



Gen. George Rogers Clark
Founder of Louisville

The Long Rifleman

Louisville-Thruston Chapter



Kentucky Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

2025-27 Officers

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President's Message

Compatriots,

This edition of the newsletter won't be out until shortly after our Constitution Day Luncheon on September 12th, but Constitution Day, itself, is actually celebrated on September 17th. On that day our Color Guard will be welcoming some of this country's newest citizens at a Naturalization Ceremony to be held at Historic Locust Grove here in Louisville. The Color Guard is asked to muster at 11:00 am with the ceremony to begin at 12 Noon. All



are welcome to join us as we salute these brand new citizens of the United States. If you have never attended a Naturalization Ceremony, it is truly a wonderful and emotional experience.

Schools are back in session with some of our youngest citizens now cracking the books, and our Chapter is making a big effort to get local youth involved with the SAR Youth Contests. Oldham County School System does not allow us to visit and provide information to individual locations. Instead, we are only able to provide the Superintendent's Office with information which is then reviewed by committees that oversee the Elementary, Middle School, and High Schools. We have provided the information and are waiting for their decision.

As far as other schools, we have provided information on the Youth Poster Contest, the Middle School Brochure Contest, and the Youth Video Contest to the following campuses: St. Aloysius School, Anchorage Public School, Kentucky Country Day School, Holy Trinity School, St. Margaret School, Christian Academy of Louisville, St. Patrick's Catholic School, Louisville Adventists Academy, and Salt and Light Academy.

Information on the Oration Contest, Essay Contest, and Youth Video Contest has been distributed to the Highlands Latin School, Trinity High School, Sacred Heart Academy, Assumption High School, St. Xavier High School, Kentucky Country Day School, Louisville Adventist Academy, and Christian Academy of Louisville.

Information on the JROTC Enhanced Cadet Contest has been emailed to JROTC instructors at the following schools: North Hardin High School, Nelson County High School, Male High School, Central High School, Valley High School, Butler Traditional

High School, North Bullitt High School, Jeffersontown High School, Southern High School, Fern Creek High School, Eastern High School, and Shawnee High School.

Lastly, the High School Eagle Scout Contest information has been shared with the Sam Swope Shop to be distributed to all local Eagle Scouts.

If you have any connections with schools or teachers that might enable us to provide SAR contest information, please reach out and let me know. It is my goal to have someone representing the Louisville Thruston Chapter in all the Youth Contests this school year.

In Patriotism,

Patrick “Pat” McMurchie - President
Louisville Thruston Chapter, KYSSAR

The Paoli Massacre: A Battle Won by Bayonet

by Max Hunsicker, Fall 2010



British Light Infantry and Light Dragoons attacking the Pennsylvania camp of Gen. Anthony Wayne's Continental troops: Battle of Paoli, 1782 painting by Xavier Della Gatta (Museum of the American Revolution)

At first glance, the Borough of Malvern, Chester County appears to be a typical Philadelphia suburb. There are a few basketball courts, a local Italian restaurant, antique shops galore, and a bustling saloon to name but a few popular spots. However, there is a bit more to this small town than meets the eye. Deep in the borough, through the back roads, over a few speed bumps, and past the tee ball fields lies the site of one of the bloodiest, most horrific atrocities of the Revolutionary War. When comparing this battle to others in the Revolutionary War, a minimal number of American soldiers perished. However, the manner in which the attack was executed is what gives it the title of the Paoli Massacre.

To gain a better understanding of this battle in particular, it is important to be familiar with the events leading up to it. According to *The Encyclopedia of American Studies*, in the summer of 1775, Major General George Washington took command of the American militia shortly after a decisive battle at Bunker Hill. Throughout the rest of 1776, the British landed several decisive blows against Washington and his troops. The Redcoats defeated Washington in the Battle of Long Island, took control of New York City, won another battle at White Plains, and forced the Americans to abandon their garrisons at Fort Mifflin and Fort Mifflin. By the turn of the year, however, Washington had defeated the Hessians (German soldiers hired by the British) at the Battle of Red Bank, and was also victorious at Princeton. Then came the Philadelphia Campaign. After being outmaneuvered by the British at the Battle of Germantown, and a demoralizing rainout at the Battle of Red Bank, the American troops were in need of a victory. Instead, they were massacred by the British.

