contact with, the numbered witness to the presence of the soldier of the Revolution, have been found the razors, the clasp-knives, bullets and gun flints that once occupied the pockets of the garments of which the buttons formed an essential part.



Royal Badge of a Guard Officer
Worn on the Sabre Tache
(Now in the collection at the Washington's Headquarters)

With these are found also fragments of characteristic glass and earthenware, sometimes evidently of such character and age as to indicate its rude diversion from its proper ownership to camp usage, alongside the ubiquitous rum-bottle, the frequent medicine phial, and the occasional wine-glass.

Relics of the Revolution

If with these are found ornamental cuff buttons and the not unusual accompaniment of a brass pin, we feel sure that some cast-off clothing found its way to the fire or was left with the debris of many a feast, in the ashes of the camp hearth, or the straw that formed the carpet of the barrack room or hut. Not only the lost or broken table cutlery, the pewter spoons, and the soup kettle tell of the feasts of the camp, but the same story is also told by the sawn bones, the fragments of skulls of sheep, ox and deer, the shells of oyster, clam and crab, and the thick masses of ashes and charcoal that once glowed with the heat that cooked them.

With the evidences of the bygone meals, the tobacco-pipe is always associated, usually broken into innumerable fragments. Occasionally a complete bowl is found, or a part of one bearing some one or other of the trade marks or names of makers which have long puzzled the collector of these humble but interesting examples of the ceramic art. The wonderful state of preservation of many of these frail objects, the evidences of their long usage by their quondam owners, and the identification of those owners as participants in the great struggle for the principles of liberty, render the humble bowls of very lively interest. Perhaps more than any other of the remains of the period, they bring before us the personality of the actors in the great events of the Revolution, as we may imagine the pungent smoke ascending around the winter fire, or under the welcome shade in summer, to the accompaniment of many a tale of the actions in which their owners had taken part.

Many of the relics of a military character which in the past have been found upon the surface of Washington Heights were probably of as varied a character as those which have been more recently discovered by deliberate methods with spade and sifter. Many, however, were probably the scattered remains of the actual fighting which took place during the defence of the locality, for these more or less bestrew the rocky and wooded surface, and, from time to time became, what explorers term, "surface finds." That

Reminders of the Revolution

such objects became more scarce as time proceeded beyond a century from those stirring events is natural, and yet, such things were still to be found in the earlier years of definite exploration, when the systematic search of its surfaces was begun. But it cannot be doubted that the majority of such objects have now been forever lost, for but little value appears to have been attached to them by the old residents and farmers residing on the fields of warfare. Nearly every old-time household at one time had more or less military relics, partly those of the battle and probably partly those of the camps of the armies of the Revolution.

The late Mr. O'Mara, head-gardener of Trinity Cemetery, was reputed to have gathered quite a collection during his many years of service around the Second line of Defence, which extended across the cemetery. The family of Blazius Ryer had other objects culled from the surface around the old Bluebell Tavern, and by the removal of the family these objects have now left the Heights, probably forever.

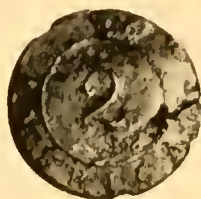
The Morewood family, resident within the actual ramparts of Fort Washington, had an exceptional opportunity for collecting military objects, and during the building of their house and the grading away of the south part of the Fort for a garden took out quantities of heavy shot which were carted away to the foundry at Spuyten Duyvil. The late John Haven, long resident in what is now Fort Washington Park, took an interest in the subject and made a collection of historical objects, which accompanied him on his removal from the Heights. The awakening of interest in historical subjects appears to require the lapse of a century before the glamour of romance is thrown over past events, and the same principle is probably applicable to the value placed upon objects connected with history.

About the time of the first opening of avenues and streets on upper Manhattan this period had been reached, and a few of the then newer residents began to devote some attention to the military objects which were disclosed by the disturbance of the surface.

Among these was Captain English of the local police force,

Relics of the Revolution

followed by Captain, later Inspector, Moses Cortright, who rescued a number of buttons, badges, weapons and missiles from the excavations around Fort George. Another intelligent collector was the late F. W. Hofele, a Civil War veteran, resident at Fort George, who made the first public exhibition of such objects of local interest in his saloon at Fort George Avenue and 194th Street. It was the material which he preserved that formed the



Buttons of Tory Regiments

Queen's Rangers
New York Volunteers

2nd American
Royal Provincials

starting point of the collection now at the Headquarters House. Another contribution was obtained from W. Herlihy, a contractor, who had the work of opening the "Ridge Road," now Fort Washington Avenue, at 181st Street, and partly through the fortifications. His group of objects included a human skull, which led to the identification of the "garrison burial ground" at Fort Washington Avenue and 181st Street.

Reminders of the Revolution

From time to time the gradual change of the Heights from a restricted residential district to a city of apartments, has disturbed relics, the disposition of which by the finders has been unfortunate. The average workman usually casts aside any object not readily understood, but such things as coins or shot are carried off and either hoarded, given away, or sold to junk dealers or bartenders.

An Italian workman usually places an extravagant value on finds of coins, and is secretive as to what he has found. Probably he assumes that the law relating to such discoveries is the same here as in his native country, and that the object may be taken from him if its discovery becomes known. Thus some interesting coins found at 176th Street were lost to sight. A local workingman once showed an unusual Saxon coin found "somewhere near 168th Street" which was almost ruined in character by being carried about in his pocket with other coins. It was inscribed "12 Heller, Reichstadt, Sach. B. V." with the date on reverse of 1767.

About a dozen large bar-shot were dislodged by workmen on the site of the Chelsea Methodist Episcopal Church at 178th Street, on Fort Washington Avenue, which were probably from a series of fire hearths of military huts. Of these five were disposed of to a passing junk-wagon before Mr. John Brown, the contractor, learned of the fact and rescued the remainder. Mr. W. Green, another contractor, found what he described as a "chain shot" but which was probably a British bar-shot, in the excavation for a sewer on Fort Washington Avenue at 165th Street, and gave it away to the first interested visitor who examined it. Another such object was found under the site of the Audubon Theatre at 164th Street, near Broadway, which was secured by a tradesman near by, but was rescued by Mr. H. H. Dreyer and added to a small collection he has made in his office at 169th Street, where he has gathered several other objects, such as shot, bullets, and other military material. A fine bayonet found on the American

Relics of the Revolution

League Ball grounds at 167th Street, found its way to a saloon and its whereabouts is now unknown.

The late Mr. C. C. Simpson, of the Consolidated Gas Company, was one of those who took care to preserve such relics, which came to his hands from the excavating for the extension of gas mains in the Dyckman tract, out of which he formed quite an interesting little private collection, which included some military badges of historical value, but this collection is, like those of others, such as that of Inspector Cortright, inaccessible to the general public. Some very interesting objects were found and preserved by Mr. W. C. Museenheim, when he resided at Fort Tryon, but were lost in the fire that unfortunately destroyed his picturesque residence. By the dispersion and loss of these and, no doubt, very many other such objects, the available historical material has been greatly reduced, and a greater value is placed upon what is left. Such objects lose much of their value when their association with the locality is lost, and few persons are particular to preserve a record of the exact position in which they were found. Objects such as shot have been attributed to "Fort Washington," a term which in years gone by covered the whole territory from Carmansville to Inwood. Therefore it has been a particular satisfaction that such relics as were preserved by the Libbey family, around their old home, Fort Tryon, are available to public view by their loan by Mr. Jonas Libbey to the Collection at the Headquarters House.

Gifts have been made by other persons, of isolated objects which have added materially to the scope of the collection.

With the knowledge gained by comparison of similar objects, and with the experience of direct search for sites and buried material, the collection at the Headquarters House has grown to a substantial group of objects, all of which are carefully connected with their place of discovery.

The result has been to render objects even of the commonest character of value and interest, and to afford to a large circle of

Reminders of the Revolution

visitors information which appears to be appreciated, as to the historical associations, not merely of the district, but of the particular portion of it in which they live, sometimes the street and even the site upon which they reside, contributing, it may well be believed, to their interest in their home neighborhood, and through this incentive to the cultivation of a spirit of good citizenship and neighborliness.

III

THE AMERICAN ARMY ON THE HEIGHTS

The military occupation of the upper part of the Island of Manhattan began in the early part of the eventful year of 1776, when detachments of American regiments commenced the construction of some of the defensive earthworks on the Hudson side, the chief purpose of which was to oppose the passage up the Hudson River of vessels of the British fleet. The anticipated arrival of the British army, and his forecast of its purpose of the occupation of New York, led General Washington, after his arrival on the fourteenth of April, to survey the Heights and decide upon the location of a system of defences of its rugged hills, by the construction of Fort Washington and its system of exterior defences.

The Heights at that period were in the condition of partly farmed and partly uncultivated woodlands, to which the industry of its scanty occupants had brought it, since the final division of its common lands in 1715 among the freeholders of New Harlem. The allotments were then made in the form of parallel strips of land, extending east and west of the Albany post-road, reaching respectively to the margin of the Harlem and the Hudson.

The houses of its inhabitants were few and far between, all of the humble character of the Colonial farm dwelling, with the exception of two, which at that time were but recently constructed.

These were the residences of Colonel John Maunsell and of Lieutenant-Colonel Roger Morris, the former situated on the west side of the post-road at 148th Street, and the latter on what later became the Jumel property east of the same highway between 160th and 162d Streets. At intervals along the post-road between Harlem and the King's Bridge were several taverns, that known as "Day's" at 126th Street, the "Morris White House" near

The American Army on the Heights

160th Street, the well-known "Blue Bell" at 181st Street, and Hyatt's tavern at Marble Hill.

Of the farm houses, there were then standing a stone dwelling built by Jan Dyckman at 152d Street, which was occupied by his widow and children, also the farm-house of Johannes Oblienis at 176th Street, and the humble home of Barney Bowers next to the Blue Bell. In the vale below Fort Washington the dwelling of the Kortrights stood at Arden Street and Sherman Avenue, and the farm houses of William Dyckman and of William Nagel faced each other on the bank of the Harlem at 210th and 213th Streets. A second Dyckman dwelling, probably occupied at the time by Jacobus Dyckman and his numerous family, was located at 208th Street, near 9th Avenue.

Into this scattered and slender community the advent of even a moderate number of armed soldiery must have introduced complications of an unusual character. The problem of food and drink would no doubt have proved easier of solution than that of housing or of providing even the poorest kind of shelter for a large body of men.

The officers were doubtless able to share, to a limited extent, such comforts as the farm houses afforded, but the private soldiers could have had but little beyond the rude shelter of the barns, the out-houses or the stables, and these only as far as their limited number permitted. The relics of military occupation have been found at every farm house site.

It was fortunate that, under such circumstances, the patriotic forces which first arrived upon the scene, in the spring of 1776, were largely composed of hardy pioneers, farmers and woodsmen, and the number of men at first employed upon the Heights was limited.

There is reason to suppose, from a note upon the British (Sauthier) map of 1777, that the farm barn or out-buildings were occupied as barracks by these men, up to the period when the arrival of the main army, in September, 1776, overwhelmed these

Relics of the Revolution

restricted accommodations and compelled the large numbers forming its several divisions to find what comfort they could among the rocks under the wild brush-wood, and even upon the bare, uncultivated uplands. It is interesting to find in some of the army orders of the period references to their camp life and conditions, which throw light upon the hardships they underwent in the service of their country.

Little experience existed among these men as to the methods of camp life, and the materials for the construction of barracks or even of huts were evidently scarce and costly. Thus men in search of firewood evidently helped themselves to the cut timber which formed the protective abatis of the earthworks, for an order was issued that "Any soldier detected in so doing, without orders from the Chief Engineer, is to be sent to the Provost Guard and tried by a General Court Martial." It was ordered that the arms and ammunitions were to be protected, in default of proper buildings, by bell-tents or "painted tents" spread over them. The work of fortification compelled early rising and permitted no easy times, for "All the troops are every morning to be under arms a little before break of day and continue till sunrise;" but the practice of sending the men out on duty without breakfast was directed to be discontinued.

During the summer of 1776, while the construction of fortifications was in progress, the work involved the labor of a working party of twelve hundred men, which was paraded at seven o'clock each morning. While small growing timber was, probably, not so scarce, planks and boards were evidently precious. One of the orders issued from Headquarters at the Roger Morris house at this time indicates that most of the troops were living in tents. "The building up tents with boards is a practice peculiar to this army, and in our present situation, cannot be indulged without the greatest injury to the service. The boards brought into camp are for floors to the tents."

The practices of the American soldiery in camp were the subject

The American Army on the Heights

of a number of general and special orders, which afford many details of the life and habits of the troops which have been confirmed by objects found on the camp sites.

Powder was ordered to be issued to each man equal to fifteen or eighteen rounds, "also lead and cartridge paper that they may make their own cartridges." Thus bullet casting was part of their duty. "The men must account for every load not used in



The Southwest Bastion of the Fort

action." The quantities of lost bullets found show their carelessness in this respect. Like volunteers and militiamen the world over, the men were probably independent and reckless, often regardless of the strict routine life of trained soldiery. General Washington wrote that he "in riding through the camps, observed a shameful waste of provision, large pieces of beef not only thrown away, but left above ground to putrefy," and he added that while such practices continue, "troops will be sickly." "Some of the

Relics of the Revolution

camps nearest to Headquarters are very faulty in this respect." They were warned that if they did not show improvement, offenders would be named in public. Camp orderlies were then detailed to pick up rubbish and see that decent appearances were maintained. It was probably the work of such orderlies that gathered in the "dumps" or pits some of the camp debris which has recently been brought to light, in which the meat bones and shells of oysters and clams are conspicuously abundant.

The food supplies of the troops were, of course, a matter of great importance. Traders and hucksters, who came into the camps from Westchester County, took advantage of the soldiers' needs, and charged exorbitant prices for fresh food and comforts. They were, therefore, put under regulation. "Various frauds, impositions and abuses being every day committed by traders and hucksters coming to this camp, the Quarter-master General and his assistant" were directed to regulate prices, particularly garden stuff, venison, cheese and butter. A public market was also established. "For the future, all persons bringing any of above articles immediately for sale, are to carry them to the foot of the glacis of the old fort, where the market is constantly to be held." The location of this camp market is not difficult to identify. The old fort was Fort Washington, its glacis was the slope extending from the fort, and the locality would no doubt have been near the road and the main barracks. The sloping ground on the south-east covered by 179th to 181st Streets west of the post-road was probably, therefore, the area on which this market was conducted, as it lay near the Blue Bell Tavern, and close to the garrison barracks and high road.

The scene must have been an animated one, when the market opened every morning at eight o'clock, "and was allowed to continue till sunset." With the camp cooks and soldiers off duty, there gathered the farmers' sons and daughters, the panniers of their ponies laden with meats and garden truck, while the Quarter-master's orderlies stood guard to see fair prices charged. No

The American Army on the Heights

“corners” were permitted for “Should any person or persons be detected monopolizing or forestalling the market, they will be punished by a court martial and have all their goods seized for the sick of the hospital.”

Notwithstanding every care, many of the men became ill. “The battalion is very sickly,” wrote Colonel Ewing of the Maryland Regiment, “owing to our lying on the cold ground without straw or plank which is not to be had, and medicine very scarce.” Medicine phials are often found in the debris. The surgeons were short of necessaries, and their mates were ordered to attend at the medicinal store to receive old linen to be torn up and converted into lint. There was a local tradition that this hospital was located in Bennett Avenue at about 184th Street.

On September 24th, 1776, a general order was issued that “The Quarter-master and the Chief Engineer are to mark the ground to-morrow on which the barracks and huts are to be built this side King’s Bridge”. We believe this led to the selection of the Prescott and Seaman Avenue site, and that the camp which afterwards became a great centre for the British and Hessian soldiery was begun by the American troops.

Some information as to the position of the American quarters is found in the map which was prepared immediately upon its occupation by the British troops, and known as the Sauthier map of 1777. On this are marked in some detail buildings, sometimes surrounded by enclosures or fences, which are referred to as “Barracks built by the Americans for their Winter Quarters and which they burnt upon the Movement of the King’s Army to Frog’s Point.”

The position of some of these barracks or quarters coincides with the situation of some of the farm dwellings then existing. Others were evidently tent encampments or perhaps groups of shelters or huts placed near the lines of defensive entrenchments and fortifications.

The most southerly is at 127th Street, nearest the village of

Relics of the Revolution

Harlem, and the next north is on a defined eminence near the Hudson, about the line of 135th Street, probably that conspicuous hillock which has only recently been graded away on the west side of Broadway, between 134th and 136th Streets. The farmhouse and outhouses of the Dyckman homestead at 152d Street and St. Nicholas Avenue is another place indicated, and further north a building upon the east side of the post-road near the Morris house, which was probably the "White House," or Morris tavern, to which the wounded commander of the battle of Harlem Heights had been conveyed a few weeks before, and from which his body had been taken to its burial. On the west side of the high road near 169th Street is a similar group of structures, a place which has been identified as a camp site by the objects found in its vicinity. Near 174th Street on the east side of the present Broadway is a group of buildings, a commanding but exposed position occupying the highest ground which was traversed by the post road. This place was probably afterwards the wagon yard of the British troops.

The home of the Oblienis family, at 176th Street, and lands north of that point, extending to 181st Street, which at that period was in the possession of Blazius Moore, the tobacco merchant, founder of the business and fortunes of the Lorillards, are marked on this map as military quarters. A significant group of several buildings west of Broadway is shown just below the glacis of Fort Washington and directly behind the Blue Bell tavern. These were repeated in greater detail in the British headquarters map of 1782 and from these maps the site of barracks used by the successive garrisons of the Fort was located. Both from their position on the early map and from distinctive objects found there, these buildings would appear to have been originally constructed by the American Army.

That there were others on the mainland, built or occupied for the use of the troops in the forts on the neighboring heights is evident from American reference to them. The construction of

The American Army on the Heights

all these quarters formed part, and no small part, of the work of those troops which during the summer of 1776 occupied the upper end of the Island. Some must have been quite extensive structures, since in the general council on September 8th it was contemplated that eight thousand men would be kept "for the defence of Mount Washington and its dependences," and for such a body of troops with their necessary stores and materials a large amount of cover must have been provided. Those were not days of ready sawn lumber and wire nails, and the construction involved not merely the erection, but the hewing and sawing of the necessary timber, and perhaps the forging of the nails and spikes, of which so many have been found around the old locations described. Some of the buildings were dismantled and others destroyed at the end of October, 1776.



Button of the Continental Army

At the time of the removal of the army to Westchester County, General Greene wrote to Washington, October 24, 1776, "Our people have had extreme hard duty. The common guards, common fatigue, and the extraordinary guards and extraordinary fatigue for the removal of the stores and forwarding the provisions, has kept every man on duty." These labors consisted of the removal that month of the stores and provisions gathered during the summer on the Island, and then conveyed by way of the King's Bridge to Washington's army in Westchester; and with the shortage of horses and wagons this must have constituted a severe task.

It was that anxious period when the future plans of the British were causing the greatest troubles of the patriot officers, after

Relics of the Revolution

Hale's life had been sacrificed to their need for information, and when forebodings of the possible fate of Fort Washington were occupying the minds of the Commander and his trusted assistants, that the question arose as to the disposition of the shelters and barracks which had cost so much labor to erect.

"General Mifflin thinks it not advisable to pull the barracks down yet," continues Greene's letter of October 24th. "He has hopes of our army returning to that ground for winter quarters," a view which Lee had previously ridiculed. Greene expressed fears that "if the enemy should throw in a thousand or fifteen hundred men" at King's Bridge, they could cut off our communication effectually, and "as the state of the barracks are, they would find exceeding good cover for the men. But if we were to take the barracks down, (even) if the boards were not removed, it would in a great measure deprive them of that advantage."

Preliminary precautions were thereupon taken by Greene, who wrote, "I have directed all the wagons to be employed in picking up the scattered boards about the encampments. I believe, from what I saw yesterday in riding over the ground, they will amount to many thousands. As soon as we have got these together, I purpose to begin upon the barracks." On the 28th of October he wrote to General Mifflin, "The people have been employed in getting the boards together at Fort Washington and the ferry. Some have been brought from King's Bridge. To-day I sent up to Colonel Lasher, in command at Fort Independence, to know what assistance he could give towards taking down the barracks and bringing off the boards, and had for answer that he had orders to burn the barracks, quit the post, and join the army by way of the North River at the White Plains."

General Greene feared that the effect of this action would be to oblige Colonel Magaw to draw his forces within the fortifications, "as the enemy will have a passage open upon his back," which is just what eventually had to be done, the step allowing the Hessians later to establish themselves on the island and repair

The American Army on the Heights

the broken King's Bridge. "If the barracks are not burnt in the morning and the enemy don't press too hard upon us, we will try to get away some of the boards." But even while he had been writing these words, these buildings on King's Bridge Heights were being reduced to ashes. Three days later the tardy enemy appeared on the scene to find "everything of value gotten away," and the King's and Farmer's bridges cut down.

There is good reason from the foregoing to suppose that the barracks upon Manhattan Island, were not entirely destroyed or removed, as they were in use up to the time of the assault which was made by the combined forces of Howe and von Knyphausen on November the 16th. The possession of such shelters as these barracks afforded, however crude they may have been, proved of immediate value to the captors of Fort Washington at that period of the year, and it is certain that those near by the fort and probably elsewhere were promptly occupied by the British and Hessian regulars. Thus the structures which had for several months formed the only shelter of the poor patriots who shivered through the chill autumnal nights during the defence of the heights, and upon which much of their labor and some of their high hopes had been expended, passed into the possession of their opponents.

IV

THE BRITISH AND HESSIAN ARMIES ON THE HEIGHTS

On November the sixteenth, 1776, the newborn banner of freedom was lowered, to be seen no more in this locality for seven weary years, and the flag of Britain took its place over the Fortress, on the security of which the hopes of its defenders had been placed. Notwithstanding the terms of surrender which were promised, the reputation of the Hessians for brutality was so great that the captured men feared the worst treatment. When Captain von Malsburg, detailed to take possession, entered the lines of the fort he was, he says, "surrounded with officers with fear and anxiety in their faces. They invited him to their barracks, pressed punch, wine and cold cakes upon him, complimented him on his affability, and told him they had not been led to expect such from a Hessian officer."

The men were told to fall in, and were marched out to surrender their arms. They must have gone down the lane that led to the fort from the King's Highway, through their abandoned breastworks to some open space near the barracks, where they were mustered for their march to captivity. Between a double line formed by the regiments of Colonels Rahl and Lossberg, the patriots "laid down their arms, and gave up their yellow, blue and white banners, on which Knyphausen looked with disdain," and forming into lines the dejected prisoners tramped between a heavy guard to their fate in the City.

Around the slope of Fort Tryon, and the face of the bluff extending thence to 187th Street, were stretched the dead of the Hessian and Waldeck forces, and over on the Hudson side of the Laurel Hill, and around the Morris House, lay a score of British dead and five times that number of wounded men. The Hessian wounded lay thickly around Fort Tryon, many of them cursing their lot, and the dying bewailing the fate which had brought

The British and Hessian Armies on the Heights

them into a quarrel in which they had no interest beyond a paltry pittance of pay. Many of their dead were evidently buried where they lay, or where the presence of sufficient earth enabled the body to be concealed, as shown by the remains which several times have been disturbed in the vicinity of the Fort upon the Hays property.

The wounded of the Hessians were ordered to be taken to Morrisania, and upon their removal and the interment of the dead, some of whom were no doubt buried in what afterwards became the "Garrison Burying ground," at Fort Washington Avenue and 181st Street, and others perhaps in the little Nagel burying plot at 212th Street, the troops settled down into the occupation of the Heights, which lasted for almost exactly seven years.

The troops were promptly assigned to various quarters. The British brigades were divided, part being sent back towards New York, including the troop of the 17th Light Dragoons. Of the Hessians, five regiments were returned to the City, and the rest, under Major General Schmidt, were entrusted with the garrisoning of the advanced positions so recently held by their opponents, in Fort Independence, and in those upon the hills commanding the creek of "Spiking Devil." The 4th battalion of Hessian Grenadiers, under Colonel Kohler, held Fort Washington itself, and the other German detachments settled into the late quarters of the Americans.

Captured arms were ordered to be delivered to Brigadier General Cleaveland, "and no person on any account allowed to buy or sell them," for they would not improbably have found their way to American hands. Had it not been for this order many more discarded weapons might have been found on the Heights.

It was also directed that "all stores, lumber, etc.," taken from the Enemy, Arms, Ammunition and Artillery excepted, are to be taken charge of by Quarter Master General."

The Chief Engineer, Colonel Montresor, was ordered to inspect the works of the Fort and to report upon their condition, which

Relics of the Revolution

he evidently did, and designated some part of them as unnecessary or unsuitable, for some portions were ordered to be demolished, but others were then, or later, strengthened.

General Knyphausen took up his quarters, with his staff, in the abandoned Roger Morris house, and thence sent his reports of this, the most important success of his troops, to his home government. In the general orders of Sir William Howe, he was especially thanked for his services in taking the Fort and the compliment was officially paid him, of re-naming the captured fort in his honor, as "Fort Knyphausen," by which title it became pretty generally known for several years, by friend and foe alike.

The autumn was perfectly fine; "the finest weather for the season ever known, and such a Fall as no Man can recollect," and the sounds of actual warfare ceased for a time, but military life swarmed over the Heights in every direction, and the few remaining residents must have found themselves in very rough and undesirable company if they ventured abroad to attempt any of their one time avocations. The farm houses were all occupied by officers, as shown by regimental buttons on the sites of the Oblienis, Dyckman and Nagel homes.

Thus commenced the course of events upon the Heights and in the Inwood Valley which turned this hitherto peaceful locality into an armed camp, its hilltops into earthworks and forts bristling with cannon, and its humble homes into officers' quarters. The tide of actual conflict swept across the Harlem into the debatable land, but the alarms of war, the thunder of cannon and the marching and counter-marching of the bodies of armed men were a constant accompaniment of the life of the Heights, from 1776 to 1783.

Bare and uncultivated, stripped of every tree and bush, dusty and sweltering in summer, wind-swept and unsheltered in winter, the hills and vales must have presented a forlorn and desolated appearance, only partly relieved by the buildings, the flags and tents and the gay uniforms of its military occupants.

Of the motley collection of nationalities, English, Irish, Scotch, Tory, Hessian and Hanoverian, which composed the shifting and

The British and Hessian Armies on the Heights

kaleidoscopic army of occupation of the Heights, there is most fortunately preserved for our information a description in the diary of a Saxon officer which is full of details of local interest. These have been supplemented and confirmed by the discovery of the camp sites and of the fortified positions, to which his record refers, in the recent explorations and search for relics that are to be described.



Colonial Glassware in the Collection of Relics at Washington's Headquarters

Among the Germans who, during the Revolutionary period, made their military home, or rather occupied uncomfortable quarters, in this locality, was one who had the habit of keeping a diary, which record, owing to the rather unusual circumstances that the diarist, after the close of the war, returned to America, where he married and settled down for life, was preserved by his descendants and has been translated and published by the New York Historical Society. With a drum-head as his table, and with an

Relics of the Revolution

extreme shortage of writing material, involving the most minute chirography and laborious draftsmanship, Sergeant John Charles Philip von Krafft wrote memoranda and observations, accompanied by drawings and maps, dictated by a keen interest in his surroundings, and an intelligent appreciation of military affairs, which together afford an extraordinary and vivid picture of the military life of that period as it existed on Washington Heights.

He was not engaged in the capture of the position, nor did he make his appearance here until nearly two years had elapsed thereafter, but from the year 1778 onwards to the end, he was quartered from time to time in its various forts and camps, and records his impressions, his views and his observations in daily detail.

Having left his home in Dresden, and abandoned his position as a sub-officer in the Saxon service, for a hoped-for career of adventure and advancement, von Krafft drifted first to Russia and thence to England, to France, and even to Canada and back again, ere he reached the scene of conflict then proceeding in the States, and volunteered to Washington, at Valley Forge, his services in the patriotic cause. Disappointed by the lack of an available commissioned position, he made his way through the lines into Philadelphia, and entered the Hessian service as a "Volunteer Sergeant" in the Musketeer Regiment of Colonel von Donop, in which capacity he eventually made his appearance upon Washington Heights in the blazing heat of a July day in the year 1778.

His spelling is Saxon in form and amusingly phonetic in respect of our puzzling local nomenclature. "Spaken hill" stands for Spuyten Duyvil Hill and "Spaken Dubbel" for the Creek, while "King's Pritsch" and "Fort Intepentenee" will be more readily recognized than "Forsed hill," or Forest Hill, later Fort Tryon. In erecting, demolishing, remodeling and repairing the military works at these and other points to suit the varying ideas of successive commandants, von Krafft was employed during the five years of his service.

The British and Hessian Armies on the Heights

One of his first visits was to friends in the Regiment "Erbprinz" then camped in the camp on Laurel Hill, or Fort George, where he evidently enjoyed the hospitality of that famous regiment's canteen, and in July, 1778, when for a time he had joined the Chasseurs, he was quartered at the Roger Morris house, then the German General's headquarters. While in service with the Chasseurs he marched along the high road across the King's bridge, and later did out-post duty on the Cock-Hill overlooking "Spaken Dubbel," where the Inwood mosquitoes made sleep impossible. With the same corps he took part in foraging expeditions into Westchester County where he was careful to secure his own share of the poor farmers' stock and produce, penetrating as far as "Weit Blane" in such quests. In November, 1778, he was on duty in the Cock-Hill Redoubt, and in December of that year, entered camp near Fort Knyphausen, alternating turns of duty on the Laurel Hill ramparts, and across the Harlem, with camp jollifications, which resulted in his becoming involved in several broils and fights. From his gossiping notes, we learn much of the circumstances of the garrisons of the forts and the soldiery in camp.

The troops in those days went early into their winter quarters, consisting of huts, nine for each company, ten men to a hut. These we now know to have been the dug-outs discovered in several parts of the Heights. In summer the men cultivated the ground around them with vegetables and even with flowers. In winter time these were not available; fresh food was scarce, and so the men were sick and discontented. The steep ground occupied by the hut camp before Fort Knyphausen, on the line of Bennett Avenue, has some terraced plots, probably the Germans' little truck patches. On Fort George Hill the site of the Laurel Hill camp has been pretty clearly established by debris found in the rich soil which is even at this late date under cultivation at 194th Street. From the notes in the diary we gain some knowledge as to the condition of the fortifications on the Heights.

Frequent threats of attack upon the exterior forts around King's

Relics of the Revolution

Bridge decided the British authorities to abandon and destroy them, so in the fall of 1779 the works of Fort Independence and of Numbers Four to Seven, forming the exterior chain of defences, were dismantled, and the garrisons were withdrawn to Manhattan island. Relics found in these places, therefore, antedate the year 1779. Fort Prince Charles, on Marble Hill, thus became the most northerly outpost. In order to maintain communication with Fort No. 8 on University Heights, a sort of rope or cable ferry known as "Holland's Ferry" was established on the Harlem River from the mouth of Sherman's Creek at 201st Street, where a camp was established. The ferry was assailed by the wily American irregulars, who during the following year crept in at night, cut the cable, drove out a guarding force on the Bronx side, and burned huts which they occupied there.

The threat of attack on the defenses of the island, which in July, 1781, was made by Washington and Rochambeau, was actually witnessed by von Krafft from Laurel Hill, and their forces were seen by him around Van Courtlandt Park. For ten days the combined American and French brigades, amounting to about four thousand men, were in sight of the troops on the Heights, while the eminent commanders made personal observations of the appearance of the British and German defenses. Washington's diary records several observations of this nature, which are of value to our local history. The discovery of French military objects in the military debris is thus explainable.

In von Krafft's record is much information as to the number of the troops and the character of the corps which from time to time formed the garrison of the various military works, their rapid changes bringing about the abandonment of some of the serviceable materials which have come to light when the sites of their barracks, huts or camps have been explored.

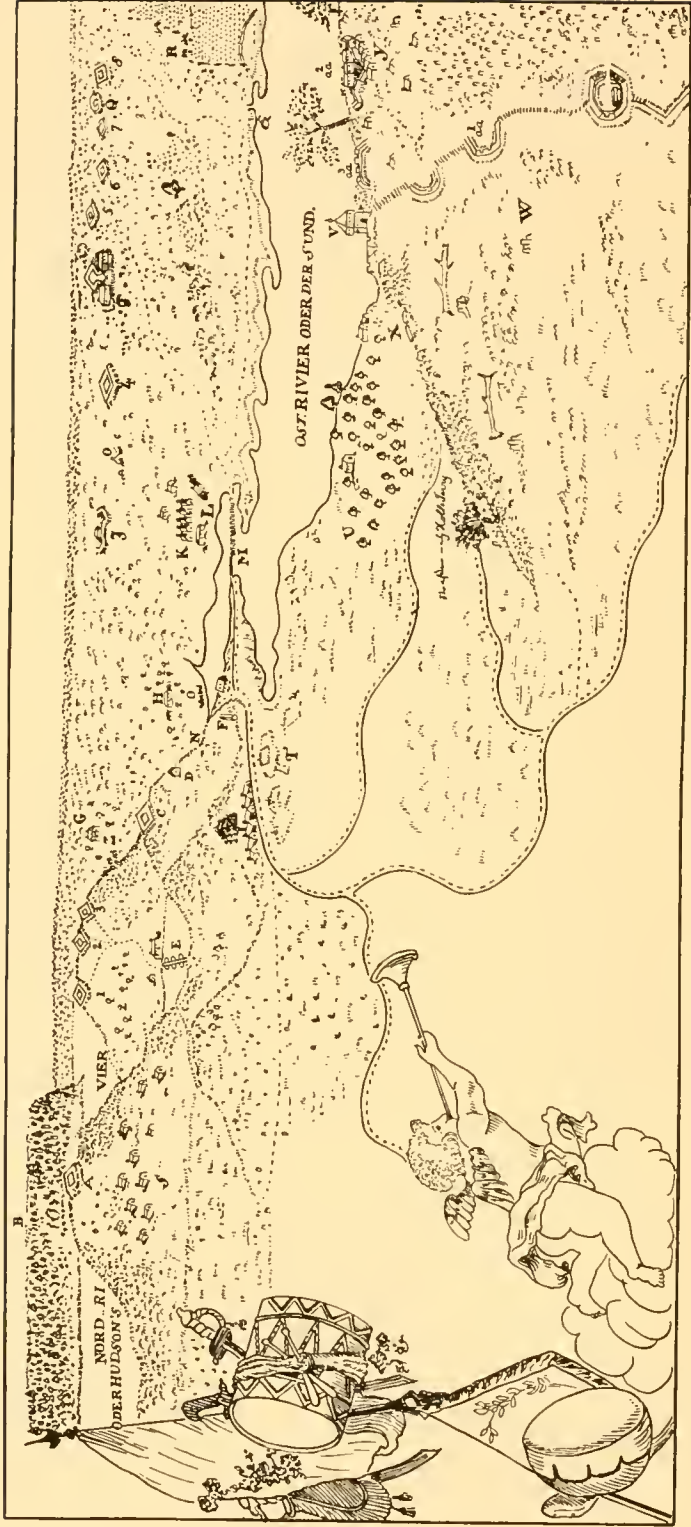
Among several productions of von Krafft's skill as a draftsman is a panoramic sketch which he made in 1779 from Laurel Hill (Fort George Hill), representing the field of view from Inwood Hill on the north to Fort No. 8 (the site of New York University)

The British and Hessian Armies on the Heights

on the east, both inclusive. This has been most helpful in identifying many of the military landmarks in this region. The sketch is reproduced in photogravure with von Krafft's diary in the publications of the New York Historical Society for the year 1882, but from the nature of the process of reproduction is obscure in some details. With a knowledge of the ground portrayed and the results of the explorations described in these pages, and with the aid of a magnifying glass, Dr. Edward Haganan Hall has carefully redrawn the sketch with pen and ink, bringing out the distinctive features more clearly than in the photogravure, and it is reproduced on page 48 herewith. Efforts to locate the original sketch by von Krafft have proved unavailing, and its whereabouts are unknown. Following is a translation of the original German title and explanation of the sketch.

