US Army Headgear
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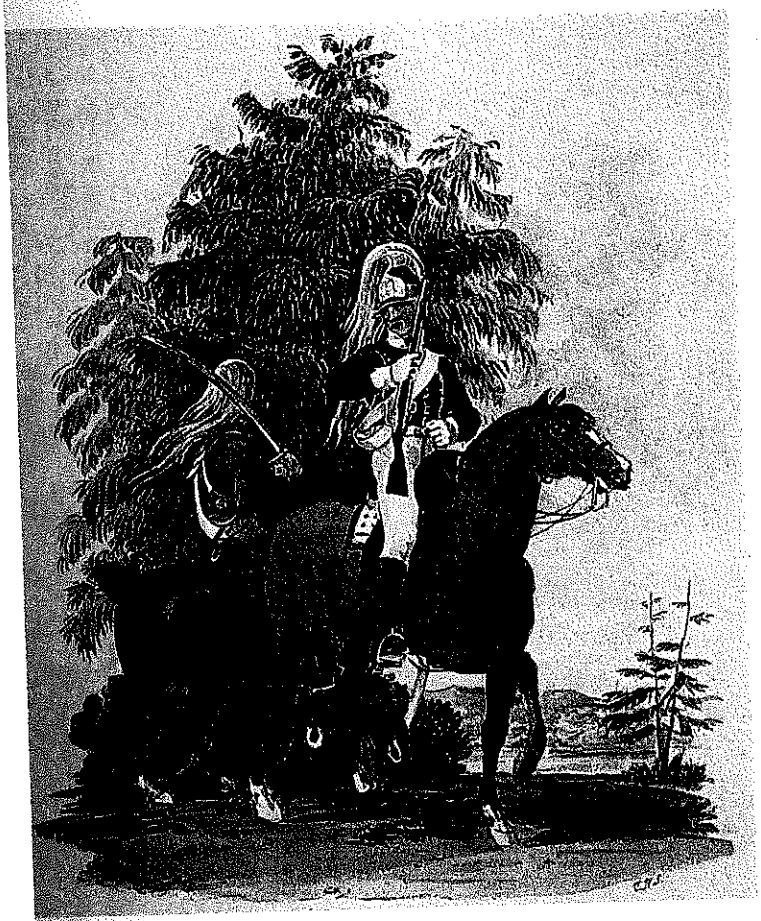
Forging a Nation 1783-1832

After the successful conclusion of the American Revolution, the ictorious Continental Army began to dwindle. Indeed, by November 5, 1783, George Washington personally led only one regiment of in-antry and a pair of artillery battalions. Early the next year the secretary f war indicated that only 700 men remained on the rolls. Soon thereaf-er the civil authorities acted, finding even this small force too large for he emerging republic to maintain. On June 3, 1784, only twenty-five nlisted men were to be retained as a garrison for Fort Pitt, while an-ther fifty-five were to be stationed at West Point. A handful of officers ere to command this token complement. As an auxiliary, Connecticut, ew Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania were asked to provide 700 en for a year to occupy abandoned British forts on the frontier.



Except for Pennsylvania, the states were slow in responding to fill their quotas. With potential threats from European powers and internal conflicts with Native Americans dictating another course of action, this situation could not long endure. As a result, late in 1786 Congress again addressed the country's needs for a standing army. This time the lawmakers raised the strength to 1,340 privates and non-commissioned officers, as well as retained the state levy of 700 men. The combined units eventually would be forged into a *legion*, a concept that took its inspiration from the army of the early Roman republic. Additionally, the concept was one that had a practical basis, in that the sublegions consisted of a force with its own integral infantry, artillery, and mounted elements, someone akin to regimental combat teams of a later era.

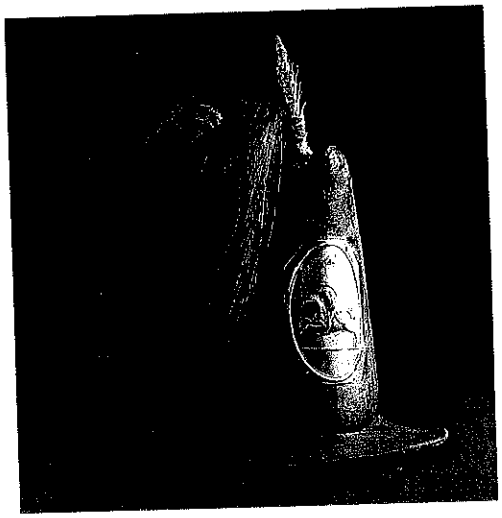
"The Legion of the United States," as it ultimately was authorized, was to consist of 5,120 personnel who would be divided evenly into four sub-legions. Nothing approaching that figure came into being, however. In 1796 the legion concept was abandoned.

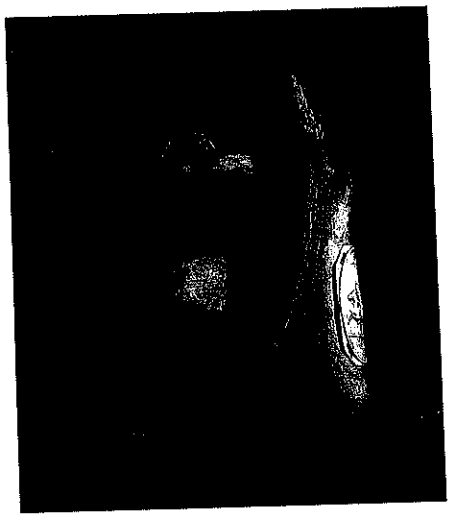
With that the more traditional regimental system returned. Four regiments of infantry, two companies of light dragoons, and a corps of artillerists and engineers constituted what by then had become the United States Army under the federal government, with the president serving as the commander-in-chief. In 1797, a limited staff came into being to provide support and administrative functions, while during the following year, a potential war with France spurred Congress to confer authority on the president to enlist as many as 30,000 troops as an "Eventual Army," if hostilities erupted. Fortunately, a peaceful solution averted conflict.

Confident that all was well, President John Adams saw to it that reductions of the standing army took place, so that near the end of December 1801, only 4,052 men remained in uniform. The following year, when Thomas Jefferson replaced Adams in office, his newly installed administration initiated further cutbacks, leaving only a total of 3,212 officers and soldiers on the rolls soon after his assumption of duties.