By the morning of September 20, 1777, one would have thought that General Washington's army was in a great strategic position. His troops were camped across the Schuylkill River, preventing the British from taking the capital of Philadelphia, and his other generals were beginning to surround the enemy. As stated by Captain Munchhausen in Thomas J. McGuire's book, *The Battle of Paoli*, "(Washington) has detached 4,000 men to this side of the Schuylkill, 2,000 of whom are on our left flank and 2,000 are close behind us, under the command of General (Anthony) Wayne." Assuming that the British were unaware of his troops' positions, Washington was hoping to have General Anthony Wayne attack them from behind. Clearly, based on Captain von Munchhausen's statement, the British knew exactly what the Americans were up to. This would prove to be the downfall of General Wayne's troops at Paoli.

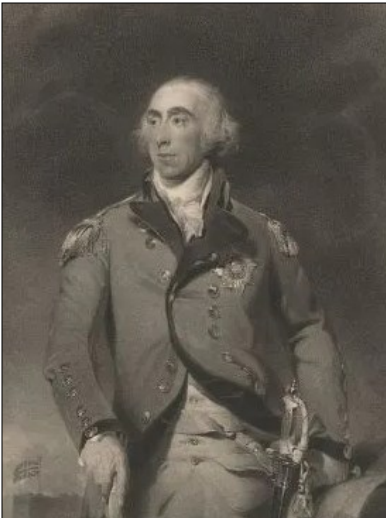
Following the instructions of General Washington, General Wayne and his troops were in hot pursuit of the enemy, and were planning to attack the British from the rear. They decided to make camp by the Paoli Tavern in Pennsylvania (approximately 25 miles from Philadelphia) and devise their plan. However, unbeknownst to Wayne, the British had their own set of plans. According to the Independence Hall Association's account of the massacre, at approximately 1:00 am on Saturday, September 21, the British came howling through the woods right into the slumbering American troops. It wasn't necessarily the act of the surprise that differentiated this battle from others; it was simply one key order that British General Charles Grey made to his troops. As stated on the Independence Hall Association's site, British Major John André describes General Grey's orders:

"It was represented to the men that firing muskets discovered us to the Enemy, hid them from us, killed our friends and produced a confusion favorable to the escape of the Rebels and perhaps productive of disgrace to ourselves. On the other hand, by not firing we knew the foe to be wherever fire appeared and a charge (of bayonets) ensured his destruction; that amongst the Enemy those in the rear would direct their fire against whoever fired in front, and they would destroy each other."

General Grey's orders were clear, concise, and cruel, and they were to be followed blindly. For a general to command his troops to not use their ammunition during a battle sounds ludicrous, but it turned out to be an extremely effective tactic. Not only were the majority of the American troops sleeping, but because musket shots weren't giving away the British position, the Americans could not see to defend themselves. One wave of British troops after the other swept through the American encampment, stabbing and slicing the troops to shreds. The Americans had little to no organization at the time, and could not be sure that those whom they fired at were truly the enemy.

General Charles Grey's plans worked exceptionally well. The British were like ghosts in the night, and the Americans were like sitting ducks. The Redcoats not only had the element of surprise, but whenever the

Americans fired their muskets, they gave away their exact position. American soldiers suffered waves of sharp swords and pounding bayonets, blow after blow. The account of one Hessian soldier, found in *The History of Chester County, Pennsylvania*, states that, "We killed three hundred of the rebels with the bayonet. I stuck them myself like so many pigs, one after the other, until the blood ran out of the touch hole of my musket."



