

The 26th Regiment at Perth Amboy

From the Original Draft of Minutes 1767

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[For an account of the erection and maintenance of Barracks by the Province, for the accommodation of the British troops, in Colonial times, particularly those at Perth Amboy, see Whitehead's "Contributions to the Early History of Perth Amboy," etc., New York. 1856., "The Old Barracks at Trenton, New Jersey," still standing in great part, are described in a pamphlet so entitled, by the late General William S. Stryker, Trenton, 1885. The 26th Regiment was in America, 1767-1773.]

July 10th 1767 At a Meeting of the Corporation of Perth Amboy at the house of William Wright Innholder in the North Ward of the sd City -

Present the Mayor & Recorder

Stephen Skinner

Samuel Sergant

John Smyth

Jonathan Deare Ald[er]m[en]

John Johnston

Alexr Watson Common Councillmen

Stephen Johnston

James Brooks

It being represented to the Common Council that one half of his Majestys 26th Regiment now arived from Ireland is to be quarterd in the barracks of this Place & that the sd Reginient consists of 500 Effective men which having been Considered by the Common Council & and Inquirery made of the Barrack Masters of the State of the Barracks when the 28th Regiment was quartered therein they were by them Informed that there are 31 Rooms in the Barracks, that During the Time the 28th Regiment was quartered therein Eleven of those Rooms were made use of for the Officers & Kitchens, one for the Quarter Master Sergant, one for the Sarjeant, Major one for a Hospital & one for a Guard Room & that the Remaining 16 Rooms will not conveniently hold more than 12 Men to a Room -

All which being Considered by the board they are of Opinion that according to the above Regulation the Barracks of this place are Insufficient to accommodate the number of men ordered to be quartered therein and that In order To avoid the Inconveniences that the Officers as well as the Inhabitants of this place may be laid under by billeting that Application be made to Sr John St Clair to lay the same before His Excellency General Gage that such Disposition may be made of a part of sd Regiment as will be a means of their being better Accommodated as there are other Barracks in the Province not made use of for his Majestys Service and that if Sr John St Clair thinks it Necessary application may likewise be made by this board to His Excellency General Gage

Ordered that Mr Skinner do Present a Copy of this Minute to Sr John St. Clair

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At a Meeting of the Corporation of the, City of Perth Amboy at the house of William Wright on the 25th of September 1767.

Present the Mayor & Recorder

John Smyth

Samuel Sergant

Jonathan Deare Esqs Ald[er]men

John Johnston

Stephen Johnston Common Councillmen

James Brooks

Revd Kearny

The Mayor laid before the Common Council a Written Message from Major Templer setting forth that he has Orders from General Gage to wait on him & Request he will use his best Endeavours to procure a House for the Sick of the 26th Regiment by Way of Hospital; in Consequence of which the Mayor Desires the Opinion & Assistance of the Council on this Matter. he had a conference with Majr Templer & having made Inquiry he found no House or houses could be got in town fit for a Hospital Whereupon Major Templer acquainted him that it was the Generalls orders that if no house could be procured for a Hospital that the healthy men of the Regiment should be Encamped which he Requested the Mayor would do his Endeavours to prevent by procuring such Empty houses or Barns as would protect them from the Weather till the sick in the Barracks should Recover which he thought would be in about a Month or six Weeks that He being of Opinion that it would be a measure conducive to the Health & Convenience of the Regiment & not disagreeable to the Inhabitants has made Inquiry & finds that Houses may be got in Town to Lodge about 50 or 60 men more Conveniently than they could be in Tents & to the satisfaction of Major Templer & desires the Opinion of this board whether it would be proper to admitt the soldiers into the Houses upon the Major or other officers engaging to pay to the owners thereof a Reasonable Hire for the same which they propose to do -

Which the Common Councill Considering off are of opinion that it will be More Advantageous & Elligible to quarter the Well men in Empty Houses than to encamp them. - That 50 or 60 Men so quartered will thin the Barracks perhaps so much as to cause the End proposed; and therefore Approve of quarterg: as many Men, as can be spared ffrom the Barracks & Houses Can be found to quarter them in; The Commanding Officer Engaging to pay the rent, and to take every proper means that the Inhabitants Do not Suffer in their Gardens or property from the troops so quartered. - That the troops Do not Continue Longer so quartered than is Absolutely Necessary for the Purposes above mentioned and that the ffullest satisfaction be given to the Magistrates that no Disorders are the Consequences of so many men Laying out of the Barracks -