"Situation plan of the Island of New York in North America, but only on the east side in the neighborhood of what had been Fort Washington but was afterwards Knyphausen; which I myself sketched in the month of May, 1779, from Laurel Hill. But this was not drawn until 1781, in the month of January and in the hut camp at Fort Knyphausen.

"Explanation: No. 1, 2, 3, on Speiten Devil, 4, 5, 6, 7 and Q. American redoubts. G (script) Kings redoubts. I (script) Independence. V, block-house. Above-named redoubts which were constructed partly by the Americans, partly by the English, were demolished in the Autumn of 1779 during the construction of the line of circumvallation, in which I was also ordered to assist the English engineer, Lieut. Sproule of the 16th regiment. O, torn-down houses; also hut camps no longer existing, such as: K, Emmerich's Chasseurs' camp; Z, Hessian Yagers and Chasseurs' camp; S, camp of the 17th English regiment which had been taken prisoners; E, Pontoon bridge then existing; M, Queen's bridge, destroyed; F, storehouse taken down; T, former camp of the regiment of Life Guards; U, orchard cut down for the barricades. B, the Island of New Jersey. A, North or Cox Hill and its redoubt. C, Charles redoubt and D the guard-house there. The same from A on are still in existence, as also is G, Upper Courtlandt's and H, Lower Courtlandt's house. N, King's Bridge. L, inhabited house. R, some huts of negroes, plantations and houses called Morisina. No. 8, redoubt. Ex (script) ferry crossing, otherwise called Holland's Ferry. W, Laurel Hill. X, still another place fortified by the Americans and improved by the English, a¹a the intrenchments newly constructed in the year '79. a²a, and a³a called Fort Clinton. Y, huts subsequently built by the 44th English regiment before the construction of the new intrenchments."



VON KRAFFT'S MILITARY SKETCH FROM LAUREL HILL, MANHATTAN ISLAND, 1779.

Pen drawing with the aid of a magnifying glass, by Edward Haganan Hall, from the facsimile of a sketch by Lieut. John Charles Philip Von Kraft of the regiment Von Bose accompanying his Journal printed in the collections of the New York Historical Society for 1882. For key, see page 47.

V

WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS AND THE CAMP OF THE 38TH FOOT REGIMENT

At the time when the tide of warfare was moving towards the City of New York, the heights of the upper end of the island of Manhattan were in the peaceful occupation of farmers, and in part were in the same condition of wild woodland in which they had existed from time immemorial. The only change that had come about in the ninety years that had elapsed since Jan Kiersen had leased the Indian field in 1686, consisted in the advent of several residents of the wealthier class, attracted to the locality, doubtless, by its varied charms of scenery, and its healthful altitude.

Two private residences had been erected for residents of this class, the one constructed near 147th Street and the other, which is still in existence, at 160th Street, both situated on prominent heights, overlooking wide vistas of the low-lying lands of Harlem and the Bronx, to the glistening waters of the Sound.

The pioneer settler had long before transferred his operations from the Indian clearing to a property on the east side of the post-road, extending between 158th and 163rd Streets, and having built thereon a humble dwelling of the usual cottage farmhouse type, had been gathered to his fathers about 1750, at an advanced age. The attractive position of this little farm, above the bold bluffs overhanging the winding Harlem, invited the attention of travellers, and when Major Roger Morris was seeking a suitable site for a summer residence, his choice fell on this place. He purchased it and erected thereon about 1763, the handsome Colonial dwelling, which, after many vicissitudes of occupation and ownership, is now a treasured possession of the City of New York.

The expense of the building was probably borne by the ample estate of his wife, Mary Philipse, whose rights were afterwards

Relics of the Revolution

recognized as superior to the act of forfeiture in spite of her husband's attachment to the British cause.

Retiring from active service in the 47th Regiment, in 1764, with the brevet rank of Lieut. Colonel, Morris settled down to enjoyment of his home on the Heights, and took up the duties of a member of the King's Council.



Washington's Headquarters

When the course of events indicated the probability of the advent of actual warfare to the vicinity, the Morris family left their interesting home in the care of servants, and upon the arrival of the American forces, following the evacuation of New York, the vacated building was promptly utilized as the most suitable place for the establishment of the headquarters, and for the temporary residence of General Washington and his staff.

Washington's Headquarters and Camp of 38th Regiment

The construction of the defenses of Fort Washington had, prior to that time, involved visits from the General and his aides, during which the house had doubtless been observed and marked for the purpose to which it was put in September, 1776.

The building is partly brick and partly frame, is of two stories and an attic in height, and has a basement extending under its entire space, lighted by small windows. The kitchen was in the basement and probably some of the servants' offices. The wide fireplace in the southwest corner of the basement is evidently part of its original construction, though the flooring and other woodwork has doubtless been subjected to much replacement. A tradition, as in the case of other buildings, alleges the existence of a secret passage from the basement to the Harlem River, a not very reasonable requirement in a Colonial gentleman's summer residence, and a most impracticable accompaniment in view of the rock on which the house is planted.

Within the wide parlors of the residence were doubtless enacted many scenes of supreme interest, while the building was in military occupation.

The military map of 1777 indicates that at the time of the capture of Fort Washington, a double row of military huts had been erected during the American occupation, which extended nearly parallel with the driveway from the high road to the house, or practically on the line of the present private alley known as Sylvan Place. These were probably the quarters of the guard, and perhaps of some of the staff.

Hard by, alongside the high road, there was then standing a building, which was several times referred to in orders as the "White House," or "Morris' White House," which, in all probability, was the one-time dwelling of the Kiersen family. It was utilized on several occasions for holding courts-martial, and was also the place to which the head of the leaden statue of King George was taken after the destruction of the monument at the Bowling

Relics of the Revolution

Green, and from which it was stolen by Cox, the Tory innkeeper of Kingsbridge.

The little dwelling appears to have stood at a point about 125 feet south of the south side of West 160th Street, now beneath an apartment house known as Morton Court. Its position here was indicated by the presence of old bricks and plaster, disclosed when the excavations for that building were made. It had probably been razed before the Junnels purchased the estate, for it occupied a part of the space which formed the fish pond constructed after 1812, and round which were planted the Egyptian cypress trees, which, until recent years, were a conspicuous feature of the locality.

Immediately to the rear of this site, in the bank far below the margin of the fish pond, was a deposit or "dump" of household rubbish, in which was a pewter button of a private soldier of the 57th or West Middlesex regiment, a mute evidence of the presence of the military at the place.

It is probable that other "dumps" must have existed in the vicinity of the Mansion, in which, after the fashion of the times, household debris was buried. In the deposit above described there was found a number of brass pins of old form, some broken china, glass, bones and other domestic debris. The haste with which the place was cleared precluded more extended search, and much more was doubtless lost to view forever.

A search was made at several points in the present grounds on the east side of the mansion, and a quantity of household rubbish was found around the roots of one of the old trees which still cling to the edge of the rocks where Edgecombe Avenue was cut across the property. The material which was found at the place proved to be uninteresting, consisting only of masses of charcoal, broken brick and plaster, with oyster and clam shells and broken bottles.

At several places east of the house under the present grass lawn and flower beds, there is more or less broken or scattered debris, some of which consists of crockery and chinaware. So far, therefore, the vicinity of the Headquarters House has not proven as fruitful in the discovery of relics as have the sites of older though

Washington's Headquarters and Camp of 38th Regiment

much humbler dwellings, such as those of Van Oblienis, of Kortright and Nagel.

It is natural to suppose that at all times during the military occupation of the Heights, some troops were encamped in the



Reminders of Warfare

immediate vicinity of the Roger Morris Mansion, which was used as headquarters by the successive commanders of Fort Washington.

The development of the neighborhood has wiped out all traces of such occupation, and the only records are, therefore, those rather

Relics of the Revolution

scanty descriptions which exist in the diary of von Krafft, and a reference to the place in the writings of General Washington.

In 1778, von Krafft, then quartered at the hut camp at 181st Street, was on picket duty, on the 9th of December "with six privates in No. 1, back of what was called General Knyphausen's quarters, Morris House, at the water's edge, and not far from our regiment's camp," and on December 22, records an unpleasant experience, "At daybreak this morning, after leaving the picket with my six men from No. 1, it had been snowing all night so that one could not find any foot path—I fell several times into large snow-covered pools of water, and finally into what had been a cess-pool, but fortunately only a little above the knee of my left leg. Both of my big toes were almost frozen in my linen stockings."

In 1781, Washington made a reconnoissance of the positions on the Heights, from the Morrisania side of the Harlem, and wrote in his diary under date of July 18: "On the Heights opposite the Morris White House, there appears to be another regiment, supposed to be the 38th British."

The following month von Krafft notes that "the 54th English Regiment came here from Paul's Hook and pitched their camp in front of the 38th Regiment near New York," that is, nearer than he was at the time. Later he says that his regiment, then at Fort Washington, "gave a watch" with the 38th Regiment as far down as the Fourth mile-stone, when the 54th Regiment moved away.

On September 1, the "38th received unexpected orders to march. They left their tents standing and all the women and children and disabled remained behind as hut and camp watch." On the 9th the mounted Yagers "Took possession of the tent camp at Morris House," and on the 14th "the 38th Regiment had their tents taken down and their baggage sent after them."

Of this regiment, several buttons and a fine belt plate have been found at the barracks site at Fort Washington, but none near the vicinity of 159th Street, where, as previously stated, few relics

Washington's Headquarters and Camp of 38th Regiment

have been found, as it was cut up and built over even earlier than other parts of the Heights. Opposite the residence of Mr. E. B. Treat,—942 Avenue Saint Nicholas—a camp fire-place was disturbed upon the widening of the old highway, which contained a couple of the double-headed bar-shot frequently used as fire-dogs. When the old cypress trees were cut down which surrounded the pond on the one time Jumel estate, there was found below the original soil, above which the bank of the pond had been formed, with the debris, broken china, glass, pipe stems and bottles, and a number of brass pins, as previously described, and a single numbered military button of the 57th Regiment or West Middlesex. Near this was a smaller button with a spiral design on its face, similar to those which were worn at that period by French officers. The latter does not, of course, indicate the actual presence of such a foreign officer on this ground, but the proximity of the French Army in 1781 renders it probable that the button was secured by some person and brought to this vicinity after the French had retired, leaving behind them, on their line of march or places of bivouac, such souvenirs of their presence.

The room in the Mansion which has been set aside for the exhibition of the military relics of the locality is that on the west side, at the rear of the main entrance hall, generally known as the Guard Room. Like the other principal rooms of the building, it has windows on two sides, the north and west light being very well suited to the purpose of exhibition.

The room has doubtless been repaired in modern times as the flooring appears to be more recent than that of the attic, where the chestnut planking is more than a foot in width. In the south-east corner, a doorway once existed, which apparently communicated by a steep stairway or ladder, with the basement, the space enclosing which is offset in walls of the main hallway. This formed a short cut to the kitchen; so the room may have served as a servants' living room and would, therefore, have naturally answered for the purpose of having the military guard in attendance on the staff.

Relics of the Revolution

The wall spaces on either side of the mantel have been utilized to mount under glass part of the old French wall paper, which was probably the original decoration of the walls of the large parlor, used as a Council Chamber at the rear of the house.

Within the Guard room are now arranged several cases provided by the Department of Parks, in which are placed most of



The Guard Room at Washington's Headquarters

the military objects which have been found around the Heights in the searches to be later described.

The collection consists exclusively of those objects of a military character with others found in the same places, which have been discovered on Washington Heights. The collection has been carefully arranged as a locality exhibit, the various things found in and near each military site being grouped together. Some repetition of objects of a similar character necessarily results, but

Washington's Headquarters and Camp of 38th Regiment

this fact contributes evidence of their general use in military life at that period, and identifies other objects as of similar character.

The method which has been followed in the display has been to arrange the large objects in the lower spaces of the cases, and the smallest objects in flat frames in an upper space. The middle part of each case affords a flat space upon which objects of medium size can be well seen, and such interesting things as coins and buttons, deserving very close observation, are set on glass trays supported on inverted wine glasses so as to bring them close to the underside of the glass cover of the case. The materials being rather unusual, a number of experiments had to be made to secure the best results in their arrangement and display, which may be of value to other collectors.

In fixing the smaller objects in place, use has been made of modeling clay, by which they can be supported at any angle best suited to their examination.

The large objects, such as shot, are supported by wooden and brass curtain rings which are excellent means to prevent their rolling about if the case be moved.

The coloring of the interior of these cases was a matter of many experiments, various tints being tried with colored cards. It was found that for such objects, most of which are rusty, a brownish cream color was far the best for contrast and light, and the entire interior of the cases was thus painted in 1913, when the contents were re-arranged, numbered and indexed.

The labeling of the exhibits was no small task, and involved a study of type and color, as well as proportions. To avoid the appearance of rigidity and tameness, the labels are not made of uniform size, but all are hand drawn on cream colored card, which is cut and sand-papered to a white beveled edge. They are supported at a suitable angle on wire stands bent out of paper clips, as no other suitable support could be found.

The angle at which the card must stand varies with position, those in the lower part of the case and in the front of the upper part, being set at a flatter angle than those at the rear.

Relics of the Revolution

Use has been made of some photographs in order to show locations of the finds and more should be done in this direction, if space were available.

The objects have all been numbered by placing a printed number alongside of each, mounted on a small colored card. This has been done with a view to the eventual preparation of a complete catalogue. At present, only a temporary typed catalogue has been prepared and is placed in the room for reference. The large number of children who visit the exhibit and demonstrate their interest by reading the labels, show the value of the latter system, rather than that of a catalogue. It has been strikingly apparent that the interest of young people especially is aroused by this exhibit, and that they will spend more time in its observation than upon other collections.

An increase of interest in the locality is a result, both with the younger and the older visitors.

Upon the mantel a case has been arranged in which samples of glass and china ware are displayed to advantage, some of the most complete objects discovered being placed there for better observation, including several whole liquor bottles, schnapps flasks, plates and cups.

Upon the hearth of the fireplace there has been reconstructed the rude stone fireplace of the hut (numbered 10) of the camp of the Body Regiment, which was measured, photographed and removed to this place in 1913. On the ashes of this fireplace are arranged examples of the crude pot hooks, tongs and other utensils made by the soldiery out of barrel-hoops.

The large cases are numbered, and devoted to the exhibition of objects from the following localities:

- (1) Fort Washington and vicinity of 181st Street.
- (2) Fort Tryon and the Body Guard Camp.
- (3) Fort George, and the 201st Street Camp Site.
- (4) In three sections:
 - A. 17th Regiment Camp — Prescott Avenue and vicinity.

Washington's Headquarters and Camp of 38th Regiment

- B. Temporary displays of recent finds.
- C. The Musketeer Camp and region round 168th Street.

In the center of the room are two table cases in which grouped objects are exhibited. A tray contains mutilated lead bullets of various kinds; another the samples of cut lead sheet, and another, leaden pencils of the camps.

Some grouped exhibits are mounted in wall frames. One contains objects of the nature of cavalry belongings found near the old Century house, at which buttons of the 17th Light Dragoons were discovered. Another is a group of the soldiers' pot hooks from various fireplaces, and another, the table cutlery of the Century House.

VI

CAMP OF THE MUSKETEER REGIMENT VON DONOP

On the evening of November 15, 1778, just two years after the fall of Fort Washington, von Krafft "arrived at the camp of our regiment at the Eleventh mile-stone below Fort Knyphausen." His corps was the Musketeer regiment von Donop, which, like other Hessian regiments, took its name from its "Chef" or titular Colonel, who in this case was Colonel William Henry Augustus von Donop.

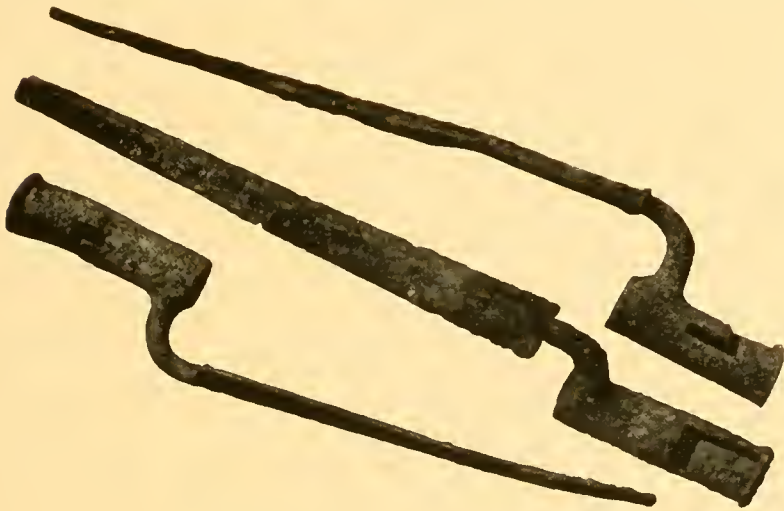
The Eleventh mile-stone, one of those which had been placed on the high road about nine years before this date, stood in those days near the line of 173rd Street on the old King's Bridge Road, which is now re-named Broadway. The high road at this point reached the summit of a hill, whence Fort Washington was in view on still higher ground half a mile to the north. The Sauthier map of 1777 indicates some sort of a building occupied as quarters by the American troops, and others, on the west side of the high road, at about the line of 169th Street.

On the military map of 1782, which is in much greater detail, there is a considerable enclosure at about 171th Street on the easterly side of the high-road, having several building within it, which may be assumed to have been stables and barrack huts. This space appears to have been on the site of the present Fort Washington Presbyterian Church. The sloping side of the hill towards the south, although very exposed to the winds from the west, formed a not altogether unfavorable position for a camp, particularly as there were several small springs of water in the vicinity. One of these is still to be seen in vacant land between 170th and 171st Streets, near Fort Washington Avenue; another, which was locally known as "the Washington Spring," is now buried below the intersection of 168th Street and Haven Avenue, and still another was about 200 feet west of Broadway, on the line of 167th

Camp of the Musketeer Regiment Von Donop

Street, which provided the water supply of the Murray farm, and overflowed into a marshy area which used to form a pond in winter, along the west side of the King's Bridge Road between 166th and 169th Streets.

Over this area and as far west as Haven Avenue, various traces of one time military occupation have been found. The troops which first occupied the place were not the Hessians of von Donop's corps, as it appears from further references by von Krafft that they were quartered in huts already constructed. "Our camp,"



Bayonets of the War of the Revolution

he says, under date of 18th November, 1778, "was very poor, because many of the huts which lay around the foot of the hill, among them mine, got full of water whenever it rained."

"The drinking water was also very bad, and in every respect matters were in such a state, that if no change is made, diseases must unavoidably arise."

These complaints, though perhaps partly due to the discontent of the writer on his return to routine duty, were doubtless justified to some extent by the unfavorable conditions of the camp-site,

Relics of the Revolution

which in rainy weather probably presented several wet and boggy areas such as those above referred to, which existed until the filling in of Broadway and the construction of apartment houses on the west side.

The von Donop regiment remained only until December 1, 1778, possibly because of the exposed condition of the camp. Von Krafft says that in November "Tent coverings, iron pegs, axes, saws and divers other articles were furnished which were very serviceable to protect us against the cold."

The opening of 168th Street, between Broadway and Fort Washington Avenue, followed by that of 170th Street, and later, 169th Street, with the grading that ensued, disclosed a number of evidences of military occupation of this area. On the line of the former street, about 500 feet west of Broadway, there were found a number of large stones which had evidently formed the base of some building, and within and around the area enclosed were quantities of fragments of animal bones, which had been sawn into slabs, many being perforated by a circular cutting tool forming the bone buttons, some of which have been found on nearly every camp site on the Heights. Several pocket clasp-knives were also found there, with the usual pot-hooks, nails and broken bottles, indicative of the camp life of that period.

There were scattered pits that had been dug in the sandy soil, in which fires had burned, but no numbered buttons were discovered. Workmen reported finding a belt-plate, and stated that it was marked "H. J." which may have been the initials of the Hessian Jagers, but the object was taken away by a teamster and no opportunity for its examination was afforded.

While the grading of the present ball grounds was proceeding, no opportunity could be found to follow up the material so hastily disturbed, and only a few objects were preserved by the workmen. Those secured included a few bullets and fragments of an exploded shell. A couple of cannon balls and a good sample of a bayonet fell into the possession of a local saloon keeper and were exhibited

Camp of the Musketeer Regiment Von Donop

for a time in a window in Amsterdam Avenue but are now removed.

On the sloping bank facing Broadway just south of 169th Street, we found large stones which had formed the fireplaces of a row of huts, with much ash and charcoal, but little in the way of other objects. Above these fireplaces on the side of the mound was the buried skeleton of a horse. A similar find was made behind Hessian huts at Thayer Street.

Further south, on the line of 167th Street, there used to be a line of boulders set in the bank extending about 100 feet parallel with Broadway which may have formed the base or backing of a similar line of buildings.

West of Fort Washington Avenue, on the grounds of the one-time Lespinasse residence or "French Academy," at 171st Street, to Haven Avenue, were found several fire-places, and some indications of a small angular earthwork or redoubt. In one fire pit, with the inevitable pot hooks, was the greater part of a square black glass schnapps flask, some broken china and glass, and a part of a bayonet.

Over much of the area, occasional finds have been made of bullets and other small objects. The general character of these discoveries seems to fit in well with the description of the camp by von Krafft. The location of the huts close to the bog, the scattered fire pits, and the scanty material left indicate comparatively limited occupation. The only button found was of plain form and was probably Hessian. A Saxon coin of the value of 12 Heller of the year 1757 was found by a workman somewhere in the vicinity. This was spoiled in appearance by being carried around with other coins in the finder's pocket, and was finally given away by him to a chance acquaintance.

VII

THE VAN OBLIENIS FARM

The opening of 176th Street across vacant property, between Broadway and Fort Washington Avenue, brought to light evidence of the one-time dwelling of the Van Oblienis family, pioneer settlers of the Heights. The discovery became of special interest, because of the prominence of that family in the affairs of the township of New Haerlem in its early days, and because the Oblienis farm was a direct successor of the aboriginal cultivation of the same area, known to the settlers as the "Indian field."

Joost van Oblienis, one of the earliest settlers in New Haerlem, after frequent and long continued service in its various offices, was at one time the most important personage in the township, in which his advice was sought on all matters of public interest.

When the decision was reached, in 1691, to allot among the freeholders the common lands of Jochem Pieters hills, now Washington Heights, and the Round Meadow, now the Dyckman tract, one of the first allotments made was that in favor of van Oblienis, being number 19, comprising 22 $\frac{3}{4}$ Dutch acres, "upon the south end of the Hill," which eminence later became known as Mount Washington. This, the northerly boundary of this tract, was the present 181st Street, and the further acquisitions of the family brought its southerly line to 170th Street, where it extended from the Post road to the Hudson. Within this area there had existed, long prior to these divisions, the "Great Maize land" or planting ground of the local Indians, which had been temporarily occupied on a dubious sort of town lease by Jan Kiensen and his father-in-law, Captain van Dalsen, on an agreement to "be allowed to make an orchard," and for rental to give a fat capon yearly, and "a fourth part of two hundred guilders in good wheat, rye, peas or barley, to be given to God the Lord."

Upon this allotment, which thus included the land already rendered cultivable by the labors of the Weck-quas-keeks, Hendrick,

The Van Oblien's Farm

the son of Joost, took up his abode, and at the time of the death of the latter, in the year 1706, had already erected a dwelling, the remains of which and the evidences of its long time occupation have recently come to light.

The precise position of this building had been for a number of years, a subject of discussion by those interested in local history, because no signs of such a dwelling could be traced on the surface of the grassy upland, where it has since been found, in spite of the very definite assertion made by the historian, James Riker, in his "History of Harlem," that the dwelling stood "at the intersection of 12th Avenue and 176th Street, on the tract since Arden's." It was thought, by a study of the title to the Haven properties forming the north part of the old Oblien's tract, that the "message," which was sold with 100 acres of the property in 1769, might have been the old farm dwelling, and if so, it would have occupied a site near that of the old Perkins home on the knoll at 179th Street, west of Broadway, around which were found traces of Revolutionary fireplaces and huts.

The position of this residence was upon that part of the Oblien's farm conveyed in 1769 to Blazius Moore, who resided thereon after the war, and therefore probably built his home on this site. The building walls were of unusually massive construction and of materials which were of the age or character of Colonial times. Its interior was closely examined when it was razed in 1908.

While its shell was probably much older, its interior structural details were of comparatively recent date, and so renewed efforts were made to locate the old home of the Dutch colonist. Permission was obtained from the estate of the late Edwin Corning Clark, to make explorations over the area of the property at 176th Street, and in 1911 and 1912, various trial holes were sunk which resulted in exposing some remains of modern green-houses on the southerly portion of the property, which has since been loaned by Mrs. Potter to the City for a children's playground.

If those examinations had been made a little further to the north, they would very likely have located the old house materials

Relics of the Revolution

lying below the sods at that time. But the ground was hard, and the steel probe would not give good indications, and as other places were demanding attention, it was not until the cut was made for 176th Street, across the field from Broadway to Fort Washington Avenue, that the site of the house was exposed. The work was done with such haste that the workmen tore away most of the stones forming the foundations before any measurements could be made. The line of this foundation on the south front of the building was, however, pretty well defined, and it located the house within 20 yards of the spot indicated by Riker.

The property was occupied by Hendrick and his wife Janmetje Tibout, until 1745, when their son, Johannes Oblienis, Constable of New Harlem in 1736, succeeded to the estate. In May, 1769, before the approach of the troubles of the Revolution, he sold one hundred acres, the northerly portion, to Blazius Moore, tobacco merchant of New York, and conveyed the lower half of the farm to his own son, Hendrick, removing then with his family to the Manor of Cortlandt, where he died in 1775. In this and other parts of the State, descendants of the family are still to be found.

At the time when the tide of warfare invaded the Heights, Hendrick was living in the old farmhouse with his wife, Maria Devoe, and his son John and daughter Helen. At some time during that troublous period, the record of which is not available, the farm and dwelling passed to Jacob Arden, who acquired several pieces of property on the Heights about that time, and Hendrick probably joined his parents in their home up State.

Jacob Arden was a butcher, brother of James Arden, who was a tallow chandler, both being in business in New York City. Jacob removed during the war to Kakeat in Rockland County, where Peter Oblienis, the brother of Johannes, was already settled. There he made his will in 1778 and died in 1781, leaving a widow Catherine, a son Jacob, and three daughters. Jacob Arden, butcher of New York, probably the son of the above, and successor in his business, died 1798, leaving a widow Anne.

The Van Oblien's Farm

Several members of the Oblien's family took active part in the war in the service of their country, and thus evidenced their patriotic character.

The old house thus vacated was doubtless utilized by the officers of the armies on the Heights, a fact of which plentiful evidences were found during the exploration of the site. It is probable also that the house was left by the soldiery in a more or less dilapidated condition, even if it did not become wholly ruined, or share the fate of the Dyckman home by fire. Around the summit of the knoll which it occupied were quantities of broken red bricks, such as would have formed a chimney, though not enough to indicate that the building had been wholly constructed of such materials. It was probably of heavy frame construction on the stone foundation, having the brick chimney extending out from the east end of the building, as was the case with the Dyckman and other farm houses in this locality. Below the house on the south-east is the curb of a well constructed of stone, and filled to the surface with recently deposited rubbish from a nearby cottage on the Clark estate.

A study of the British headquarters map of 1782 indicates the existence of several buildings between the site of the Oblien's dwelling and the high road, which is at this point now buried under Broadway.

This led to a search which at various points was rewarded by the disclosure of scattered debris below the grass. At one point there were indications of a fireplace constructed of stone, which may have been the remains of a hut, which was probably of the character of the buildings shown on the map of 1782.

Experience gained at other old dwellings soon located the deposits of household rubbish near the house site. A small pit at the southeast corner of the house, conveniently near the porch, had been used to deposit a surprising quantity of broken china and earthenware. As fragment after fragment of similar character came to hand, all or nearly all the portions of several utensils were secured. Among those which were complete and were entirely

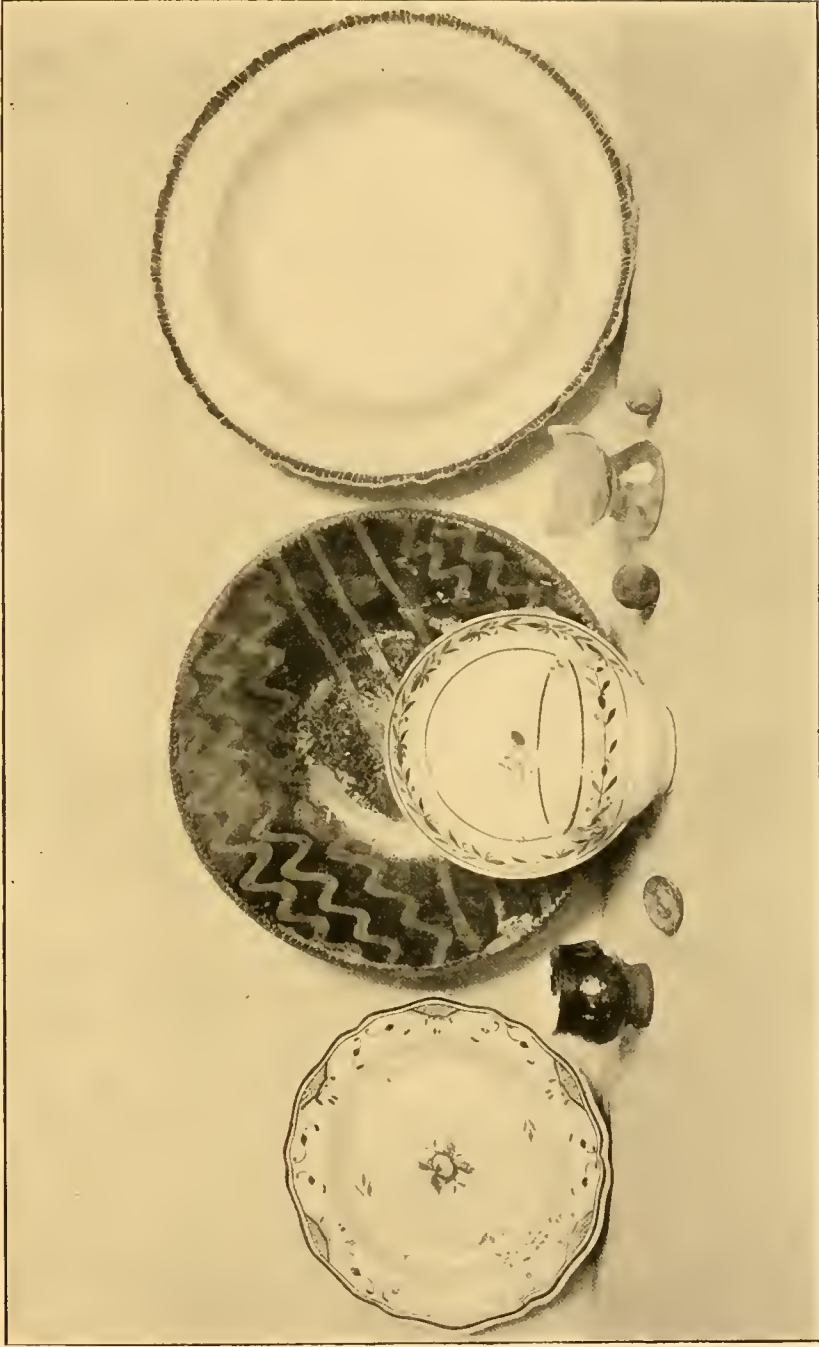
Relics of the Revolution

restored were a pie plate of glazed earthenware, countless fragments of which have been found elsewhere, but never sufficient to make a complete plate; a fine hand-painted plate; nearly all of a hand decorated saucer and tea cup of English Delft-ware; and a green-edged Leeds cream-ware plate. Several articles of black glazed earthenware, including an egg cup, were found, with engraved and cut glass objects, indicating some refinement in the table furnishing of the family. (See page 69.)

Above these peaceful remains were distinctly military objects, such as an iron grape shot and a leaden bullet, which afforded a clue to the military occupation of the place.

At the rear of the site the principal rubbish deposit of the house was found, where a tangle of coarse weeds grew in the enriched soil. A mass of household rubbish and ashes was found at a depth of from a foot to two feet below, the upper layers of which soon proved to be of military character. These included nearly two dozen of pike-butt points, which have been found on every soldiers' camp, and several of the little rectangular iron plates perforated with a keyed opening, the use of which is not known. Two large square sockets having a handle on a chain, were found, of which another specimen was taken out of the barrack site on Bennett Avenue. These were followed by more determinate evidence in the shape of a pewter button of the American Continental army, and a silver button of the 54th British foot regiment. The latter corps was that in which Major Andre held his commission, and which was, according to von Krafft, encamped upon the Heights in August, 1781. "The 54th English Regiment came here," he writes, "from Paul's hook, and pitched their camp in front of the 38th Regiment near New York."

The pit containing the rubbish descended to about three feet depth at the lowest point, and eventually extended to ten or more feet diameter. It contained, besides the military objects, quantities of bones, shells, large and small forged nails, spikes, hinges, padlocks, broken bottles and scraps of earthenware, and a few household articles such as knives and forks, evidencing the usual house-



Chinaware Found at Site of Van Oblienis Dwelling, West 176th Street, August, 1913

Relics of the Revolution

hold waste. Masses of red Colonial brick lay at the end of the pit nearest the dwelling.

A careful examination of the great cherry trees was made; one of these was between 10 and 11 feet in circumference, and though perhaps successors of the orchard of Kiersen and van Dalsen, they were all less than a hundred years of age, and probably were planted along the course of a driveway that led from the old high road to the farmhouse.

Connected as it is with the history of the leading family of the little old township, and occupying land the history and use of which extends back beyond the advent of the white man, it may be regarded as a very fortunate occurrence that it was possible to secure so much evidence, identifying for future record the site of the home of the old Dutch family of van Oblienis.

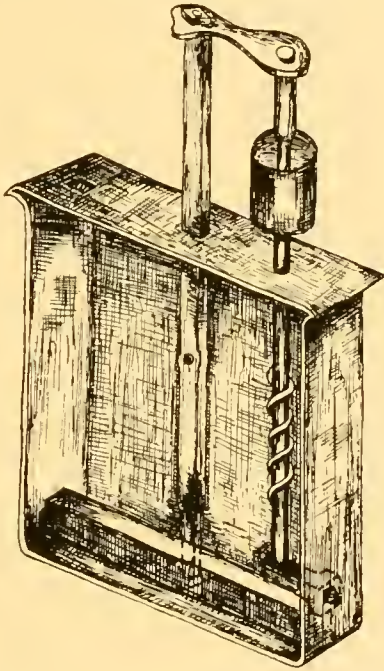
After the sale of the northerly part of the Oblienis farm in 1769, the property passed from Blazius Moore through several hands to the late Hosea B. Perkins. His residence was a two-story stone building with two large square wings and standing surrounded by beautiful lawns and shade trees, facing Broadway at 179th Street. Its grounds extended to Fort Washington Avenue from 178th to 180th Street.

While the work of grading away the grounds around the dwelling was being hastily carried out, some significant traces of the past use of the place by the military came to light. Two small bar-shot were found on a fireplace near Broadway, which had evidently been used in the fireplace of one of the huts, of which there were traces at several points along the road. Northeast of the house, on the edge of the elevated terrace which extended across its front, there was a pit in which were very many fragments of old bottles, a case bottle or flask, some china ware, pottery, a shoe-buckle, and old unmarked clay pipes. Southeast of the house, about the same level, was a bricked hearth with ashes, in which a musket bullet was found. Further to the northeast was another "dump," with large oyster shells and much charcoal, and

The Van Oblienis Farm

in this was found a very large clumsy iron lock operated with a screw.

This curious screw-lock consists of an iron box or frame about three inches deep and ten inches square. Through the center there passes the bolt, which is secured to a screw, set parallel and provided with a hand-wheel or nut, by which it can be turned. There has evidently been a worm-wheel or screw lever, which has been



pivoted on the bolt, but was not found with it. There is a guide or trough on the inside of the bolt plate. The method of operation is not quite clear, but it is ingenious and in its construction is an excellent piece of smith's workmanship.