A portrait of British General Charles Grey, later the 1st Earl Grey. He received the nickname "No Flint" for his order to attack without firing a single shot. (Wikipedia Commons)

Although this Hessian soldier's victim wasn't so lucky, a majority of the American troops actually survived the British surprise attack. However, many of them had life-threatening wounds. Drum Major Daniel St. Clair was the perfect example of a victim of the Paoli Massacre who was critically injured. His wounds, as described in *The Battle of Paoli*, shed great light on the use of swords in the massacre. Daniel St. Clair lost his left eye and all the fingers on his left hand, suggesting that he was on the ground warding off an attack from a swordsman on horseback. His only form of defense was putting his hand up to shield his face from the sword. The British had no problems attacking defenseless men with their swords and bayonets.

Some would say that the "Battle" of Paoli truly should not be referred to as a battle, but instead, a merciless massacre. According to an article in *The Journal of Military History*, some British soldiers abhorred the idea of strictly using bayonets and swords. Particularly, British Colonel Charles Stuart went as far as to regard the action at Paoli as murder rather than war. Just reading a few of the statements made about the Paoli Massacre, truly shows that this "battle" was simply barbaric. As one American survivor witnessed, "they (the British) had with fixed bayonets formed a cordon round him, and every one of them

in sport had indulged their brutal ferocity by stabbing him in different parts of his body and limbs." On the other hand, many of the British actually saw the Paoli Massacre simply as another battle in the Revolutionary War, and even applauded General Grey for ordering his troops to strictly use their bayonets or swords.

The book *Final Years of the American Revolution* lists 53 American deaths, 150 American wounded, and 71 American captives during the Battle of Paoli. These numbers do not seem too drastic, but compared to the British losses, they were. According to Michael Schaffer's article "Redcoats' Ruthless Assault: Night Bayonet Attack Sent Americans Reeling," the British suffered only a handful of casualties. Not only was the battle itself demoralizing to the American cause, but the events that ensued after the Paoli Massacre were extremely detrimental as well. Charges were filed against General Anthony Wayne for possibly being informed of a potential British attack and not doing anything about it. However, the General was later acquitted of these charges. As Charles Stille writes in his book, *Major-General Anthony Wayne and the Pennsylvania Line in the Continental Army*:

The court-martial was unanimously of opinion that General Wayne was "Not guilty of the charge exhibited against him, but that he, on the night of the 20th of September last, did every duty that can be expected from an active, brave, and vigilant officer under the orders which he then had, the Court do acquit him with the highest order."



General "Mad" Anthony Wayne was found innocent at his court martial in the aftermath of the Paoli Massacre. (John Trumbull, Library of Congress)

When walking through Memorial Park in Malvern, it is hard to believe that so many American men lost their lives over 230 years ago at that very site. On a typical summer day little kids play baseball at the nearby ball parks, joggers run through the trails of the woods, and plenty of people walk their dogs right by the memorial that was erected 100 years after the battle. Malvern Preparatory School even uses part of the battle site for their cross country team's races. Each year, there is a reenactment commemorating the battle, as well as a Memorial Day parade that most members of the community participate in. When driving through the borough, it isn't even uncommon to see a car with a bumper sticker that reads, "Remember Paoli." Although it was once the site of a horrible massacre, the battlefield is now a place of tranquility.

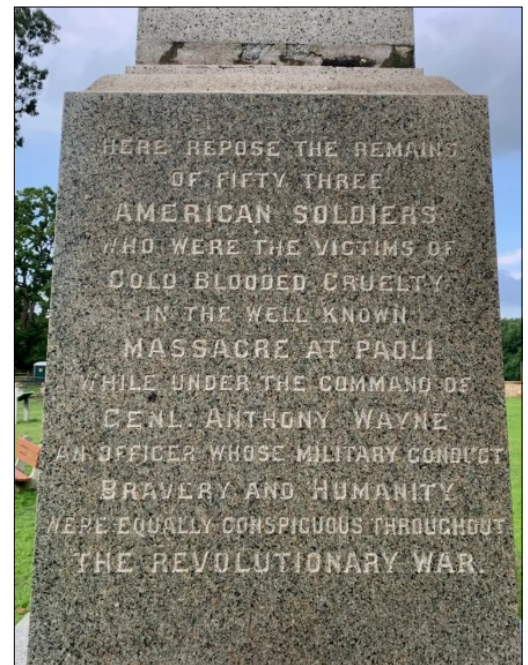
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Paoli Battlefield Historical Park

The large obelisk monument dedicated to the men who died at Paoli. The monument was "erected by the citizens of Chester and Delaware Counties, September 20, 1877, being the centennial anniversary of the Paoli Massacre."