Slightly later in Jefferson's term, on March 16, 1802, the United States Congress further scaled down the army by authorizing only twenty

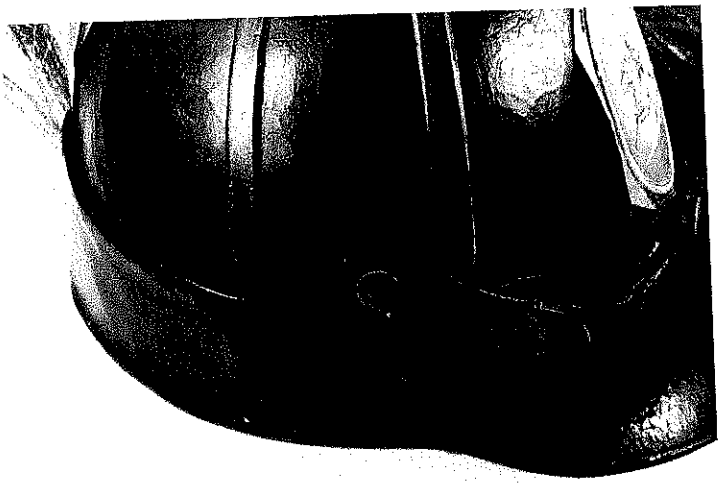
Left: Lieutenant Colonel Charles Hamilton Smith, a British officer who clandestinely observed the American military, painted this image of "Cavalry of the United States of America in 1812," depicting enlisted dragoons wearing a black leather helmet ornamented with a white metal crest, plate, and visor. A white turban and long, white horsehair mane completed this dramatic piece of headgear. By permission of the Harry Eakins Widener Collection. HL



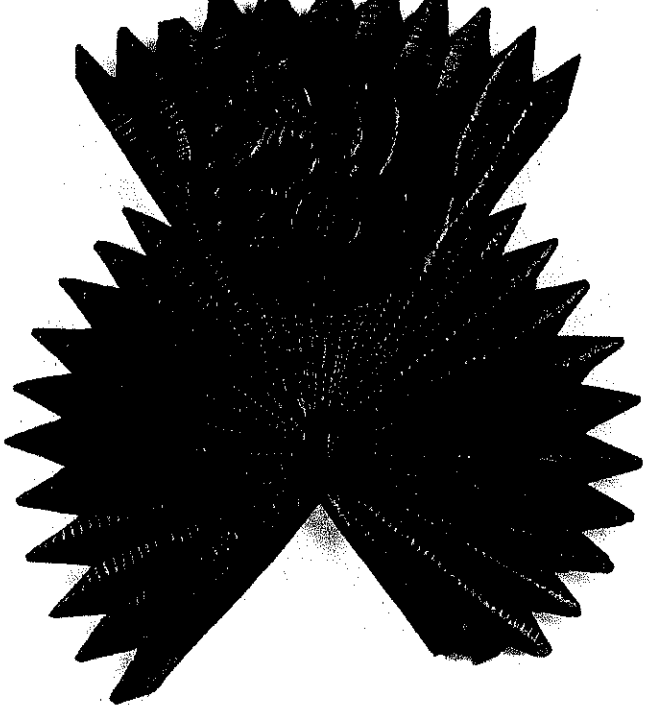


Above: A surviving example of a dragoon helmet, probably produced sometime between 1808 and 1811, bears an 1812 pattern plate with charging dragoon, but one struck of silver plated copper, rather than the more typical white metal. The turban is cloth painted to represent leopard skin. Inside, a leather sweatband is attached to a linen bag with a drawstring. Regulations called for a blue plume with white tip, most of which is missing on this specimen, which may have been a privately purchased helmet for an officer. Photographs by Gilbert Gonzales. RBHPL

Right: This light dragoon helmet also bears the 1812 pattern plate, but the body is the type procured by contracts c. 1815. The detail of the chain strap of scales and the white metal front plate are typical features of U.S. Army examples of the era for this type of headgear. DT



C.H. Smith's rendition of infantry officers and enlisted men in 1816 depicted the former group wearing black bicorn hats with white plumes, while the common soldiers donned 1813 pattern infantry caps with white metal plates, feathers, cords, and tape, or painted trim on the edge of the front piece. HL

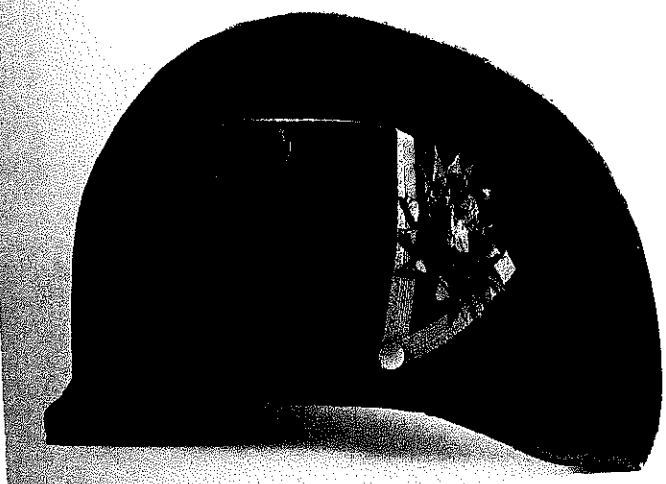


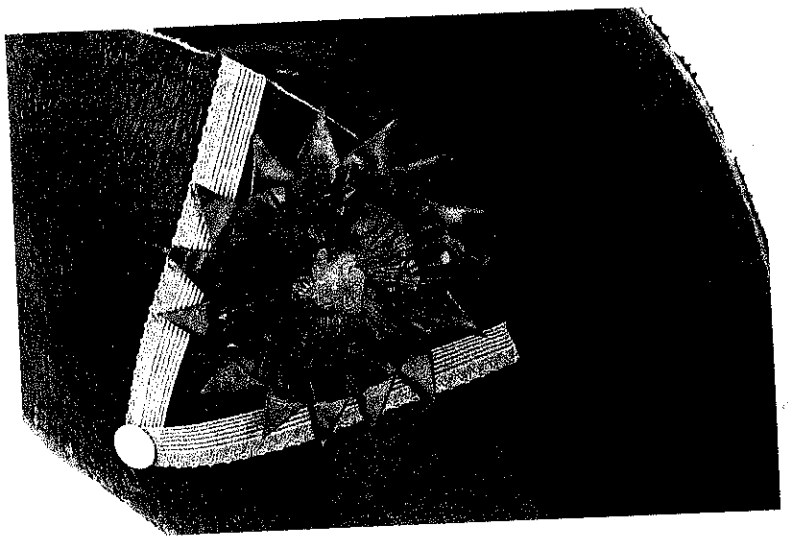
Cockades similar to this leather one were described by Callender Irvine, the commissary general of purchases. This specimen may have been produced for the chapeau de bras of artillery officer during the 1808-1812 period. JCN

companies of artillery, a like number of infantry companies, and a mea-ger engineer contingent, along with a cadet corps at the newly estab-lished military academy located at West Point, New York. The paper strength was 172 officers and 3,040 soldiers, although a lesser number actually were mustered than the ceilings allowed by law.[1]

