



Record Group: Hunterdon County
Subgroup: Militia
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Content Note

Lucius Witham Stockton was born 26 May 1771, the third child of Rev. Philip and Catherine (Cumming) Stockton of Princeton. After studying law with his cousin Richard Stockton, Lucius was admitted as an attorney in 1793. In 1795, Stockton married Eliza Augusta Coxe of Sydney, NJ, by whom he had four children. The family settled in Flemington, NJ, where Lucius served — from at least 1795 to 1805 — as a captain in the cavalry squadron (also called light horse or dragoons) of the Hunterdon Militia. During part of this time (1800-1801), he was acting squadron commander as the result of the arrest of Major Richard Kroesen. From 1805 to 1809, Stockton also served as Hunterdon County Clerk.

Capt. Stockton's death is reported to have occurred in 1808. At that time he was apparently living in Sussex County, where his estate was inventoried on 26 October 1811. Among the personal property listed in the inventory was "an old portfolio containing copies & blank paper" — possibly a reference to these papers. Administration of Stockton's estate was granted to John Johnson, Sussex County Clerk. Whether it was Clerk Johnson's intention or not, Capt. Stockton's Hunterdon cavalry papers were ultimately filed with other county clerk's papers relating to the Sussex Militia.

In 1994, the Sussex County Clerk's Office transferred Capt. Stockton's papers to the State Archives along with the early Sussex Militia records. The Stockton material consists primarily of muster rolls, notices relative to squadron parades and officer elections, and notices of meetings to hear excuses for non-attendance of military duty. Item #8 includes papers relating to a protest by the cavalry regarding militia legislation passed in 1797 which, they felt, lowered the status of the cavalry. Capt. Stockton was one of several cavalry officers appointed to meet with the legislature about this issue. The collection also includes a few letters which refer to the arrest (or arrests) of Major Kroesen, though none of them explains the circumstances of the arrest(s).

NOTE: The series is arranged chronologically, with undated items at the beginning. All places referred to in the descriptions below are in New Jersey unless otherwise noted. Also, a name index has been added to the end of the **Contents** list to improve access to the manuscripts.

Bibliography

Snell, James P. *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey ...*, p. 260. (Philadelphia: Everts & Peck, 1881).

Stockton, Thomas Coates. *The Stockton Family of New Jersey, and Other Stocktons*, pp. 51-52 and 84.

(Washington, DC: The Carnahan Press, 1911).

Inventory of Lucius W. Stockton, 1811 (State Archives file #1330S).

Contents

1. List of soldiers (first and second lieutenants?), [no place], no date.
2. Roll of the troop of horse commanded by Capt. L. W. Stockton, [no place], no date.
3. Roll of the 4th Troop of Horse, Hunterdon Squadron, commanded by Capt. Lucius W. Stockton, no date.
4. Roll of men residing in Bethlehem Twp. enrolled in the troop of light horse commanded by Capt. L. W. Stockton, no date.
5. Roll of men residing in Kingwood Twp. enrolled in the troop of light horse commanded by Capt. L. W. Stockton, no date.
6. Roll of men residing in Lebanon Twp. enrolled in the troop of light horse commanded by Capt. L. W. Stockton, no date.
7. Letters of Brig. Gen. Anthony W. White to Capt. L. Stockton requesting attendance of cavalry officers at Ford Cutter's in Elizabeth Town on 19 October/November, New Brunswick, 20 September & 7 October 1795 [2 items].
8. Papers relating to the memorial of the cavalry to the legislature re: "An act for organizing and training the militia of this state," including letter of David Ford to Capt. L. Stockton, Hunterdon Co. and Allentown, March-November 1797 [6 items; 1 fragmented and 2 previously laminated].
9. Account of caps, etc., sold to the troop by L. W. Stockton, [no place], 5 December 1797 - 3 July 1798 [fragmented].
10. Return of Capt. L. W. Stockton listing one sergeant and eight privates ("the first class") to be "ready to march at a moment's warning," 4th Troop, Hunterdon Squadron, 5 December 1797.
11. Certificate of election of officers of the 4th Troop of Horse, Hunterdon Squadron, 1 January 1798.
12. Roll of the 4th Troop of Horse in Hunterdon Squadron, 1 January 1798.
13. Letter from Capt. David Ford to Capt. Lucius W. Stockton re: assembly bill relating to the cavalry, Trenton, 2 February 1798.
14. Order for the meeting of the troop commanded by L. W. Stockton on 4 July at Flemington, 7 June 1798.
15. Notice of election of officers of the 4th Troop of Horse, Hunterdon Brigade, 3 August 1798.
16. Roll of the 4th Troop of Light Dragoons in the Hunterdon Squadron, 4 August 1798.
17. Roll of the 2nd Troop of Light Dragoons in the Hunterdon Squadron, 19 September 1798.
18. General orders from Maj. Richard Kroesen to Capt. Lucius W. Stockton to hold the troop in readiness to march at a moment's warning, [no place], 27 March 1799.
19. Copy of appointment of "D.P." [David Pinkerton] as sergeant, [Nathaniel Saxton, Secretary], Flemington, 30 March 1799.
20. Copy of letter of L. W. Stockton to Gen. John Herd *[sic]* re: rank of the cavalry officers, etc., Flemington, 28 August 1799.
21. Roll of the 2nd Troop in the Hunterdon Squadron, October 1799 - 1 January 1800 [fragmented].
22. Notice of Capt. L. W. Stockton, 2nd Troop, Hunterdon Cavalry, re: meeting to hear excuses for non-attendance, 8 October 1799 [fragmented].