This was found near the three old underground vaults which were uncovered under the terrace of the old mansion, and may have belonged to one of their doors. Close to Broadway the re-

Relics of the Revolution

mains of a building were found, which consisted of rough stones, with a brick hearth, on and around which were broken bottles, china, wine-glasses and pipes. One of the bottle-necks bore traces of wire which had secured the cork. Near the rear of the house was buried an old bill-hook and a spade of the old narrow form of Colonial times.

The haste with which the clearance of the soil and rock was made precluded any careful excavation, or even any opportunity of watching the process, as practically every part of the surface soil of this large area was cleared away within a period of two weeks, and at a season of the year unsuited to outdoor exploration. The soil was carried away and used to fill in West 173rd Street, between Broadway and Fort Washington Avenue, where, no doubt, some of the materials lost to sight in the process of clearing the site may some day be turned up. The huts along the west side of the King's Bridge road in the Revolution probably extended from the Oblien's farm to this point and in view of their convenient proximity to the Blue Bell tavern and to the Garrison Barracks, it seems possible that such huts would be those occupied by officers. Reference to huts near the Blue Bell was made by Washington, who saw them during his reconnoissance in 1781, from Spuyten Duyvil hill top, but thought they looked more like stables than quarters.

Directly in the rear of this property, across Fort Washington Avenue, an excavation for the Chelsea Methodist Episcopal Church brought to light other evidences of military life. The site, at the north-west corner of 178th Street, was cleared in 1909, in great haste, and a number of fireplaces were disturbed around rocks, about one hundred feet from the Avenue, from which Mr. John Brown, the contractor, rescued a bayonet and seven of the largest size of double-headed bar-shot, weighing upwards of twenty-five pounds apiece. Others were disposed of by the workmen to a junkman at 10 cents apiece. He also secured the blade of a lance, which he presented, with two of the shot,

The Van Oblienis Farm

to the collection at the Headquarters House and one to the City College. In clearing out one fire-pit, there were afterwards found an iron canteen of the type used by Hessian soldiers, and a large brass buckle, both lying in the ashes of the fire pit.

Part of the garrison was probably camped out on this spot, and upon hastily vacating their quarters, left behind them such heavy impedimenta as these weighty shot, evidently used as fire-dogs on the hearths, as shown by the envelope of wood ashes in which they were encased.

When Fort Washington Avenue was opened years ago through the rear of the grounds of the Perkins residence, a fine bayonet was found, which is preserved by Mr. Robert Perkins. The excavators also disturbed what they reported to be a brick-lined grave, said to have contained human remains, supposed to be those of a British officer, but no details of any objects accompanying the discovery were recorded.

VIII

FORT WASHINGTON OR FORT KNYPHAUSEN

The defence of so important a fortification as Fort Washington involved the quartering of a force within the citadel. The British map of 1777 indicates that there were four buildings within the bastions of the fort. Judging from experience in excavating other forts, such as Number Four at King's Bridge, it would seem that these would probably have been guard-houses in which a number of men would be housed when off duty, with some sort of separate rooms or space for the officers in charge. As we know of no water supply within the fort, and as the position was very exposed to heat in summer and to cold winds in winter, the life inside the fort may well have been unpleasant as von Krafft states he at one time found it to be.

A British military map of 1782, in greater detail, also shows four buildings inside the fort, the main entrance to which is indicated on the south side in the centre. No traces of these buildings have been found, nor have sundry excavations at various points throughout the interior space yielded any results in the form of relics of past occupancy, save that the soil appeared to be more or less mixed with broken brick. This disappointing result has been due probably to the extensive re-grading in past times within the fort, by which the remains of the buildings were either removed or buried very deeply.

The outlines of the earthworks, which must have been quite extensive, are now only faintly visible on the north side, and cannot be traced on the south. The western bastions are well preserved but those at the east side have entirely disappeared. The monument erected by Mr. James Gordon Bennett occupies the center of the northeast bastion.

When the rock at this point was being cleared for the monument, a penny of King George III was found by John Crowley,

Fort Washington or Fort Knyphausen

just below the sod. It seems probable, therefore, that the interior of the fort has been leveled over with the material from the ramparts, and that any debris which exists may be below a considerable depth of soil. In 1910, a number of attempts were made to locate traces of buildings by measuring off space at regular intervals and digging short holes. There is an old cellar and fire-place almost in the center of the fort, but its construction appears to be more modern than the Revolutionary period. There is a well or rain water tank sunk in the rock which formed the north or center bastion of the fort, and which seems to be about twenty feet deep. Graydon, in his *Memoirs*, speaks very slightly of the Fort and refers in particular to the lack of water as a large error on the part of the designers. It seems most probable that some such provision must have been made for the occupants of the fort, yet there is nothing about it that proclaims its antiquity except its rude shape. The remains of short shot holes used in blasting are more modern.

The history of the occupation of the Fort, after its capture, is scanty. We know that its charge was at first committed to the grenadier battalion of von Koehler, which corps under Rahl's personal direction had overcome the resistance of the American force at Fort Tryon, and thus practically brought about the surrender of Fort Washington. After the event, it was officially re-named Fort Knyphausen, in honor of the Hessian General who had demanded and had received its surrender.

The first reference to its occupation thereafter is by von Kraft, from whom we learn that the Trumbach Regiment was ordered into the barracks within the fort in November, 1778; and he adds that "the workmen on the barracks" had not completed their work, and thus delayed the arrival of the regiment. Probably the work consisted of enlargement or rebuilding of the accommodation, so as to receive a whole regiment inside the fort.

In August, 1779, the powder magazine in the fort was torn down and the woodwork used in constructing additional defenses at Fort Tryon.

Relics of the Revolution

August 25, 1779, the 57th English Musketeers Regiment left the barracks to go to New York and their place was taken by two companies of the Prinz Carl Regiment. The 57th, in March, 1781, returned there and were accompanied by the "Composition" battalion of returned prisoners of Knyphausen's and Lossberg's regiments and some men of the Trumbach or von Bose.

In July, 1781, von Krafft himself, with his company of the von Donop Regiment, was ordered into the Fort, and was quartered "in tents on the right side," because an attack by the Rebels was expected. He tells us that "it was an execrable life there in the fort."

In August, 1781, von Krafft says:

"In the tents in the Fort, we, the two named companies, had much to put up with; we were almost burnt up by the sun and almost swimming in the rain."

Among the few objects found in the past within the Fort, and secured from those who have scattered them, were a large key, a ramrod, and a pair of old seissors.

The exterior part of the Fort consisted of earthworks, extending completely around the central fortification or citadel. Within this area the excavation for Fort Washington Avenue brought to sight a number of objects of military character. Several specimens of heavy missiles were discovered, and a double head bar-shot about sixteen pounds in weight. That the garrison from time to time camped out beyond the ramparts on the glacis and along the breastworks extending south of the fort, is evident from fire-places discovered in various places as far south as 178th Street.

On the northeast corner of 181st Street and Fort Washington Avenue, just beyond the line of earthworks, but on the glacis, there was found a human skeleton, only part of which was preserved. The skull was for some time in the possession of William Herlihy, a local contractor and saloon keeper, from whom the writer secured a fragmentary portion, together with a number

Fort Washington or Fort Knyphausen

of shot and other objects found near the same place. These included a pike or "Spontoon" blade of crude form and some British coins. The sewerage of Fort Washington Avenue, just south of 181st Street, at a later date disturbed a number of human remains, which the contractor Green stated were at least forty-five in number. The location was traditionally that of the "Garrison burying ground," and of the remains, one skull was secured. Inspector Cortright stated that some of these or similar remains had previously been disturbed at the time of the construction of the Avenue itself, and that he had secured a large brass button from one burial and also a bullet taken out of the skull of another.

In 1910, an excavation was made on the north side of 181st Street for the construction of the Reformed (Dutch) Church, which cut deeply into the hillside, extending into the line of the breastworks. A search along the cut disclosed a few indications of military character, a gun-flint, a bullet or so, and then led to a fire pit at the northwest corner of the Church in which were found buttons of the 38th Foot, and one of a private soldier of the 82nd Scotch Regiment. This was one of the corps raised by the special efforts of the Scottish nobility for service in America, and was known as the Duke of Hamilton's regiment. It is interesting to note that no more than a single company was in New York at any time. Von Krafft records, March 6, 1780, that the 82nd with other corps went from New York to Long Island, and he again refers to the presence of the 82nd on the heights in August, 1783.

In May, 1913, an exploration was undertaken of the interior space in the outer earthworks of Fort Washington, as it had been noted that trees which once lined the old Bennett lane, between 181st Street and Fort Washington Avenue, were being cut down and, therefore, grading operations for the opening of Magaw Street might soon be anticipated.

Relics of the Revolution

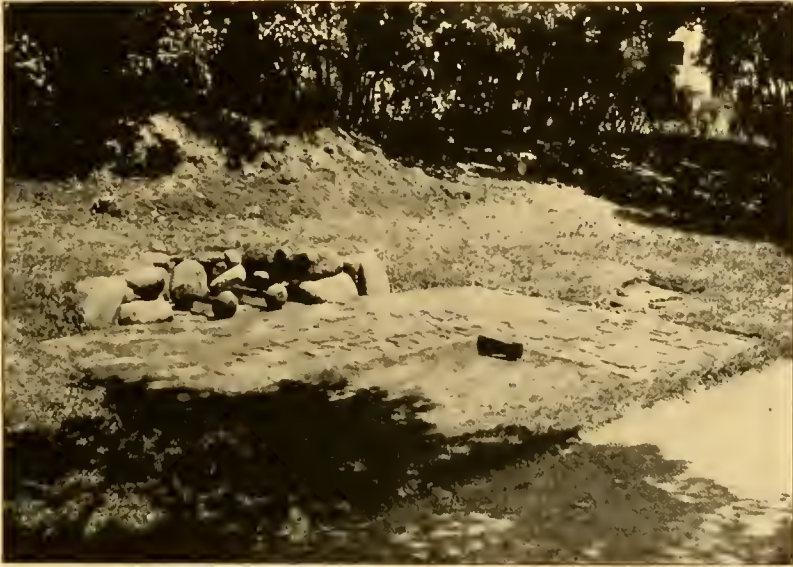
It was found that the surface had been disturbed in several places, the turf being removed, offering an opportunity of examining the soil which had never before been available. The steel sounding rod was used freely, and at a point about forty feet east of Fort Washington Avenue and about forty feet north of the Bennett boundary fence, a place was struck which gave an even resistance to penetration, indicating a level surface about a foot and a half to two feet below the sods. A small hole was dug and disclosed some old red bricks lying flat and close together at this depth, which at once indicated the existence of a floor, and some active work soon uncovered a brick-laid space extending west and north, floored evenly with old-style red and blue bricks, mostly in halves, or "bats," a fair indication of a revolutionary hut, but of superior character.

The location was admirably suited for an officer's quarters, as it was sheltered by the ramparts of the fortification on level ground within the outer breastwork. It lay about in line with the south front of the fort, and overlooked a wide expanse of landscape, embracing Fort George, Fort Number Eight, and a broad sweep over Westchester County, miles beyond the present City line.

Only a short distance along this floor, old ironwork was found consisting of barrel hoops, old hinges, spikes, and a narrow shovel. Broken pipes, one of unmistakably Colonial style, and some scraps of china were also discovered, and the back of a button, similar in manufacture to officers' buttons of the Revolutionary period. Following the brick floor, it was found to extend about nine or ten feet across; and after reaching its westerly limit, it was concluded that, if a fireplace existed, it would be to the north, and efforts in that direction were soon rewarded by finding large stones which formed a well-made fireplace, the hearth being carefully laid in half-bricks, with a rather limited amount of ashes on the surface, but with the customary presence of nails and spikes and charcoal. On the west side of the little space two large bar-shot were uncovered, which lay at right angles to each other, one in

Fort Washington or Fort Knyphausen

its original position, as a fire dog, on the hearth, the other lying outside. The bricks of the hearth were grooved across, where the edges of the shot had worn them. This gave a clear decision as to the character of the place, and some good photographs were secured. The shot weighed fully fifty pounds apiece, each being more than two feet in length. Some boy visitors volunteered to procure paper and string, and at the same time some much-needed



Fireplace and Brick Floor of Officers' Hut Reconstructed at Washington's Headquarters

ginger ale and, with their help, the shot were "packed" over to the Broadway street-car line and taken to the Headquarters House.

The discovery opened up new possibilities as regards further finds in the immediate vicinity of the Fort, and indicated that the officers of the garrison had found the interior of the fortifications itself too confined for comfort, as indeed is evident from von Kraft's remarks. The following Sunday the work of clearing out the hut site was continued, with the aid of several friends, Leslie

Relics of the Revolution

Spier, Walter Neumuller, and John Ward Dunsmore, the historical artist; the latter taking photographs of the cleared space. Little more was found on the floor save an iron grape shot, a bullet, and part of a brass brooch or pin.

While the work was in active progress, a couple of moving picture photographers appeared and asked to be permitted to capture a scene, to be used in a series of historical pictures, arranged by the City History Club, which was designed to include scenes from the historical sites on Washington Heights. The party was, therefore, "placed" and the various processes put in motion of digging, sounding, cleaning the floor and sifting the debris, with a boy engaged in pouring out sarsaparilla in a cup, and a baby and its parents as eye-witnesses, and also the inevitable dog, which appears on all such occasions.

The floor of the hut was carefully cleaned and measured, and was found to cover a space in front of the fireplace twelve feet in width and extending back nine feet to the south. The southwest corner, for a space of about six feet by four feet, was unpaved, of beaten sand. This portion was probably under a bed or table. On the east side was a depressed space which was probably the entrance, and the bricks had become wet and sunken at this point. Close by this doorway were scraps of window glass, and two wrought iron hinges, such as would be suited to window frames or screens. These were near an old type of shovel, which lay nearer the fireplace. On the eastern part of the floor was a large camp axe-head, broken at the back, having been used probably as a maul. One of the ubiquitous iron grape shot was found near by, and close to the fireplace lay a small brass object, which, on closer examination, looked like the top of a wooden snuff-box, brass-mounted, with some of the wood adhering. A few scraps of a cream-ware tea-cup and of a blue-edged plate lay on the floor, and various fragments of clay pipes, of which one bore a trade mark, "J. W." in a cartouche design.

The bricks forming the floor were of varying sizes and shapes, mostly in halves, but quite a number were whole, as were those

Fort Washington or Fort Knyphausen

lying loose on the floor, which had evidently fallen into the fireplace from the chimney. Some of the bricks were glazed by the action of fire, and all were of Colonial proportions. The hearth measured 36 inches wide by 20 inches deep, and was constructed outside the hut floor. The two bar-shot were found to be not quite the same size.

It may be concluded that the upper part of the hut was of wood, and was probably burnt down after its furnishings had been removed, and only the cumbersome shot and axe and broken shovel and debris were left to lend character to its discovery.

The hut having developed such an interesting character, the possibilities of its immediate surroundings were earnestly discussed. It was possible that it was one of a series and if so, others might be located at even distances on the same level or grade. The ground was hard and the work of inserting the steel "sunder" proved laborious.

A week later the conditions became more favorable, for very heavy rains had softened the soil, and the rod was vigorously and systematically plied, in the hope of striking some nearby place where the debris of the occupants might have been dumped. Such a procedure seemed most probable, and it was thought to be most likely to be found on the slope below the hut, and probably near the point which appeared to have been its entrance. General interest among the workers was excited when at a point about 25 feet from the hut doorway, the steel rod passed through shells at a depth of about two and a half feet below the sod. Oyster shells in such a position are readily discerned by piercing them with the "sunder," and their presence at such a depth indicated the situation of other rubbish in a "dump." Such it proved to be on removing the soil, exposing a mass of debris lying at a depth of about three feet.

The "sifter" was brought into play, and soon caught a plentiful supply of small military objects. These were mixed with many meat bones, shells, charcoal and ash, bullets, ironwork, hoops and broken pottery. Pewter buttons found were mostly of the small

Relics of the Revolution

size used on gaiters, but by-and-by a 57th Regiment button showed up and gave the first definite information as to the military history of the place.

A button of the 38th, of unusual design, soon rewarded the sifters, and two bone buttons, used on underwear, were followed by several cuff-links, one of which bore a design of a female figure bending over an anchor. These excited much interest in the group of explorers and numerous visitors, and were followed by three fine silver buckles in almost perfect condition, save that their steel hinge-pins are rusted away. They appear to be such as were used on the high stocks and collars of that period. The broken china included part of a handpainted Chinese porcelain cup, and some English cream ware, forming part of a bowl and saucer, also



Officers' Lace Cuff-Links

a hand-painted English Delft saucer. The glass included part of a drinking tumbler decorated with an engraved design, probably Stiegel glass, from Pennsylvania, and parts of a large square black schnapps flask. The superior character of these objects indicated their possession by officers.

There were many bullets of several sizes, a buckshot, and some musket flints, all lending a military character to the rest of the material. Of course, there were barrel hoops and nails, and another much abused axe head. A broken knife and pipe bowls were mixed with oyster shells and quantities of scraps of bone.

When this place was exhausted, the soil in the neighborhood was tested with the steel rod, and a sort of rubbish pit was found near the "dump," in which was abundant charcoal, ash, and signs of

Fort Washington or Fort Mifflin

fire. Only a bullet and a musket flint gave character to the place, but it was probably a pit in which some material had been buried.

On the north side of the hut, on Decoration Day, another hut site was found of much humbler character, the floor being of beaten sand, and the area only about eight feet square. Although the customary pot-hook lay on the floor, there was no distinct fireplace, and it was concluded that it may have been removed in some old time regrading. There were signs of a driveway of broken stones, below the soil at the north end of the hut site. This was the drive that at one time led to the Morewood house, which was built about sixty years ago within the ramparts of the Fort. One of the ladies of that family informed the writer some years ago, that when the grounds were laid out around the house, quantities of shot and iron work were found and carted away to the foundry. The cellar walls of this house still remain, but the structure was razed about the year 1897. This smaller hut is taken to have been some sort of annex to the officers' quarters, probably a cooking room, or hut for the orderlies.

The work on Decoration Day was aided by the Rev. Livingston R. Schuyler, of the City College, who doffed his clerical coat and took an active share in the hard shovelling, that showed him to be a man of brawn as well as brain.

The final search of the surrounding soil, contiguous to the hut, rewarded the explorers with several interesting additions to the store of relics. These included a button of the 80th Royal Edinburgh Volunteers, and also one of the Cheshire Regiment or 22nd Foot. A frail cord of silver thread was found, which may have supported some keepsake around a soldier's neck.

All these evidences and their situation lead to the conclusion that this hut was occupied by officers of rank, whose orderlies were provided from various regiments, of which the 57th was in garrison duty in August, 1779, and again in 1781, and the 38th was in service here in 1782.

It seemed to be well worth while to preserve the old bricks forming the floor of the officers' hut, and so permission for their removal

Relics of the Revolution

was sought of Mr. Bennett's representatives, and kindly accorded. The Park Department loaned a wagon, and with the aid of two park laborers, we removed the old bricks from the floor and transferred them to Washington's Headquarters. Later the removal of the fireplace was effected, and after measuring and marking, it was completely re-erected within the grounds of the Mansion.

The bar-shot are secured on the hearth by steel straps and the other objects are placed in the guard room, together with photographs of the scene.

The discovery added another interesting item to the Revolutionary history of the Heights and has contributed to our knowledge of the life and habits of the officers of that period.

IX

BARRACKS OF THE FORT WASHINGTON GARRISON

The ground upon which, as we now know, the garrison of the central fortification of the Revolution on upper Manhattan Island was camped and housed, has been at all times available only to a limited extent for cultivation, by reason of its steepness, and in part by its inaccessible character. Most of its area was probably pasture and woodland long before, and has so remained since the Revolution. For the same reason, the operations of the modern builder have been diverted, and the opening of streets has been deferred, so that only in recent years has any disturbance been made of the natural features of the locality.

The old highway or King's Bridge Road, which ran irregularly the length of Washington Heights, reached at Fort Washington its highest level, and passing the crest of the hill, commenced its descent to the Inwood Valley. Less than a hundred feet north of what is now 181st Street, the well-known Blue Bell Tavern stood on the westerly margin of the high road, sheltered at the rear by an abrupt hillock, behind which ran a little brook known as "the run" which bounded downwards through the vale between the highway and the "Long Hill" or Mount Washington.

The hollow between the hillside which extends up towards Fort Washington, and the Post Road, which is now Broadway, is crossed near 184th Street line by some great rocks which made a part of the defenses or "glacis" of Fort Washington on its easterly side, and these rocks were known to the old residents of the vicinity as "The Death Gap." At the foot of the largest mass of rock, prior to the construction of Bennett Avenue, there bubbled out a little spring of clear water, which tradition had connected with the Revolution under the name of the "Hessian Spring." Its waters joined those of a little brook which had its source in higher springs on lands once cleared by the aborigines and known to the early

Relics of the Revolution

settlers as "The Indian Field," which later became the farm of Hendrick van Oblienis, and at the time of the Revolution, was in the ownership of Blazius Moore, the tobacco merchant of Broadway at Fulton Street. North of his boundary, which ran near the centre line of 181st Street, the land west of Broadway was occupied at the time of the Revolution by a picturesque local character of the name of John Bernard Bauer, a German preacher known as "Barney Bowers," whose descendants tell of their occupation of the old building, once the Blue Bell Tavern, as their home, and of the death of their ancestor as a result of injuries sustained in lifting guns within Fort Washington.

All the physical features surrounding this charming vale indicated a natural and most desirable site for a camp. The little stream passing through the hollow, the bubbling spring at the foot of the great rocks, the shelter of the steep hill on the west, the vicinity of the Tavern, and its easy access from the King's Highway together with its proximity to the Fort and the protection of its gun fire sweeping overhead, all formed more or less desirable features for the lodgment of the soldiery comprising the garrison of that important military work.

The ground itself was in past time, and is still to some extent, terraced, particularly just northeast of the boundary of the Bennett property, or 182nd Street, and here and there a few scrubby cedar trees still cling to the out-cropping rocks, descendants of those which in early Colonial times sheltered the Huguenots of New Rochelle on their dusty tramp on Sabbath days to the Church du Sainte Esprit on Pine Street.

Part of the slope of the hillside, immediately east of the lane which led to the Bennett residence, was occupied until quite recently by a little cottage, within the garden of which there were turned up by the spade from time to time a number of objects connected with military life, such as brass buttons, a cannon ball or two, and a British bronze coin of the reign of William and Mary, all of which were at one time in the possession of the Conklin or Leayercraft family.

Barracks of the Fort Washington Garrison

At the intersection of 181st Street with Broadway, other objects were discovered from time to time such as a small iron shot, a large old key, perhaps that of the old Inn, and the point of a sword scabbard.

Such objects are, however, by no means unusual on Washington Heights, a locality in which it is natural to expect evidences of Colonial or military life to come to light from time to time, and so when Mr. W. L. Calver found, on the north side of 181st Street, about fifty feet east of Broadway, a pewter button bearing the number of the 38th British Regiment, and when another button of the same corps was found at a little later date in the Bennett Lane, leading from 181st Street to Fort Washington Avenue, although these objects clearly indicated the presence of soldiery around the vicinity, they gave no special indication of the particular spot upon which the barracks of the military corps had been situated.

The historical references to the vicinity, some of which have been previously described, indicated that somewhere in this vicinity there had been a camp of the American troops, prior to and at the time of the capture of Fort Washington. The Hessian account of the capture of the Fort refers to barracks into which the American officers of the captured garrison led their captors and entertained them with wine and cake.

Among Washington's military orders were several references to a camp market to be established on the glacis of the Fort which, by reason of the topography, was doubtless in the immediate neighborhood of the locality here described.

An interesting reference to the American occupation of this site is contained in a letter written in October, 1776, by an officer in the patriotic army. The writer, Dr. Eleazar Woodruff, says that he with others, "is encamped on the east side of Mount Washington" and he writes in enthusiastic terms of the comfort of his quarters. He was probably surgeon to one of the American corps. He adds "we would not change places with any regiment in the service."

Relics of the Revolution

The construction of Bennett Avenue, in September, 1906, cut deeply into the grassy hill-side, and exposed the rocky surfaces, disturbing quantities of bricks, broken glass and meat bones, at a point nearly opposite the line of 183rd Street. The haste with which this work was done precluded any close examination of the disclosures, but the presence of some sort of building with fire-places of a substantial character was established by the character and quantity of the debris.

The picturesque Hessian spring lay, unfortunately, in the very line of the future avenue, and preparations were made to drain the water off into sewer pipes, prior to filling it into a height of about fifteen feet. The old local tradition of fighting around the "Death Gap," received an interesting confirmation when the contractor's men found at the base of the rocks, imbedded deep in the ground, some solid shot and an unexploded shell, one of which bore the broad arrow mark of the British Army Stores. These relics were taken away by contractors and probably lost. The tradition was thus confirmed, and later some British pennies bearing dates of 1738 and of 1776 were found by the writer, and gave further indication of the occupation of the locality. These scattered evidences led to an effort to decide the exact position of the huts or barracks which had evidently existed somewhere at this point. A copy of the British military headquarters map of 1782, which some years ago was discovered to be in existence in London, was obtained, and a close examination of that portion of the map which included Fort Washington and its vicinity showed, at a point between the Fort and the highroad, indications of buildings of a somewhat extensive character, as compared with other and smaller dwellings and farmhouses along the line of the old Post Road. This part of the map was enlarged on tracing paper to a scale of one hundred feet to one inch, including the buildings referred to, and was then laid over another map of that part of the City and adjusted by the original known location of the mile-stones on the old King's Bridge Road, which has been widened

Barracks of the Fort Washington Garrison

only in recent years into the present Broadway. It became apparent that the long buildings marked upon the old map must have stood on the line of Bennett Avenue, at or very near the intersection of 182nd Street, and therefore that the debris disturbed in cutting the hillside for the construction of the Avenue was in all probability part of such buildings.



Excavating Military Relics on the Barracks Site, Hessian Hut Camp

With this information as a guide, a careful search was made, by raking and digging along the edges of the cut which had been made into the hillsides. The search had almost been given up, when a fortunate scratch by the hoe, a little deeper than before, brought forth a piece of iron chain with a handle or crossbar which was attached to a square socket of iron, of similar shape to one which had been found some years before in an excavation near

Relics of the Revolution

Dyckman Street and is in the collection of the late Mr. C. C. Simpson. This indicated the probable existence of other objects of military character.

With heavier tools a space was cleared, and only a foot below the original level of the turf, ground was found which bore evidence of having been beaten or trodden in layers, indicating successive periods or seasons of usage. These layers extended along a line, which, after months of intermittent work in exploration, was found to extend for about three hundred feet north and south along the present east sidewalk of Bennett Avenue.

In and below this hard-packed material and especially on its easterly side lay numerous evidences of military occupation, more or less broken, indicating the use of the space as a pathway or perhaps the trodden space in front of the line of barrack buildings. East of the path much debris was found scattered in the soft sandy soil of the sloping bank which, when excavated and put through the analysis of the sieve, afforded unmistakable evidences of the military occupation of the place by a number of the British regiments engaged in the War of the Revolution.

Among the first military buttons to be found which lay in close proximity to each other, were a number of those of the 74th or Argyle Highland Regiment.* These were followed by the familiar buttons of the 57th Regiment of Foot, and later, by an interesting button of the 3d Guards, Scotch.†

Among these was found a button of the 28th Foot Regiment, of which a small specimen had previously been found at Fort

* Two companies of the Argyle Highlanders came to New York. The 74th embarked at Greenock in Aug. 1778, for Halifax, where they were garrisoned. The 80th and 82nd were under the command of Brig. Gen. Francis McLean. In the spring of 1779, the Grenadier Co., commanded by Capt. Ludovick, and the Light Co., commanded by Capt. Campbell of Balnachie, were sent to New York.

† The Third Guards was one of three Battalions, consisting of the First, Coldstream, and Third or Scots Guards, all under the command of Colonel Edward Mathew of the Coldstream. These battalions took part in a number of engagements, including the assault on Fort Washington in 1776. The Third Guards are not to be confused with the Third Foot Regiment or The Buffs.

Barracks of the Fort Washington Garrison

George.* In close association with these buttons were found various kinds of missiles, such as musket bullets and pistol bullets, buck-shot and iron grape-shot. A penny of George II, of the year 1744, lay alongside a broken sword-blade, and all around the space was the debris of the camp-fire and soup-kettle — the pot-hooks, burnt stones and charcoal, broken bottles and china, meat bones, oyster and clam shells.

The fascination of these discoveries prompted the explorers to prolong their work into the winter season, and as late as the middle of December, a plain gold button with ivory back, apparently that of an officer, was found close to a pewter button of the Seventy-Sixth Highland Regiment.† With these came to light numerous clay pipe bowls, some bearing the mark "W. G."—a familiar sign of the presence of soldiery of that period, many black gun-flints, numerous bullets, buck-shot, two pistol ram-rod guides of brass, close to the latter of which was found a penny bearing the familiar superscription and visage of George III.

Some interesting groups of objects were found, which afforded some indication that the broken or lost objects had been cast out from the doors or windows of the buildings. In such groups there was much broken chinaware, some of excellent quality and interesting design. One curious object of this kind was a legless Dresden china lamb, possibly the toy of some child of the camp. Quantities of broken clay pipes, both bowls and stems, were found in such places, and these proved of interest, some bearing trade-marks previously unknown, even to that veteran collector, Mr. Calver. One stem was found, bearing the full name and address of a manufacturer "W. Hutchinson, Liverpool," in close proximity to a button of the 33d Regiment. Some of the pipes were

* The Twenty-Eighth Regiment was commanded by Colonel Erle and it took a prominent part in the Battle of White Plains. The buttons of the regiment have been found in several places on Washington Heights.

† The 76th or McDonald's Highlanders was a corps which was raised in Scotland in 1778 by the Laird of McDonald especially for service in the War for Independence. The Regiment was at this place, according to von Krafft, in October, 1789.

Relics of the Revolution

so complete as to be of particular value in comparison of shapes and sizes.

In some places the buttons of various corps lay quite close together, as if old uniforms had been buried or thrown away in one place, with a number of buttons upon them, and on one pleasant and particularly fortunate Sunday afternoon, no less than twenty-five numbered buttons were found, the majority being those of the 76th McDonald Highlanders, with others of the 33d Foot.*

Among the unnumbered buttons were some of similar patterns to others which have been found on sites in which the presence of the Hessian troops was known, thus confirming the presumption of the locality including the site of the Hut Camp of the von Donop and other Hessian corps. That it had also been occupied by American troops was indicated by one of the ornamental pewter buttons, which was identical with specimens which have been discovered on the site of the American quarters known as the Hempstead Huts, situated near the Continental Village in the Highlands of the Hudson.

In June, 1909, the work of trenching was extended along the easterly side of the line of Bennett Avenue southwards towards 181st Street, and at a depth of about one and one-half feet below the surface, among the military debris, a fine bronze belt-plate of the 7th Regiment, or Royal Fusiliers† was found lying face down, the inscription being thus perfectly preserved. The face is engraved with a monogram "R. F." in elaborate script.

In 1910, the results of the work along the edge of the street grading indicated that the limit of the deposits of debris had been reached. The extent of this line of material had been about three hundred feet, running north and south from a point between 181st and 182nd Streets to a point between 183rd Street and 184th

* The Thirty-Third Foot Regiment was commanded by Earl Cornwallis. The regiment had a reputation for its smart appearance, the Grenadiers being known as "Macaroni's" on account of their particularly dapper appearance.

† The Royal Fusiliers, as the Seventh Regiment was known, was commanded by Colonel Beartie. It was most unfortunate during the Revolution, losing part of its number and its colors at Chamblé, and having a similar experience at Cowpens and it also lost many men by disease during the War.

Barracks of the Fort Washington Garrison

Street, which may therefore be assumed to have been about the space along which the barrack buildings once extended.

Attention was then naturally directed to the vicinity, and the surface of the rocks around the "Death Gap" was explored. On the summit just to the east of the avenue were found the remains of some wooden building, which had evidently been destroyed by fire, as much burnt debris lay over the surface including nails, bricks and stones, broken bottles, oyster shells and meat bones, all more or less exhibiting the effects of fire. A British half-penny of 1774, a fine ornamental brass button, and a small Spanish silver coin* indicated the presence of soldiery. The Hessians were paid in this class of coinage for their unwilling service.

The position on the summit of this rock commands a fine view of the valley to Spuyten Duyvil, and would most likely have been occupied by some sort of watch house.

Interesting as were all these objects, it was still evident that so large a body of soldiery, as to the character and extent of which the numbered buttons had now given positive assurance, could not have disposed of all their waste materials by the limited amount of such debris as had already been discovered. The results so far had indicated the presence of nineteen British regiments, and had afforded strong indications of American and Hessian occupation.

Attention was directed to the sloping ground extending from the site of the barracks, eastward of Bennett Avenue, to the bed of the one time brook which used to flow down across the line of 181st Street, west of Broadway to the Harlem River. It had by this time become dry, as a result of the diversion of the water into the sewer in 181st Street. The vacant property of the Beekman family includes about three hundred feet of the line of the brook, most of which had been a receptacle for all kinds of rubbish from the rear of the buildings along Broadway for years past, probably from the old Blue Bell tavern, among others. The semi-

* The Spanish silver coinage, being lighter than that of the British, became the main silver in circulation at the period.

Relics of the Revolution

dried bed of the brook was now covered with a dense growth of rank weeds. It was a subject of discussion as to whether any haphazard excavation upon this unpromising looking site would result in more than severe labor in heavy wet soil. But it certainly appeared to be more than probable that the larger and heavier camp debris, under the old unsanitary methods, had either been pitched into the brook, or would have been under proper military methods, disposed of by burial in pits, and that the ground was naturally favorable for such a purpose. But the absence of any indications made it difficult to decide where to make an attempt to pierce the weedy covering that might possibly be concealing such interesting possibilities. The steel sounding rod had not at that time become an aid in such work, or it would have demonstrated the facts.

On a blazing hot Sunday afternoon in August, 1910, the probabilities or possibilities of the unpromising looking site were discussed. The thick growth of weeds waist high offered a discouraging appearance to active operations, but a start was made haphazard in the middle of the swampy ground, and a hole sunk through the weeds and turf. The heat was great, and the labor was severe, but when the ground was taken out to a depth of a couple of feet, the spade entered a layer of debris of unmistakably old character lying on the wet black clay which had once formed the bottom of the brook. It took no more than a sight of the first bullet to indicate its military character, and within a space about six feet square many military objects were found such as bullets, three gun-flints, a brass knee-buckle, an iron horseshoe, a camp broad axe the cutting edge of which is nearly eight inches wide, a sapper's pick, and part of an oval iron canteen of Hessian pattern. With these were found, without sifting, several pewter buttons, greatly decayed, and a gold-plated officer's button, which upon examination proved to be of great interest. So frail was this object that a mere film of the metal was left on the face, and the bone back was a rotted paste. Expert care proved successful in drying and restoring it, and it was found to be of

Barracks of the Fort Washington Garrison

pattern identical with one shown in the work "Le Bouton de l'Armée Francaise," by Capitaine Bottet, which was that used by officers of the French Army as early as 1775.

These finds confirmed the disposal by the occupants of the barracks of waste material along the line of the brook, and from that time on, we steadily dug and trenched in the moist material which



Leaden Seals Securing Packages of English and French Cloth and Linen

had at one time formed the marshy borders of the brook, northwards towards the boundary of the Beekman property, and parallel with the Barrack site.

The next definite military object was a pewter button of the 14th Foot Regiment, which corps, after service in Virginia, took part in the engagements around New York in 1776, but returned to England in the year 1777, thus showing the occupation of this place in the early part of the war. The button was of particular

Relics of the Revolution

interest, as it has a milled border, the first of this pattern so far discovered. Near this and other buttons were found flat pieces of lead, bent so as to form a hold for gun-flints in the locks of muskets, and also a pencil of soft lead about two and one-half inches long, one of a number which eventually decided the character of these objects as the lead pencils of the Army, a number of which have since been found.