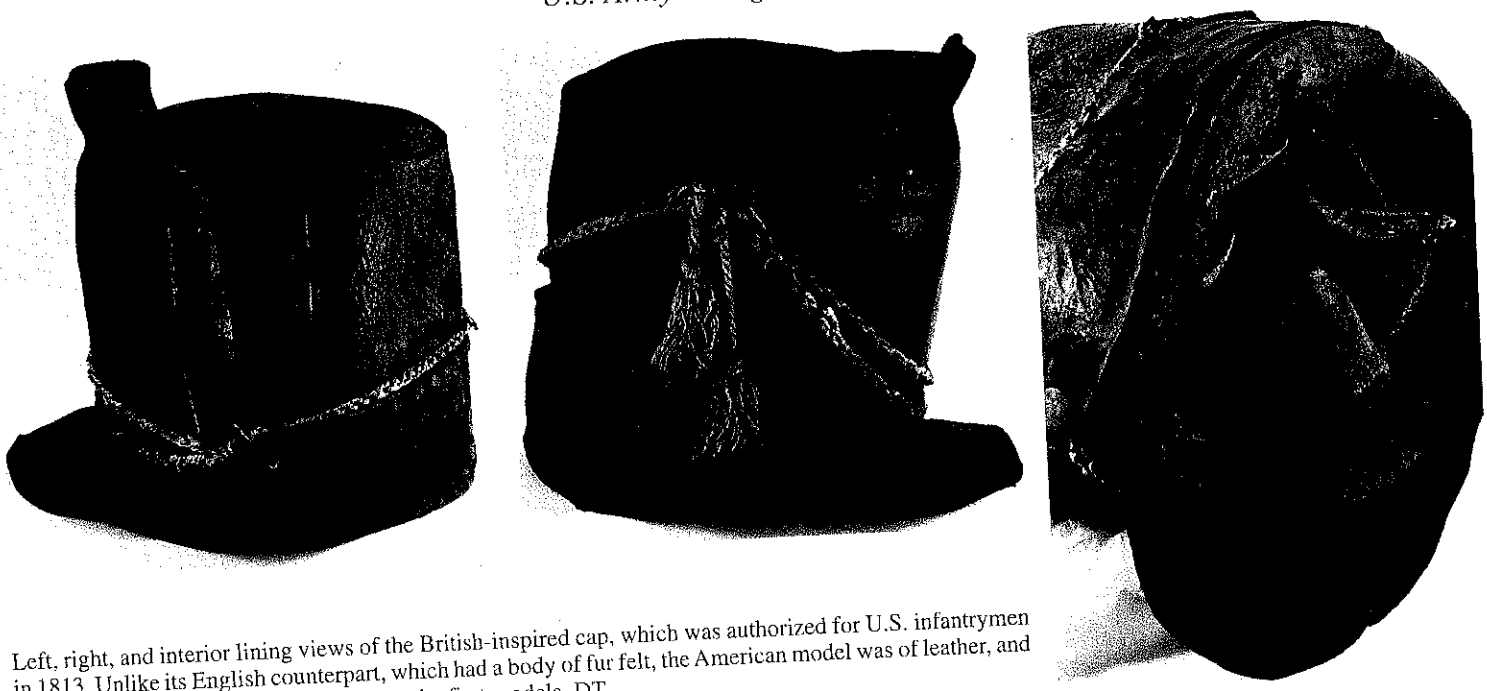
During this formative period in the U.S. Army's history, shifts in military fashion had begun to occur, in large part influenced by styles worn in Europe during the Napoleonic wars. One transplanted practice was the replacement of the old tri-corner hat with bicorns, or chapeaus as they came to be known.* These were worn "athwartships" (side-ways) a la the Little Corporal himself, at a slight angle, or in a front to back arrangement called "fore and aft" by the British.[2] As interpreted in the United States, by the uniform regulations adopted on January 30, 1787, the American cocked hats were to have white trim for infantry-men and yellow trim for artillerymen, with round 4-inch black leather cockades.[3] Feathers that rose six inches above the brim further desig-nated the wearer's branch. Originally black feathers topped in red were assigned to artillerymen, and red, black, and white ones set off the First, Second, and Third U.S. Infantry regiments respectively.[4] An 1800 di-rective further instructed infantry officers to have:

*For the purpose of this volume, a hat is considered to be a head covering that has a brim all around the horizontal, conical, or cylindrical part, which covers the head, while a cap is understood to not have a brim, although it regularly has a visor or bill.

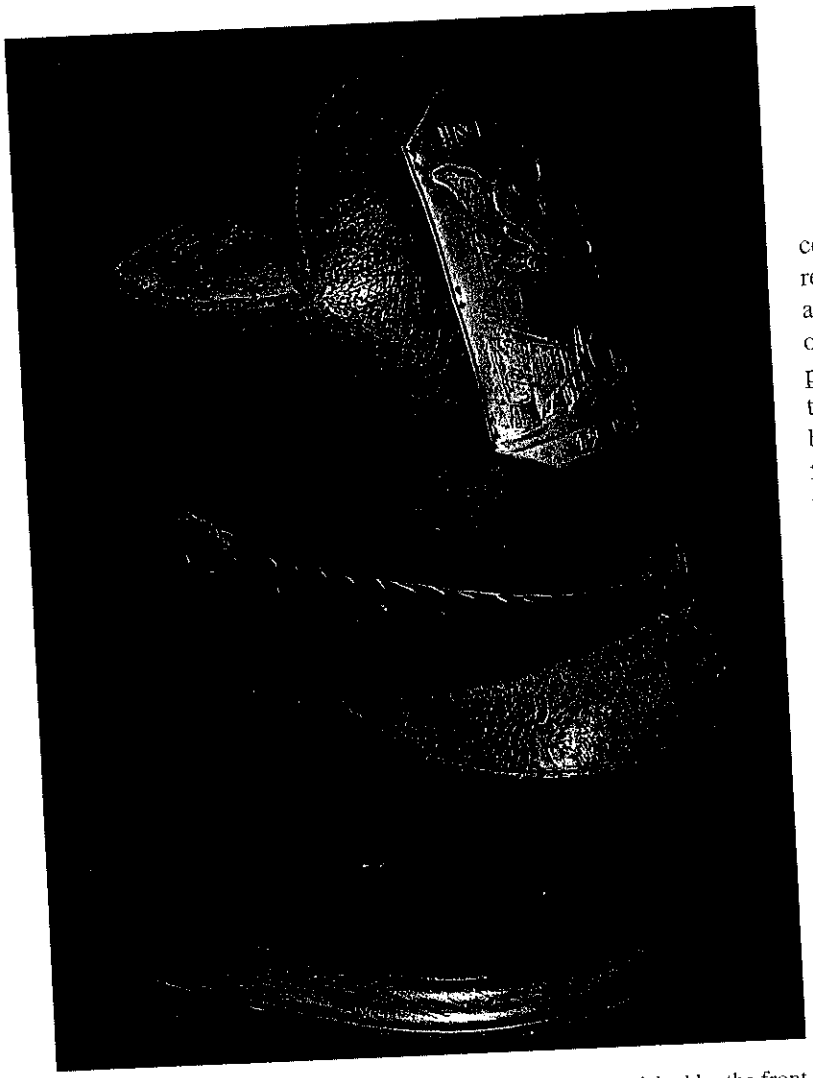




Officer's bicorn typical of the type worn by infantry officers during the 1805-1815 era, with a detail of the cockade with eagle device. DT



Left, right, and interior lining views of the British-inspired cap, which was authorized for U.S. infantrymen in 1813. Unlike its English counterpart, which had a body of fur felt, the American model was of leather, and the front piece was applied separately on the first models. DT



Later contract versions of the 1813 pattern cap were distinguished by the front piece being made integral to the body. The caps remained regulation through the early 1820s, and in some instances were modified for fatigue wear. This example bears a small paper label inside that reads "Redfern"—a Philadelphia