23. Orders of Lt. Col. Henry Van Derveer to Capt. L. W. Stockton to hold an election in the company formerly commanded by Capt. Rockafellow [sic], [no place], 28 April 1800.
24. Letter of Lt. Joshua Anderson to Capt. L. W. Stockton re: his taking command of the squadron, Coughtown, 28 April 1800.
25. Copy of letter of L. W. Stockton to Gov. Richard Howell re: orders received from Lt. Col. Van Derveer relating to the arrest of Maj. Kroesen, Flemington, 29 April 1800.
26. Notice of meeting to elect officers for the troop of horse lately commanded by Capt. Christopher Rockefeller on 17 May in Amwell Twp., L. W. Stockton, Commanding Officer of the Hunterdon Squadron, 1 May 1800.
27. Roll of Lucius Witham Stockton's Troop of Light Horse, Squadron Training, [no place], 19 May 1800.
28. Memoranda of 2nd Lt. Jerome Emm[ans] certifying the service of Amos Trimmer in the 1st Troop of Light Dragoons in the Hunterdon Squadron, commanded by Capt. L. W. Stockton, 24 May 1800.
29. Orders of Brig. Gen. Jno. Stevens and [T. Roberdrau?] to Capt. Lucius W. Stockton to furnish an escort for Maj. Gen. Helms at regimental parades at Germantown, Maidenhead [and no place], 28-29 May 1800 [2 items].
30. Notice of Capt. L. W. Stockton for those who did not attend squadron parade to meet and render excuses at the house of Jonas Chatburn in Quakertown on 31 May 1800.
31. Roll of Capt. L. W. Stockton's Troop of Light Horse at the parade of Col. Bray's regiment, [no place], 4 June 1800.
32. Notice of Capt. L. W. Stockton re: meeting to render excuses for non-attendance at the parade with Col. Bray's regiment, Flemington, 12 June 1800.
33. Orders of Capt. L. W. Stockton, Commandant of Hunterdon Squadron, for the several troops to meet at the house of Joseph Atkinson in Flemington, 1 April 1801 [fragmented].
34. Orders of Capt. L. W. Stockton to sergeants of the 1st Troop to meet for parade at the house of Joseph Atkinson, Innkeeper, and copy of cover letter, Flemington, 1 April 1801 [2 items].
35. Record of election of 1st Lt. Jeremiah Hoff and Cornet Nathaniel Saxton, 1st Troop, Hunterdon Squadron, 16 April 1801.
36. Order of Capt. L. W. Stockton, 1st Troop, Hunterdon Squadron, for troop to meet for parade at the house of Edmund Burk, Innkeeper, near Ringo's old tavern, 8 May 1801.
37. Roll of Capt. L. W. Stockton's troop, [no place], 3 June 1801.
38. List of persons in the 4th Troop who made default in not appearing for military duty at regimental training on 3 June at Pittstown, 13 June 1801.
39. Rolls of the 4th Troop of Horse, Hunterdon Squadron, commanded by Capt. L. W. Stockton, 20 June - October 1801 [2 items].
40. Letter of Maj. Richard Kroesen to Lucius W. Stockton re: Gen. Heard's system of cavalry and October meeting, Flemington, 28 June 1801.
41. Copy of letter of L. W. Stockton to Gen. John Heard re: arrest of Maj. Kroesen, system of cavalry discipline, and proposed meeting of the brigade, Flemington, 29 June 1801.
42. Letter of Gen. Jno. Heard to Capt. L. [W.] Stockton re: Maj. Kroesen's arrest and copies of his "system of cavalry" to be left at Abraham Hunt's in Trenton, etc., Woodbridge, 10 July 1801.
43. Copy of orders sent to Lt. Huff by Patrick McCan for troopers that may have collected at Pitts Town by mistake to march to the house of Capt. Aaron Vansyckle in Bethlehem, 5 October 1801.
44. Copy of letter of Capt. L. W. Stockton to Maj. Richard Kroesen re: vacancy resulting from removal of 2nd Lt. Jerome Emmans, Flemington, 14 April 1802.
45. Orders from Maj. Richard Kroesen for squadron to meet at the house of Edmond Burk near Ringoe's old tavern, 8 May 1802.

46. Notice of election of officers in the 4th Troop, Hunterdon Squadron, to be held on 3 July in Flemington, 16 June 1802.
47. Notice of Maj. Richard Kroesen that election will be held at the house of Jonas Chatburn in Quakerton for officers in the 4th Troop, Hunterdon Squadron, 1 September 1802.
48. Copy of orders of Capt. L. W. Stockton to 1st Sgt. George C. Maxwell for troop to meet for exercise at the Hickory Tavern on 4 October, Flemington, 18 September 1802.
49. Letter of Maj. Richard Kroesen to Capt. L. W. Stockton requesting his company's return, and copy of return, Flemington, 6 September 1803 [2 items].
50. Orders of Maj. Richard Kroesen to Capt. Lucius W. Stockton to meet the squadron with his company at the house of Edmond Burk in Amwell, 8 May 1805.

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