**The Flying Camp**

by Stephanie Clayton

Individuals seeking details about their Revolutionary Soldier ancestors should consider researching under the term "Flying Camp."

***“The definition of the Flying Camp Battalion is a Reservist or a Home Guard. Their duties were to serve and protect citizens of the state in case of an invasion. They acted like a police force guarding barracks, government buildings, so on and so forth. Before the Revolutionary War there was no such thing in America as a Reservist or a Home Guard. Therefore, the militia was formed, a group of trained soldiers that could pack up and leave for duty at a moments notice.”[[1]](#footnote-1)***

The term comes from the French, “camp volant”.[[2]](#footnote-2)

3,400 militiamen were recruited from Maryland. They were commanded as follows:

First Battalion- Col. Charles Greenbury Griffith

Second Battalion- Col. Josias Carvil Hall

Third Battalion- Col. Thomas Ewing

Fourth Battalion- Col. William Richardson [[3]](#footnote-3)

Some of the companies from one of the Maryland camps fought at Long Island and Fort Washington. **The Pennsylvania-German in the Settlement of Maryland**, pp 205-223, includes a list of soldiers, their rank, etc… Among them were several Bealls, Thomas Nowland, Clagetts, Thomas Sprigg, James Nolland, McKay, Morris Brashears, Duncan, Snider, Thomas Baird, Veatch, Gardner, Rench, Moxley, Gentile, and many more. [[4]](#footnote-4)

Some of the names above are very familiar in Nelson, Washington, Marion, and surrounding counties in Kentucky.

**Lists of militia and flying camp soldiers from Frederick County, Maryland can be found in a book entitled,** Enlistments, Maryland Flying Camp from Frederick County, 1776 **which can be found at the Maryland Center for History and Culture.**

**“The collection is divided into six series: Militia Enlistments, Maryland Line Enlistments, Accounts of Provisions, Pay Accounts and Payrolls, Oaths of Allegiance, and miscellaneous records.”[[5]](#footnote-5)**

Searching for that book on Family Search produced a “no results found”.

The Maryland State Archives has an online searchable index for Military Rosters here:

**Muster Rolls and Other Records of Service of Maryland Troops in the American Revolution**

<https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000018/html/index.html>

Choose the index and go page to page to find names and page numbers.

Use this link to see resources that pop up in their archives under the term “flying camp”

<https://query.msa.maryland.gov/texis/search/?query=Flying+Camp+frederick+county&site=default_collection&image.x=0&image.y=0&dropXSL=html&opts=adv&pr=All>

One that may be of particular interest is :

[Archives of Maryland, Volume 0018, Page 0074 - Muster Rolls and...](http://aomol.msa.maryland.gov/000001/000018/html/am18--74.html)  
A company in **Frederick** **County**, enrolled for the **Flying** **Camp**, under Capt. Andrew Hynes, 1st Lt. Isaac McCrackin, 2nd Lt. Ezekiel Cox, Ensign John Jacobs, commissioned Oct. 12th and ... ...  
<http://aomol.msa.maryland.gov/...1/000018/html/am18--74.html>

Finding a specific name in the Flying Camp rosters may prove to be time consuming and impossible to do online. Check with the public library in your area to see if you can view one through an interlibrary loan.

1. John Allen Miller, The Flying Camp Battalion. <https://www.emmitsburg.net/archive_list/articles/history/rev_war/flying_camp_battalion.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Devine, Francis E. "The Pennsylvania Flying Camp, July-November 1776." *Pennsylvania History* 46 (1979): 59-78.<https://www.encyclopedia.com/history/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/flying-camp> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flying_Camp> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Daniel Wunderlich Nead, M. D., Univ. of PA.. **Narrative and Critical History Prepared at the Request of The Pennsylvania-German Society, Lancaster, PA. 1914, Part XXV.** Illustrated by Julius F. Sachse, Litt.D. Originally published by The Pennsylvania-German Society, Lancaster, PA, 1914. Reprinted : Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Enlistments, Maryland Flying Camp from Frederick County, 1776, Box: 2, Folder: 11. Revolutionary War military records, MS 1146. H. Furlong Baldwin Library. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)