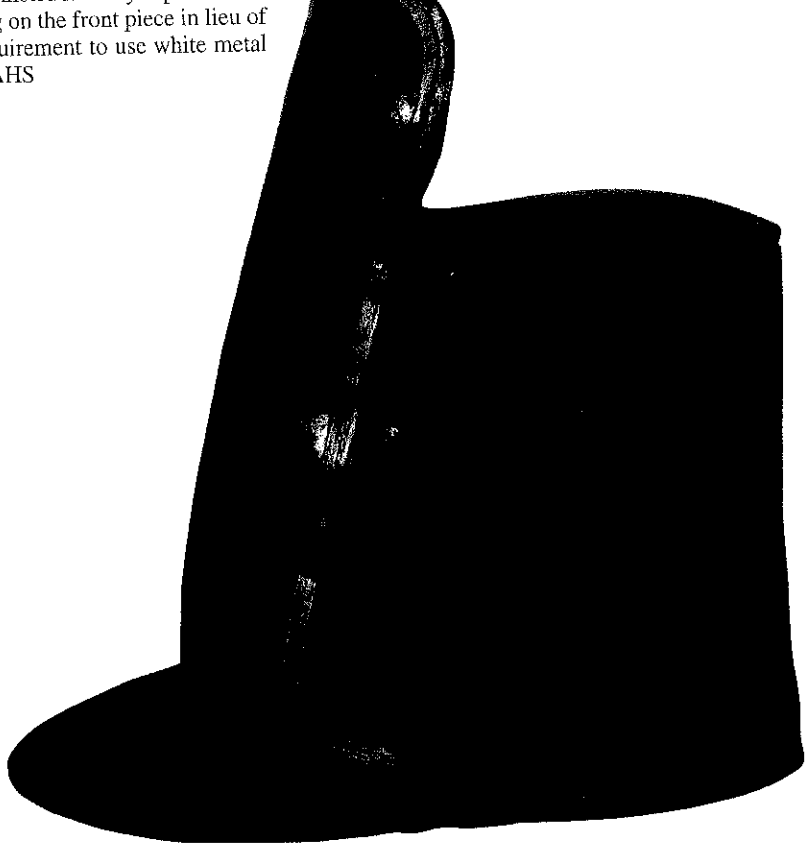
Hats, full cocked, with narrow black binding, fan on hinc part eight inches broad—sides and corners six inches broad Black cockade of four inches diameter having a white eagle ir center, the cockade to rise an inch above the brim—loop anc button black.[5]

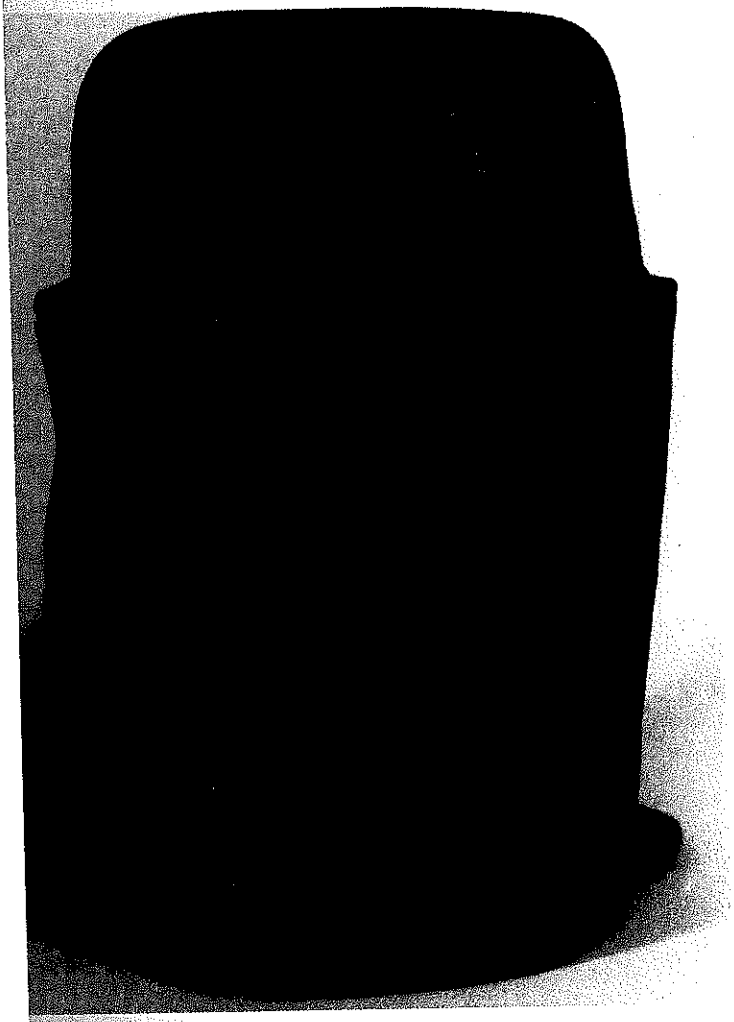
The chapeau remained in vogue through the turn of the ninet century for general officers and staff officers—even continuing regulation item for the former group into the 1930s, although the s and size shifted from one era to the next.[6] Gradually, however, this of head dress began to be phased out for infantrymen, at least for pany grade or platoon officers (second lieutenants through captain the cocked hat gave way to a cap. On the other hand, cocked hats black leather cockades bearing a gold eagle in the center, a gold fastened with a gold button, and a white plume that rose six inches a the hat for enlisted men and eight for officers remained regulatic artillery troops at least until 1812.[7] Further, it is possible that the le cockades for the enlisted artillery chapeau may have been subst for the applied gold eagle.[8] An existing example, perhaps dating fr early as 1808, features a tooled leather eagle surmounting a canor an arc of fifteen stars that was an integral part of the leather cock

According to a March 30, 1800, general order (that may have s as interim uniform regulations), general officers were to have the peau, too. In this instance, the color of the plume was dictated by and branch. The eagle and trim were gold, the former element attached to the traditional cockade.[10]