The layer of debris and ashes developed considerably in area as we worked towards the north in the fall of 1910, and Mr. Jeremiah Hunter, C. E., of the Department of Finance, aided in the heavy work of lifting and sifting all the material as it was brought up from the bottom of the trench, which was then about one and one-half yards wide and some three feet deep.

In one afternoon's work as many as sixteen bullets and an equal number of gun-flints, were taken out, some being found perfect and unused. Among other objects, a number of scraps of thin sheet lead were found, which had been cut into various shapes by knife or scissors. From their quantity and appearance they are assumed to have been used for padding the lapels of uniforms, or to have been sewn into the lower edges of coats and were probably in the discarded garments thrown into "the dump." Quantities of fragments of rum bottles, china, pottery and porcelain, medicine bottles and wine glasses were found, and numerous forged nails and iron spikes up to eight inches in length with here and there the butt end of a pike staff. With these, we began to find other military buttons, several of which proved to be those of the 45th Foot Regiment, a corps which was actively engaged in most of the events of the Revolution, up to the battle of Germantown, but which lost so many men by sickness and battle, that it was returned in 1778, barely one hundred strong, to England. So that these buttons were probably thrown or lost in this place at that date.

The presence of Scotch soldiers was indicated by a heart-shaped blue glass jewel, evidently from the clasp used by some Scotsman to secure his shawl at the shoulder.

Barracks of the Fort Washington Garrison

We found an iron socket $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter by 3 inches long, not pointed, but rounded, which may have been the butt end of a regimental color-staff.

Deepening the trench towards the course of the brook, we struck a cannon ball buried below the layer of debris. It was thickly cased in rusted clay, but it was found to weigh five and a half pounds, and was probably originally of a weight of six pounds and thus shows a loss in weight of nine per cent. in one hundred and thirty years of underground residence. Very near to this were bullets and gun-flints, broken files and part of a saw. Close to these we found a most interesting button of the Continental American artillery, which lay close to the cannon ball and the tools. The design of the button is similar to another which was found on Constitution Island, and to others found at the American camp known as Hempstead Huts, in Putnam County, New York.

A small glass jewel was found, possibly from a set of cuff links, which was cut in intaglio with a rose, and hard by was a button of the Sixth Regiment,* this having a pewter loop, an unusual feature in a British military button. Contiguous to this button were other British buttons, such as those of the 4th, 10th, 38th, 57th and 82d Regiments. A curious find close to these objects was a hair pin which lay with a large plain silver button among many fragments of porcelain and scratched and salt-glazed earthenware. Perhaps the sex of the cook that broke the ware and wore the button is indicated by the hair pin.

Where the layer of debris ended it was found that it had covered so far an area of about forty feet by ten feet wide.

Still working downstream and only six feet further on, a larger layer was encountered but at a greater depth from the surface. Here was found a vein of material having the appearance of burnt straw, which proved to be rich in a number of objects connected with the use of horses, such as horse-shoes, harness

* The Sixth Regiment of foot was commanded by Colonel Gisborne, and was in America only until 1777. The presence of this button near American relics indicates the deposit of both very soon after the surrender of Fort Washington.

Relics of the Revolution

buckles, shoe buckles, spurs, the bale of a pail, and a complete snaffle bit.

By this time our occupation had attracted the curiosity and attention of an increasing number of the public on 181st Street, from the elevated portion of which our work was in full view, and we experienced considerable interruption from boys swarming into the excavation and interfering with the operation of digging and sifting. In our absence during the week, some of these boys would attempt similar excavation, tearing down the material without any knowledge or system, and then boasting of extravagant finds. In this way we were informed that the barrel of a musket, bullets, buttons and some kind of a badge were taken out, but any identification of course was entirely absent. We found the ground very much disturbed on several occasions, and had to excavate to considerable depth, in order to get below the surface material piled up by boys and some men who had joined them. In October, one such visitor stated that he had taken out part of a barrel and part of the lock of a musket, and a button of the Fourth and one of the Forty-fifth Regiments, but of the accuracy of these assertions we could learn nothing definite.

Along part of the bed of the brook there was a pile of broken bricks and large boulders, about three feet under the ground, which had apparently formed the easterly edge of a one-time pit or excavation, but even below these bricks we found in the wet clay of the brook bed broken bottles, bullets, flints, broken china, and pieces of brass buckles, and with these were some buttons of the Thirty-eighth and the Fifty-seventh Regiments. The bricks appeared to have fallen together, and were all broken Colonial red bricks of good shape and appearance. Their position indicated their use as part of a bricked-in sink or cess-pit.

At this point, we were rewarded by finding, among the debris of the 38th Regiment,* as indicated by their buttons, a bronze

* The Thirty-eighth Regiment was commanded by Colonel Pigot and saw service at Bunker's Hill and elsewhere. Buttons have been found at several places on the Heights.

Barracks of the Fort Washington Garrison

belt-plate bearing the royal initials "G. R." with the number of the regiment in Roman numerals, close to which lay a silver button of an officer of the same corps, having the figure of a lion over a crown surmounting the regimental number, a feature unique among the British military buttons of the locality. With this regiment's debris, which all appeared to have been cast near the same spot, we found a number of broken clay pipes, one of which had been broken off short and then re-cut, so as to be used as a "dudeen" or "cuddy." It had a trademark "T" within a wreath.

We next found a button of the 35th Regiment lying close to part of a sword-blade. The objects connected with these two regiments indicated the use of this part of the camp deposit or "dump" during the years 1777 and 1778. One little object which was at first supposed to be a button turned out on close examination to be a coin of one of the German States, which bore the words "Fennig Scheidemunze," the little coin being pierced with a hole, and probably having been used as a charm by some Hessian soldier, or perhaps a keepsake of the girl he left behind him in far Cassel.

By this time the over-attentions of our numerous visitors had become annoying, and a party of young boys, after rendering themselves very obstreperous, on being driven away, retaliated by stoning us, and came near ending the career of one of our number, who was struck at the base of the skull with a large stone, and for the time being, put out of the exploring business.

The work was extended at the end of the season with gradually increasing difficulty, owing to the depth at which the debris lay towards the north and to the moisture in the soil. Finally the work had to stop on account of the weather, and when restarted, it was found that the water which had accumulated in the pit lay around the line of the debris, so that a new start had to be made in another place.

In the late fall of 1910, several attempts at different points resulted in no further finds, and trials were made at various points

Relics of the Revolution

about half-way up the bank, between the line of the original finds on Bennett Avenue and the excavation which had just been abandoned. By good fortune, this opened up for the next season's work a new collection of waste material which had evidently been buried in a pit, which on later development proved to have been about twenty feet in length, and about eight feet in width, being dug down from the two ends to a depth of about six feet in the center.

The material in this pit proved to be of considerable interest, although the numbered buttons found therein were few, and those that were discovered were mostly too far decayed for preservation. At the lowest part of the pit was what remained of a walnut plank, about five feet long. On this lay a broken bayonet, adhering to the rust around the blade of which was a leaden bullet.

Dr. Edward Hagaman Hall aided during 1912 in the exploration of this place, and quite a number of objects were found which were worth preservation: among which was a double-headed bar-shot of the smallest size yet discovered, being only eleven inches long, with heads of three and a half inches diameter, weighing complete, after cleaning, only four pounds seven ounces. An officer's silver button in very good condition of the 45th Regiment * was found, and at a point nearest to the original excavation, a button of the 76th Highlanders, thus evidencing the use of the dumping places by the regiments in the Barracks. An object of rather unusual character was a brass stock-plate of a musket, bearing the rack-number 278.

This pit yielded a number of complete bowls of English clay pipes, several of which have interesting varieties of the recognized trade-marks, such as one with the familiar initials "T. D." but placed in a cartouche design. These pipes, from their proximity to the two regimental buttons referred to, were most likely

* The Forty-fifth regiment of Foot was commanded by Colonel Haviland, and after service in Boston, and at the Battle of Brooklyn and the Philadelphia campaign, it was returned in 1778 to England in a truly decimated condition, barely 100 strong. From the number of these buttons found at this place, it is most probable they were disposed of not later than 1778.

Barracks of the Fort Washington Garrison

used by soldiers of those regiments, and a small brownish colored pipe, having about four inches of the stem intact, bearing on one side an unusual trade-mark "D. G." was thought to have been Hessian, as were undoubtedly several of the plain buttons which were found in the pit.

A one-pound cannon ball, (the size used in the little field gun known as the "Amusette" used by the Hessian Jagers,) with many bullets, buck-shot, musket flints, pike butt points and belt buckles, contributed to the military character of the rest of the debris with which the pit was liberally filled, such as the layers of wood ash, in which were many large meat bones, the skulls of cattle and of sheep, broken bottles, table glass and chinaware.

One of the interesting objects discovered was a little oval seal, which under the magnifying glass disclosed the word "Liberty" engraved across its face, in reverse. Near this was another small blue glass seal, or perhaps an ornament from a cuff link, which bears in part the words "Bill of Rights." These inscriptions rather pointedly indicate objects cast away or lost by the American occupants of the Barracks. After this pit was cleared out, some further attempts were made to excavate further at the north end of the deep trench in the middle of the Beckman property. The depth to which it was necessary to dig was about five feet, and the difficulty of clearing the surface was increased by a large collection of modern rubbish. The line of bricks and stones was found to continue, and below it broken bottles and barrel hoops, many bricks and some signs of burnt materials. The ground was very wet and the ironwork heavily coated with rust. A lump of rusty clay of undistinguishable shape, on being broken open, disclosed the pointed end of a bayonet, and another similar lump contained a fragment of a musket barrel. Bullets and gun-flints were comparatively scarce, though several were found near a large plain copper button, and such pewter buttons as were discovered were too far decayed for identification. There was, however, quite a variety of pipe bowls, one having the head and antlers of a deer embossed on it.

X

THE HESSIAN HUT CAMP

The high bank of the west side of Bennett Avenue cut by the street grading was later examined, and on its upper margin, about two feet below the surface, a fireplace was found, over the hearth of which numerous red bricks were piled, which had evidently formed part of the construction of a chimney. The floor was the usual packed and discolored dirt. In front of the hearth lay the greater part of a bowl of Leeds creamware, also a couple of bullets, fragments of coarse pottery, some forged nails, and strange to say, a small Indian arrow-point of war pattern.

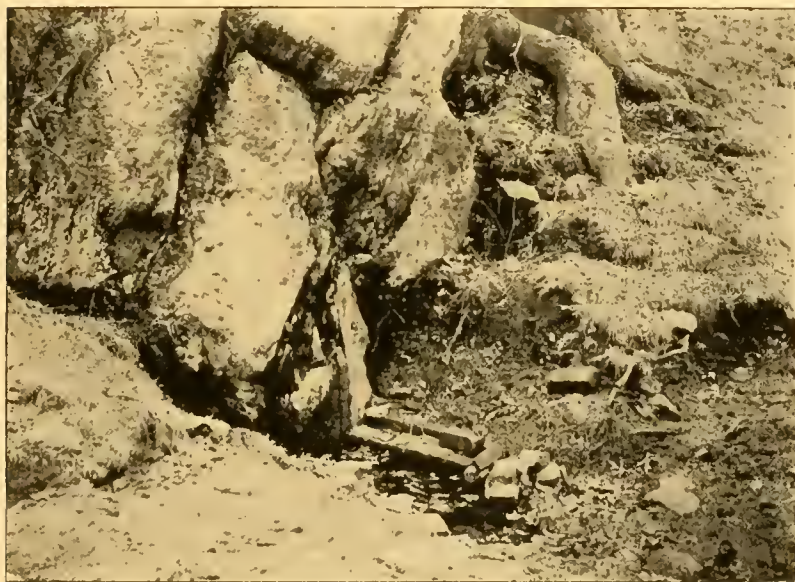
The fireplace was constructed in a rather unusual form, being quite rectangular. It was 30 inches square, made of large stones, accurately set in sand beds; and the hearth itself and an equal space in front of it were floored with flat stones. It was so good a piece of construction work that a drawing was made of its details, and the whole of the stones were marked and removed to the Headquarters House, in the hope that some opportunity of its reconstruction in the grounds might be found as a reminder of the hut camp of the Hessian garrison.

One north, and about 25 feet from this hut, was another, the floor of which was of hard beaten sand, extending about 12 feet north and south. Only a small fireplace was found in it, formed of rude stones, with ashes on the hearth, and a pot hook and a few bullets and plain buttons on the floor surface. It appeared to be Hessian, and to have been occupied by common soldiers.

With such objective information now before us, we can the better appreciate the record of life in the Hut Camp which is graphically portrayed in the diary of von Krafft. One of his earliest notes records the interesting fact that the Hut Camp was in 1778 occupied by men of the regiments of von Knyphausen.

The Hessian Hut Camp

of von Lossberg, and of Rall, who had been at that time exchanged from the captivity into which a majority of them fell at Trenton. It was those three regiments with the Wutgenau, that had borne the heaviest share of the fighting in the assault and capture of Fort Washington in November, 1776, and the men of the two latter corps had formed the line between which the American garrison gave up their colors and laid down their arms. It is



The Hessian Spring

not improbable, moreover, that the Hessians were the first to occupy the barracks or huts when these were vacated by the American forces, and thus gave to the camp the designation by which von Krafft described it, a connection which local tradition has also preserved in the name of the "Hessian Spring," by which their necessary supply of drinking water was provided.

On July 9, 1778, these regiments removed from the camp, and it was occupied by British troops until November of that year.

Relics of the Revolution

when the von Trumbach and von Donop Regiments again marched to the Heights.

Some idea of the extent of the hut camp is gained from the fact that the accommodation in the huts was found to be insufficient for both regiments, so that the von Donop Regiment was retired to another place until December 1, 1778, when the von Trumbach Regiment having vacated the huts, they marched in to their occupancy for the winter season. In von Eelking's history we are told the Hessian huts were nine in number for each company.

Von Krafft tells us that the huts turned out to afford but poor shelter for wintry weather and "so small that they had to be enlarged."

On December 10 there came on a storm, "a cruel rain and wind," and "the water leaked in through everywhere" into the frail shelters to the discomfort of the wretched occupants. "Besides it was very cold, but one could not keep a fire on account of the smoke from the wind and water, nor was it possible to sleep dry under our blankets." It was so bitter an experience that he adds: "May a special mercy of God keep me amidst so many evils, and all the others too in good health." After another storm three days later "some of the huts caved in, owing to the bad ground" and the "astonishing wind and rain."

To add to their sufferings the unfortunate fellows were short of food. It was a fact rare enough to be noted when they got bread in place of rice and the allowance of spruce beer was doled out only at distant intervals, and "Rations were supplied with great irregularity." The commissariat appears to have been deranged by the non-arrival of supplies from England and fresh meat was scarce, and if served out at all, an equivalent was deducted in the butter, peas and rum which were supposed to form the rest of the ration.

The river was at this time so frozen over that no supplies could be brought that way from New York, and no wagons were sent

The Hessian Hut Camp

“no one knowing the reason.” So the Christmas of 1778 dawned upon hungry soldiers, and to get even a little loaf of bread to eat the Sergeant had to get an orderly to go beyond the King’s Redoubt on Fordham Heights “to the English Bakery” where he purchased a loaf of white bread weighing “a German pound for one English shilling, 5½ pence, and also some potatoes.” The straits to which the men were put is demonstrated by this little episode, in which the orderly, out of devotion to his superior, risked the danger of being caught by the American outposts.

This appears to have been the only cheer of his first Christmas Eve on the Heights and as he says, “anyone can easily imagine what meditations this caused.”

At dawn on Christmas Day, while going around the hut camp to wake his men, he stepped upon a loose barrel-hoop, fell over a log, and cut his shin with the hoop. Evidently the hoops lay scattered around the camp, as the many samples which have been found on this and other camp sites go to show. They answered all sorts of purposes, being used for making hooks to hang the pots over the camp fires, and others to form fire tongs, broilers and kettle handles. In spite of his painful injury the Sergeant persisted in going on duty to Inwood Hill, and doctored his leg by putting rum and soap on the wound. This curious amateur remedy resulted in inflammation which gradually increased until he was finally obliged to go on the sick list, so that he spent a whole month in the hut camp without doing any active duty. Here he experienced privations due to the continued shortage of provisions. Flour, mixed with oaten groats, was all that was available with a few peas and a gill of rum at distant intervals. The very appearance of “the miserable bread” scared the hungry soldiers. “How frightened we all were when we saw it, and what terrible stomach-aches we had after eating only a little of it, for it was nothing but oat grits which it was impossible to bake through. It weighed very heavy and with the same weight it lay in our stomachs.” Great as our delight had been to get it, equally great

Relics of the Revolution

were our pains and curses after eating it." Three measures of the groats went to one measure of corn meal, "the stuff being already half spoiled and hardly fit to eat." The excuse was made that the fleet with the money and provisions for the army had been captured by the French, but it was stated, for their assurance, that the bakers in the city had been commanded to stop baking and to keep their flour for the army.

Though the last day of that year dawned on the Hut Camp "as beautiful a day as ever it could be in spring" the hungry Sergeant could not enjoy it. "All the worse, however," he says, "for the stomach, because there was little to be procured for it."

But just as he made his last entry for the year, news arrived that some of the provision fleet had got into the harbor, so the hungry men of the von Donop spent the last hours of the old year in the Hut Camp discussing the "joyful news."

The men of this regiment were moved into tents in June, 1779, on account of the outbreak of camp fever, but came back to their quarters a couple of months later, only to suffer more severely than ever from the "veritable epidemic," which they communicated to such of the unfortunate residents as still clung to their homes in the vicinity. The tents were pitched to the north of the Fort probably on the line of Elwood Street, east of Broadway. The Hut Camp was in October, 1779, occupied by the Erb Prinz Regiment, one of the crack Hessian corps. After their removal, it is probable that some of the British corps of whose occupancy traces have now been found, occupied the camp until October, 1780, when the von Donop Regiment again returned to the huts, and von Kraft's records of events again related to life on the Heights. During the particularly severe winter season of 1779, there is no doubt the men of all the camps must have suffered severely from lack of sufficient firewood.

The appearance of the locality in 1780 is described by the Hessian officer as having greatly changed. "The whole neighborhood was, in comparison with last year, quite unrecognizable,

The Hessian Hut Camp

the woods and bushes having been cut away." So completely had the military demand for fire-wood the previous winter used up all available timber on the Heights, that not a tree or bush remained, and all necessary firewood, with lumber for constructive purposes, had to be obtained with much difficulty from Morrisania.

On their arrival at the Hut Camp on this occasion, several companies of the regiment drew lots for their occupancy of the shelters, and the Lieutenant Colonel's Company, which was that in which von Krafft served, was allotted huts "on a different hill from last year." This reference is significant, indicating that other huts may have been located on the terraced spaces, which mark the hillside to the present time.

The garrison of Fort Washington was at that time composed of the 57th, the 76th, and 80th British regiments, a statement confirmed by the presence of the buttons of those corps found at this place, as well as several of the "R. P." or Royal Provincials, a Tory corps which also did service there at the same time and the buttons of which have been found on every camp site in the vicinity.*

It was at this time that von Krafft gave to his Colonel the "perspective situation plan," the sketches for which he had made at Fort George in 1779, and which he says he drew in the month of January, 1781, "in the Hut Camp at Fort Mifflin." (See page 48 preceding.)

We get some insight into the rough manners and habits of the life which went on in the Hut Camp in that period from further entries in his diary. On the Feast of St. John, the 24th of June, 1781, the men in the camp made merry and had music, and von Krafft stood by and laughed at their dances and antics, and moralized between times over their recklessness.

* The Royal Provincial Corps was the last relic of provincialism in the United States. The regiment was raised by Colonel Robinson and is sometimes referred to as "Robinson's Provincial Corps," and was also known as the "Loyal Americans." It is most probable that the "R. P." buttons stand for the "Royal Provincials" or Robinson's Provincials. Von Krafft refers to them as the "R. P. Corps."

Relics of the Revolution

The immoral character of the women about the camp was conspicuous, and the men to whom they were nominally married were in many cases the husbands of others. As an instance, he tells of a soldier of the 38th British regiment, a corps whose buttons have been found at this site, who had deceived the chaplain of the von Donop Regiment into performing a marriage ceremony between him and a woman whose acquaintance he had made on the streets only a few hours before, and whom he had, by similar misrepresentations to his officers, received permission to marry.

He tells of one of the sergeants of the same corps, a reckless and handsome young fellow who had been through no less than sixteen such false ceremonies by hoodwinking his officers, and by deceiving various English and German chaplains into performance of the ceremonies, and that the rascal told the narrator that "he hoped to do so often again before making up his mind to take the last one in real earnest."

The Hessian occupants of the Hut Camp, with characteristic German industry, cultivated the ground between their rows of huts, and von Krafft says he had two patches near his hut in which he raised "almost all the necessary vegetables from seeds procured in the city." So great was the demand for such products that they could have been sold for "a handsome sum in Thalers," if their owners had been willing to part with them.

On a second occasion the camp became the headquarters of returned prisoners, when it sheltered the men of the Hanau corps, a regiment which had taken part in the ill-fated expedition of Burgoyne, and was gradually reformed out of exchanged men.

In these and other records of the period, aided by the traditions of the old residents, a partial story of life in the Hut Camp was already available, but definiteness has been added to the tale, and the historical character of the locality has been determined by the discoveries of military objects and other indications, simple in character though they be, which have been described, establishing beyond a doubt the site and occupancy of the Hut Camp and the Barracks of the garrisons of Fort Washington.

XI

LAUREL HILL, LATER FORT GEORGE

Few of those who frequent the resorts which of recent years have sprung into existence around the summit of the conspicuous headland locally known as Fort George, have any realization that they are upon the ground which at one time formed one of the most formidable fortifications of the period of the Revolution; and was also the scene of one of the most severe hand to hand fights of that very interesting period.

The once beautiful and still interesting hillside, which in the days of the early Dutch occupation was called the *Ronde-Vly-Berg*, or Round meadow hill, had become known at the time of the Revolution as Laurel Hill, apparently from the growth of ever-green bushes which fringed the steep and wooded slopes. It was natural, therefore, that this name should be applied to the works of defense constructed upon the summit by the Pennsylvania troops, in the fall of the year 1776, and that the name should thereafter be continued in general use until the construction of the commanding fortifications in 1781-2 led to their designation under the more imposing title, which, strange to say, has clung to the locality to this late date.

The American fortifications consisted of a series of small redoubts following the natural lines of the rocky summit, practically upon the contour of the present Fort George Avenue, and consisting merely of developments of the natural defensive features of the hill, the base of which was bathed by the waters of the Half-Creek and of the Harlem river.

In the early hours of the day on which the momentous assault was made upon the position of Fort Washington, the men composing the force known as the "Flying Camp of Pennsylvania Volunteers" were aroused to the defense of this part of the Heights by a heavy fire from the British field artillery placed on the site

Relics of the Revolution

of what afterwards became known as "Fort No. 8" on University Heights, and a short time thereafter, through the misty rain of that raw November morning, they saw the advance, from the direction of Fordham upon the Harlem river, of a flotilla of flat boats loaded to the gunwales with the picked and active men of the British Brigade of Light Infantry.

Landing in the Half-Creek, near the present Durando's Hotel on the Speedway, the advancing parties of the attacking troops charged up the hill, and met in hand-to-hand conflict the men of Chester, Cumberland and Bucks Counties, under the command of William Baxter. The fighting was fierce if brief, and the bayonet won the day. Some of those whose lives were sacrificed in its defense received a hasty burial at the hands of their opponents, upon the ground which they had defended, and the burying place of Baxter was recalled at the time of the construction of the Schultheis Casino, on the crest of the hill on Fort George Avenue, at 196th Street, where a number of human bones were disturbed by the workmen at a point where two rough head-stones marked a grave. Of these remains only one leg bone was preserved by F. W. Hofele, and is now in the museum at the Headquarters House.

The commanding position of Laurel Hill evidently attracted the attention of the British military authorities thereafter, and the little fortification of Laurel Hill was extended and strengthened. Flanked by deep valleys and fringed by the marshes of the Dyckman tract, by the Sherman Creek and the winding river, Laurel Hill became a central position for defense against anticipated attacks from Westchester County, and a vast amount of labor was evidently expended upon the construction of a series of fortifications during the succeeding and final years of the Revolutionary period.

On the northerly margin of the hilltop there was erected, prior to 1779, a block-house, which stood apparently just where the

Laurel Hill, later Fort George

present Casino building is perched. This was a construction of the form familiar in those days, composed of heavy timbers with an upper chamber overhanging the lower portion, pierced with openings through which muskets could be discharged upon an enemy below.

The building is shown upon the drawing made by von Krafft in 1779,[#] and was hastily dismantled in July of that year and shipped off to Stony Point, after the capture of the latter position by the American forces.



Ice Creepers

A considerable fortification took its place which temporarily received the name of Fort Clinton, a title which alternated with the original name of the hill. The works of Fort Clinton were eventually extended around the upper portion of the hill, approximately on the line of Fort George and Amsterdam Avenues, about 1780.

The next constructive step undertaken was the connection of the fort by a chain of breastworks and redoubts, extending down into the valley on the west and up to the Mount Washington hillside to a connection with Fort Tryon. The chain of works was known as the "Line of Circumnvallation" or Barrier. The point at which

* Page 49.

Relics of the Revolution

this line crossed King's Bridge Road was provided with an entrance known as the "Barrier Gate," which stood on Broadway near the line of the present Sowerby cottage, just south of Hillview Avenue.

This elaborate system of military construction was a result of the abandonment of the outlying fortifications on Spuyten Duyvil and King's Bridge Hills. Within the line of defense thus formed, a great camp, frequently referred to as the "Laurel Hill Camp," was formed and was certainly occupied during the rest of the Revolution, as shown by numerous relics of military life which have been found upon its area, and which have afforded practical evidence of its extent and its importance.

The encampment appears to have been located with particular reference to a water supply capable of providing, at any rate to some extent, the needs of the large body of men who must from time to time have occupied the place, the center of which was approximately the line of 191st Street and Audubon Avenue. Here a spring of water, traces of which existed until a very recent date, emerged in a hollow in the hilltop, and flooding an area of marshy ground in the vicinity of 190th Street, overflowed east and west in the form of small brooks to the valleys below.

The marshy space, which has now been tilled into a fruitful truck garden, has yielded a considerable number of military objects evidencing the occupation of the immediate vicinity by a large garrison, some of whom were frequently set to labor upon erecting the earthworks already described, and during the years 1781 to 1783 that still more extensive fortification which formed the great Fort George, fragmentary remains of which may still be traced in part of the ground, just north of the Isabella Heimath Institution.

One of the interesting remains of the work of the soldiery may still be seen in a well-preserved angular redoubt upon the hillside a little to the east of Amsterdam Avenue on the line of 191st Street, within full view of the many thousands of pleasure-seekers

Laurel Hill, later Fort George

who pass upon the Avenue to and from the modern Fort George resorts.

It is probable that the camp extended from about the line of 188th Street between Audubon and Eleventh Avenues to 190th Street, upon the margin of the marsh or pond, and that another encampment was placed upon the high ground north of 191st Street. Very recent observations have located some signs of occupation, such as English copper halfpence, on the line of 189th Street, and more may yet be discovered.

Von Krafft's sketch, drawn at a time when he was personally engaged in the work upon the hill, gives a very good idea of its then condition. West and south of Fort Clinton he indicates the spot where he notes that the huts were built and occupied by the Forty-fourth Regiment of Foot, whose discarded and lost buttons have been found in greater numbers than those of any other corps within the area described.

In the grading of Eleventh Avenue in the year 1880, and of Audubon Avenue in 1902, and in the cultivation of the farm lands between the two, a variety of military buttons has come to light, indicating the character of the corps which from time to time occupied this locality, and confirming the references of von Krafft in every instance. Some of these may be objects lost during the fierce if short fight which took place in the assault of the hill on November 16, 1776, in which were engaged the men of the Light Infantry and some grenadier companies of a number of regiments. But inasmuch as this encounter must have taken place more upon the sides and brow of the hill than upon the level upper portion, the discovery of the buttons upon the latter place can in general be taken to indicate the presence in camp of the regiments indicated between 1776 and 1783. An exception may be probably in the case of a few of such buttons found on the hillsides to the east of the fortification, such as some of the buttons now in the collection of Inspector Cortright, which include those of the King's Own or the Fourth, the Northumberland Fusiliers, the Welsh Fusiliers or Twenty-third, and several others. But

Relics of the Revolution

inasmuch as the Lincolnshire or Tenth, the Thirty-third and the Forty-second Royal Highlanders, whose buttons have also been discovered around this area, were engaged in another part of the Heights during the assault, we may in general regard these indications of the presence of the troops as having been lost during the camp life, rather than during the actual engagements.

Von Krafft's references to the locality are somewhat numerous, and his information as to the engineers who designed the fortifications and his personal work thereon render the few remaining traces of military work upon the hill particularly interesting.

The chief engineer charged with the construction of Fort Clinton and its related works was a Lieutenant named Marshall, of the 60th Royal American Regiment, and his active assistant was Lieutenant Sproule of the 16th Regiment of Foot, which latter corps was camped on the hill sometime prior to the month of March, 1781, and vacated their quarters there on the fourth of that month.

It is evident that the 44th Foot Regiment was for a considerable period in occupation of the camp, and undoubtedly took a large part in the construction of the works as early as 1778. On the 23d of August in this year it marched out of the huts and was replaced by three companies of the Hessian Regiment of Prinz Carl, which had been temporarily encamped near, probably to the south of 190th Street.

In the year 1778, the 44th provided working parties consisting of a sub-officer and twenty-five men, who worked with larger details from the 57th (West Middlesex) Regiment, upon the line of "Circumvallation." The history of the 44th is interesting inasmuch as the regiment saw considerable service and received its full share of hard luck. Sailing for North America in May, 1775, the 44th Regiment arrived in Boston in time to participate in the Battle of Bunker Hill. After its arrival in New York, it was engaged in the Battles of Long Island, White Plains and Fort Washington. The regiment was thereafter stationed in Harlem, and at one time was so scattered that it had one company at New

Laurel Hill, later Fort George

York, seven at Hell Gate, and two at New Brunswick. It took part in the Philadelphia Campaign at the Brandywine, at Germantown and at Monmouth, and at the end of 1778 was again at New York, having one company at Fort Mifflin, seven at Laurel Hill and another at Jamaica, Long Island. It was embarked in September, 1779, for Quebec and the fleet of which its transports were a part, was scattered by a hurricane and a number of vessels were lost with all hands or captured by privateers. One of the latter was the "Empress," upon which were several of the officers of the regiment. On the return of the unfortunate expedition, the regiment, "very much injured," was placed at Paulus Hook, and at that time had been reduced to 539 rank and file, with thirty sergeants and eighteen drummers. These figures appear in a return which the writer found among General Robertson's papers in the Record Office in London, under date "15 May, 1780."

The regimental buttons of this corps are pewter of two sizes, coat and sleeve. The buttons have an elaborate design, consisting of the number "44" surmounted by the royal crown and surrounded by a floral border. The pattern on the face of the "44" button is the most neatly executed amongst the great variety of designs shown on the military buttons of the period.

The Laurel Hill camp also sheltered, among other corps, the 57th Regiment of Foot, or the West Middlesex Regiment, whose buttons have so frequently been discovered in the vicinity. It is possible that the encampments of the different corps extended as far south as 184th Street and Wadsworth Avenue, at which point an officer's button of this corps was found by Mr. Calver.

Under date of July, 1781, General Washington noted as one of his observations upon his reconnoitering expedition, that there was an encampment near Laurel Hill, comprising about forty-five tents and huts, "which appear," he says, "to be inhabited by, it is said, the 'Fifty-seventh Regiment.'" In August of the same year, this regiment was encamped on Laurel Hill, and on leaving at that time, was replaced by two companies of the Hessian

Relics of the Revolution

Regiment, the Jung Lossberg, which had previously been known as the Mirbach. On Thursday, 17th May, 1781, during a terrific thunder storm, a soldier of the 57th, while doing sentry duty on the east side of Laurel Hill, was struck dead by lightning, and another man at the same time fell a victim, while fishing in the river below.

The 57th provided men in May, 1779, for work upon the earth-works extending up to Fort Tryon, on the site of which a gold button of an officer of this regiment was discovered.

The buttons of this corps are large and carry the old-fashioned script number surrounded by a thin loop open at the top, with a point or dot above the opening.

A list of the regiments of which buttons have been found around the Laurel Hill camp site and which are now included in the collection of Mr. W. L. Calver, Inspector Cortright and other minor collections, comprises a large proportion of the British army:

- 2nd Foot, Coldstream Guards
- 3d, or the Buffs
- 4th, or King's Own Regiment of Foot
- 10th, or Lincolnshire Regiment of Foot
- 14th, or Buckinghamshire Regiment of Foot
- 16th Regiment of Foot
- 22d, or Manchester Volunteers (The Cheshire Regiment after 1782).
- 23d, or Royal Welsh Fusiliers
- 28th Regiment of Foot
- 33d — Cornwallis' Regiment.
- 36th — This regiment was not here, but the button indicates the presence of a detached officer.
- 37th — Colonel Coote
- 38th — Colonel Pigot
- 40th — Colonel John Hamilton — camped here in August, 1783
- 42d — Highlanders (Black Watch)
- 43d — Colonel Cary
- 44th — Colonel James Abererombie
- 46th, or South Devonshire
- 49th, now the Royal Berks

Laurel Hill, later Fort George



Regimental Buttons found at Fort George

Relics of the Revolution

52d — Colonel Clavering
57th — Colonel Irwine
63d — Colonel (General) Thos. Grant
64th Musketeers
70th, or Surrey Regiment
74th Highland Regiment
76th Highland Regiment
80th Royal Edinburgh Volunteers
R. P., or Royal Provincial Regiment
2d Americans, or Lord Rawdon's corps of Volunteers of Ireland
The New York Volunteers — Lt. Col. Turnbull
The Royal Marines

In addition to the numbered military buttons a variety of plain and ornamental buttons, many having a pewter loop, distinguishing them from those of the British troops, indicate the presence of the regiments of the Hessian Army.

Of the military relics other than buttons found in this locality, a number can be directly associated with the assault on Fort Washington, as they consist of missiles evidently fired and exploded during the engagement. Of this character, perhaps the most interesting is the double-headed navy bar-shot found by the late F. W. Hofele, with which some of the spikes and nails with which it was filled between its heads, were still in contact, exhibiting in a definite form the character of those terrible missiles of destruction, and by comparison enabling the use to be established of some of very similar spikes and nails found scattered over many parts of the Heights. Portions of large exploded shells have also been found upon the hilltop, of size such as fifty pounds weight, of which one complete specimen was discovered in the neighborhood of Dyckman Street below the hill, and these with the bar-shot were in all probability thrown from the guns of the frigate "Pearl" during the engagement of November 16, 1776; that vessel having been in action in the early part of that day on the Hudson river, whence a clear view is obtainable of the northerly end of Laurel Hill between Mount Washington and Inwood Hill.

Laurel Hill, later Fort George

Of smaller missiles found in this vicinity, there are several sizes of grape and canister shot, cast balls of one pound and upwards; some bearing signs of impact. Quantities of leaden bullets have been found, associated as usual with the broken and lost gun flints, and portions of ironwork of muskets, ramrod guides and bayonet scabbard hooks.

The camp tools are of interest. Among these are several used by blacksmiths, and a small swage or block of the type used for splitting gun-flints. Part of a sword-blade was found by Mr. Calver, and some of the old-style ramrod sockets, indicating a breakage or destruction of muskets. The large spikes and nails, some of which have been found associated with wood ashes, may have formed part of the construction of the huts of the troops.

Of personal relics, many curious objects have been recovered, such as cuff-links of officers, adorned with glass crystals mounted in rather flimsy gilt and silver settings; shoe and knee buckles, ornamented and plain, and many belt and harness buckles, chains and horseshoes, the latter particularly around the spot near 190th Street and St. Nicholas Avenue, where possibly the horses of the artillery were stabled.

It was a curious coincidence that one of the glass cuff-links was matched by a mate found in the valley below, among the ruins of the first house of the Dyckman family, at 210th Street on the bank of the Harlem river.