The rectangular stone wall enclosure guarded by two large cannon. Here is where the 53 American soldiers who were killed are buried. Immediately following the battle, local farmers buried the American dead in two rows of 26 near the fence line. It is said that two weeks later, another soldier was found in the nearby woods and also buried here, making the total 53.

The two cannon are believed to be original American made artillery from the American Revolution and cast at Warwick Furnace in Chester County, PA (they would likely have been used in a fortification or on a ship). The story goes that they were tossed into a creek when the British invaded the area and recovered in the 1800s. The stone wall (since reconstructed) and monument were dedicated on September 20, 1817 (the 40th anniversary of the Paoli Massacre), which was accompanied by a parade of nearly 400 volunteer troops. Present at the dedication were Isaac, son of Anthony Wayne, and the 82-year-old Reverend David Jones, who was the chaplain for Wayne's brigade and a survivor of Paoli. Today, the 203-year-old monument is protected by a clear case and is almost impossible to read, but the solemnity remains.

Chapter and Member News

Upcoming Events

Thursday, September 17, 2026 - Naturalization ceremony: 1:00 pm, Historic Locust grove, 561 Blankenbaker Ln., Louisville, KY 40207.

Thursday, September 24, 2026 - Driving Tour of Historic Western Louisville: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm; a visit to historic gravesites of Western and Baxter cemeteries; lunch at "The Table." Contact Mike King for details.

Tuesday, September 29, 2026 - Bluegrass Honor Flight: 8:30 pm, Muhammad Ali Airport; to welcome home veterans from their trip to Washington D.C. Everyone welcome; You will have a great time.

Thu-Sat, October 1-3, 2026 - NSSAR Fall Leadership Conference: Galt House Hotel, 140 N. Main Street, Louisville, KY 40202; see NSSAR website for signup.

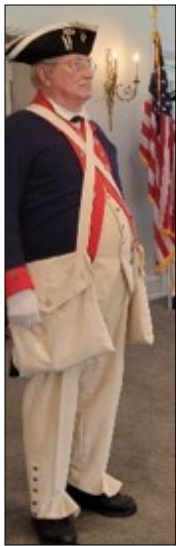
Tuesday, October 13, 2026 - Historical Flags of the Revolutionary War: Family Search Center, 1000 South Hurstbourne Pkwy, Louisville, KY; presented by Mike King of the Louisville Thruston Chapter.

Saturday, October 17, 2026 - Kentucky's Revolutionary Story Walking Tour: 10:30 am; tour will begin at Kentucky History Center, 100 W. Broadway, Frankfort, KY 40601; \$5 KHS members, \$15 Non-members.

Tuesday, November 3, 2026 - Chapter Board of Governors (Zoom) Meeting: 7:00 pm

SAR/DAR Constitution Luncheon Held September 12

There was a strong turnout for the annual Constitution Luncheon held on Saturday, September 12, 2026, at Big Spring Country Club in Louisville, KY. The joint SAR/DAR luncheon meeting is a local tradition going back over 40 years and includes the Louisville Thruston Chapter, SAR, and the John Marshall, Fincastle, and Corn Island Chapters of DAR. Each chapter takes turn hosting the meeting, and this year's host was the John Marshall Chapter with Regent **Caroline Lancaster** presiding. Also in attendance with their bake sale products were representatives from the Jack Jouett Chapter, CAR. The Louisville Thruston Color Guard led by Cmdr. **Mike King** opened the meeting by presenting the Nation's Colors with many national and historical flags on display providing a colorful backdrop. Following a delicious buffet meal, the featured speaker, **David Yates**, Jefferson County Clerk, spoke on the special significance of our Constitution.