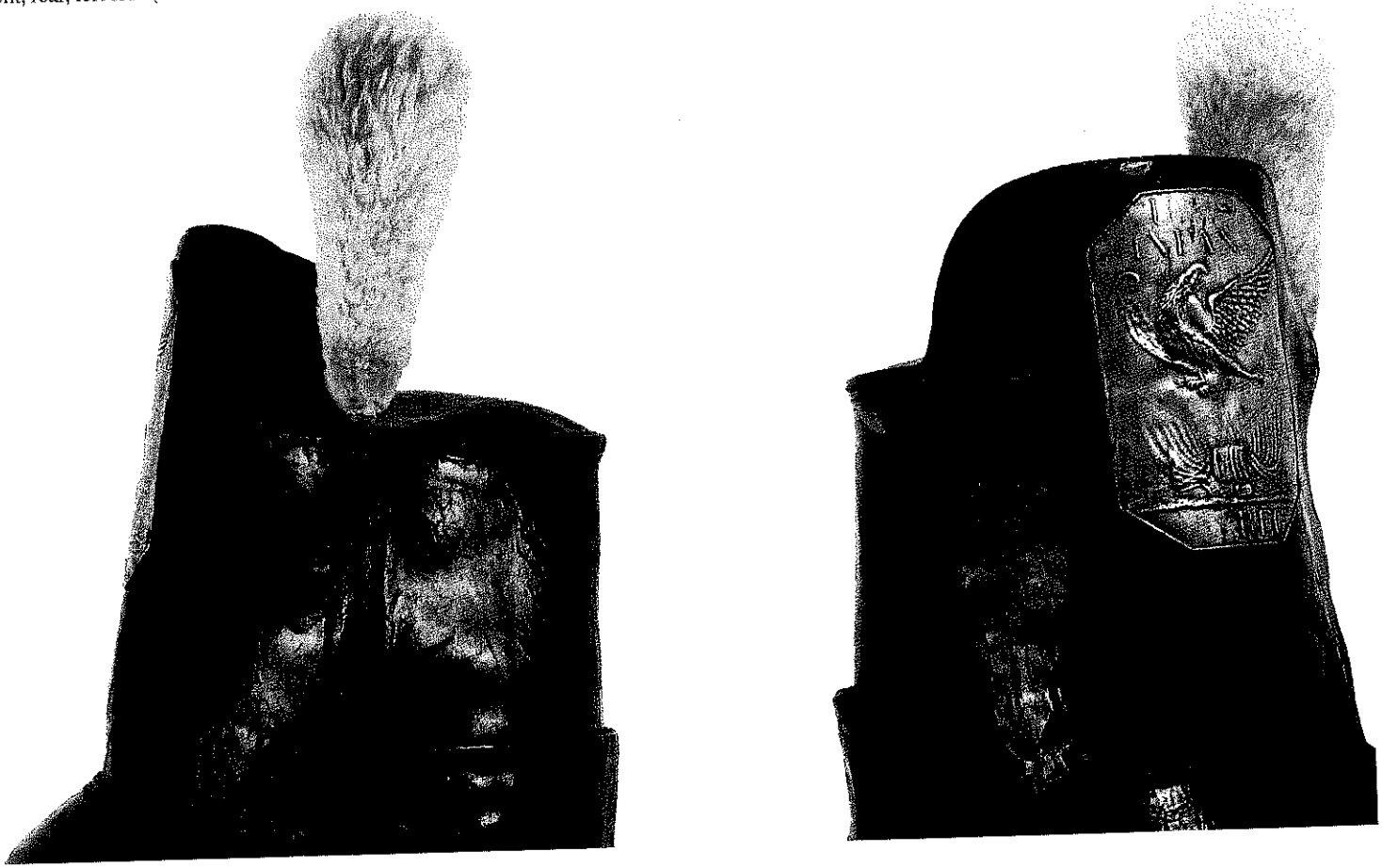
While the chapeau continued as a mainstay for generations, ir ous forms other types of headgear came onto the scene. In due c these overshadowed the cocked hat. As one example, mounted that remained active for a brief period into the early 1800s traditic had been distinguished by leather helmets. These were to be "crc with black horse hair," and have "a brass front, with a mountec goon in the Act of Charging."[11] Officers of this "Corps of Cavalry, was known during the days of the Legion, were to be recognized f by green plumes. The disbanding of the Legion followed by 180 gressional reductions spelled the temporary end of the light drago

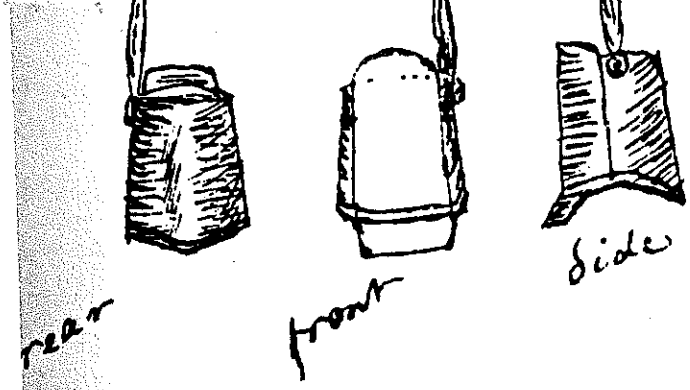
painted edging on the front piece in lieu of the earlier requirement to use white metal trim. FMNMAHS



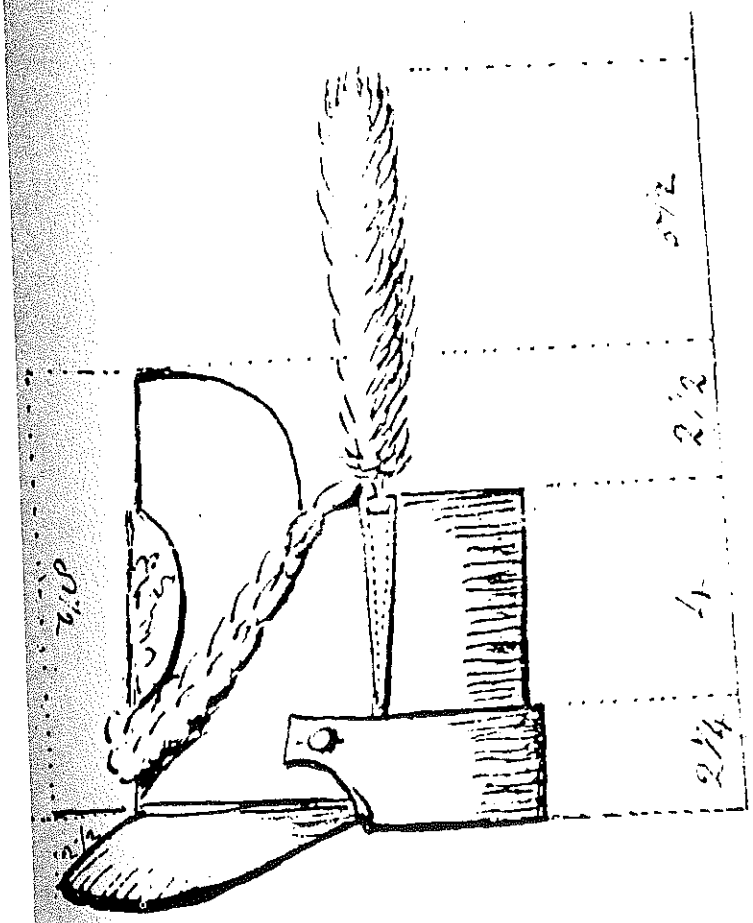


Front, rear, left side (with white worsted pompon), and right side of the second version of the 1813 pattern "tombstone" cap. Note the white cords are missir





n May 1813, an anonymous officer serving at Ft. Niagara, NY, sent a letter to allender Irvine in Washington, DC, suggesting an improvement to the 1813 attern cap. The recommendation was based upon the observation that the leather sed to form the cap's body was not sufficiently flexible to permit the piece of eadgear to be seated on "the head without too uncomfortable pressure." The pright position of the front of the cap supposedly caused the headgear to be ngainly, and did not afford protection against the sun and the rain. Instead, the fficer proposed "the angle" of the cap's front "should be very oblique...." Further, he position of the plume on the side was called in question, and a front placement as advocated. This sketch accompanied the letter, showing the cap's back, ront, and left side as issued. NA