Broken earthenware, china and bottles were distributed throughout the soil, and two scraps of wine bottles are of special interest, as one bears a seal with the name "Geo. Errington" and the other the initials "R. M.," possibly indicating the abstraction of the bottle, and its contents, from the cellar of the mansion of Colonel Roger Morris.

From every point of view of the conspicuous summit of the hill, on which Fort George was built, a large exposed boulder can still be seen, upon the east side of Audubon Avenue, on the line of 191st Street. Its surface was much scored and cracked by the action of fire, and from its base sprang and sprawled over it

Relics of the Revolution

an ancient apple tree forming a favorite shelter for many of the couples who roam over the hill during the summer season. This rock must have stood very close to the south line of the earthwork of the embankment of Fort George, probably at the entrance to that fortification. On an attempt being made to ascertain whether the rock had been used as a shelter for the fires of the soldiery, the discovery was made of a fireplace at the south end of this boulder, the hearth of which was laid carefully with red bricks, the back composed of large stones. Around this hearth a number of objects, familiar as evidences of camp life, were found, such as charcoal, meat bones, broken bottles, pot hooks and nails. And within a few feet lay a button of the 70th or Surrey Regiment of Foot, evidencing the presence of this regiment, at a date probably later than the completion of the fort.

Another fireplace was exposed and destroyed by workmen grading for Hillside Avenue, at a point almost in the center of Fort George. This was constructed entirely of stones, and faced southwest as in the other instance, but was at a level about three feet below the surrounding surface and was presumed to have been the fireplace of a dug-out or sunken guard-house or hut.

One of the most interesting objects found on this camp site is a fine bronze belt-plate bearing the embossed design of two cannons crossed above a pile of round shot, which was that of one of the artillerymen of the Hessian Anspach Regiment. The Hessian Regiments were each equipped with their own artillery. The Anspachs were taken at Yorktown, and their regimental flag is in the Chapel at West Point.

XII

FORT TRYON, OR FOREST HILL

Not less interesting than those of the main position, are the remains of the northern outwork or battery, known as Fort Tryon, now to be found existing only in part, but some of it in excellent preservation, on private grounds on the Hudson side of the valley, about on the line of 196th Street.

Its title, given to it by the British after its capture, still strangely clings to it, and perpetuates the memory of the last British or Colonial Governor of New York, Sir William Tryon, whose appointment dated only from 1771. He was, during the



Button of the 1st Maryland Battalion

earlier part of his tenure of office, extremely popular, but later his conduct brought on him the detestation of the patriotic element, and his resignation in 1778 was regretted by none but vehement loyalists.

It is certainly strange that among the enforced changes of nomenclature which swept away from the City nearly every title of street or locality that smacked of royalty or officialism, the memory of this last Governor should have been perpetuated in the title of this little fort, around and in which so much patriotic blood was shed.

The fort was ingeniously designed, as were all these fortifications, to take advantage of the ground. A survey, made in 1819, shows three breastworks of which only one is still traceable.

Relics of the Revolution

At the time of the attack the defenses of this fortification consisted only of two guns, though a third was perhaps brought up during the fighting. The place was defended by a part of the mixed regiment of those determined Virginian and Maryland riflemen, whose courage had saved the American rear guard on Long Island, and who were commanded by Lieut. Col. Moses Rawlings, serving under whom was Major Otho Holland Williams. Their gallant defense of the post against a frontal attack by something like four thousand Hessians forming the brigade under General Knyphausen, and the grenadier battalion of Colonel Rahl, which division of the German forces took the westerly side or flank of the combined attack, has been frequently commended in history, and is worthy to rank as one of the bravest achievements of the War of Independence.

The breastworks on all sides of the battery commanded the abrupt sides of this steep hill, the easiest access to which was directly from the north. The importance as well as the strength of the position was evident to the attackers, which they would not assault until the British forces were well advanced on the east, and they were also assisted by the guns of His Majesty's ship "Pearl," which is shown on Faden's map of the operations, headed close in shore, evidently attacking this point.

This vessel treated the defenders to 25-pound round shot, chain and bar shot, some of which have been found of recent years on the Hudson side of the bluff, and even on the hill beyond.

The force of Hessians must have suffered severely here, and many a relic of the fight has been upturned when the soil has been disturbed, and with pennies of the Georges, shot, muskets, bayonets and poor human relics, have been given away, or are in some instances still held by inhabitants of these Heights.

It is sad to have to observe that the interesting remains about the place, which existed only a few years ago, have been destroyed by the extensive regrading and building on the property.

Below the line of the fort, amid embowering fern and shade, there was a deep well blasted out of the rock, of the same shape

Fort Tryon, or Forest Hill

and depth as that within the lines of Fort Washington, and on the face of the bluff at the west could be found, close to another well preserved portion of the breastworks overlooking the river, a rocky spring which doubtless supplied the garrison with water.

The rough hillside from Inwood to the fort was prepared in anticipation of the attack from that direction, with obstructions of felled timber, stones and brushwood, and we may picture the best of the southern marksmen concealed on that November day in every point of vantage, to contest or delay the advance. Very well described by Hessian officers who took part in it, and especially by Lieutenant Wiederhold, who wrote an excellent account, are the German views of the affair. The mercenary forces were brought over the King's Bridge in the early dawn of that day, at 5.30 A. M., and were massed in two columns, awaiting the order to advance. The right comprised two divisions, one composed of the battalion of Grenadiers under command of Colonel Rahl, afterwards to die by an American bullet at Trenton, and the other under the direction of Baron Wilhelm von Knyphausen, second in command of the Hessian division. The left was placed under the orders of Major General Schmidt, and they advanced along the then line of the Post Road, on the margin of the Harlem River.

All the Hessian columns stood at attention while the British force, under the command of Lord Cornwallis, advanced on Laurel Hill or Fort George. For nearly five hours the Hessians stood under arms, and not until it was seen that Cornwallis had obtained a lodgment, did their order come to advance. Between 10 and 11 o'clock the men under Rahl were marched forward and wheeled to the right and advanced round the south side of Spuyten Duyvil Creek to Inwood Hill, on the summit of which, overlooking Spuyten Duyvil, a small outwork, known to the Americans as the "Cockhill Fort," had been erected.

No description of this part of the affair can be found but it may be presumed, after clearing the little force of defenders, described as "a few men," out of this fort, or perhaps putting

Relics of the Revolution

them all to the sword, this force turned west and marched along the Hudson parallel to the force under Knyphausen, which in the meantime had advanced across the marshes to near Dyckman Street.

Knyphausen's column appears to have undertaken the toughest part of the work. They made for the valley between Inwood Hill and the end of Mount Washington where Dyckman Street now runs to what used to be known as Tubby Hook. Crossing the lowland, they had to wade the marshy meadows, and then, led by their General in person, they charged the thickets of the precipitous hill, where, behind every point of cover, the Virginian riflemen lay waiting for them to come within range. Over felled trees and brushwood, piled stones and thickets, the men were urged by their officers, Knyphausen himself tearing down obstructions with his own hands, and showing such conspicuous daring in the thickest of the fight, that Lieut. Wiederhold declared it was "wonderful that he came off without being killed or wounded."

We get a glimpse of the defenders, who, says the narrator, lay snugly behind trees, bushes, stone walls and rocks, shooting at long range, and then running back to fresh cover. The Germans were no match for such shooting, to which they could make no effective reply, and their only success lay in rushing the positions while the defenders were reloading in the tedious manner their old-fashioned weapons required. Many of the defenders must have been dead shots, but a turkey-rifle is a poor weapon in hand to hand fighting, and to these marksmen no quarter was given by Hessians or British, for as a matter of course in those days "A rifleman is not entitled to any quarter." This treatment extended not only to those riflemen "in the woods," but also "in the out-works," and the statement confirms the story of the bloody scene that took place in the little fort, when the rush of invaders swept over its ramparts. A bent and rusty bayonet was disinterred at Fort Tryon on the line of the defence. It does not need much imagination to picture the work in which that bayonet may have been used as its owner forced his way with it over the ramparts,

Fort Tryon, or Forest Hill

when Rahl, crying "Forward, all my Grenadiers," led the Hessians in their last and successful charge.

The fighting became very desperate, but the result was inevitable when the majority with the bayonet got to close quarters. But so stubbornly did the Southerners contest each point, that when finally driven up on the level ground behind the Fort, the assailers and assailed were "all mingled in a mass, rushing towards the Fort." This was the scene which was visible to Washington from the Palisades across the river. The excited Hessians were no doubt striking down their opponents armed or unarmed, and the location where this melee took place is the only spot open enough for such a scene to have been visible from the heights of the western bluffs. The commander of this force had at this juncture a superhuman task.

Saffell relates that Lt. Colonel Rawlings was at some part of the engagement at Fort George, which is half a mile across the valley in which the Post Road ran. The entire northern line of defence appears to have been under his direction, and no doubt he had to divide his attention along the line. We know that the disposition made by this gallant man of his slender forces is said to have received special commendation, and it is also stated that he could have held out much longer if support had been available.

The retirement of the American force along the crest of the hill was effected under cover of the guns of Fort Washington, the defenders evidently contesting in a running fight the whole of the intervening distance.

The retreat of those Southerners who escaped the melee was stayed upon reaching the breastworks in the immediate vicinity of Fort Washington. There they met the support not only of the fire of the Pennsylvania reserves, but also the round shot and grape from the guns of the fort. The latter was already very actively engaged with the British and those Hessians who had advanced up the line of the Post Road, and probably also with the British forces then arriving from the south, who had driven in Colonel Cadwalader's forces from that direction. But the

Relics of the Revolution

Southerners still showed stubborn fight. Knyphausen with his officers got behind the shelter of a large barn, where a halt was called, and Colonel Rahl was directed to send forward a demand for the surrender of Fort Washington.

The value of Fort Tryon was recognized by the British military authorities, and in 1779, when the decision was reached to withdraw the outposts from the forts in Westchester, it was decided to construct a six gun battery at Forsed or Forest Hill, as von Krafft always designated that place. The work was done by men of the Hessian Garde du Corps, or Royal Body Guard, of the von Donop regiment, the 57th and 17th foot, and the Tory Royal Provincial Corps, under the direction of Lieut. Marshall of the 60th "Royal American" regiment. This work was made the westerly end of a line of earthworks or breastworks extending across to Fort George, called by von Krafft "the line of Circumvallation." Its course zig-zagged down the steep hill east of Libbey Castle to Broadway at about 192d Street, and united with a similar line from Fort George at the Barrier Gate. Around the places of the Chittenden and Thayer, Hay and Libbey families, numerous cannon shot, grape, and bullets have been unearthed. A number of the most interesting specimens have been loaned for exhibition at the Headquarters House, by Mr. Jonas Libbey. They include a leaden ball of about one pound weight, and several solid shot, one of which is marked with the broad arrow of the British army. Mr. W. C. Muschenheim had a very complete pocket pistol and a whole rum bottle of the pint size, which with other objects were destroyed in the fire that consumed his residence.

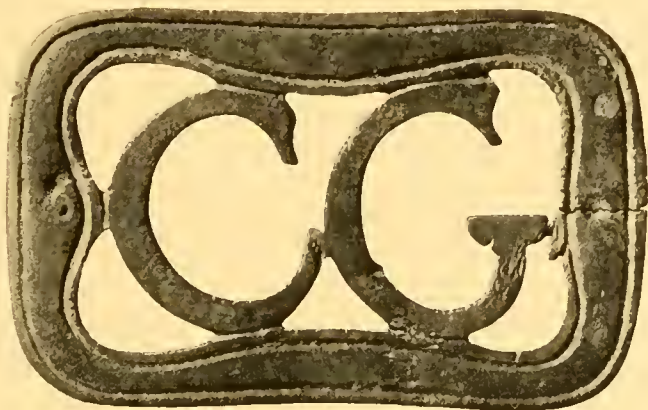
A fine sabre blade was found at the same place, and the short bayonet previously referred to, also a pike head which may have been of American ownership.

Such mementoes of the actual fighting carry us back in imagination to that raw November day when, from the edge of the Palisades, George Washington watched with earnest attention the gallant defense of Mount Washington by the boys of his own

Fort Tryon, or Forest Hill

home state, and was moved to bitter tears as he watched their defeat and slaughter.

Other military objects show the occupation of the fort at a later period by German and British troops in garrison. Numbered buttons of two British foot regiments said by von Krafft to have been employed in the construction of the work, attest his accuracy. A bronze belt buckle was found having the letters "C. G." cut out in its central part. This probably was a part of the accoutrements of a soldier of the Coldstream Guards. It



Bronze Buckle of the Coldstream Guards
(Found at Fort Tryon)

was given by Mr. W. L. Calver in June, 1914, to that regiment and is placed in their headquarters in St. James Palace, London. A bronze copy of it was made for record.

An officer's gold faced button of the 17th Regiment was found near a button of the 71st Highland Regiment.

The tide of conflict was not again turned in this direction; the strength of the position for defense had been amply demonstrated in its gallant defense in '76, and so, with the exception of some few blank rounds fired in July, 1781, on the occasion

Relics of the Revolution

of General Clinton's inspection, no active part in the war was taken by Fort Tryon.

From time to time, as the beauty of the location attracted new residents to the Fort Tryon Hill, the mattock of the excavator and the spade of the gardener have turned up many a visible evidence of the deadly encounter that made this place famous in our country's history.

XIII

THE CAMP OF THE HESSIAN BODY GUARD

An extensive camp site has been traced by various evidences as having existed upon the rolling ground before Fort George laying east of Broadway between 194th Street and Dyckman Street; a tract fringed by the marshy effluent of the brook which ran across the high road near the Barrier Gate, and found its way eastward into the shallow waters of the Half Kill or present Sherman's Creek. It seems more than probable that some sort of channel had been excavated extending towards the high road, for in 1781, von Krafft refers to pontoons which were floated near the "Line Barrier" or "Principal Barrier."

The Barrier Gate was the entrance to the fortified line of defenses, connecting Fort George with Fort Tryon, which was constructed in 1780. A contemporary visitor says: "The road between Laurel Hill and the heights on the Fort Knyphausen side, is so narrow that it is shut up with a gate where a guard is kept."

Old residents recall the existence of the ruins of the stonework forming the barrier gate, and locate it just south of the Sowerby cottage, which is still standing on the east of Broadway, about the line of 194th Street.

Mr. Will Conklin stated to the writer that he assisted to remove the stones at the time of the widening of the King's Bridge Road, and that they were utilized to construct the culvert which carries under Broadway the waters of the brook descending from Fort Washington, at the intersection of Nagel Avenue. The map of 1782 shows the earthworks as then existing, and places a sort of fort or redoubt on the east side of the road, evidently commanding the approach on the north.

Evidence of the occupation of this place by soldiery was discovered by Mr. Calver, in the bank east of Broadway, now part

Relics of the Revolution

of Broadway Street, which was the approximate site of the redoubt and later excavations by Mr. Alexander C. Chenoweth were rewarded by a number of military objects, including bayonets, which are still in his possession. Some later and more extensive excavations brought to light the remains of several fireplaces, one having the appearance of a bake-oven, formed of large stones set together and covering over a hearth, in which was a mass of wood ashes, containing no less than twenty-one of the butt ends of pikes, frequently found near other camp fires. No buttons were, however, found at this place.

Just north of the intersection of Broadway and Nagel Avenue, occupying the space between the two, is a large patch of truck garden, long cultivated by that picturesque Civil War veteran Zerrenner, a one-time despatch rider of the New York Cavalry in the Civil War.

Zerrenner's military knowledge led him to discern the nature of many of the odd objects which his deep tillage of the black soil brought to his hands, a knowledge fortunately communicated to his sons, who have farmed for many years similar ground on Laurel Hill, whence many of the relics of its forts and camps have been secured.

In digging at the north side of his little cottage on the line of 196th Street, Zerrenner disturbed human remains, which have some appearance of being those of military burial. Over the cultivated space, quite a number of military buttons have been found, including those of the 54th, 57th and of the 71st British regiments. It is interesting also to note that various stone artifacts disclose the occupancy of this area by the aborigines.

In 1911, a new street, rejoicing in the inappropriate name of "Elwood," was excavated across the vacant land north of Zerrenner's farm, extending from Nagel Avenue to Broadway, the entting of the ground for which very promptly disclosed military occupation.

The Camp of the Hessian Body Guard

When the ground was disturbed by the workmen, they unfortunately tore away several fire-pits. About 300 feet west of Nagel Avenue, there was a place which appeared to have been the floor of a hut, the ground leveled off and beaten very hard, and several large stones being set together as a fireplace, with burnt clay and ashes and nails near by. On the hard surface lay the butt end of a pike, the customary broken bottles, bones, clay pipe fragments, and several barrel hoops and pot hooks.

Other fire-pits were found about one hundred feet west by north, one of which contained a bone button and a large pot hook, another yielded a silver button and a bullet, and a larger pit afforded quite a store of articles taken by the Spier brothers, including a bone-handled fork, a knife blade, a pocket knife, brass and iron shoe buckles, a stirrup, two gun-flints and nails and bones. Later, a bullet and a brass spoon were found at the same place, with a barrel hoop ingeniously bent and twisted so as to form a handle for a kettle or pot.

By far the most interesting discovery, however, was made by Dougherty, the foreman in charge of the grading of Arden Street, the next street cut across east to west and parallel with that previously described. This excavation cut into the hill which extends from the Gas Works to Dyckman Street on the east side of Broadway, and on the easterly slope of "the Knoll," as it is locally known, the workmen disturbed remains indicating the site of a hut, with plentiful signs of fire, stones and brick and military objects of interest.

One of these is a complete ramrod nearly four feet in length. The preservation of so frail an object, in a complete condition, and by such a method of exploration, is little less than miraculous. With this were two bayonets, and several table knives and forks having silver-mounted mahogany handles, evidently the possessions of an officer, whose identity was, strange to relate, disclosed by a fine silver belt-plate bearing the Royal monogram and the name and number of the 28th Foot Regiment. When this object

Relics of the Revolution

came into the possession of Mr. Calver, his close examination disclosed the presence of the initials "J. E." scratched deeply in the back of the plate. By correspondence with an English military historian it was learned that there had been in the service of that regiment a Lieutenant by the name of James Edwards. This officer was wounded at the battle of the Brandywine, and his name disappeared from the regimental lists in 1779.

Regimental buttons of the 28th have been found at Fort George, at the Barraek site, Fort Washington, and in Fort No. 4, at King's Bridge, showing that the men did duty at some time at various points around the Heights. The 28th saw considerable service in the war after its embarkation for America in 1775, being engaged at the battle of Brooklyn and its men having been among the first to cross the Bronx river at the battle of White Plains. It took part in the Pennsylvania campaign in 1777, and was engaged at the battle of the Brandywine. It is probable that its occupation of this camp was after its return to New York in 1778. The regiment sailed for Barbadoes on the 4th of November, 1778, so that the objects above described were probably abandoned about that date, perhaps being overlooked in the haste of leaving for the embarkation, and buried from sight upon the dismantling of the huts occupied by the corps.

Indications of other fireplaces were found in the immediate vicinity and were thought to have marked the position of other dug-out huts. The outline of one such construction was traceable in the side of the sand bank excavated for the street, and showed that the floor of a hut had been cut into the hillside to a distance of about ten feet and a depth at the rear of about five feet, where stones had been placed for a small fireplace, from which some idea was gathered as to how these places of shelter were formed. It was such shelters or huts to which reference was made in the Hessian Regimental record, quoted in Max von Eelking's story of the "German Allied Troops," which, speaking of the German troops on the Heights, said:

The Camp of the Hessian Body Guard

“The forces outside of the city at King’s Bridge were better off, for they had comfortable huts, nine for each company, and each officer had his own, all surrounded with gardens in which flowers and vegetables were grown. The huts of the subalterns had two rooms, those of the Captains three, with windows; behind these huts were stalls for horses, pigs, chickens, and other stock.”

A study of the perspective drawing made by von Krafft indicated that this hillside was probably that occupied by the hut camp of the Hessian Body-Guard regiment or Garde-du-Corps. Observations were made from time to time on excavations made for sand on the sides of the hill and of the excavated streets, and when Thayer Street was cut through the knoll north of and parallel to Arden Street, additional signs of military occupation came to light in the shape of metal objects and a bayonet which was found by the workmen and added to the private collection found by the brothers Spier. Just south of Thayer Street a line of black earth in the sand bank, well up the knoll, showed some past disturbance of the surface and this was followed up by Leslie Spier, who uncovered a hut with a large fireplace constructed of flat stones, having a mass of wood ashes on the hearth. In this hut he secured a complete glass bottle, and the usual pot hooks, also a curious broiler made of a barrel hoop twisted around to form a suitable shape for the purpose.

A later excavation disclosed a complete glass rum bottle, some shoe buckles, a pewter spoon of crude shape and several barrel hoops, so located as to indicate the presence of a tub at one corner of the occupied space, probably used as a wash-bowl.

This hut was close to an old English hawthorn bush, which had often attracted attention, as the only one of its species in the vicinity, and its size indicated that it might be old enough to have sprung from seed or cutting placed there in the Revolution by some British soldier, a reminder of the English hedge rows. This find stimulated a wider search with the steel sounding rod, piercing the soil at intervals to find hard places indicative of the packed sand of a hut floor, and the following week, another hut was located.

Relics of the Revolution

It was in a most inaccessible situation on the hill partly covered with the abandoned wagons of the rock contractor and partly with large lumps of rock. However, though no objects of interest were found save some broken glass and china, it formed another link in the line of the huts, and led to the location of a third in which the fireplace was a mere sand bed without stones; and a part of a fourth on which lay a fragment of a bayonet.

The regiment of the Hessian Army in the war of Independence, whose presence on the hillside the discoveries so far described began to determine, was one of a particularly interesting and picturesque character, inasmuch as it was the most important contribution to the Hessian contingent, being the personal body-guard of the Landgraf of Hesse Cassel. The regiment was known under a most unusual and confusing variety of names, and is referred to in contemporary records in half a dozen different terms. Its true title was the Leib Regiment, signifying the Regiment of Life Guards, but it was alternatively described as the Garde-du-Corps, as the Infantry Regiment of the Landgraf, as the Body Infantry, as the Regiment Du Corps, and as the Landgraf's Body Guard. It is also referred to merely as The Infantry Regiment, and finally after its surrender at Yorktown, the displeasure of the Landgraf was exhibited in the change of its name to the Erb Prinz or Crown Prince's regiment, in place of that of another corps previously known by that name.

This interesting military organization arrived in New York among the first shipments of the Hessian division, on the 15th of August, 1776, at which time it was recorded that it was composed of 663 men. This reduced number was due to the contribution of two companies of the regiment to the corps of grenadiers, which had been formed into the first of the grenadier battalion, and was known as the Battalion von Linsengen, from the name of its commander, Lieutenant Colonel Otto Christ W. von Linseng, who was an officer of the Leib regiment. The titular Colonel or complimentary chief of the regiment was General von Lossberg.

The Camp of the Hessian Body Guard

but its acting Colonel during the whole of the war was von Wurmb, who was only replaced in command by Colonel Linseng after the surrender at Yorktown, when the change of name of the regiment took effect.

The Leib regiment took an active part in many of the events of the Revolution, such as the Pennsylvania campaign, the Newport and Springfield expeditions, but for a considerable period of time was doing garrison duty in or near New York City. Several references to the regiment appear in the diary kept by von Krafft as to their presence in camp on Washington Heights, which extended over the years 1778 to 1781, indicating the presence of all or part of the Leib regiment on the Heights at intervals during that period.

As the Hessian regiments, in spite of the elaborate details of their uniforms and accoutrements, lacked the distinctive numbered buttons which characterize and identify the British regiments, it has always been difficult to determine the actual regimental character of the military objects around presumable Hessian sites or camps. A very careful study of the diary of von Krafft, and particularly of the drawing showing the camps upon the heights in the year 1779, led to the conclusion that the probable position of the camp of the Leib regiment was the hill in the vicinity of Dyckman Street. The somewhat distorted drawing of the Hessian Sergeant showed, in the view of the valley taken, as he states, from the summit of "Laurel" or Fort George Hill, a group of huts upon the side of a small eminence which he places in line with the base of Inwood Hill.

A careful study of the topography showed that this eminence was probably that which is locally known as the Knoll. Along the east side of Broadway as it winds around the base of the southerly end of Mount Washington, at the point where Fort Washington Avenue and Sherman Avenue meet the one-time King's Bridge Road, this ridge of high ground extends as far as Dyckman Street. At its southerly end was constructed many years ago the little

Relics of the Revolution

old gas works which long supplied the village of Tubby Hook. On its sloping southeasterly face, the Knoll presented evidently desirable features for a military encampment, protected from the westerly winds, and sloping down towards running water at its base.

At the time of the War of Independence, it is probable that the high road, which in later years occupied the present line of Broadway, ran around the Knoll upon its southerly side, some slight traces of grading for this purpose being observable along the hill-side. The whole surface had been, until recent times, under cultivation by the Dyckmans and their successors. Just prior to the Revolution it had formed a part of the area of the Kortright farm, the old dwelling of which family was recently located by its ruined foundations, immediately to the east of the Knoll, at the southeast intersection of Sherman Avenue and Arden Street.

From time to time the plow had disturbed some small traces of military character, such as shot and bullets, but not even the oldest inhabitant of the Dyckman Valley had retained any tradition of the fact that this entire hill-side once bristled with military life, and that below the surface was still deeply buried the rows of hut floors once occupied by the Hessian soldiery.

The study of von Krafft's drawing shows that the character of the camp assumed to have existed at this point, was one of huts, and consideration of this fact led to the conclusion that these were probably the huts constructed as indicated by those already discovered.

By carefully measuring the huts so far found, it was observed that that portion of the floor which extends near the surface of the hill-side had been broken by the plow or the frost, and the hard portion only remained at a depth which exceeded the length of the sounding-rod. As soon as this was discovered, the practice was adopted of digging a small trial hole and inserting the sounding-rod at that point. The result was immediately successful and several most interesting huts were discovered which deter-

The Camp of the Hessian Body Guard

mined the existence of three rows of huts extending across the hillside.

A systematic numbering and measuring of the sites was undertaken and as soon as this method was adopted, the discoveries became more rapid and others were found with less difficulty by setting off fixed distances between the supposed sites. This distance eventually developed by comparison into an approximate center of 22 feet in each direction between the huts, which has been found to hold good with a number of those which have been excavated, but has shown some curious discrepancies in other instances.

At some points in which, by the order of the other huts, it would naturally be supposed that a hut would be found, none was traceable, so it is presumable that some other use was made of the space or a tent was erected which has left no traces of its one-time existence.

Some of the huts were almost destitute of any signs of human occupation other than the hard black floor, but all had the fireplace of stones, each with the ashes and pot-hook at the deep end of each excavation.

The third and upper row of huts was next sought and found.

At the south end of the Knoll, the decrepit remains of an ancient apple tree still clung to the hill-side, and although almost entirely decayed, managed to put forth a few leaves and bear some fruit, decreasing with every season. On the theory that this highest part presented a desirable place for officers' residence, a hole was sunk near the roots of this tree. The steel rod, run down in this hole reached low enough below the sods to give an indication of a floor at an unusual depth. With much effort the soil was removed and the floor was reached and cleared up to the fireplace. The latter was of crude construction, and around it lay glass and china-ware in many fragments, and the hoops of barrels which at one time had perhaps formed its rude chimney. Immediately to the west side of this hearth, a quantity of leaden musket bullets were

Relics of the Revolution

found scattered upon the floor. With these was a quantity of used and spent bullets, some of which bore marks of their contact with stone and woodwork, and some had been cut or sliced with a knife, evidently for the purpose of remolding as they lay close to fragments of lead slag.

It is strange that the occupant of the hut who had taken all the trouble to collect these bullets, and in part to prepare them for molding, should have abandoned the material on the floor of his hut when he left it, but the fact may indicate the haste and disorder of regimental departures.

The work of locating and excavating these huts proceeded through the entire winter season of 1912-13, during which the extraordinary absence of frost permitted such digging to be carried on. The work located other huts along the crest of the hill. In one of these was a dress ornament of silver thread wound around a core, forming a silver rosette. In the next hut along this line, the indications of the presence of officers were distinct. The hut was on the margin of the southerly side of the excavation of Arden Street, high up on the hillock, and was unusually large, being at least twelve feet square. Upon the beaten floor was a well constructed fireplace and part of the charred back logs were still lying upon it. Accompanying the usual pot-hooks was found a fine bayonet which was standing upright alongside the fireplace and the socket of which bore the traces of a wrapping of coarsely-woven material such as a blanket which had probably been applied when it was used in the fire.

A pewter button of the 6th Regiment of Foot of the British army, since known as the Royal Warwickshire, was found in one of these huts. This regiment was in New York for only a brief space, recuperating from disease incurred in the West Indies, and it sailed for England in 1777, so that the button indicates a use of the site at the early part of the war.

Other buttons of the same character having been found at 181st Street, it is clear that the corps was at one time in this vicinity,

The Camp of the Hessian Body Guard

and no doubt some of its members were at one time or other quartered either in the Hessian huts or on the site.

Some of the clay pipes of the soldiers were found, the stem of one of which bore the inscription "W. Morgan, Liverpool," corresponding with the initials W. M. found on a bowl of a pipe in one of the huts. This pipe also indicates the presence of British soldiers, being a pipe of English manufacture.

Among the more interesting objects disclosed from time to time was a complete iron canteen which had been covered with tin; this



A Hessian Canteen and Pipkin

frail object owed its preservation to the fact that its position was upside down and its interior was therefore free from moisture. It is the only specimen of its kind that has been secured in a complete form, though many others have been found in a broken condition. The iron canteen was Hessian, the British being provided with canteens of wood.

Some of the huts were doubtless occupied by soldiers engaged in the sutler's service such as the camp cooking. In one hut was an unusual number of meat bones, and a very long pot-hook, which must have been extended up to some support as high as the surface

Relics of the Revolution

of the ground. Alongside another lay the iron parts of a small wheel, apparently that of a small gun carriage.

The result of these excavations up to the Spring of 1913 demonstrated the arrangement of these huts in three rows, the lower being approximately 22 feet apart in both directions, and the upper row on the crest of the hill, a somewhat greater distance apart. The arrangement would be a natural one, for the officers would undoubtedly be resident in the upper huts, of which there would be a less number. It is more than probable that the debris of this large encampment was carried down to the lower part of the hill where the little brooklet ran, and there buried. Unfortunately, the construction of Sherman Avenue and other fillings have precluded any probability of the discovery of such deposits.

Twenty-three huts in all were uncovered and explored, and their character sufficiently determined to warrant the statement that this camp was that constructed and occupied during the Revolutionary War by the Hessian Leib Regiment, and probably at times by other corps. The interesting similitude of construction of the fireplaces in these huts, and the probability of their early destruction by building operations, decided the removal of one of the fireplaces for the purpose of re-erecting it at the Washington's Headquarters.

The fireplace selected was that which was known as No. 10, which was first photographed and measured. The stones were then marked and carefully removed and replaced in position upon the hearth of the Guard Room in the Headquarters House, and in and around it were placed some of the crude implements which were found in these huts, such as the fire tongs, broiler and pot-hooks made from barrel hoops.

The area which the discoveries defined as the camp was up to the time of the Revolution the farm of the Kortright family, and an effort was made to find the site of their old home which might naturally be expected to have been occupied by the soldiery camped so near at hand.

The Camp of the Hessian Body Guard

Some years before the camp debris was found at Arden Street, a considerable amount of household debris was disturbed, lying below the sod and around the rocks in the vicinity of some old apple trees between Sherman and Nagel Avenues, which indicated a long occupation of the neighborhood by Colonial residents. The debris consisted of masses of oyster and clam shells of large size, and considerable numbers of old-fashioned forged nails, with some coarse crockery and pipe stems. Some hundreds of nails in good condition were preserved, and a search was made all around the place, resulting in the discovery of the stone walls of a small building, probably a farm cottage, on the south side of the street, exactly in line with the east sidewalk of Post Avenue, if extended. Hard by this little cellar were traces of military fireplaces, without any special indication of their occupants. One such place contained a complete rum bottle, an excellent specimen of the squat pattern occasionally found on the camp sites.

In the month of April, 1912, W. L. Calver, W. Maedonald and the writer made a search over the vacant ground near these remains for the old residence of Sebastian Kortright, and were rewarded by finding debris near Sherman Avenue, which upon further excavation by the Brothers Spier determined the position of the dwelling. The tract of meadow land just above the marshes through which Dyckman Street was constructed, and numbered 20 in the allotment of the farm lands of New Harlem, in the year of grace, 1691, consisted of 10 morgen "by the Round Meadow," which was drawn by Peter Van Oblien, who ten years later sold the property to Bastiaen Michelsen, usually known as Van Kortright, a name derived from his grandfather's native place, Kortryk, in Flanders. On this tract Kortright settled, probably building a dwelling very soon after that date on the site discovered, and lived thereon, with his wife, Jolante Montagne, until his death about 1753. The farm included the marsh land which extended along its northerly side, traces of which until very recently existed, and in which a channel was probably dredged out to afford access

Relics of the Revolution

by water to Sherman Creek on the Harlem River. After his decease, his widow and sons continued on the farm.

But his son Johannes, who was a weaver by trade, mortgaged the property in 1768, and died in 1775, just before the advent of the armies of the Revolution in his neighborhood. His son, John Courtright, as he spelled the vacillating family name, was therefore in possession of the farm at that time, when, as we now learn, the dwelling was invaded by the soldiery.

The largest sizes of oyster and clam shells, together with their abundant quantity, indicate the staple food of the family. These lie scattered over a half acre of ground extending across Arden Street back of the house, which faced as usual due south with its chimney and hearth at the east end. Scattered fragments of coarse pottery, with scarce scraps of better chinaware told of the household equipment, and the few plain buttons found may have come from their personal attire. But a round shot and bullets spoke clearly of the soldiers occupying the house, and the presence of a fireplace of rough stones in the southeast angle of the foundation, close to which a bayonet stood upright in the soil, indicated that the house had been destroyed and its fragmentary remains utilized as a military shelter.

No trace of the building appears on the British maps, and it may reasonably be concluded that it was destroyed some time during the defense or occupation of the Heights. The poverty of the family is indicated, not only by the circumstances of the mortgage, but by the character of the objects found, which were all of crude and humble character.

The farm was sold to Jacobus Dyckman in 1786 and all trace of the old dwelling was lost to record and to sight until the spade and fork of the modern explorer exposed the remnants of the stone walls, and the base of the chimney and hearthstones, around which once gathered Bastiaen and his little family.

XIV

THE HUT CAMP OF THE SEVENTEENTH REGIMENT OF FOOT

This extensive and much occupied camp was one of the first discovered and as early as 1890 by Mr. W. L. Calver. At that date the district on the westerly side of the King's Bridge Road, which later became known as Broadway, and north of Dyckman Street was entirely undeveloped, and the area of the camp about the intersection of the present Academy Street and Prescott Avenue, under the shelter of the east side of Inwood Hill, was covered with fields and orchards. Although occupied by other corps, the site has been generally referred to as that of the Seventeenth Regiment, not only on account of the fact that buttons of that corps in larger numbers than those of other regiments have been found there, but because the place is designated as the "Camp of the Seventeenth regiment which had been taken prisoners," in the view of the northern end of Manhattan Island, as it appeared in 1779, drawn by the Hessian officer, von Krafft, who later referred in his diary to huts existing there. (See pages 47-48.)

But the fact that buttons of other regiments which returned to England as early as 1777 were also found on Prescott Avenue makes it certain that a camp existed there almost as soon as the British took possession of Fort Washington. Thus the discovery of buttons of the 6th Regiment of Foot at this and other places on the island is remarkable, in view of the fact that the regiment was in New York a very short time, perhaps only a few months; for after its service in the West Indies, it was found too unhealthy for active duty and returned to England in 1777.