Louisville Thruston Chapter Flags

by Mike King

Our chapter has a large variety of flag sets that we use for events and ceremonies depending on the occasion. The collection consists of over forty historical, national, Armed Forces, state and metro flags, and each month the newsletter will highlight one or two flags in our inventory. Last month we featured the Loyal Nine flag. This month the focus will be on the Join or Die and the Sons of Liberty flags.

Join or Die Flag.

The chapter flag, Join or Die, was not a historical flag even though the design has been created into a flag like the one the chapter flies. The Join or Die design is from a 1754 political cartoon by Benjamin Franklin published in the Pennsylvania Gazette in Philadelphia and shows a rattlesnake cut into eight pieces. The original purpose was to address disunity between the thirteen colonies during the French and Indian War. In later years, as events began leading to the Revolutionary War, the image resurfaced to become one of the most iconic symbols of the American Revolution.



Rattlesnakes of America. The common rattlesnake is found only in the Americas, from Canada to South America. It is well known that soldiers and pioneers did not like rattlesnakes as they camped and cleared the land. The snake was synonymous with the American colonies and later became a common symbol representing unity and warning against oppression. The rattlesnake symbol was first used by Benjamin Franklin in a 1751 article where he condemned Great Britain for sending convicts to America. He stated that colonists should send back a bunch of rattlesnakes to Britain and put them in their gardens. With that article, the tradition of using the “rattlesnake” for flags and in publications was born.

Sons of Liberty Flag.

This flag is characterized by having thirteen red and white horizontal stripes. It has been occasionally confused with the Loyal Nine flag which has nine vertical red and white stripes (see the August 2026 issue for its description).

The background for naming this flag is interesting. After the British outlawed the display of the original Sons of Liberty ‘Rebellious Stripes’ flag, it changed from the vertical nine stripes of the Stamp Act era, into horizontal seven red and six white stripes. Besides the ban by the British, the reason for change was the expansion and growth of the protest organization throughout the thirteen colonies.



The use of the Sons of Liberty flag grew as more oppressive British actions were forced upon the colonies. These included the Townshend Revenue Acts (1767), the suspension of colonial legislatures by the Royal Governors (1768-1770), the Boston Massacre (March 5, 1770), the Pine Tree Riots (1772), and other hostile acts by the British. To show unity between the colonies, the Sons of Liberty flag was created with thirteen alternating red and white stripes. This flag became the basis for a variety of other designs and was an inspiration for the National flag that Francis Hopkinson helped design.

Please Note: All of the Louisville Thruston flags can be seen on our chapter’s website along with the image, name, and background of each flag. Would you be interested in donating a flag to the chapter? While we have an extensive collection, there are other Revolutionary War flags we do not have that may represent a battle or a specific unit involving your patriot ancestor. If you would like to donate a flag and a flagpole to honor an ancestor, please contact Mike King at: mrfking001@gmail.com.

In Memoriam

William Christian Schrader III, age 86, of Louisville, Kentucky, passed away August 19, 2026.

Prof. Schrader was a graduate of Flaget High School, Bellarmine University, and the Catholic University of America, where he received his Ph.D. in 1972. He taught as a member of the History Department of Tennessee Technological University for 36 years, and was the author of many historical articles, concentrating on 17th and 18th century Germany.

Will was a member of St. Louis Bertrand Catholic Church and was also active in the Knights of Columbus, serving as Grand Knight and Faithful Navigator.



With his abiding interest in genealogy, he was a member of many lineage societies, serving as president of the Louisville Thruston Chapter and the Kentucky Society of SAR, and the Kentucky Society of the War of 1812, and was an officer of First Families of Kentucky, the Jamestown Society, and the Order of Founders and Patriots of America. Will was an active member of the Chapter's Color Guard for many years.