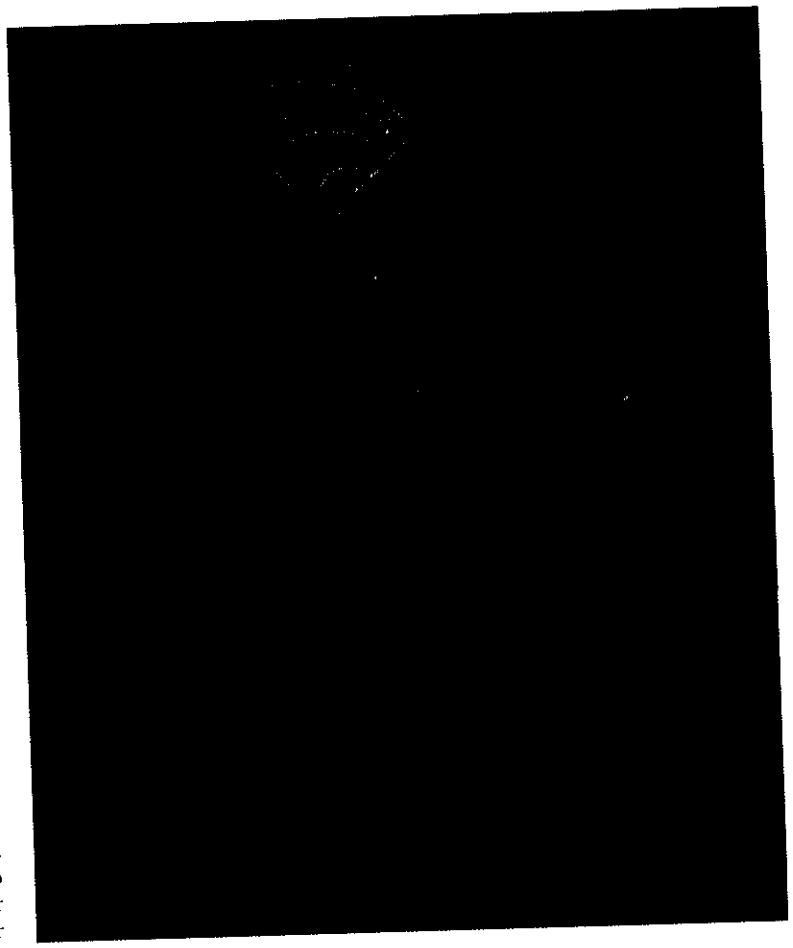


he military storekeeper at Baltimore, MD, Thomas B. Rutter, enclosed a drawing f the 1813 pattern infantry cap in a February 18, 1817, letter he sent to the ommissary general of purchases detailing the state of the inventory of such eadgear then on hand. The illustration included the flap that could be lowered o help protect the wearer's neck, as well as a tapered leather socket attached to he left side to hold the eight inch pompon. The cords appear to be double rather han triple woven, and festooned from right to left to form a semi-circle, rather han being attached at a high point on the right side then drooping down to the isor on the left side, which supposedly was the common position for the worsted ands. NA

States and Great Britain to the brink of war.[12] These horsemen were to have a leather cap or helmet, ornamented with white tipped blue feathers, that for privates were not to measure more than 10 inches. The top of the helmet was to have bearskin attached. The former oval plate from the 1800 helmet was discontinued. The front of the cap now was to display the brass (subsequently changed to "white metal") letters "USLD," standing for the U.S. Light Dragoons.[13] Another change came in May 1808, with the substitution of leopard skin for the bearskin band previously specified! Evidently the cap also had a white horsehair crest.[14]

The 1808 expansion of the Jeffersonian army likewise included a Regiment of Light Artillery, consisting of ten companies of gunners who were to be mobile, often through the use of horses. One of the batteries was commanded by Captain George Peter, who along with his men did away with the cocked hat. Instead, Peter's company adopted a leather cap with "erect wings" on the rear and front, with a leather cockade attached to the latter. The cap had a "front piece" (visor) as well. A red plume with its stem resting on the lower edge of the crown was at first specified, but on May 21, 1808, Secretary of War Henry Dearborn wanted a "Blue feather, tipt with Red...the feathers of privates not to exceed ten inches in length" to be used. These were to be "real fathers, well made." Additionally, according to June instructions for contractors making the cap, the front was to have "USLA" in Roman letters of "good brass."[15] In most respects, then, this headgear type and its dragoon counterpart had a similar outline, the accessories probably being the basic distinguishing feature, although with no extant examples for comparison it is difficult to draw definite conclusions.

Yet a third unit spawned by the 1808 war scare, the Regiment of Riflemen, was to have a cap as well, the front of which was to bear brass



The variation of the front plate on this specimen of an 1813 pattern infantry cap may indicate that this piece was worn by an officer. SI

1 1/2-inch "in length" Roman letters "USRR."[16] These were to have brass tongues that allowed them to be attached to the front of the cap, which was to be of "jacked leather" and lined with linen. The prototype had yellow cloth binding in front, but the commissary general of the army allowed that one-inch brass trim could be employed instead. He also specified a green feather tipped in black measuring ten inches in height for privates. Finally a cockade was called for. With these elements decided upon, contracts were let in Washington, DC, and Philadelphia, in the latter case with George Green & Son and Samuel Dallam, Saddler, respectively to produce these "yeoman" crowned caps.[17]