Every desirable natural feature was present in the position chosen for this regimental camp. The features had, ages before its occupation by the troops, appealed to the aborigines, who had

Relics of the Revolution

made use of it as a village site; probably the principal headquarters in the winter season, of the Wickquaskeek clan. It thus comes about that the remains of the Indian tribe and of the British troops are found closely associated over this area, and the camp fire pits of the soldiery are sunk in the shell beds left by their predecessors, while over the surface the flint arrowhead of the red man may be found alongside the bullet of the trooper.* The soil is sand, drifted down from the hillside in bygone ages, deep enough to afford shelter to the dead of the aborigines, and to offer ready means for the construction of the dug-out winter huts of the soldiery. The ground was sufficiently elevated to insure good drainage, and level enough in places to suit the pitching of tents, while the Cock Hill provided an effective shield from the wintry western blasts. The battery thereon protected the convenient landing place at Tubby Hook, and the brooks fed by springs which broke from the hill at the corner of West 204th Street and Seaman Avenue ran north and south and provided for the watering of the soldier and his mount, as long ages ago they had done for the Indian and his dog. Such a source of water was required for a camp so extensive as this evidently was, particularly at the time when cavalry, such as the Seventeenth Light Dragoons, were quartered there. As for the military occupants of this camp, the most careless observer would conclude that they imbibed profusely of other liquids than spring water. The countless fragments of old black bottles that bestrew the field tell their own story. A few complete specimens of these wine and rum bottles have been recovered, and are at once the largest and frailest of the relics that have survived.

The presence of buttons of the 52d regiment on the Prescott Avenue camp site also indicates that the camp site was used by that corps prior to the advent of the 17th Foot. Von Krafft refers only once to the 52d, as being encamped "at King's Bridge,"

* It was in the search for aboriginal objects that relics of military character were found on the surface and led to the identification of the camping ground.

The Hut Camp of the Seventeenth Regiment of Foot

August 7th, 1778, which was before the 17th took possession; and the 52d returned to Europe during that year. Several buttons of the 52d have been found in the Fort George camp at 193d Street and Eleventh Avenue, but at no other place which could be described as King's Bridge. Some of the buttons found on the Prescott Avenue camp site are shown on page 165.

The records of the 17th Regiment state that the regiment was stationed in New York, after its return from Philadelphia, in the latter part of June, 1778, so that the huts which they constructed were probably erected in the autumn of that year, and were doubtless for the purpose of occupation during the winter of 1778 to 1779.

After wintering at Inwood the regiment removed to Stony Point, and its position was surprised and taken by the American troops under General Wayne at midnight on July 15th, when the entire force of the 17th Regiment, together with the grenadier company of the 71st Regiment, a company of the regiment of "Royal Americans" and a detachment of artillery were all taken prisoners, and the 17th lost its regimental colors.

Upon the area in and around this camp buttons of the Seventy-first Regiment have been found. It is known that the Seventy-first was frequently associated or brigaded with the Seventeenth Foot, as evidenced by their presence together at Stony Point, and again at Yorktown where both regiments surrendered.

The regimental buttons of the Seventeenth Foot, found in the Seventeenth camp at Inwood, are of four kinds — two varieties for the private soldiers and two for the officers. The privates' buttons are made of pewter and have the usual iron shanks cast into the white metal. Some specimens have the regimental number "17" in figures raised upon their face, enclosed in a border design of a raised cord or rope, but the larger number found have the numerical designation incised or depressed into the face and the face of the buttons stand somewhat higher than the milled border. Other buttons of the regiment have been found in several

Relics of the Revolution

of the camp sites, one, for instance, having been picked up by Mr. Saville of the American Museum of Natural History in the British camp at 201st Street and Ninth Avenue, directly east of the camp here described.

The officers' buttons of the Seventeenth Regiment which have been found in the Seventeenth camp as well as others found in Fort No. IV, opposite King's Bridge on Fordham Heights, are made in two pieces, the backs of the buttons being of a fine quality of bone or ivory, and the faces of thin repousse silver bearing a unique octagonal design, with the regimental number in small figures within a circle in the centre. Such officers' buttons were provided with loops of stout cord or gut, which were passed through four perforations in the bone or ivory backs, by which they were secured to the garments; and those which have been found were no doubt lost by some injury to these loops. Another type is a flat copper button, silver plated, of precisely the same design as those just described, one of which was found in a hut site on this camp and another was found in Fishkill village, and may be supposed to have been brought there by some American soldier, possibly one of those who had been at Yorktown, where the Seventeenth surrendered with the army of Cornwallis, October 19th, 1781.

The officers' buttons of the 17th are described in the Inspection returns of the period as being of silver on the occasion when the regiment was inspected at Cork, September, 1775, prior to its departure for America.

The unfortunate 17th Regiment surrendered for the second time at Yorktown two hundred and forty-five men and the regiment returned to New York in January, 1783, and on August 19, were ordered to hold themselves in readiness to sail for Nova Scotia. The 17th was thereafter stationed in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland during 1784 and 1785, and sailed for England in 1786, where they arrived in August of that year. It was in 1782 that the regiment assumed the territorial title of the "Seventeenth or Leicestershire Regiment."

The Hut Camp of the Seventeenth Regiment of Foot

After his reconnoitre in person on the New Jersey shore on July 18, 1781, Washington made this entry in his journal, after noting other camps: "The other and only remaining encampment in view discoverable from the west side of the river is between the Barrier and King's Bridge, in the hollow between Cox Hill and the heights below. One hundred tents could be counted in view at the same time, and others might be hid by the hills. At this place it is said the Yagers, Hessians and Anspachs lay."

In addition to those of the 17th, buttons of a number of other British corps have been found in the camp -- those of the 6th, 7th, 10th, 14th, 28th, 35th, 38th, 45th, 47th, 52nd, 57th, 71st and 80th regiments of foot; also of the New York Volunteers and the 17th Light Dragoons.

The departure of the 6th and 14th regiments from these shores in 1777 has already been noted. The 7th Regiment, or Royal Fusiliers, a bronze belt-plate of which corps was found at the barrack site at Fort Washington, had an unusual amount of ill fortune during its service in America, which covered the entire period of the Revolution. In the autumn of 1775, by the surrender of the garrisons of Fort Chambly and St. John, nearly the whole of the corps was captured. In the autumn of 1776, the men of the Seventh having been exchanged, the regiment was reorganized in New York, and was quartered for the winter at Amboy, and afterwards at Staten Island.

The earliest information we have of the 7th regiment being encamped anywhere near the northern portion of Manhattan Island, is the entry in von Krafft's journal, September 8, 1779, when he says that the 7th and 23d Foot, which had been encamped on Spuyten Duyvil Hill, departed by ship to New York. In the southern campaign the unlucky 7th lost its colors at Cowpens and again returned to New York August 7, 1782, only to be sent back to England in 1783.

Only one button of the 57th Regiment has been found in the 17th camp, and this specimen sheds little light on the history of

Relics of the Revolution

the camp because the 57th was in America from 1776 to 1782, and much of its service lay in New York and the immediate vicinity. Its buttons are found at almost every camp site on the Heights.

No information is available as to when the 35th regiment occupied the 17th Regiment camp. Only one of its buttons was found but several other specimens were discovered at Fort Washington and others on the supposed site of the Tent Camp at Nagel Avenue and Broadway.

Von Krafft refers several times to the camping place of the Thirty-eighth regiment, but none of the localities designated appear to fit the 17th camp site. All are apparently further south.

The 45th regiment, two buttons of which were found on this camp site, left the United States in 1778, and must therefore have been one of the corps encamped here prior to that date.

On July 26, 1779, von Krafft says that the Landgraf's or Wutgenau regiment of Hessians were quartered in the "Huts of the captured 17th Foot," and on July 31, he notes that "The Landgraf's regiment had to make room in the camp of the captured Seventeenth for Lord Rawdon's corps, and pitch their tents at Charles redoubt" on Marble Hill.

No buttons positively known to be Hessian have been found in the 17th regiment camp, but several varieties of pewter buttons of plain form, which have been found in this and other camps, may be confidently attributed to the presence of the German troops. To this day the German regiments bear no numbers upon their buttons.

In this connection, von Krafft says June 18, 1781, "The Hessian Yagers arrived here today from Long Island, and went into camp below Cox Hill, at the place where the huts of the former 17th English regiment had been, and they received tents from the Landgrave regiment and ours, because they could get no bushes or wood around there to build huts with."

The Hut Camp of the Seventeenth Regiment of Foot

Then on September 9, 1781, von Krafft made this entry concerning the Yagers in the same camp: "This morning the remaining mounted Yagers with the horses of those who had been taken for the last fleet (and had been obliged to leave their horses behind) took possession of the tent camp at Morris House, but the remaining Hessian Yagers remained in camp below Cox Hill."

Von Krafft mentioned the 80th Regiment twice in his journal, December 3rd and 11th, 1780, and says they were encamped on the north end of the island, but the exact place is not stated. A very critical reading of the journal seems, however, to establish the place as this camp, for a prior entry records the fact that the 80th was encamped "at King's Bridge" October 24, 1780.

We have no record of the New York Volunteers being in the old camp of the 17th regiment, but this Loyalist corps was in New York during the summer of 1778, and also during the winter of 1779-80. One button only of the New York Volunteers was found in the 17th camp; two other specimens, one of which was an officer's button, were found at Fort George.

It is interesting to observe how the several discoveries around this large camp have confirmed the historical facts as above recorded. On the grading of Prescott Avenue, some fifteen years ago, immediately north of Reiff's cottage, the workmen disturbed several ovens or fireplaces, and the stump of what was thought to have been a flag staff. Mr. Calver's frequent discovery of buttons of the 17th along the line of the Avenue had led to the supposition that the huts must have been in that immediate vicinity. In August, 1905, a young resident, Arthur Kennedy, saw at the side of the Avenue some brickwork, at which he dug and disclosed part of a fireplace, which was then carefully excavated and found to be one of those that had existed in one of the military huts. It was composed of various kinds of brick, yellow and red, Dutch and Colonial, with a hearth laid in half bricks, and a large number of loose bricks had evidently composed the chimney. It faced south by east. Upon the floor and around the hearth lay three

Relics of the Revolution

good specimens of pot or kettle hooks, parts of bottles, cut glass wine glass, fragments of iron kettle, part of a fry-pan, ashes, charcoal and meat bones. At the north angle lay the bowl of a clay tobacco pipe, bearing the trade-mark "T. D.," the first of that manufacture definitely associated with the Revolutionary period. Close to this was a musket bullet, and two buttons of the 17th regiment fixed the character of the place as one of their huts. From the vicinity, Mr. Howard Carlson and other residents have taken many objects of military character, among which are British copper coins, gun-flints and buckles. Mr. Calver found the basket guard of a sword and the lock of a pistol hard by, and doubtless other materials may come to light when further disturbance of the hillside is made for public improvements.

Further away in 1909 a search among the rocks some distance south of Reiff's cottage was rewarded by locating an occupied site on a large flat rock, below which debris of various kinds had been thrown. Among the customary waste materials we found a pair of the ice-creeperes of which another sample was discovered in the vicinity, indicating that such appliances were in use among the soldiery in the winter. A small solid shot lay in a crevice, and much broken china and some excellent Chinese porcelain lay scattered over the rocks, which were thickly overgrown with poison ivy, a weed which fortunately has no terrors for some of the explorers.

Another part of the area of the camp on the line of Seaman Avenue was the site of the Indian Village to which reference has been previously made. On the east side and extending to Cooper Street there was a truck garden which after the spring rains was a fertile place in which to find Indian and military objects. Here Mr. Calver picked up a fine bronze bonnet badge of the 71st Highland Regiment of foot, of which only one other is known to exist, having been found at Ticonderoga. Here the spade had mingled the broken pottery, rejects and artifacts of the aborigines with the broken pipes, the buckles and gun-flints of the soldiery of the

The Hut Camp of the Seventeenth Regiment of Foot

Revolution. Below the soil was later found the first local Indian human burial, carefully packed around with oyster shells, and more than a dozen shell pits containing the remains of dogs and sturgeon were scattered over the area. But the strangest association was to come. In 1908, upon the cutting through of Seaman Avenue, the burnt earth at a spot on the west bank disclosed the existence of a camp fire pit. This was carefully cleared, and among its usual accompaniments were two unusual objects, one a silver button of an officer of the Royal Marines, and the other a human toe bone! The presence of the latter was accounted for



Bonnet Badge of Fraser's Highlanders

when further digging to the south disclosed the remains of two Indians, a male and a female, buried together in a shallow grave, part of which had been disturbed by the fire-pit of the Marine officer. Later search brought to light other of the foot bones of the male skeleton on the other side of the fireplace. One wonders if the revelry of the commissioned intruders were enlivened by the spirits of the disturbed couple.

The discovery in 1913 of the officer's hut at Fort Washington afforded indications which led to a further attempt at locating hut sites in the neighborhood of Prescott Avenue, where for years past numerous surface finds of military objects had been made.

Relics of the Revolution

The knowledge gained as to the construction of dug-out huts in the camp of the Body Regiment also indicated that by better direction a search for similar huts of the 17th Foot might be better rewarded than in the past.

The well-made brick fireplace which was found and photographed July 30, 1905, was now thought to have been part of the construction of an officer's hut, in the light of the experience with the Fort Washington hut. And the relative arrangement of officers' and private dwellings in the Body Regiment Camp showed that this hut probably lay above the site of the soldiers' dugouts. A searching party was organized and a visit made to Prescott Avenue. It was thought that a dump of rubbish might probably be found below the site of the fireplace in a relation similar to that found at Fort Washington. If so, its position would probably be just east of Prescott Avenue, the narrow, rough roadway of which cut across the site of the hut. It was found that a wash-out had carried away a considerable amount of the soil on one side of the road exposing some signs of dark soil near the hut site. Active labor soon brought to light a number of objects of a military character, such as bullets, ironwork, pot-hooks and nails, bones, broken glass and china, the latter of colonial manufacture. The hot day's work was well rewarded with a button of the 17th and one of the 57th regiment. The appearances indicated that in the construction of the road the upper part of this rubbish deposit had been disturbed, and it may be inferred that some of the military objects found from time to time on the roadway came from this place.

Two weeks later, the occurrence of the superstitious number of the 13th day of the month led to remarks as to the improbability of any luck, but the day proved one of the most fortunate of the season. While some of the party were clearing up the remains of the dump found previously, Mr. Calver started a few trial holes opposite the one-time fireplace, the position of which he first located. The ground was so dry that the sounding rod was of little service, so small holes were sunk with the spade and the

The Hut Camp of the Seventeenth Regiment of Foot

output carefully examined. About 20 feet south of the hut site at a depth of a couple of feet some wood ashes were found — the undoubted sign of the dump for which search was being made.

A deep trench was cut outwards from this point and afforded the means of careful undercutting of the deposit. It was fortunate that this was done for the place proved to be rich in material, and all the good soil was passed through the sifter.

A little work brought to light a number of military buttons, chiefly those of the 17th regiment, followed by an excellent sample of the 28th foot and a fine U. S. A. or Continental army button, which was hailed with great satisfaction. These were all pewter buttons, but the belief that this deposit was connected with the presence of officers was confirmed when a fine bronze badge was found. It lay face downward and at first sight presented the appearance of a familiar shoe buckle, but when carefully loosened it proved to be a bronze badge, about 3½ inches in length, bearing the royal initials "G. R." surmounted by a crown. At the back it had four eyelets and there still remained some fragments of canvas to which it had been evidently secured. This material led Mr. John Ward Dunsmore, who aided in the work of exploration, to pronounce it, as it proved to be, the badge on a sabre-tache or canvas pouch usually carried by the Guards, and was attached to the sword belt. Lt. Colonel Lovett, of the present 28th Regiment, in correspondence at a later date, states that such ornaments were worn only by officers of the Guards. (See page 127.)

The day's finds included a number of more familiar objects including a handsome silver-plated shoe-buckle, several "ice-creepers" which were found close together with the now customary accompaniments of bullets, bayonet-scabbard hooks mixed with the debris of china, glass, bones, and a considerable quantity of mussel shells.

These were followed the succeeding Sunday by further rewards. The spoil consisted of about 15 buttons, including one of the 57th

Relics of the Revolution

Foot, and four silver buttons, those of officers, of the 17th Regiment, thus establishing the suspected nature of the hut site.

An oval silver sleeve link with gilded face, was a further indication. Two more ice-creepers and a skate added evidence of occupation during the winter of 1778-9. A bottle, complete except the beaded mouthpiece, was one that had seen service no doubt in the same connection, as probably did a very pretty cream-ware tea-cup, which was afterward nearly completely restored. A bronze half-penny of George III of the year 1776 brought the date of occupation still closer.

It remains a matter of conjecture whether the buttons of the Continental soldiers were borne by a captive in the camp. They were not the first found in the neighborhood, but the number here discovered points to some continued condition, and their association with the British buttons seems to point rather clearly to that theory of their presence.

Later on, the party completed the work of excavation and somewhat to their surprise discovered that the deposit had been accumulated within an abandoned dug-out hut, the floor of which was of compact earth extending below the debris, on the surface of which floor more buttons and objects were found. Among the former were those of some corps not previously discovered, such as the 10th and the 14th in rather poor condition. These were accompanied by others of the U. S. A., and one of the 71st Highlanders. A shoe-buckle, more bullets, a whole pipe bowl of plain pattern, a pocket knife and a sheet-iron pail lay among the debris with barrel hoops within which lay a mass of white clay, which was recognized as the substitute for pipe clay, to which von Krafft refers as having been brought from Newtown, Long Island, "for whitening" in April 1781. This hut site was reopened in 1914 and the fireplace was found. It consisted only of a few small stones and much wood ash. Only a button or two of the 17th was added to the collection from this hut.

The Hut Camp of the Seventeenth Regiment of Foot

The locating of this refuse deposit in the vicinity of the hut, with the officers' debris it contained, indicates that a hut which had been abandoned by the common soldiery was used for the purpose. The number of regimental buttons found in one such position may be due to the employment of private soldiers as orderlies in attendance on some officer of high rank. But reference to the records of the several regiments shows that their occupation was probably consecutive. Thus the 14th was most likely the first to be at this place, for the regiment was in New York in 1776, but left for Europe in 1777. The 10th regiment also left New York for England in October 1778, and the 28th embarked for Barbadoes on the 4th of November, 1778.

Following these departures which place the presence of these three regiments at Inwood prior to the end of 1778, we found that the 17th came to New York in 1778 and constructed huts in this hill prior to the capture of the Regiment at Stony Point on 15-16 July, 1779. As tents were not used for winter residence, it follows that these habitations were made in the Fall or early winter of 1778. After the capture the regiment was reformed out of exchanged men and perhaps was re-uniformed with clothing having buttons of somewhat different pattern, of which specimens are found on this site, upon which they may have been quartered temporarily. The Corps left New York again in 1780 and wound up their share of misfortune by recapture at Yorktown in 1781. The 71st Highland Regiment was more or less associated with the 17th both at Stony Point and at Yorktown, and here their buttons are also found together.

The 57th Regiment was in and around New York during most of the War of Independence. The predominance of the 17th however indicates their special occupation of the place. The 14th Regiment left New York in the year 1777, and the button affords a limit to that occupation. In general the finds confirm the statements of von Krafft, and have added a valuable chapter to the record of the Revolution on Washington Heights.

Relics of the Revolution

In confirmation of this conclusion, the discovery of another hut, near by, may be mentioned. Some sand had been dug out on the side of the "Avenue" almost exactly opposite Rieff's cottage. This part of the road had been over-run by sand washed down in heavy rains, and it had been the idea that it was little use to examine below the soil. The sand pit was only about a foot and a half deep, but this bared a little of the original surface, upon removing which, black soil was disclosed, and a little lower a number of old Colonial red bricks were found lying together. Stones lay below having the appearance of part of a fireplace. In cutting away the earth near this stone a fine silver button of the 17th Foot Regiment fell out which at once established the character of the place. At a depth of about 3 feet some bricks were found laid in a line, evidently part of a floor, and on them lay a pot hook. The excavation was carried further north and disclosed a well-laid hearth, consisting of a large flat stone around the edge of which on three sides were red bricks set on edge, a new style of such work. The place was barren of results other than several small pot hooks and some broken bottles. It was a rather large hut, possibly a guard room, and from the large number of loose and broken brick around the middle of the floor space, there may have been more of the floor bricked, or the fireplace may have been built with them.

As these hut floors so far located along the east side of Prescott Avenue appeared to be part of a symmetrical arrangement, search was renewed in 1914, and "soundings" were made at different places along the line of the road.

There is a footpath up the steepest part of the hill which had worn away the soil, and the spring rains brought to light a few scraps of bottle-glass and bone, which indicated a likely site, though very far up the hill.

A careful search with the steel rod disclosed some large stones in the steep bank, and some hard work soon uncovered one of the finest fireplaces yet discovered. It was at the northerly end of a hut floor which was composed of hard beaten sand and was

The Hut Camp of the Seventeenth Regiment of Foot

about 12 feet in length, and of undecided width as it extended under the roadway. Some of the familiar objects of military life came to hand, and the usual pot-hook was found close to the hearth, which was covered several inches deep with the ashes of its long extinguished fires.

But a pewter button of the 17th Foot soon established the character of the place, and the fireplace was carefully cleared out preparatory to photographing it. It turned out to be of the usual tapered form 2'-6" wide at back, 3'-9" wide at the mouth and 2' deep, evidently English measures.

The hearth was of sand, the walls all of stone and only a few bricks were found. On the ash bed at one side was a flat stone that might have been used as a "hob" which was lifted after a photograph had been taken, when a button of the 14th Foot or Buckinghamshire Regiment was found, lying face upwards, underneath it. On working around the "ingleneuk" of the fireplace a single shovelful of soil was transferred to the sifter which contained three buttons, one of which was a fine pewter specimen of the 52nd Regiment. According to von Krafft, this regiment was at King's Bridge, as this place was called in a general way, in August, 1778, after which the corps, being greatly depleted, was sent home to England to recruit its numbers. So the three finds afforded quite definite information as to the time of occupation of the camp and placed the first construction a year earlier than the record of von Krafft had indicated. It seems more than probable, therefore, that it was first occupied, and the huts perhaps begun by the American troops under Gen. Heath in the fall of 1776.

The fireplace stood almost exactly in line with the two other sites located in 1913, and thus decided a line of the arrangement of the huts. The only problem left was the distance apart of any intermediate huts. The steel rod soon located one likely spot near the roots of a small sumach tree, and a hole was dug in which ironwork and glass was found. It proved to be a poor place, yielding a bullet or two and an ice-creeper, but no military objects of

Relics of the Revolution

special interest. But it led to better things, for measuring its distance from the other sites, it indicated a probable space of 25 to 30 feet between hut sites and on measuring off such spaces new places were found very promptly. The first turned out to be a sort of a dump, possibly a cess-pit. Nearly 5 feet below the surface were some fragments of good china, and at the lowest point lay a complete ramrod. This proved of much interest, as only one other complete rod had been found, that at the Arden Street camp. The new find was 37 inches long, and the thread or screw at one end was still traceable. This thread was used to secure the little "worm" or double screw which was used to extract a wad, or to hold some rag to clean the bore. Strange to say, the worm itself was found in the next hut, which was located by measurement in the same manner. This proved much more interesting, for the floor was very well preserved and extended about 12 feet in length by some 6 feet in width. On the floor lay seven small silver buttons of the 17th, and their similarity led to the conjecture that they must have been on a single garment. The sifter brought to light fragments of carbonized cloth and a piece of silver lace which confirmed this idea. When a pair of shears, a thimble and a brass pin were discovered, we concluded that the hut had been used by the regimental tailor whose work had been hastily dropped, perhaps on account of the burning of the hut. Under the microscope, the cloth appeared to be of two weaves, one of which was distinctly a sort of braid. Its color, of course, had been changed to black, perhaps by fire. There was no fireplace to this hut. It perhaps existed under the roadway.

The site of the tailor's hut was filled in and attention was turned to the next opportunity. A distance was measured off, of 27 feet, and signs of human occupation were soon found at a depth of about three feet below the surface. These signs were chiefly broken bottles, the number of which increased as the floor was reached, until quite a pile of fractured glass was accumulated. There was an unusual absence of personal objects, but at last

The Hut Camp of the Seventeenth Regiment of Foot

one of a pair of bronze cuff-links was found, the design on which was very interesting, being a classical design with the head of a Persian monarch, promptly christened "Cambyses."

Then an iron funnel was taken out, which, taken in connection with the abundance of bottles, indicated that the place might have been used as the grog-shop or canteen of the regiment. The floor was not in very good condition and there was a quantity of charcoal in the soil above it, so that it was probably burnt down. Perhaps the grog accounted for the fire.

After trying some other points along the line of discovered huts without success, we transferred attention to the ground lying below where we had an impression that a third line of huts might have been constructed at an equal distance apart.

Some passes with the sounder around the large mulberry tree, beneath the welcome shade of which our frugal lunch had often been absorbed, indicated stones and shells below the soil. A hole sunk at a point about 35 feet east by south of the line of huts soon turned out some signs of military life. The place on further development appeared to have been a sort of pit or rubbish hole dug at the back of a fireplace containing bones and shells. The large stones of the fireplace lay at the bottom part, under one of which was a long pot-hook. Several pewter buttons of the 17th and one of the 71st Fraser Highlanders came to hand, with a bronze cuff-link having the design of the rose, thistle and shamrock. A bayonet socket, a bullet and gun-flint were familiar military accompaniments of the buttons. An odd find was a bronze needle about 2 inches in length, evidently a "home-made" article, such as might be used for tent-making. On working to the south around the large stones, it was found that they had formed part of a large wrecked fireplace which belonged to another large hut, the floor of which lay at a depth of about 3½ feet from the surface; and from the rich ashes of the hearth the mulberry tree had sprung, its numerous roots greatly interfering with our exploration. In front of this hearth was an unusually large pile of barrel-hoops, which from

Relics of the Revolution

their quantity and variety indicated that this may have been a storehouse. Assuming that four were used on a barrel, there would have been about a dozen of them. Among the ashes a pewter button of the 17th was found, which proved the occupancy of the place by that regiment, and provided as well one of the finest specimens of its kind, retaining its shape and original lustre. The large size of the fireplace and the extent of the space around it in



Stone Fireplace of Dug-out Hut S, on the Dyckman Farm

which objects were scattered confirmed the idea that it was probably a storehouse. But it was more important in that it showed the probable existence of a third line of huts, and an energetic effort was made to locate them. The first attempt, however, at the south of this place, led into an unexpected Indian shell-pit, which afforded an immense mass of oyster shells with accompanying labor of extraction, but only a few scraps of native pottery. Execrating the unprofitable aborigines, the shells were piled back

The Hut Camp of the Seventeenth Regiment of Foot

in the hole, in which they had lain long before the first American soldier appeared on the scene, and attention was turned to the fascinating search for military information and materials.

The number of hut sites thus far disclosed, and the apparent regularity with which some of them appeared to have been located, now required a careful survey of the sites to determine the exact lay-out of the camp. Accordingly, a morning was spent in staking out the known positions and measuring the distances between them, and in relating them to a string drawn parallel to the east curbline of the finished part of Prescott Avenue north of Dyckman Street. A cross line of the curbs of Academy Street across the camp site was set off and the various finds were plotted with accurate reference to existing street lines. The rows of the huts lay in three lines, about 33 feet, or say half a chain apart, and the central line on which so far nine huts had been located was very nearly parallel to the roadway of Prescott Avenue as constructed. This indicated that both had followed the natural topography of the ground and that the present rough lane may even have been the successor of a camp pathway.

The distance between those huts which lay nearest each other along that line seemed to have been 30 to 33 feet. A presumable third row was staked out starting from the most recent find under the mulberry tree, and having marked with large cards on stakes all the hut sites a large photograph was taken of the entire area on Sunday, September 6, 1914. Sounding at the expected distance along the third line soon showed signs of debris. This proved to be an extensive as well as interesting place, developing by several days of labor into a large hut about 20 feet by 12 feet, with a very hard floor of packed sand, extending fully 20 feet into the hill-side, where the back part was five feet underground. In this deep part there was a rough fireplace with a mass of ashes and debris situated in one corner, an unusual position.

In this excavation, the sieve caught a fine pewter button of the Coldstream Guards, the proximity of which to the Guards Badge

Relics of the Revolution

in the hut opened in 1913, which was only 25 feet away, leads to the presumption that the latter belonged to an officer of that famous regiment.

It was an interesting coincidence that Mr. Calver received at this time a letter from Colonel Monck, commanding that corps, written just prior to the departure of the regiment to the seat of war in Belgium, conveying the thanks of the regiment to him for the gift of the bronze beltplate bearing the initials "C. G." which had been found some years ago at Fort Tryon. The latest find was by far the best specimen of a button of the Coldstreams and added a keen zest to the further exploration of the hut. This was rewarded with about twenty other buttons, one of which was an American Continental "U. S. A." Another was a small silver button of the 17th, in such perfect preservation that its face shone up brightly as soon as it was shaken loose from its earthy covering. A third find was a hollow pewter button of the 17th of the type worn by non-commissioned officers.

With these were familiar military objects, such as ice-creepers, bullets, gun-flints, a razor and a knife and fork.

There was an unusual abundance of oyster, clam and mussel shells composing a layer evidently thrown in after the hut floor had been filled partly up. Very little china or ironwork came to hand, except a crushed Hessian canteen and part of a Staffordshire iron tripod cooking pot.

About twenty feet north of this hut there were traces of another, but it proved so barren of objects that it was abandoned in favor of a more promising site. This was located October 10, 1914, by measurement, and was opened by trenching into the hillside. The floor, where it emerged from the hillside, was about 2 feet deep, probably the shallower part had been destroyed by the frost and plough. It was very dry and cutting into the hill proved hard work, but buttons of the 71st and one of the 17th with a couple of bullets sufficiently indicated the character of the place. Later rains somewhat eased the labor and among the objects discovered

The Hut Camp of the Seventeenth Regiment of Foot

was a complete rum bottle, which lay flat on the floor level. It was nearly empty of sand and in excellent condition and was added to Mr. Dunsmore's collection. On cutting back into the hill several feet, it was found that the hut had been filled in with stones and sand containing scraps of metal. The fireplace was quite fifteen feet in the hillside and faced northeastwards and occupied, as in the case of the previous discovery, the corner of the hut. On the ashes lay no less than eight pot hooks, one of which was a yard long, and near by two pewter buttons of the 17th added to the museum collection, and a good ice-creeper, a camp axe-head, a bullet beaten into a flat disc, and an illegible copper halfpenny.

In a space under one of the few remaining appletrees of the Dyckman orchard is a little playground for children, provided with a see-saw, to one side of which the steel rod gave indications of stones set in a line about 2 feet below the sod. The situation was just between the huts last opened. This new place indicated that these large huts on the third line might be closer together and thus might have been nearly continuous.

The row of stones extended east and west, and on the north side was military debris, bullets, gun-flints and plain pewter buttons. About 5 feet down was a mass of blackened sand and much ashes with a single barrel hoop lying flat. Careful sifting brought out a bronze sleeve-link with an ornamental design, a part of a brass badge of thin metal, an ice-creeper and a small brass thimble, with a scrap of porcelain having the mark "W" thereon. There was a good fireplace facing eastward built of large stones. This fireplace again occupied a corner of the hut space for the original sand wall was very clear along side of it. The hut was curiously crowded in between the other sites and seemed to be shallower than others. On this floor no less than sixteen bullets were taken up, sufficient to demonstrate its military character to a large number of interested visitors.

On the floor, alongside the inevitable pot-hook, were many fragments of a cover of a soup-tureen. It was nearly complete and the

Relics of the Revolution

beautiful design of its shape and handle made it, in its restored condition, a striking addition to the collection of military ceramics.

Prolonged labor at this place resulted in a number of local friendships and every day brought a succession of inquisitive visitors, among whom some of the children of the vicinity were the most persistently interested in the work, joining in shoveling and sifting and enjoying the excitement of the finds. The last hut discovered up to the time of completing this record was again thirty feet northward on the third line of huts, where the sounding rod indicated conditions. As the hole was sunk the rod followed and finally located a floor surface quite five feet below the slope of the hill. Soon followed abundant evidence of its occupation in bullets, bones and pot hooks of which several lay at different depths. Fully seven feet below ground the hearth of the fireplace was found, in front of which was a large flat hearth-stone and on and around it were fragments of hand-painted English Delft paste-ware. An odd discovery was the stem of an Indian clay pipe which had evidently been discovered by some soldier who had cut it with a knife to ascertain its material and then proceeded to further develop it into a whistle! He apparently got tired of the pastime and threw it away. The excavation was so extensive that a barrow became for the first time a necessity, and the soil was wheeled out and deposited on either side of the excavation. The stones which once composed the upper part of the fireplace were found to have fallen in upon the hearth, and on removal the stone structure was uncovered and found to be one of the best yet unearthed. It faced northwards as others below had done. The chimney-stones and a number of excellent red bricks were saved for reconstruction. (Hut S; see page 160.)

The sifter brought to light the face part of a silver button of the 42nd or Royal Highland Regiment, the famous "Black Watch." This was followed by finding a still finer specimen of the 28th Regiment which rather appropriately was commanded in the Revolutionary War by a Colonel of the name of Prescott.

The Hut Camp of the Seventeenth Regiment of Foot



Military Buttons, Etc., from Huts at Prescott Avenue
The Black Watch, 28th, 35th, 71st Regiments, Officers' Ornamental Buttons,
Spanish Silver Coin

Relics of the Revolution

These valued specimens greatly added to the zest of the search, which was rewarded by a pair of ice-creepers, half-a-dozen bullets, gun-flints, fragments of buckles, and a horse's bit. An interesting clay pipe was found with much of its broken stem lying nearby. It has an elaborate raised design on each side of the bowl composed of the Royal arms of Great Britain, and it was of the "church warden" type with a long stem. Nearby were pewter buttons of the 17th Regiment and a handsome gold-plated ornamental button of an unusual design, rather similar in form to a button found in the officer's hut site at Fort Washington in 1913.

Among this debris were two brass pins and a pocket knife.

There was a great deal of rubbish in the filled-in material, quantities of ashes, oysters and bones with bullets and gun-flints, a lead pencil, and small fragments of porcelain. A complete little pipe bowl had a heart-shaped design encircling the well-known initials "T. D." and a "W. G." pipe was a familiar companion. Several more 71st Regiment buttons came to hand and one of the 35th, making five regiments identified with the occupancy of the hut.

The use of the hut by officers and its extensive size rendered it a peculiarly interesting consummation of the field work for the year 1914, during which this important camp site had been so successfully and definitely developed.

XV

THE HUT CAMP ON THE DYCKMAN FARM

The work of exploration at the Hut Camp described in the previous chapter was followed, during the period of the preparation of this book, up to the time of its publication, with increasingly interesting results, and the camp has been found to have been a far more extensive military station than it had been at first supposed.

Its importance, and the extent of information thus acquired induced Mr. John Ward Dunsmore to devote his talented brush to the reconstruction of its one-time appearance, in a fine painting, a reproduction of which, in color, he has contributed to this book, as its frontispiece.

Here, on the familiar hillside, with the same natural features of rock and forest which then surrounded it, we may see the life of the camp, when in British occupation, faithfully and accurately reproduced. The rows of huts, of varied rude forms of construction, stand before the spectator, and in the clear autumnal atmosphere, the smoke of the long abandoned fireplaces ascends from the headless barrels that formed their chimnies while before their doorways the soldiers are occupied in the duties and pastimes of camp existence.

Before one hut the regimental barber is at work upon a patient, while another waits his turn at the razor. At another, a game of cards is being played, and nearer still, gossiping groups of foot soldiers are discussing with a Highlander of the Black Watch, the latest news from Carolina, or furbishing muskets for a new foray into Westchester county, while an officer of the Light Dragoons gives directions to a comrade of a foot regiment.

We may see the familiar window glass, the doors and hinges purloined from the Dyckman and Kortright dwellings, the omnipresent rum-bottle and the stoneware jug, the barrels and

Relics of the Revolution

discarded hoops over which von Krafft once tripped and hurt his shins.

The scene may be compared with the photographic view of the same area, in which the sites of the huts are marked by white signs along the hillside.

The work on this camp site in the old Dyckman orchard thus extended in 1915, far to the northeast, along the hillside, to about thirty-six hut sites in all.