NSSAR Surgeon General Health Minute

Surgeon General **Matthew Bowdish** would like to establish a series of short, health-related columns in state and chapter newsletters during his 2026-2027 tenure. Below is his first "Surgeon General's Health Minute:"

NSSAR Surgeon General Health Minute

By Matthew S. Bowdish MD, NSSAR Surgeon General 2026-2027

Give Me Liberty And Lower Blood Pressure

Hypertension (aka High Blood Pressure) is a silent and deadly condition that affects 60% of older adults and is a top contributor to heart attacks, strokes, and kidney damage in men ages 50 to 80 years old. It often runs in families - if your parents had it, you likely carry an elevated risk. Diagnosis is simple: regular blood pressure readings at home or in your doctor's office. Annual screenings are recommended for all men in this age group. Treatment starts with lifestyle (i.e., diet, exercise, salt reduction) and can include medications like ACE inhibitors or diuretics. Left unchecked, hypertension quietly damages your arteries. Contact your personal physician today for blood pressure evaluation and personalized management strategy. Protecting your heart today means more active years with your family in the future.

Flowers of Remembrance Memorial Ceremony

The Flowers of Remembrance memorial ceremony is held each year to honor those World War II dead buried in group graves. Following the end of World War II, Zachary Taylor National Cemetery was designated by the Secretary of War as one of three group burial sites in the United States for our war dead. The need for group burials resulted from mass casualty events such as plane crashes, tank explosions, ship disasters, and artillery bombardments where individual remains were unidentifiable. These events had not been seen on such a scale in previous wars.

The families of soldiers whose individual remains could be identified were offered four options for the burial of their kin. The families of servicemen killed in a mass casualty event were not given a choice. Rather the burial site was an arbitrary choice by the military in a centrally located national cemetery, which included Zachary Taylor National cemetery in Louisville, Kentucky.

Zachary Taylor National Cemetery is the final resting place for 1,594 servicemen buried in 341 group burial graves. By far, the largest number of group burials at Zachary Taylor are those of Army Air Corps servicemen who died in plane crashes.



This year's ceremony was held on Sunday, September 13, 2026, and sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Sons of the American Revolution, and the Rotary Club of Louisville Suburban. Officiating at the event was Compatriot **Mike King** of the Louisville Thruston Chapter, SAR, and the program included representatives from the DAR. Many of the 70 plus attendees brought single flowers or bouquets to place on group graves after the program, a way to say, "Thank you, you have not been forgotten."

Anniversary of Naming of the United States - September 9, 1776

An American historical date that is often forgotten is on September 9th. On that day in 1776, the term United Colonies of America (the term used by Great Britain) was changed to United States of America. After the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, we were no longer colonies, but "What should we call ourselves?" After considerable debate, the name of our union was decided - the United States of America!

The Plot to Kidnap a British Prince



Prince William, standing at left in a midshipman's uniform, poses with his brother, Prince Edward in this 1778 painting by Benjamin West. (Royal Collection Trust)

Story by Erin E. Thompson, USA/Co E Staff Historian
U.S. Army Intelligence Center of Excellence
March 21, 2024

Washington Approves Plot to Kidnap British Prince

On March 28, 1782, General George Washington gave permission to American spy Col. Matthis Ogden to move ahead with a plot to kidnap Prince William Henry, son of King George III, along with British Adm. Robert Digby. The daring operation involved a network of spies across New York who hoped to strike a blow at the heart of the English monarchy.

Prince William Henry was the third son of King George III. In 1781, the sixteen-year-old was serving aboard the flagship HMS Prince George under Admiral Digby. The vessel arrived in New York in September 1781, making the prince the first member of the British monarchy to step foot on American soil. Several of Washington's spies, including Colonel Ogden, took notice and began relaying information back to Washington's headquarters

in Virginia, where it had moved during the siege of Yorktown. According to intelligence gathered by Ogden, the Prince's quarters were shared with a single British officer and were lightly guarded, and he gave detailed accounts of the guard posts around the party and how to avoid them. Ogden's abduction plan involved crossing from the New Jersey shore to the East River in lower Manhattan on a rainy night to avoid detection.