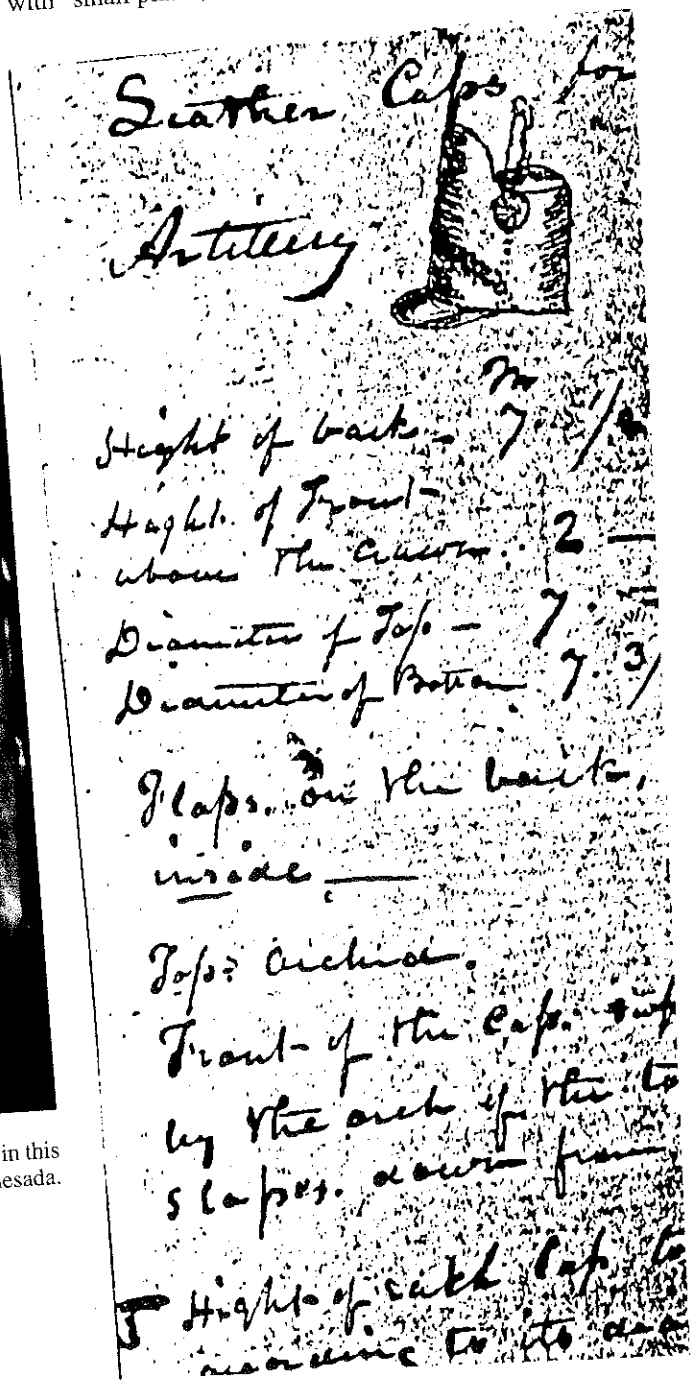
A few years after the Rifle Regiment was outfitted in their special head dress a new cap was adopted for infantry rank and file (including company grade officers, while field grade officers retained their chapeaus). In 1811 orders were released that these foot soldiers would give up their cocked hats for black felt or beaver caps. These were described as standing from 6 7/8 to 7 1/4 inches in height with a 2 1/2 inch visor and having cords and tassels, along with a front plate that di eagle, the regimental number, and branch designation (i.e., i

The following year, 1812, regulations published in Feb vided other details as to headgear for not only the infantry, b U.S. Army as a whole. To begin with, the light artillery cap

> Black, seven inches high, the crown eight & a half diameter; the visor two & a half inches broad, lined wi leather; a gold band & tassel falling from the crown of t on the right side; gilt plate in front; plume white, tippe red, length 6 1/4 inches; cockade, black leather.[19]

Captain I.B. Crane of the Third U.S. Artillery in artillerymen at Sackets Harbor in fact had adopted "the new which are raised in front, such as generally issued to the In with "small plates," and "pompons white tip'd with red."[20]

An excavated specimen of an infantry cap plate for the 1813 pattern cap, in this case from Ft. Marks in the Florida Panhandle. Photograph by A.M. de Quesada. ADEQ



ous year by Britain's troops, despite the fact that England and the United States were engaged in a war at the time![21] Unlike the felt caps, which were subject to damage from rain and other forms of moisture, the leather types theoretically could withstand the elements better. In late 1812 Callender Irvine, the commissary general of purchases for the U.S. Army at the time, summed up the reasons for this change in a letter to Secretary of War William Eustis, contending the leather cap for infantry, artillery, light artillery, and riflemen was "preferable as to appearance, comfort, durability, and on the score of economy...."[22]

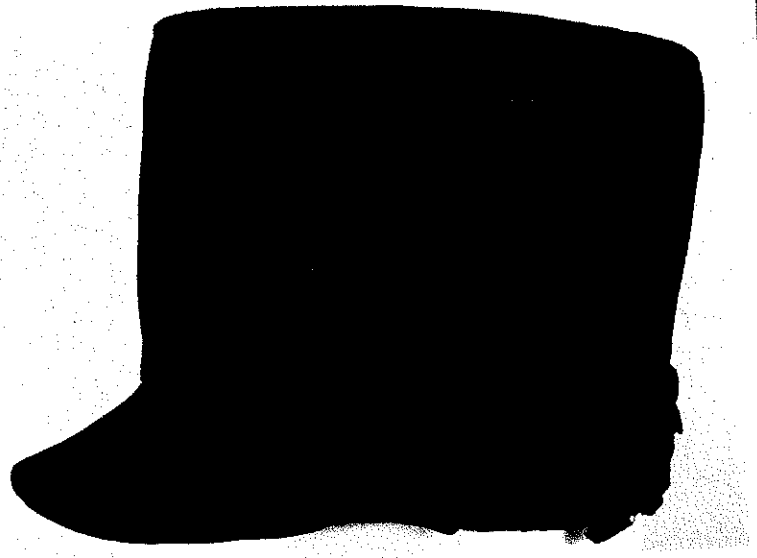
Early the next year the secretary of war approved the new cap's design, but called for the rear hood that folded down to protect the neck to be held in place by buttons when not in use, rather than by hooks as originally proposed by Irvine.[23] At first, contracts all let in March 1813 called for "a molding 'round the Cap to be made of Block tin," and for a ring to be "affixed on each side of the said Cap, to place the band & Tassels...."[24] By the following month the metallic trim was replaced with a painted white edging.[25] Shortly thereafter the caps were available and issued to the troops.

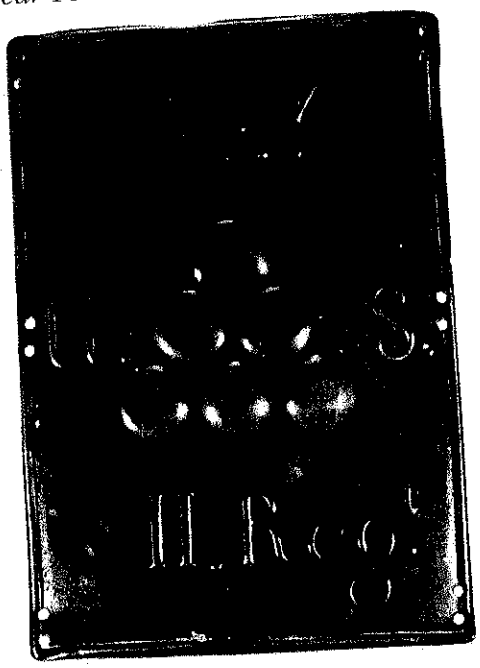
The response was not always as desired. Although Irvine thought the design was neat and well proportioned, and the workmanship adequate, an officer stationed at Ft. Niagara, New York, found the style wanting. He made a number of suggestions to improve the caps. Subse-

fantry cap with a variant diamond-shaped plate similar to the 1812 pattern fleman plate. A portion of the triple weave cord also is evident. JCN

esign of the 1814 pattern infantry cap plate. Courtesy of J. Duncan Campbell. A

Front and back of an 1814 pattern Regiment of Riflemen cap plate. JCN





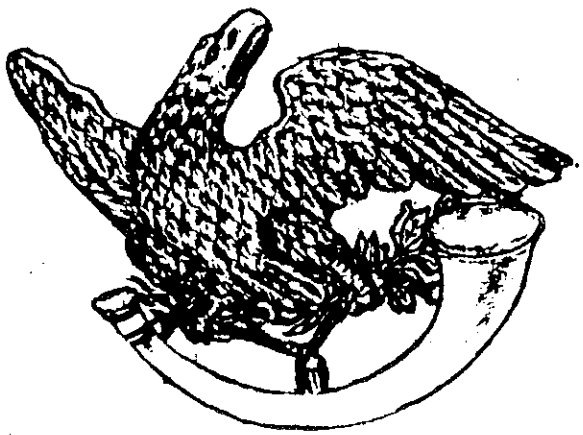
A circa 1812 Sec
Artillery cap plate.