The opening of the season's work soon disclosed a new hut-site, near "S," which was numbered 20. On digging down about three feet, the expected hard and blackened surface was found, and traces of its past occupation, in broken pottery, earthen-ware, bullets and musket-flints, with which was a pewter button of the Forty-fourth Foot Regiment, the first of that corps which had been found at this camp. A button of the Seventeenth was next discovered, and a number of plain pewter buttons with pewter loops proclaimed the one-time presence of the Hessian. This was confirmed by the upper part of an iron canteen, and further by quantities of mussel shells, a class of sea food found also in the Arden street hut-sites, and in other places of Hessian occupation. Probably these succulent molluscs were considered specially desirable by the mercenaries.

The material found in hut 20 was of poor quality, the buttons all being burned. We trenched into the hill, with the help of our one-time aide, Mr. J. J. Hunter, and eventually found the fire-place, which was a mere bed of sand and ashes without stones or bricks. There was evidence that sand had washed in over the floor. On the north side there was another little fire-pocket about a foot above the main floor—perhaps made after the place had been invaded by the sand, on some occasion of re-occupying the hut after a season's abandonment.

An ice-creeper was nearby, and seven lead musket bullets lay together in this little fire's ashes, also a brass ramrod guide, in which a small piece of iron was stuck as if it had become wedged

The Hut Camp on the Dyckman Farm

there. On the inside face this object has the letter "B" stamped or cast in it.

Hut "T" or No. 20, as this was designated, therefore, seems to have been in Hessian occupation at some time, and its chief interest lay in its confirmation of the existence of more huts in a northeasterly direction.

Hut "U" or No. 21, was found by the steel rod striking some small objects at a point about twenty-five feet northeast of that last described. A few scraps of metal led on to a floor that lay about four feet below the line of turf. Here we met a number of barrel hoops, irregularly placed, and were much puzzled as to the direction in which to look for the fireplace. Eventually we found it at the northwest end of the space, the hearth being laid with large flat stones in front. The hearth level had been partly paved with a red bricks. The bed of ashes was very wide, the stone sides were broken down, and only the base of one side of the construction was left in its original position. There were several double pot-hooks, some of which were hooked into each other; also a coarse clay pipe-bowl, some bullets, a knife-blade in a leaden socket, a brass tumbler, a large belt-buckle with some of the whitened leather still adhering to it, and some scraps of Chinese porcelain ware.

We transferred our operations, after exhausting hut "U," back to the site numbered "P" or 15, which we had at one time opened, and had abandoned at a depth of about three feet, as it yielded very little indications of its use. Taking a position midway between huts near it, we sank a deeper hole, and thus came on the remains of the fireplace, which was quite five feet below the surface. The space in front of the hearth was paved with large flat stones, and was cleared with some hard work in lifting the material. It proved to be the largest yet uncovered, being five feet wide at the throat, and four feet at the back, and three feet deep. The stone walls were intact, to a height of nearly three feet. The hearth itself was paved with flat stones,

Relics of the Revolution

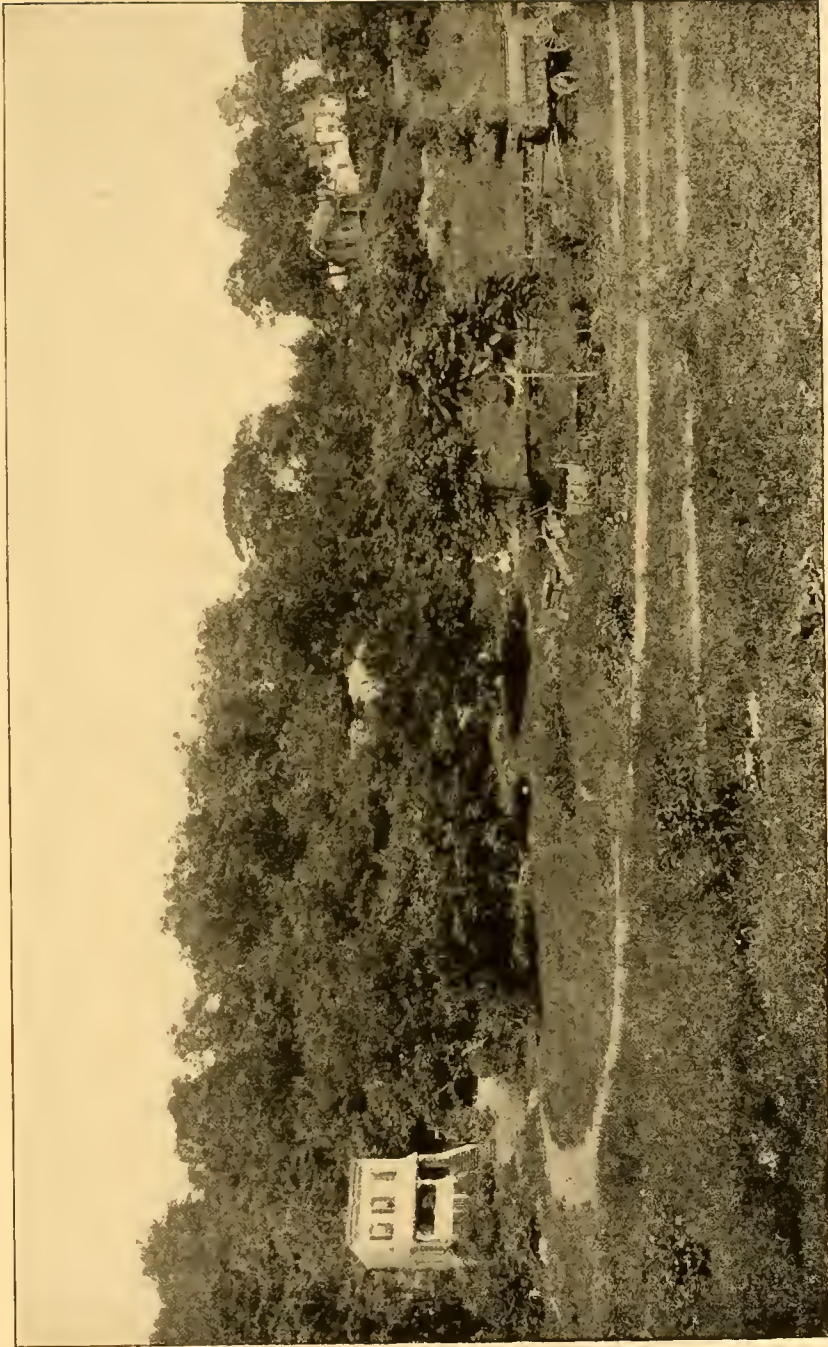
and on it lay nearly a foot depth of hard-baked wood ashes. Close to the angle-nook was a silver button of an officer of the Seventeenth Foot Regiment, but little of interest other than this was found.

In making an examination of a place close to Prescott avenue near hut site "G" or No. 7, of which it probably formed a part, the sounding rod gave indications of the presence of oyster shells below the soil, and on digging down, large numbers were found about three feet below the surface. With these were mixed meat bones, broken rum bottles, some window glass, nails and broken bricks, indicating a "dump" in an abandoned hut. There was abundance of ash, mixed with the sand on the floor, and seven pewter buttons of the Seventeenth Foot Regiment were found in it. The sifter brought to light a small copper coin, having only slight traces of a German coat-of-arms on one side, which had been pierced with a small hole, apparently made by a square shaped punch or a nail. A musket flint was found close to a lead casing, which were doubtless united at one time, for the casing just fitted the flint.

A very good specimen of an ice-creeper was found and a copper strap, perhaps the butt of a pistol, with an engraved pattern, the surface of which had been enameled black.

The number of oyster shells was very considerable and their appearance of age led to the conjecture that some at least had been of the aboriginal period, disturbed probably by the soldiers in constructing the hut. This surmise was confirmed by a fine spear-head of black chert, very well formed and serrated, the extreme point only being missing. This was an unusual find in itself, and its presence inside a military hut site is explained by the soldiers disturbing an Indian shell pocket.

A whole rum-bottle was found lying on its side, this being the second complete sample taken out of this camp. The sifter caught a couple of little bars of lead, which after cleaning turned out to be printer's type, one being a letter "n," lower case, and



Site of the Hut Camp of British Troops, 1777-1783
Kennedy's at Left. Field Party in Centre at Site of Hut O, Near Mulberry Tree. Other Hut Sites
Marked With White Cards.

Relics of the Revolution

another a big, big "D." Mr. Calver's sharp vision discovered a brass pin which the sifter would have missed.

As further search showed no indication of a fireplace, we decided to abandon the place and filled it in; removing to a new place, located by the sounding rod, which was in the third row, northeastward of hut site "Q," and near the ancient apple tree round which the children's playground was arranged. This site became "W" or No. 23. The day was well advanced when we cut through the turf, and laid bare a small space of rich black earth, with abundance of oyster shells and fragments of meat-bone.

The sifter soon captured several buttons of the familiar Seventeenth, specimens of all three designs of that regiment's equipment, and so we were able to decide upon the place as a military hut site.

Work went merrily, for finds were frequent; a button of the Fourteenth Buckinghamshire Regiment was soon followed by one of the Seventy-first Fraser Highland Regiment.

Layers of ashes, burnt clay and much bones and shells filled the space once occupied by the hut. A little medicine bottle of green glass was most fortunately found complete, and this was soon followed by a rarity we had long sought, for we fished out a "Caltrop" or "crowsfoot," a four-legged spike used to disable horses of cavalry, of which only one other specimen has been found in Manhattan, and that also at Inwood, preserved in the small private collection of the late Mr. C. C. Simpson.

We found four ice-creepers, some bullets, a pot-hook, a plain pipe bowl, and just as we were leaving, in breaking down the sod around the hole, the choicest find of the day was made. It was a complete silver button of the Queen's Rangers, or Simeoe's Rangers, that notorious Tory Corps of which Von Krafft tells us he saw two members hanged for murder on Fordham Heights.

The site No. 23 on further exploration was found to be unusually rich, the whole hut space being filled in with soil mixed

The Hut Camp on the Dyckman Farm

with camp rubbish, having quantities of oyster and clam shell, mixed with fragments of meat bones and ashes. As the excavation proceeded, the fireplace was disclosed, which was found to be standing complete about four feet high; of the customary stone construction, and facing southeast. It was comparatively small, being three and one-half feet wide and two feet deep. The ashes on the hearth covered the remains of a back-log which had not been entirely consumed. Large stones from the upper part had fallen in on the hearth, as well as half-a-dozen whole bricks of red clay, one of which was so excellent a sample that it was sent to the State Museum at Albany, and others set aside for some future useful purpose in historical restorations.

The mass of material was carefully sifted, two sieves being kept going all day, with abundant results, for no less than fifty buttons were captured, of which the majority were those of private soldiers of the Seventeenth foot Regiment. The collection, however, added two fine silver buttons of officers of that corps, and also private's buttons of the Fourteenth Buckinghamshire, of the Forty-third Foot, and of the Forty-fourth Foot.

The Forty-third Regiment was in New York in the summer of 1781, and the Forty-fourth, which was largely instrumental in building fortifications at Fort George, occupied huts on that hill in 1779 and 1780.

Among other objects, the number of ice-creepers was increased to fifteen, and several bronze shoe and knee buckles were found. A musket flint encased in a lead-covering was a confirmation of the idea derived from separated specimens, and more than a dozen musket bullets added the military character of the place.

Several lumps of whitish clay were taken out which were similar to the large deposit in an old bucket found in an earlier excavation, and taken to have been "pipe-clay." Fragments of cream china ware, pottery and window-glass, were scattered among a score of broken rum-bottles, with barrel hoops, nails, bolts and spikes.

Relics of the Revolution

The work was further extended the following week, when a number of visitors who had seen the place in an inspection on Decoration Day, were present and some watched the work for several hours.

The hut floor was cleared and found to be of the customary blackened hard-beaten sand. The sides of the opening were extended, and a number of small objects were found by persistent sifting, the work being hastened by the use of three sieves. Another silver button of Seventeenth Regiment was found, also a fine ornamental button, once gilded, thought to have been used by some officer of high rank and the day's interest culminated in the discovery of two pewter buttons of the Twenty-seventh Foot Regiment of the British Army, the well-known "Immiskillens."

This regiment's service in New York was limited to a share in the battle of Fort Washington, and the discovery of these buttons would seem to indicate their presence in the camp, as early as the fall of 1776.

A button taken from near the floor turned out on later inspection to be a small pewter specimen of the Twenty-sixth Regiment or "Cameronian," of which the only other specimens found were at Fort No. 4, and another at Riverside park near 116th street, though an officer's button was found near 201st street on the Harlem river.

The excavation was then extended beyond the probable area of the hut, and in a space which was probably just outside its door there was found a mass of buried rubbish containing oyster and clam shells, two complete glass rum-bottles, ice-creepers (making 18 in all found at this site) and the basket-guard of a sword, probably a Scotch Claymore.

China ware of interesting character was found, though in a fragmentary condition, some portions of a small bowl of Coalport ware, and others of a plate with etched design, having part of an inscription thereon.

The Hut Camp on the Dyckman Farm

The most interesting object was a silver button, in excellent preservation, of an officer of the Thirty-seventh Foot Regiment, which was near a number of plain pewter buttons probably Hessian, and several broken metal canteens of German type. By the time this material had been cleared out, we had cut an extension at the southeast angle of the hut, quite twenty feet from the fireplace, and we were inclined to think that the deposit of wastage had been formed in a hole which had been dug exterior



Trenching into a Hut-Site

to the hut, though the extent of the material and the depth of the deposit led to the surmise whether the hut was not in fact much larger. An examination of the *History of Brooklyn* by Stiles and the *History of Newtown* by Riker shows that such huts were sometimes as much as fifty feet long.

Hut site "X" or No. 24, which was the next one located, was found by prodding with the steel rod, south of Hut No. 23, and

Relics of the Revolution

in close proximity to the "granny" apple tree and children's swings. A floor was found, only about two feet below the surface, on which lay numerous fragments of Colonial red brick, and a button of the Seventy-first or "Fraser" Highland Regiment soon determined its military character.

The filled-in material was not remunerative in relics, but an interesting feature developed when we found that the hut floor had been constructed over an Indian shell-pocket, containing several bushels of oyster shells, some deer and other bone fragments, and some of the canine teeth of a carnivorous animal. A fragment or two of aboriginal pottery contributed to determine its character. A white quartz arrowhead of war pattern was found in the upper part of the mass and a musket bullet was found near the top, which had apparently been fired down into the packed shells, thereby being flattened on one side.

The sounding rod gave indications of a brick floor which was uncovered, at a depth of only about two feet, when it was found to consist of fine Colonial and Dutch bricks, evidently laid with purpose, but running in curiously puzzling directions. With the help of Mr. Thurston, and of Mr. H. G. Van Buskirk, a recent recruit, the work was carried out quite systematically, resulting in our laying bare the lower part of a large baking-oven of unique character and plan. The construction was regular, and evidently made by skilled workmen. The bricks were all laid in clay sand bed and joints, though here and there were a few traces of mortar, which may have been used in the arched roof of the oven. The upper portion was, of course, absent, and the side walls above the hearth were also removed down to a couple of courses high.

The hearth was composed of two layers of brick, the lower laid in a curious curve, the upper quite regularly from the door to the back of the oven. The side walls were seven courses deep below the hearth, and were built at a diverging angle, making the shape of the interior, about two and one-half feet wide at the mouth,

The Hut Camp on the Dyckman Farm

and five and one-half feet wide at the back, by about the same depth inside.

The bricks were in great part whole bricks of excellent Colonial shape but here and there were little yellow Dutch bricks of familiar shape, in the rarely complete condition. The door faced northeast. On the southeast side of the brick wall a quantity of shells and bones were mixed in the soil, in which were two buttons of the Seventeenth Foot Regiment, an indication of the constructors of the oven. The upper portion had been entirely removed, and judging by the number of bricks of which it must have been composed, it may be assumed they were taken for some local building, such as the re-building of the nearby Dyckman homestead, after the war, would have occasioned.

The floor in front was cleared and the walls were found to extend down all around, so that the oven had probably been built in a cleared level space. On removal, about three hundred bricks were found, of which about half a dozen were little yellow clay bricks, usually thought to have been of Dutch make. One of these was in the lowest course of the side wall. The hearth was formed of the two layers of bricks described, with a layer of sand between them which was baked a bright red color by the heat. The bricks were all taken to the old Dyckman house and used in its repair.

The discovery of a large additional area of camp construction and occupation was made by Mr. Calver on Sunday, June 27, 1915. The wet season had rendered the subsoil very easy to penetrate. He probed the soil along the hillside for a distance of about five hundred feet in a north-easterly direction, and finally located a number of stones under the sod at a point over two hundred feet to the northeast, near the line of 204th street and our old discoveries of Indian pits and graves on Seaman avenue in 1908. The work of removing the stones proved very arduous under the hot summer sun, but a few objects which came to

Relics of the Revolution

light encouraged the party. The stones had evidently formed part of a chimney and below them we finally located a hard floor at a depth of more than five feet. On the blackened surface were scraps of broken window and bottle glass, and in the filled-in soil were many nails, some fragments of bottles, a bronze strap-buckle and a couple of bullets, which were evidence of a military character.

On the work being further developed, it led to the clearing out of a fine stone fireplace facing northeast. The loose stones had evidently formed the upper part of its construction. There was little in the way of objects in the filled-in soil save an axe-head. The only military button which was found was that of the Seventeenth Regiment. The fireplace was two feet six inches wide at back, two feet ten inches deep, and four feet wide at the front, facing east by north. The construction was not so well done as in others, for the angle of one side with the back wall was greater than that of the other side.

The hearth was of burned ash and sand and on it were several very small pot-hooks, some broken bottles, and some calcined wood which had formed the last fire.

Tests with the steel rod about fifty feet south by west of this site revealed oyster shells at a depth of only about a foot and a half, and a vigorous clearing of the spot brought to light an abundant deposit of rubbish of a military character, which developed during a lively day's operations into one of the richest finds in the camp.

A partial floor was found at a depth of two and one-half to three feet, above which lay several barrel hoops, and mixed with the soil quantities of ashes, shells, meat bones, nails and fragments of earthenware. Buttons were soon discovered and became so numerous as to fill three of the typewriter ribbon boxes which were employed to preserve them. Numerous fragments of a large earthenware flask or pitcher were found, the complete restoration of which appeared possible, and among other interesting metallic

The Hut Camp on the Dyckman Farm

objects a folding knife and fork, and two of the combination tools apparently consisting of a screw-driver, an awl and a chisel, arranged in a triangular form. A large double pot-hook of unusually good shape, some bronze and iron shoe and knee and strap buckles, about twenty leaden bullets, and several black musket flints confirmed the military use of the place either as a hut or a waste pit.

The unusual abundance of buttons of which over a hundred were discovered, proved particularly interesting — the majority were of the familiar Seventeenth, but several of these were of an unusual type of lettering, and one of these quite unique in the character of the numerals, making four known types of this regiment's buttons.

Two large and several small pewter buttons of the Fourteenth Regiment established the use of the place contemporaneously with Hut "A," or No. 1, which was directly above on the steep hillside, and with a button of the Seventh Royal Fusiliers, these helped to decide its early use in the War of Independence; for the latter regiment was at "Kingsbridge" in 1777 and left on the 8th of September, 1779. Its use of the camp therefore was probably the winter of 1778-79.

Another button of the Forty-third was among the spoil, and the Twenty-second foot, or Manchester Volunteers, was represented by three buttons, specimens new to this camp. This corps was in New York in 1779-80, and the Forty-third in 1781, completing the interesting series of periods of occupation.

Further work in extending this excavation site No. 26, brought about twenty-four more buttons to light. Most of these were of the familiar Seventeenth Regiment, but of various designs, both with raised and incised numbers. One was of unusual size, and constructed with a pewter shank, an unusual feature in the British button, having a border design similar to that of the buttons of the Forty-seventh foot, and constituting another new type used by that regiment.

Relics of the Revolution

The fragments of stoneware accumulated from the sieves were later assembled into nearly a complete pitcher of unusual form and artistic proportions. In a restored condition it is nearly eighteen inches high and about twelve inches in diameter. The color is graded from a deep brown to a mottled orange.

The place on final development presented the appearance of a group of cess-pits, probably composed of half barrels set on a rough floor, for the hoops of the barrels were found lying with the larger diameter upwards, and located about five or six feet apart. In and around each, the waste material lay thickly, and many familiar objects came to hand, as three sifters were kept busily at work. The exploring force was augmented by several volunteers, and even little Dickey, who carefully informed us that his age was three and a half, took a hand.

But even the most promising hut site has its limits, and so our advance guard went to work with the steel probe, along the assumed line of occupation, long ere the last of the site "Z" had been fully exhausted.

Another place was soon located about thirty feet away to the south, which, the alphabet being exhausted, was baptized No. 27, and proved to be a true hut floor, but poor in its contents, except as regards oyster shells, of which there were bushels. A few signs of military life decided its character, and it was not unwillingly abandoned, at the call to the next site, No. 28, about sixty feet further on, under the last remaining pear tree of the old Dyckman orchard, where rich material was struck, evidently of the same character as the much appreciated site "Z."

The new place proved to be another "dump," probably used for kitchen refuse. A mass of shells covered an area of several square yards, lying above a fairly good sand floor. A large number of iron hoops indicated the use of tubs or barrels of various sizes, used as containers of debris. Abundant meat bones, oyster and mussel shells told of the camp-mess, and the buttons of the soldiery turned up with exhilarating regularity. Box after box was filled with specimens, mostly poor, and of the almost too

The Hut Camp on the Dyckman Farm

familiar Seventeenth, but finally three of the Forty-second Highlanders were found near together.

Two fine bronze buckles of unusual form were found which may have been part of a sword strap. The hook of one still grasped a small bundle of silver cord that had formed some part of the uniform of its wearer.

Several razors lay in the rubbish, two of which had the handles well preserved. More than a dozen ice creepers were added, and the variety of the sizes led to some study of their proportions, by which we found that the widths varied from less than three inches to nearly four inches in width, the latter perhaps to suit the doughty foot of a Hessian. A horseshoe and a bit showed the near presence of horsemen, and a worn copper half-penny had been cut in half to make the value of a farthing.

There was little in the way of chinaware, and only one broken ale glass, but all the workers were able to carry home some rewards in the shape of bullets, whole and cut, musket flints and pocket knives, and of broken bricks and rusted house nails a goodly pile was left on the ground after a couple of days' arduous work in the broad sunshine of July.

With added interest and the sturdy aid of other enthusiasts, rapid progress was now made in the work, and it became necessary to employ a man solely to fill in the openings we had made, as the gaping holes presented dangers to wandering children or horses.

Mr. Calver's craving for new finds induced extensive explorations with the steel rods, and he succeeded in locating several other sites, some of which were rather hastily opened and examined as the season waned. Numbers 31 and 32 were higher up the hill, above those just described, and of these, the fireplace in 31 was built in a semi-circular form, little beyond the lower row of stones being left in position.

Farther northeast, No. 32 was found, close to the foot-path from Seaman to Prescott avenue, and close to the woods. It disclosed an excellent stone fireplace, facing northeast, but its

Relics of the Revolution

contents were disappointing, yielding a good camp axe, a few bullets, but no buttons or other valued objects.

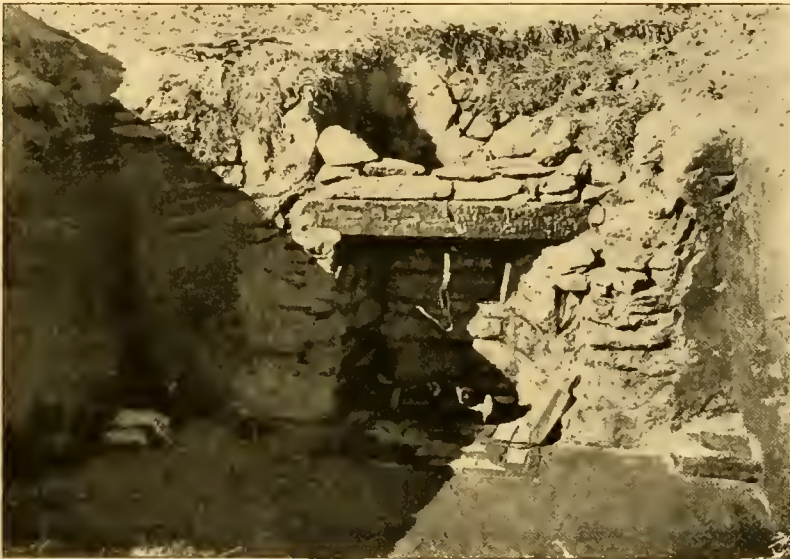
No. 35 was still farther northeast and well within the underbrush below the old locust trees. It proved fairly rich in large materials, as it had been used for a dump of oyster shells and kitchen slops, with abundant broken glass, out of which at lower depths two whole bottles were taken, one of which was quite empty and dry, and still retains the mark of the dregs of the rum that dried up in its interior. The floor was deep, and on it was found a bar-shot, of about twenty-five pounds weight, which had rolled off the hearth on which it had done duty as a fire-dog or audiron.

The reason for the use of a single shot in this manner was not apparent till the fireplace was cleared, when it was found to be triangular in shape, occupying the northwest corner of the space. In such a space, a single fire-dog probably answered the purpose. Hard by was a pair of forged iron rings that had bound the head of a maul or mallet, and these lay with a distorted axe-head that had been used as a wedge to split the lumber for the fire, while a canteen, several pot-hooks, a table knife, and fragments of drinking glasses spoke of the life of the occupants. An old-fashioned square, narrow spade was deep below the soil.

The hut sites, 28 and 29, in which we found hearths that faced the same direction as that in "Y." or No. 25, provided a line of similar constructions, which was found on trial to extend directly across the hillside to the large stone fireplace of hut-site "S." or 19, which also faced in the same direction, and thus established the probable line of this particular row of huts. Upon resurveying the whole area, it was discovered that this line of huts was parallel to the old boundary of Jacobus Dyckman, of the year 1729, which is on the same line as Seaman avenue, and extended about 100 feet to the west. It would seem to have been a very natural circumstance that the line of the huts in this camp should have taken form by this old boundary, which was doubtless at that time fully in evidence as a stone wall or fence.

The Hut Camp on the Dyckman Farm

In hut site No. 34, the farthest to the northeast, an excellent stone fireplace was exposed. It was in so convenient a position that it was decided to make a complete excavation, to determine the limits of the floor space, and use it in a reconstruction of a typical hut in the grounds of the old Dyckman house, about to be laid out as a public park. Some hard work cleared a floor space of about ten feet square, composed of the usual blackened, hard trodden sand. The hearth was found to be laid with Colonial red



Officers' Hut No. 34 on the Dyckman Farm

bricks, carefully fitted in place and extending about a foot out from the stone jambs of the fireplace. The fire space was two feet six inches wide at the back, and three feet six inches wide at the mouth, by two feet four inches deep. The hearth was more than seven feet below the sods, the hill having a steep slope at this place. In the thin layer of ashes there was a dainty little porcelain tea-cup, and in the "fill," a closed pocket-knife with bone sides, a bronze strap-buckle, but no buttons were seen. On either side

Relics of the Revolution

of the fireplace in the angle of the dug-out space, a flat stone had been set, probably as a settle, and in the opposite corner a space of yellow sand showed up in the floor, which had the appearance of having been the place covered perhaps with a bed or bench.

The construction of the fireplace was then restored. The place where the lintel beam had rested was found at a height of three feet from the hearth, and a log was placed and then built up with the fallen stones above it, thus reproducing its original construction.

This work and the many objects disinterred on the old Dyckman farm became of special interest at this time because the announcement was then made of the gift to the city, by Mrs. Bashford Dean and Mrs. Alexander Welch, of the old Dyckman dwelling on Broadway, and the restoration of that building was found to offer an appropriate opportunity for the use of old bricks for fireplaces, hearths and chimneys, old nails and bolts for the woodwork, and old hinges, locks and latches for the doors of the old dwelling.

For this purpose it was thought that the remains of the bake-oven were peculiarly appropriate, since there can be little doubt that all the bricks, which were of different varieties in shape and material, had been taken from local Colonial buildings for the purpose of its construction. Still more likely it is, that the upper part of the oven which had evidently been removed after the War, was taken for the very purpose of constructing the old house hard by the camp. The use of the materials in the service of repairing the old building seems not only to be justifiable, but a proper, if tardy restoration of materials belonging to the very family which constructed it, some of which were found to be exact counterparts of others already in use in the building.

To its hospitable roof, and its permanent shelter, all the relics found in this camp, with those discovered at all the other sites in the Dyckman tract, were transferred as a gift to the city by the group of explorers to whose laborers their disinterment was due.

XVI

HOLLAND'S FERRY CAMP

Where the Speedway bends around the base of Fort George hill, a wide inlet extends from the Harlem River, which was long known to the Dutch settlers as the Half Kill, fed by the little brook, called "Pieter Tuijnier's Run," which once bounded the Round Meadow — later the Dyekman farm — and found its source at the base of Inwood Hill on Seaman Avenue.

Under cover of the guns in a fortification upon the crest of Fordham hill, where now the University of New York dominates the scene, the British Light Infantry Corps, under the command of Brigadier General Edward Matthews, landed on November 16, 1776, in Sherman's Creek, as the Half Kill is now known, and advanced, with fixed bayonets, up the steep hillside to that hand-to-hand encounter with Colonel Baxter's Pennsylvanians which ended in the capture of Laurel Hill.

The importance of the advanced position of the Fordham fortification, which later became known as "Fort Number Eight," necessitated the establishment of some means of ready communication between the fort and its supports upon Manhattan, and during the occupation of New York Island by the British troops there was in existence a ferry known as Holland's, which evidently had one terminal upon the promontory forming the north side of the inlet of Sherman's Creek, which in recent times was locally known as Bronson's Point and is now covered by the vast power station of the United Electric Light & Power Company.

An examination of the plan drawn by von Krafft in 1779 discloses a direct reference upon the drawing to "Holland's ferry," the road leading to which around the level ground north of Laurel Hill is so inscribed. On the British headquarters' map of 1782, at the point above described, a small pier is shown extending into the Harlem, back of which is an enclosure surrounding four buildings, and bearing the appearances of a military compound. The

Relics of the Revolution

ferry is referred to several times in von Krafft's diary, particularly in connection with the attack made in 1781 upon the positions then held by the British on Fordham Heights, when the surprising forces cut the cables of the ferry, and scared the defenders of the locality very thoroughly.

The discovery of military remains at this place was made by Mr. W. L. Calver as early as 1890, at which time the Point was still in its original condition, preceding the grading of Ninth Avenue, 201st Street and Academy Street, and the bulkheading of the Sherman Creek.

The first evidence of the past occupancy of the Point by British troops was the discovery of an officer's button of the 26th British Regiment which had been picked up by Mrs. Bronson in 1875, fortunately preserved though without knowledge of its bearing on the location of the camp and eventually serving to direct attention to the probable existence of other military remains in the locality, leading to the discoveries here recorded.

The 26th Regiment, later known as the Camerouians, was in American service between 1767 and 1780. In the autumn of 1775, when Montgomery besieged St. Johns, the garrison of that place consisted of 550 men of the 7th and 26th regiments, with a few Canadian militia, all commanded by Major Charles Preston of the 26th. The whole of them were taken prisoners and those of the 26th were confined at Ticonderoga. In 1776, a large number of the 26th men were exchanged and the regiment reformed and in the winter of 1776-77, the regiment was at Amboy. The 26th subsequently proceeded to New York and participated in the capture of Forts Clinton and Montgomery on the Hudson, October 6, 1777. The 26th remained with Sir Henry Clinton until the army was reunited in consequence of the evacuation of Philadelphia in 1778. It does not appear what part the regiment took in the military operation of that campaign, during part of which it was on duty on Staten Island. The staff went home to England in 1779, and the men were then distributed among other regiments.

Holland's Ferry Camp

Many buttons of the 26th were found at Ticonderoga. One specimen, that of a private soldier, was found in Riverside Park, Manhattan.

Between the years 1890 and 1893, many minor military relics were recovered by Mr. Calver upon the surface of the ground, after heavy rains, or when the bank of the Harlem had been washed away or cut into by unusually high tides. These finds attracted the attention of other interested enquirers by whom some small excavations were made. They were rewarded by the discovery of coins, military buttons and other objects such as are now known to be associated with military camps of the period of the Revolution. In 1894, the whole area of the camping place was graded to the level of the streets and Ninth Avenue and 201st Street were constructed.

All the military buttons which were found above the high water mark were remarkably well preserved, and this was attributed to the fact that they had not been subject to the action of the salt water of the Harlem River, nor had come into contact with any fertilizing material, indicating that the ground thereabouts had never been under cultivation, which was probably the case.

While no direct reference to the occupation of this camp is to be found in any records of the Revolutionary period, we may glean from the regimental buttons which have been found information as to the corps which occupied the camp, and from the records of the services of these organizations, can judge about what period of the war each regiment was quartered on this interesting site. It may be conjectured that the camp had some connection with the occupation of the 17th regiment camp, at the head of Academy Street and west of the King's Bridge Road, with which the map of 1782 shows connecting roadways. That this camp was occupied by men of the 17th Regiment of Foot is established by buttons of that corps found within its limits. It was, no doubt, the landing place for boats coming up the Harlem and probably the terminal of the ferry from the Fordham side of the river. A mass of

Relics of the Revolution

oyster shells and other refuse existed very near this point on the bank of the Harlem River, and indicates its prior occupation by Indians, although it is quite likely that some of the shells were the result of the presence of the troops stationed at that point between 1776 and 1783.

The camp refuse was most abundant in the vicinity of the large cedar tree about fifty yards north of the two other cedars which stood just on that point where the wagon track road wound around on the shore of the Harlem. Very few objects were found on the north shore of Sherman's bay. The search for military buttons was made at first in the roadway on the shore of the Harlem between the cedar trees. Later, some excavations were made into the river bank, but before much had been accomplished the whole point of land was graded away to the level of the streets. During the progress of the removal of the knoll on the Point, a human skeleton was discovered, and a brick platform was also uncovered, which was located about 8 feet beneath the surface of the knoll, probably the floor of one of the huts. A small and much damaged cannon and a rude halberd were found very near the tall cedar tree, and are now in Van Cortlandt mansion. Several English coins of the period of William III, of George II and of George III, were found near the two cedar trees at the extreme end of the Point. In the river bank a few yards north of these two trees, the complete bowl of a white clay pipe, bearing an English crown and other ornamentation, was unearthed, and at the same spot was found a Hessian coin known as a Heller, near a large Spanish silver coin, while a smaller Spanish silver piece was found about sixty yards to the north. Near the little house once occupied by Mrs. Rowley, a cannon ball was dug out of the river bank.

Upon the surface of the soil, gun-flints and bullets, plain Hessian buttons and an English penny of 1774 were picked up, and on the side of the knoll facing towards Sherman's bay, a bayonet and a bill hook. These objects sufficiently indicated the use of the site, and from time to time the disturbance of the surface brought to light additional evidences on the easterly side of the knoll facing

Holland's Ferry Camp

the Harlem River, such as knives, spoons, forks, scissors, jews-harps, shoe buckles, tent-spikes, broken tea-cups and fragments of various objects of pottery and glassware.

During the years 1892 to 1894, Mr. Calver was successful in finding buttons of the following corps:

3rd Regiment of Foot

4th Regiment of Foot or King's Own

10th or Lincolnshire Foot Regiment

33rd Regiment

Several buttons of the R. P. or Royal Provincial Regiment, (the New York Tory Corps)

An officer's gilt button of the Second Dragoons

And one of the Third Dragoons; two cavalry regiments which were not present in America, indicating the presence of detached officers.

In the summer of the year 1904, with the aid of Dr. Edward Haganan Hall, Secretary of the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society, a systematic excavation was commenced of the undisturbed portion of the Point, in the hope and belief that all the secrets of occupation of the camp site had not as yet been brought to light. The result justified expectations.