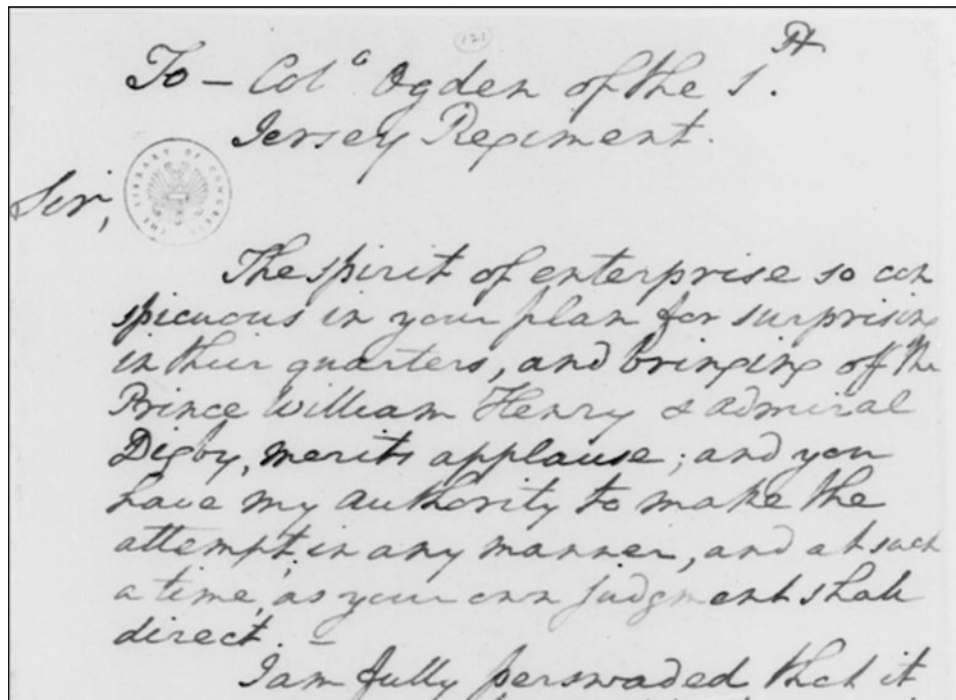
"On the first wet night after we are in readiness," Ogden wrote, he and a crew would cross the Hudson from New Jersey in four whaleboats and "seize on the Persons of the Young Prince" and his companions at their quarters in Hanover Square.

Washington liked the idea. On March 28, 1782, Washington wrote to Colonel Ogden, who at the time was serving with the 1st New Jersey Continentals in New Jersey:

"Sir: The spirit of enterprise so conspicuous in your plan for surprising in their quarters, and bringing off the Prince William Henry and Admiral Digby, merits applause; and you have my Authority to make the attempt, in any manner, and at such a time, as your judgement shall direct. I am fully perswaded [sic], that it is unnecessary to caution you against offering insult or indignity to the persons of the Prince, or Admiral, should you be so fortunate as to capture them; but it may not be amiss to press the propriety of a propr [sic] line of conduct upon the party you command."

The purpose of kidnapping the prince was never made clear in letters exchanged between General Washington and Colonel Ogden. Some historians have suggested Washington hoped to exchange the prince and Admiral Digby for numerous American prisoners still held captive in notoriously bad conditions, such as those on board the HMS Jersey. Washington also probably viewed the kidnapping of Prince William as a symbolic victory over the monarchy, a way to demoralize the British occupying forces and reinvigorate colonial support. Regardless of his reasons for pursuing the kidnapping plot, Washington was quick to authorize the operation.

After ensuring Colonel Ogden would take the necessary actions to keep the prince and admiral safe, Washington closed his letter by ordering the spy to stay away from neutral ground, “from Newark to Raway, and four miles back,” to avoid any questions of legality in taking the captives.



The first lines of Washington's letter approving the kidnapping plan. (Manuscript Division, Library of Congress)

The detailed plot never came to fruition. Sir Henry Clinton, British commander-in-chief in America during the war, suspected the colonists were planning some action against the prince and quickly directed his own spies to investigate. One of his men, Capt. George Beckwith, eventually uncovered Ogden's plan and reported it to his superior. In response, Clinton greatly increased the city's security in late March. General Washington wrote to Colonel Ogden again on April 2, advising the spy that sentries had been added to guard rotations around certain high-status people in New York. Washington feared the operation would collapse if attempted; thus, the kidnapping never took place.