It was on a hot Sunday afternoon that the party arrived on the spot and discussed the probabilities of the place and the best method of starting the exploration. A hole was dug in the small portion of the river bank which had been left undisturbed, and a few indications were discovered sufficient to induce some further work. Starting haphazard in the coarse turf at the north of the roots of the only remaining cedar tree, it happened that from almost the first turf cut out and shaken, there fell a small but finely preserved button of the 10th Regiment. It only needed such an indication to incite the workers to serious efforts, and a plan was laid out to cut exploratory trenches in several directions. The work was rewarded with astonishing plentitude of material results, for the first trench extended into a mass of debris which had evidently formed the center of a large pit, perhaps thirty feet in

Relics of the Revolution

diameter, into which had been thrown and probably burnt all kinds of material and objects connected directly or indirectly with the life of the soldiery.

The method of sifting the excavated material had been only recently adopted at that time, but its success was so strikingly evident that its use has since become one of the definite features of this line of discovery.



Regimental Buttons Found at Holland's Ferry Camp

3d Dragoons
62d Foot

23d Welsh Fusiliers
Royal Provincials

26th Cameromans
U. S. Continental

To the list of regimental buttons already secured the workers added the following on various occasions during the summer and fall of 1904, and in the spring of 1905:

- 5th Regiment of Foot (large)
- 17th Regiment of Foot (private's)
- 23rd Regiment of Foot or Welsh Fusiliers (1 private)
- 37th Regiment of Foot (1 officer's silver button)
- 62d Regiment of Foot (1 private)
- An ornamental pewter button (unidentified but probably Hessian)
- A bone-backed brass button bearing the design of an urn.

Holland's Ferry Camp

The presence of the button of the 62nd, which regiment was in Burgoyne's army, can be accounted for only by the supposition of one of its members escaping from captivity.

Two small buttons were found, having a porcelain surface, on which is painted in colors a view of a sail-boat, the face being secured within an open-work front of filagree brass.

With these were sifted out many plain buttons of pewter and brass, large and small, some of them evidently of the class attributable to the Hessian soldiery. A bone button mould lay among them of similar character to those of which the manufacture was carried on at the camp site at 168th Street.

Some other curiosities were revealed in scraps of silver braid and cord, cuff links of several patterns and a small crystal jewel, probably a seal, cut intaglio with the head of a gentleman of the Colonial period, his hair tied with ribbon in a queue. Among the buckles for shoe, knee and strap lay part of a pewter brooch formed like a butterfly, indicating the presence of a woman at the camp.

The camp life of that strenuous period was well illustrated by the ruder materials which told the story of the glowing camp fire round which the soldiers grouped as their food was cooked, or as their meal ended they warmed themselves, smoked their pipes and exchanged their opinions. Here lay, as they had fallen in the heated ashes, fragments of burnt brick, forged nails of all sizes, hoop iron bent into kettle and pot hooks, both long and short; some ingeniously twisted to serve as supports for several utensils, with fragments of the great iron pot in which perhaps the regimental mess was cooked.

Mingled with these were the remains of many a bygone feast, quantities of oyster shells, some of prodigious size, clam, scallop and mussel, turtle carapaces, beef, pork and chicken bones, and numbers of peach pits, testifying to the variety of edibles found, stolen or purchased and enjoyed alike by officers and men.

Here and there were the implements used in the feast, the two-tined iron forks, the pewter spoons, the rusted table knives and

Relics of the Revolution

horn-handled clasp knives of the soldiers, with broken china plates and dishes, pots and pans, of all kinds of makes, colors and glazing, some of the porcelain of surprising fragility and excellence of design. Some fractured tea-cups and saucers looked as though they had deserved more delicate company, and were associated with seraps of sheet lead such as is used to provide the covering of packages of tea, perhaps some of the very material which caused so much of the antagonism that preceded the strife.

But so far as mute evidences can go, it is safe to assert that the principal liquids used for refreshment were those contained in the black bottles, countless fragments of which lay beneath the sod. Here and there were pieces of wine-glasses from which we may suppose the contents were sometimes imbibed, to the health of King George.

Around the camp-fire after the meal the men enjoyed their rest with a smoke, abundant evidence of which was found in broken stems and bowls of clay, some bearing the trade-mark "W. G." found in nearly every camp site of the period, and among objects of a similar purpose was a fragment of a silver snuff-box bearing unfortunately only the last four letters of the owner's name in script, "iley."

The charm of music was not entirely absent from the rough camping ground, for the jews-harp, of which a specimen was found, was available, and when that diversion failed, a game with marbles would while away the time, or fishing with one of the lead sinkers discovered, would afford both leisure and profit, to judge by the fish bones left behind.

Such objects were not the least which failed to escape the watchful eye and the searching sieve, for brass pins of the clumsy type of the period were secured and a rusty razor blade attested the presence of the regimental barber.

Scattered among all these was the frequent bullet, the grape-shot and gun-flint, with seraps of sheet lead supposed to have been sewn into clothing, and a coin or two that had slipped from the

Holland's Ferry Camp

pockets of the latter. One of these was a copper coin, of the size and appearance of a British penny, stamped deeply with the figure 1. Of all of these materials, samples were preserved for exhibition as a means of indicating the life and habits of the soldiery.

The fact that buttons of the 10th Regiment were numerous at this camp draws special attention to their presence in the neighborhood. The regiment was one of those composing the force under Lieutenant General Earl Percy in Harlem at the time of the assault on Fort Washington in which it took part, but early in the month following that event it was sent to Rhode Island, so that they could have been only about three weeks on this island. Their service occupied them thereafter in New Jersey, up to the time of the evacuation of Philadelphia in 1778, and in October of that year they had lost so many men that the regiment was sent to England. Men who were fit for further service, however, volunteered into other corps, and served to the end of the war. It would seem, therefore, that these buttons came from those transferred men, and we may assume that they were enlisted in the corps of the Royal Provincials, of whose buttons the same place has given up numerous specimens, closely associated with those of the 10th.

The theory is confirmed by discoveries of other buttons of the corps at points where R. P. buttons were also found not only at Fort Washington and Fort George, but also on the shore of the Niagara River in front of old Fort Erie. The Royal Provincial corps or "Loyalists" as they were customarily referred to, was a Tory organization, recruited chiefly in New York.

Of the buttons of officers, one of the 33rd belonged to a fellow officer of Lord Cornwallis, and that of the 26th to a member of the same corps as that in which Andre acted as Major.

Perhaps the strangest find of all was buttons of the U. S. A. or Continental Army, indicating the presence of an American prisoner, for such buttons were worn by the American soldiers as early as 1777. It would seem as if more than one such person

Relics of the Revolution

had been present in the vicinity, for specimens of U. S. A. buttons were found in the 17th Regiment camp on Seaman Avenue near Academy Street, and also on the westerly side of the King's Bridge Road (Broadway), near the junction of Sherman Avenue. Other specimens again have been discovered in more appropriate surroundings at Stony Point, at New Windsor and in American camps in the Highlands on the Hudson.

The halberd found at 201st Street is a crude affair and had evidently been forged in camp. Halberds were carried by sergeants only. These weapons, which had staffs seven feet long, were not entirely abolished until 1790, when pikes were introduced — a much lighter weapon, but these in turn were done away with about the year 1832. A form of punishment known as "bringing to the halberds" was in vogue in the British army in the 18th century. It is supposed that the sergeants' halberds were fastened together as a sort of cross, and the culprit being bound to them was stretched out and flogged. In his history of the 42nd or Royal Highland Regiment, Archibald Forbes says: "So high was their sentiment of honor that if a soldier was brought to the halberds, he was regarded as degraded, and little more good was to be expected of him."

Among the refuse at 201st Street there were many objects other than the officers' buttons referred to, to suggest that the spot had been more particularly a headquarters, rather than a general barracks. Digging in the side of the bank facing towards the Harlem, the fragments of many delicate specimens of chinaware were found; also small jewels of glass and natural stone, several varieties of linked sleeve buttons, one pair of which bore the familiar square and compass of the Masonic fraternity. One relic, the base and lower portion of a wine glass, is worthy of special mention with its lace-like interior spiral design. Other specimens of such glass have been found in the site of Bronck's house, Morrisania, at 189th Street near Fort George and other camp sites. These objects of china and glass are, of course, not

Holland's Ferry Camp

the natural adjuncts of camp life, but are doubtless portions of the loot secured from residences which were broken in use, or abandoned upon the approach of the enemy.

By all these humble objects and often fragmentary materials, there has been afforded the means of reconstructing to some extent the life of the soldiery and of casting some side lights upon the military events of the period, which, while not of large importance or perhaps of wide historical value, may nevertheless serve the useful purpose of directing attention more closely to those great historical events which were proceeding to their final issue, in which the occupants of the Camp at Holland's Ferry bore their part.

XVII

THE NAGEL HOMESTEAD OR "CENTURY HOUSE"

The last days of the year 1907 saw the entire removal of one of the oldest and most interesting homes of the early settlers of Manhattan, the Old Nagel Homestead, or "Century House," at 213th Street, on the bank of the Harlem River, which was erected by Jan Nagel in 1736.

Fortunately, for two years prior to this removal, practically every foot of soil on the river bank by the ruins of the house was dug over and sifted, with the result that many objects illustrating its past career were recovered.

The little knoll on which the old building stood was, evidently, long prior to the advent of the settler, a favorite haunt of his red predecessors, and the Indian objects there indicate its use as a residence and fishing place and the scene of ceremonial events.

At the time of the Revolution, the house, then 40 years old, was occupied by the three surviving sons of Nagel, all of whom were bachelors and remained so to their respective deceases, which took place in 1786, 1806 and 1808.

Around the abandoned and ruined dwelling it seemed probable that there might lay evidences of its past, concealed beneath the sod, the brambles and trees which covered the once pleasant garden and trim patch in front of the old porch and down the river bank: nor were these expectations disappointed.

The habits of farm residents in getting rid of household debris and rubbish by casting them out upon the nearest vacant space, especially in the winter time, was considered by Mr. W. L. Calver to be likely to have been followed by the Nagels, and that many traces of the past might thus be expected to be found on the sloping bank towards the river.

Commencing, in pursuance of this idea, at a point on the crest of the bank about 30 feet south of the old porch, the removal of

The Nagel Homestead, or "Century House"

the sods soon disclosed signs of occupation, in great oyster shells, meat bones, broken pewter, earthenware and china of early manufacture.

A yard or two of digging cleared the top step of a small flight of stone steps which led down to a small floored space evidently part of an old dwelling, a complete surprise, since every trace of any structure was entirely absent at the surface.



Excavating Buried Dwelling Near the Nagel or Century House

The steps were 3 feet 3 inches long, and about 1 foot wide; at the foot was a stone slab about 4 feet by 3 feet. The little room had been about 13 feet by 16 feet, and on the east side was a small fireplace 3 feet by 2 feet, its walls and hearth laid with old red brick. The rest of the walls were of rough stone, and at intervals on the floor level, bricks were laid which evidently had at one time formed part of the floor surface.

Relics of the Revolution

Quite a harvest of old objects lay within the space. A quantity of old barrel hoops, which had held together barrels of liquor, powder and flour, lay around, and among them two bayonets and the hammers of several flintlock muskets.

In the fireplace lay two 16-pound navy barshot, which had evidently been utilized as fire dogs, with the charcoal of the last fire kindled about them. Below the sandy floor lay a speaking reminder of the Revolution, a large part of an exploded shell, which had burst through the building and buried itself deep below.

Some British penny pieces of George II, and sundry bullets told of the presence of the British troops, but the most undisputed evidences of their one time presence were the numbered pewter buttons of the Tory Regiment of the Royal Provincials, and, by the steps, buttons of the 23rd Welsh Fusiliers, bearing the three feathers of the principality, and others of the 38th and 57th foot regiments. The workers were fully repaid for a good deal of hard but interesting labor, and even ladies who came to witness the work shared in the results, for Mrs. Place picked up from the steps several of the old clumsy pins of the Colonial period.

We may conclude that the family remained at their home during that restless period, and probably, because officers were quartered there, managed to preserve their property from the destruction that befell other houses. It is stated that, prior to the fall of Fort Washington, General William Heath made the farm house the headquarters of his division of the American Army, and, as the Nagel brothers appear to have been prosperous people, their home probably presented more chance of comfort than the inns along the King's Way, and was, therefore, utilized as the quarters of some of the superior officers who were stationed at this rather exposed part of the island.

That such was the case is indicated by the presence of the officer of the 17th Light Dragoons, that notorious British cavalry corps, who lost one of his silver buttons hard by the house, and some other person of quality, whose handsome sleeve link, of French pattern,

The Nagel Homestead, or "Century House"

was lost in front of the old porch. This interesting object bore the date of 1774. On the one plate was the head of Louis XV, with the legend "Lud. XV. DG. FR. et MAV. REX," the reverse upon the other plate reading, "Imper. 1774, CHRS. REGM. VINC." around the royal crown and arms of France.

At the west end of the porch, under the shade of the old trees which, with their predecessors, had sheltered the occupants from the sun of many a summer day, were found quantities of old brass pins of crude manufacture, perhaps dropped from their work as the women folk sat in the shade on summer evenings, and with them lay a button of the 80th Royal Edinburgh Volunteer Regiment, perchance dropped by some loafing member of that corps, as he whiled away his time chatting with the Nagels.

These objects led Mr. Calver to determine that, together with officers, a guard of soldiers had in all probability been stationed at the homestead, and his instinct for location led him to surmise that they would have been likely to make their quarters below the shelter of the sloping bank nearer the river's margin.

Taking a spade, the explorer selected the most likely looking spot for such a purpose, and had the good fortune to dig directly into the hearth of a rough stone fireplace which had been the center of the quarters of the rank and file of the British guard. Around the charcoal still lying on the floor of the fireplace were the broken clay pipes, the broken rum bottles, the bullets, flints, shoe and belt buckles of the soldiery. Buttons, plain and ornamental, silver and pewter, proclaimed the presence of Hessian mercenaries, and among the debris were buttons of the private soldier of the 15th, the 47th, the Royal Provincial Regiments, and the 17th Light Dragoons.

Digging wide, and sifting every spadeful of the rich loam, the searchers found the debris of the Colonial and Revolutionary periods strewn broadcast below the surface soil as they proceeded slowly over the surface of the bank. Layers of loam containing Indian chips, flints and arrows, other layers with early American

Relics of the Revolution

earthenware, fine pieces of hand-painted china, old knives and forks of all kinds and patterns, pewter spoons, china plates and dishes, wine glasses and rough steins proclaimed the times of ample feasting and reckless destruction of good household materials. Every here and there were bullets, new and used, beaten and cut by idle soldiers, sometimes chewed to mere ragged slugs, with one sinister-looking bullet having a large forged nail securely driven into it, lying in close proximity to buttons of three British regiments.

Broken gunlocks, one of which held the flint within its jaws, round shot and grapeshot lay around, and among them a button marked IMB, probably that of one of the first American corps to be equipped with uniforms, the 1st Maryland Battalion, which distinguished itself by its heroic defence of Fort Tryon in the Battle of Fort Washington.

Coins of William and Mary, of George of Hanover and First of England, George II and George III, with bone buttons such as the military used to cut out of meat bones for the repair of their clothing, were found at various points.

Thus we worked back to a second old buried building and uncovered a long line of stone wall, finding the rough and lime-washed plaster still adhering in places. At the corner of this old basement was another stone fireplace in which lay a long bayonet which had been bent to form a hook for lifting pots off the fire. Among the stones of which the wall was built was a fine Indian pestle, and dumped inside its walls were masses of great oyster shells, bones and broken china, pitched there after the building had been finally disused or destroyed.

Some of the old leaded window-panes were found, and quantities of fine hand-forged nails, hinges, bolts, locks, and farmers' tools, while the cavalry left behind them spurs, saddle irons, strap buckles and we found a flax comb made of fine nails driven through a once existing wooden back sheathed with sheet metal.

The Nagel Homestead, or "Century House"

Over the sloping bank, a crop of young sumach trees had grown, and gave a welcome shade to the interested workers, who, during two years, on all available week ends and holidays, dug, raked, burrowed, sifted, and sweated, happy if a day's labor should add another visual emblem of the past to the growing knowledge of the history of the Heights, and should rescue from the threatening and now consummated destruction some evidences of the varied existence of the Indian, Dutch, Colonial and Military occupants of the old Century House.

XVIII

THE EXTERIOR FORTS AND ENCAMPMENTS

The military defense of upper Manhattan naturally required fortifications and encampments on the exposed hills around the Harlem and Spnyten Duyvil, both for the defense of the King's Bridge and the general position. The hill tops are nearly as high as Fort George and Fort Tryon, and the approaches by land and water could be more or less commanded from them. In 1776, therefore, the American Army commenced the construction of Fort Independence, and in connection with it, a series of minor fortifications extending from the Hudson to Fordham Heights, now called University Heights.

These were numbered in order from 1 to 8 with others such as the Prince Charles redoubt on Marble Hill, the King's Redoubt on Fordham Heights and another known later as the Negro Redoubt. Unfortunately for historical preservation, the sites of these forts upon the commanding eminences attracted the owners of the property in deciding on sites for their residences, and with few exceptions large houses were built on the forts, with ruinous regrading and destruction of their interesting form and character. In Independence the Giles family built a large house and but little trace of the ramparts of the fortification are left.

Number One, on Spnyten Duyvil heights, which appears to have been somewhat unusual in character, being constructed of stone, became the site of a residence partly built upon it, and now occupied by Mr. William C. Muschenheim.

Number Three was dismantled to provide stone for the construction of the Sage residence on what is now Arlington Avenue.

Number Five was graded away in the grounds of the Claffin estate, and Number Eight fell a prey to the construction of the Schwab Mansion, while Numbers Six and Seven disappeared in other property or residential improvements on Fordham Heights.

The Exterior Forts and Encampments

Of all the series, only the site of Number Four has been completely preserved, as the situation led to its inclusion in the lands taken for Jerome Reservoir, in which, however, it was not required, and so has fallen at last into the hands of the public as part of a public park, bearing the historic name of the Fort.

The exact location of the fortification known as Fort Swartwout or No. 2 on Spuyten Duyvil Hill of the Revolution had been a matter of doubt until a careful survey of the place was made by Dr. E. H. Hall, with the aid of maps discovered by him at Washington. Explorations upon its site yielded evidences of military occupation which conclusively established its character and position. The site was visited in 1907, when the shape of the outlines strongly suggested the construction of a redoubt, but in the absence of any surface indications, no attempt was made to explore below the surface.

Success on the site of Fort No. 4 in 1910, led to an effort in 1911, to decide the military character of Fort Swartwout. The site is in a field upon the Johnson property north of 227th Street and between Spuyten Duyvil Parkway and Arlington Avenue. The latter is about 230 feet east of the east angle of the redoubt, and the south side of 230th Street, if opened, would be about 200 feet north of the northern-most and highest point of the earthwork.

Salient points were staked out on the rounded line of ramparts as a basis of measurement, and thence measured to known objects and lines of streets. The contour appeared to be that of a horse-shoe facing due north, which shape agrees with that shown on the military maps referred to. The highest point is on a rock at the northern end, evidently selected for the purpose.

The opening of Fairfield Avenue, should that be done, will cut into the northwest side of the glacis. The whole construction stands on the 210 foot level above tide-water.

The first excavation was inside the slope of the northern rampart and at a depth of about one and a half feet, debris was found indicating fire; several large stones being arranged together with

Relics of the Revolution

ashes, charcoal and a barrel hoop, all of which showed the usual indications of a fireplace. In this was found a plain pewter button with iron shank, apparently Hessian; also half a sleeve-link of ornamental design, a pike-butt point and a clay pipe in fragments; musket bullets, and a black gun-flint, a number of forged nails, many pieces of glass bottles, and near by, part of a carpenter's auger.

Excavations around the inner margin of the bank showed large stones at a depth of about one and a half feet. The inner side had probably been stoned up with a rough line of rocks, probably supporting the sentry walk. Holes sunk in other parts than the north angle failed to show much buried material, except oyster shells and an occasional piece of brick, but there were some indications of a mud floor in the centre of the earthwork, perhaps that of a guard house.

The occupation of the fort was limited in extent and time, and it was chiefly Hessian. This view is confirmed by reference to the diary of von Krafft, who tells us that the Erb Prinz regiment garrisoned this and the other Spuyten Duyvil forts for several weeks, in the year 1778 and that early in November, the Chasseur detachment was ordered to occupy the three forts, and that he was himself stationed in Fort No. 2 under Ensign Zimmerman, with fifty men, acting also as garrison to Fort No. 3, which was only about three hundred feet away on the edge of the hill overlooking King's Bridge.

He speaks of abandoned huts behind the forts, which had been occupied by their predecessors, and in which the Chasseurs were quartered for a few days, ere they were turned out to make room for a winter garrison of men from the Corps du Garde, and the von Donop and von Trumbach regiments.

Another interesting site which has been determined by excavation, is that of the camp of Emmerick's Chasseur Corps, or the Hessian Yagers.

The Exterior Forts and Encampments

One of the most picturesque bodies of irregular troops, engaged in the war of the Revolution, was that commanded by Lieut. Colonel Andreas Emmerich, and referred to often as Emmerich's Yagers. The personnel appears to have been chiefly that of the huntsmen or forest rangers, who were among those enlisted or impressed into the service of the Prince of Hesse Cassel for the purpose of their loan to the British Crown.

The Yager corps became renowned by its services in nearly all the engagements of the war, but that which was best known and most feared, was the particular corps formed by the partisan, Colonel Emmerich, to which was assigned the advanced outpost duty in lower Westchester County, in opposition to the activities of the American cowboys.

The camp of this corps was just across the Harlem River, at the head of the Farmer's Bridge, which is now buried under Muscota Street or 225th Street. The general location is shown in that vicinity on von Krafft's drawing by several huts marked with the index letter K., and we may assume they were placed there as a guard to the head of the little bridge. The place was indicated by Edsall, the historian of King's Bridge, as a little to the north of the road leading from the bridge to Fordham Heights. All traces were, however, lost to sight in our times, upon the rough and wooded hillside, and it was not until the year 1909 that the opening of Heath Avenue, with accompanying heavy cutting into the hillside on the east for sand, afforded the means of its precise location. Being very much occupied prior to that date in Indian discoveries at Seaman Avenue, we failed to visit the work of grading, though attracted by the probabilities of the place.

On the completion of the work, we were passing along Heath Avenue one Sunday afternoon, and discussing the apparent lack of any indications, when, at the foot of the bank, one of us spied, strange to say, a totally unlooked-for serap of Indian pottery. A few scratches in the bank above disclosed, with some additional

Relics of the Revolution

fragments, a few pieces of the familiar rum bottle of the Revolution, and our scent being quickened, a search was made on the bank to the north, where Mr. Calver stumbled on a fine complete bayonet. We immediately went to work to trace its original position, and right above the place, near the original line of soil at the top of the sand cut, we found a fireplace in good preservation, formed of rough stones. Here we found the usual signs of soldiers' occupation, in barrel hoops, pot hooks and broken pipes.

A careful investigation of the whole bank followed, in which Dr. E. H. Hall took part, and resulted in locating several more fireplaces, set in a line, approximately twenty paces apart, running along the line north and south of the bank. Two of these were quite complete, one in particular, a little higher up than the rest, on the hillside above the driveway leading to the Barney residence. These yielded bullets, chinaware, knives and ironwork, and from the side of one fireplace, a complete rum bottle, of the pint size, which had a round hole punched in it, such as would result from the impact of a bullet.

The remains of the fireplaces were measured, and found to mark the ends of a row of huts, dug partly into the hillside, perhaps eight or nine in number.

The chain of exterior fortifications constructed in 1776, on the heights, extending north and east of the upper end of the Island of Manhattan, included a redoubt known as No. 4, the position of which was south of Fort Independence, and about midway between the latter and the earthwork, next in the series, known as Fort No. 5.

The proximate position of this fortification had been traced some years ago by Dr. Edward Hagaman Hall, but it had been supposed that the enormous excavations made in this vicinity for the Jerome reservoir, had included and destroyed the site of the Fort. It was, therefore, with some degree of surprise, as well as interest, that upon making an examination of the rocky ground of the south side of the completed reservoir, in the year 1907, Mr.

The Exterior Forts and Encampments

W. L. Calver found that the site of the fort was entirely undisturbed, and the flag-pole which had long marked the site, and which some years ago had been placed on its northerly rampart, was still standing in position.

An examination of the fort was made and some careful measurements determined the dimensions and shape of the ramparts. It



Daughters of the Revolution at the Guard House in Fort Number Four

was found that the fort was a quadrangular earthwork, about one chain, or 66 feet interior dimensions, surrounded with a ditch or fosse, part of which was in good preservation, the general contour of the earthworks and ditch being practically complete.

In the immediate vicinity of the fort, on partially excavated ground, a bullet and a few scraps of old china and glass indicated the one time occupation of the place and, as it seemed possible that

Relics of the Revolution

within the fort itself some remains might lie beneath the heavy growth of turf, another expedition was organized in April, 1910.

An effort was made first to clear the bottom of the ditch on the westerly side, which was found to be filled with loose rocks, apparently thrown over the ramparts upon the dismantling of the fort, which took place, according to von Krafft, in the year 1779. A search at this point was rewarded only with fragments of the familiar rum bottles, and so operations were transferred to the interior of the fort and, at the suggestion of the writer, Dr. Hall started haphazard in the middle of the earthwork, and to the surprise of all, had scarcely dug more than a few spadefuls, when red bricks were found, and the butt end of a pike point and another pot hook were soon disclosed. Further excavations made it clear that upon the partially opened space, a mass of broken bricks and squared stones had been thrown, evidently the ruins of a guard-house. A little further trenching to the south brought to light the remains of the fire hearth, which proved to be a regularly constructed open fire place, built of Colonial brick, four feet wide at the back, and five feet wide at the opening, with a depth of three feet. The enclosed space was filled with a deep bed of wood ashes, lying in which were discovered two or three pot hooks, nine butt ends of pikes, barrel hoops, nails, broken and melted bottles; and also an iron and a pewter button, both being of Hessian character.

The nature of the place now being determined, an effort was made to clear the ground in an organized fashion, and the sifter being brought into play, a bronze coin of the period of George II, with a clay pipe having the trademark "W. G." were soon discovered, together with Chinese porcelain and other camp debris, around the front of the hearth.

From this time on, at intervals during the year 1910, the exploration was pursued over the larger part of the interior area of the fort, with interesting and valuable results. The excavation was first carried around the side of the old fireplace, bringing to light more of the pike points, and the first of a series of numbered

The Exterior Forts and Encampments

military buttons, being that of the 4th regiment of foot, which was followed by a small gilt button, probably Hessian.

The 4th Regiment of Foot, thus rather appropriately associated with Fort No. 4, was known as "The King's Own," and saw considerable service in the War of Independence. Under the command of Colonel Studholme Hodgson, it landed in Boston in 1774, and its Light Company took part in the attack on Bunker Hill. It arrived in New York in time to take a share in the battle of Brooklyn, and was engaged at the Pell's Point affair in October, 1776, where Captain W. G. Evelyn was killed. After the Philadelphia campaign, in most of the events in which it took part, it was back in New York in July, 1778, and probably the buttons which have been found at this camp and at Fort George were lost at this time, for in December the regiment was transferred to St. Lucia.

At the side of what had at one time been the exterior of the chimney, a number of military objects were discovered, in a sort of pit, including a musket strap or elevis, a complete brass shoe buckle, an ornamental pewter buckle, and the familiar lead clip for the flint in a musket, the edge of which was cut in a serrated form. A heavy iron door hinge was probably that of the door of the guard-house of which the fireplace had formed a part. A fine pair of bronze cuff-links, with glass ornaments, lay close to another bronze coin of George II, near which was a pipe with the trademark "P." of Dutch shape, having a small coat-of-arms impressed upon the handle. The next military button to be discovered was one of the 71st Highland regiment, and as the excavation was carried around the back of the fireplace, the discovery was made that a second fireplace existed, backing on to that which had been excavated. This fireplace proved to be somewhat smaller, and bore evidences of having been constructed at a later date than the large fireplace. Facing north, in front of its hearth, was a floored space carefully laid with flat stones and small spaces filled in with half-bricks. A deep mass of ashes formed the hearth, within which was a penny of 1773, and a complete pewter spoon.

Relics of the Revolution

The work was then extended northwards, over a space which had been apparently a favorite lounge for the soldiers, and the sifter brought out a quantity of small military materials. In one space, only about two feet square, twenty-five bullets were secured, and many other evidences of camp existence, including a button of the 64th Musketeers, one of the 71st Highlanders, and another of the 4th or "King's Own."

An interesting evidence of the presence among the soldiers of artisans of different trades, was found in the shape of the brass part of a shoemaker's measure, and hard by was a fragment of a brass rule such as those used by printers to adjust type.

These objects have been placed in public possession in the collection of the Bronx Society of Arts and Sciences at the Lorillard Mansion in Bronx park.

By the fortunate circumstance of the inclusion of the site of Fort Number Four, within the area purchased by the city of New York for the construction of Jerome reservoir, and as a result of the interest aroused by the discoveries on the site, the interesting remains of this historical fortification are now preserved within a public park. The precise position of the fort is 770 feet east of the center line of Sedgwick avenue, along the southern boundary of the land of the city of New York. A small part of the rear of the fort extends into the Claffin property, and is not included in the park. This includes the entrance, which is faintly traceable.

The New York State Chapter, Society of the Daughters of the Revolution, placed a bronze tablet on the face of the rock, at the site, on the occasion of the dedication of the park, which took place in May, 1914, with appropriate ceremonies, which included a salute by artillery, the first to wake the echoes of the vicinity since the guns of the little fort took their part in the War of the Revolution.

Prior to this event, the remains of the fireplace were restored, and the stones forming the floor of the guardhouse were replaced, the ground was leveled, the ramparts repaired and turfed, the

The Exterior Forts and Encampments

wild scrub was removed, and a stairway and path constructed from Claflin place by which access is afforded to the fort.

Fort Independence was the centre of the exterior line of fortifications, and at the same time the most advanced. Its particular purpose was the defense of the Kings Bridge for which its location was admirably adapted. It crowns the sharp end of the line of hills that extend along the east side of the Harlem river, and overlooks the valley of the Pap-ar-inemin, the semi-island on which the village of Kings Bridge is situated, the favorite haunt of the Indian and the choice of Van der Donck.

Below the hill, the Albany Post road made its way on the fringe of the marsh, crossing the causeway from the Kings Bridge, dominated by the guns in the fort. Half way down the rugged hillside, the farm house of the Montgomery family, successors of Dominic Tetard, overlooked the valley, the fort being constructed on part of that family's property, of which General Richard Montgomery was then the leading representative.

The fort was built by Pennsylvania troops and militia-men under the direction of Colonel Rufus Putnam.

The location is about 1,000 feet north of the intersection of Fort Independence avenue, with Sedgwick avenue, and about 350 feet west of the boundary of Jerome reservoir. Just at the intersection of these streets, the ground rises above the sidewalks, and the banks disclosed from time to time broken Colonial brickwork, old plaster, glass and bones, with deposits of oyster and clam shells. These were supposed to indicate the remains of an old dwelling marked on Von Krafft's map, as an "inhabited house" in 1779. But no military objects were found in this vicinity, though tradition records the discovery of buried guns inside the fort, of which two are preserved at the Van Cortlandt Mansion, and from time to time sundry cannon balls have been reported found in the grading of streets around the site of the fort, in which W. O. Giles constructed his residence some fifty years ago.

The most extensive discovery of warlike objects which was

Relics of the Revolution

made in the rear of the site of the fort was therefore in the nature of a surprise.

It seems a far cry from any connection of the present dreadful warfare in Europe, with the remains of the War of the Revolution. One day in May, 1915, a party of boys led by Bradshaw Thurston, James Knowles, H. G. Somers, and others, resident



Shot and Bombs Found at Fort Independence

in the vicinity, were fired with the idea of mimic warfare, and were engaged in constructing a small trench, at the head of Cannon place, to the east of the site of Fort Independence, when their spades disturbed a cannon ball, soon succeeded by a number of other shot, until their work led them into a mass of about five hundred solid and hollow shot and bombs buried below the soil in a tangled and rusted heap.

These were being carried away by neighboring residents and

The Exterior Forts and Encampments

visitors, when we arrived on the scene and aided in uncovering the deposit.

By the kindness of Mr. James P. Knowles and Mr. Charles H. Thurston, the latter of whom has since become one of our most interested aides, about half of the number discovered were set aside for museum purposes, and were removed in a wagon to Washington's Headquarters, for exhibition and preservation.

The deposit evidently consisted of materials hastily abandoned by the Pennsylvania Regiment, commanded by Colonel John Lasher, who on October 27, 1776, on receipt of orders from General Washington, destroyed the barracks and abandoned the fort and its equipment, in advance of the arrival of the Hessian army moving in from Westchester county, against Fort Washington and its exterior defenses.

The location of the find in the rear of the fort seems to indicate that the shot were thrown under some building or tumbled into a cess-pit, and were thereafter undiscovered by the Hessian and British occupants of the fort.

The missiles are of various types and sizes. Two of them are large bombs of about a hundred pounds weight, and about ten inches in diameter. These have two eyelets cast in the top by which they could be lifted. A similar bomb, when found at Ticonderoga, still contained some of the iron shot commonly described as "grape," often found around the Heights. Probably these large shells were designed to be similarly filled.

There were numbers of smaller bombs, six and seven inches in diameter, and solid shot of various sizes, from six to sixteen pounds in weight.

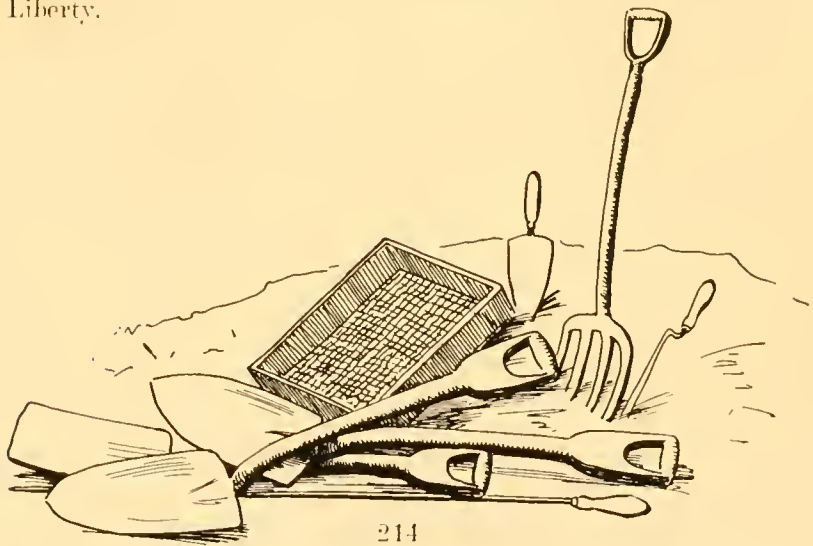
About sixty bar-shot were included, of which some were of the form and sizes previously discovered on the Heights, but fully half of the quantity were of a new and previously unknown expanding type. Two bars unite the half-round heads, each bar having an eye or socket embracing the other, so that the two heads can slide apart, opening the shot to nearly double its normal length, and thus forming a very terrible missile of destruc-

Relics of the Revolution

tion. These expanding shot seem to have been an American invention, for no such form has been found in any of the forts or sites occupied by the invading troops.

There were also two chain-shot, the two round shot in each being united by a chain of seven links, ingeniously proportioned so as to close up within the diameter of the shot.

The discovery of this large collection of missiles has had an interesting development. The New York State Chapter, of the Daughters of the Revolution, proposed the construction of a memorial in the vicinity, to include and preserve a number of these objects and to mark the site of the fort. As a result of this proposal the Sinking Fund Commission has recently turned over to the Department of Parks all the land lying north of Jerome reservoir, and to be known as Fort Independence park. In this park the memorial is to be erected. Thus, even if the actual site of the fort is not eventually preserved, the memorial will indicate to coming generations the site of this important military position, and with the shot and shell placed upon it, it will bear witness to future generations in no uncertain manner of the events which took place during the struggle for our Country's Liberty.







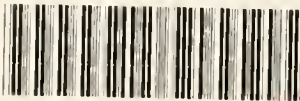
DOBBS BROS.
LIBRARY BINDING

ST. AUGUSTINE
FLA.



32084

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 007 637 504 5