Side and interior view of the "Yeoman" style cap for members of the Regiment of Riflemen. Some artillery units were issued this pattern as well. JCN

quently one of Irvine's subordinates, George Flomerfelt, act orders from his superior, inspected more than 7,000 of the c inventory. Upon examination of the specimens, Flomerfelt f nearly thirty percent of the articles did not conform to spec He also made it known that the varnish used to coat the leath tended to crack. As a recourse he suggested painting the l early 1814 some 15,000 more caps were ordered for infantr 1,200 for artillerymen from the New York City firm of Robe most of these being more closely in line with the model soug ernment officials.[26]

The caps as adopted consisted of a nearly cylindrical le with a high front piece that rose above the crown by app three inches, the former element being attached separately. In skin served as a sweatband. There also was a short linen lir drawstring.[27]

One contemporary illustration of infantrymen rendered Hamilton Smith, a British officer who painted a waterco American soldiers and officers in 1816, depicted this cap wit sories.[28] This included the simple cap plate at first referred but subsequently replaced by somewhat more substantial versions bearing an eagle, drum, and flag motif.[29] Therea



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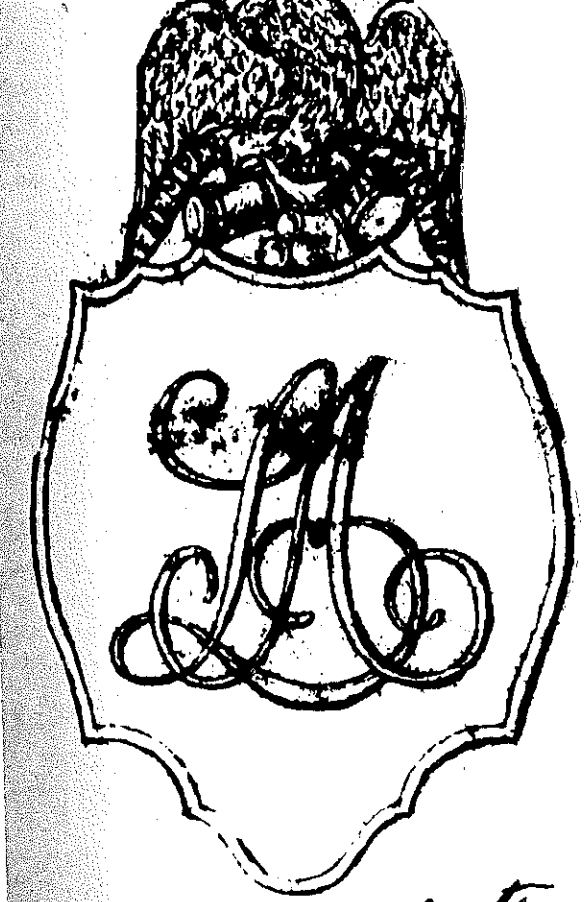
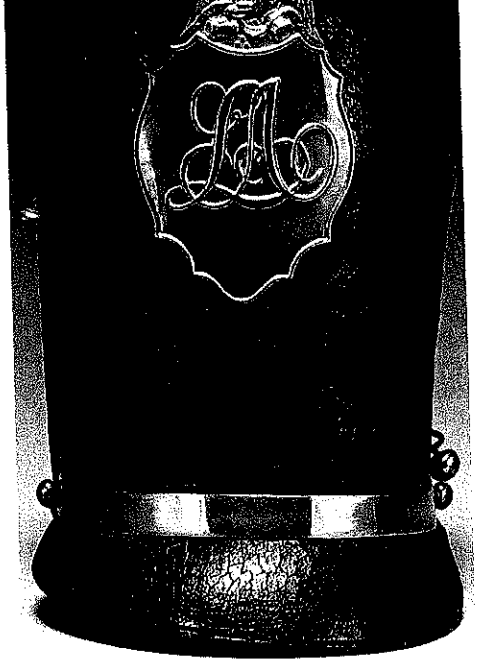


Sketch of the yellow metal "second pattern" 1814 Light Artillery cap plate. Courtesy of J. Duncan Campbell

An example of the 1814 pattern Corps of Artillery cap plate. JCN



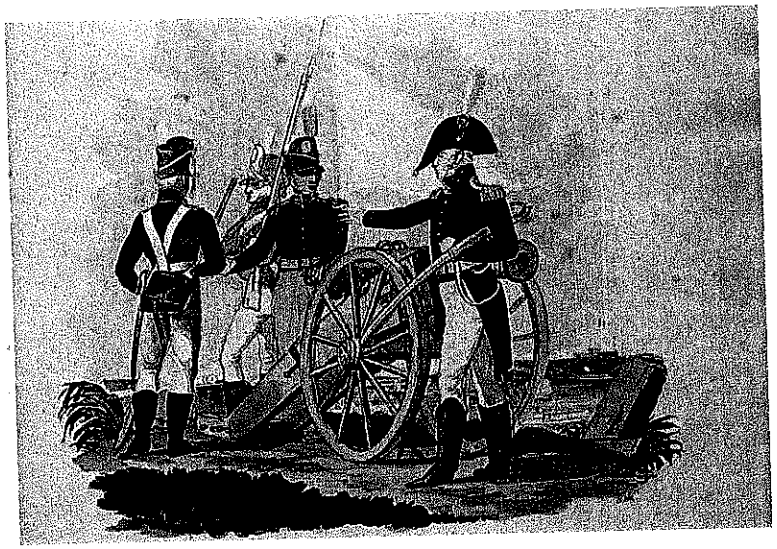
A leather U.S. Light Artillery cap with plate of the 1814 pattern. Photograph by Mark Sexton. ADA#103,346. PEI

variations on this ornamentation came into being. In some instances, no plate at all may have been attached.[30] The original plates were of white metal, but difficulty in obtaining items of this material and keeping them polished eventually led to the substitution of brass plates, as well as brass eagles on the black leather die cut cockades of the caps.

While variants of these accessories existed, the worsted pompons ultimately became more uniform. During the War of 1812 they evidently came in white for infantry, white tipped with red for artillery, and green for riflemen, but by 1818 "pompoms for all the caps" were to be white, and plumes were no longer to be used. Regardless of the color, these worsted pompons accented the left side, and at its base a black leather cockade with the eagle was called for.[31] A worsted band and tassel was prescribed to complete the cap. These either ran diagonally across the front, or in some instances were draped across the front and back, suspended from brass rings attached to the body by wires.[32]

The new "stovepipe" infantry cap and its accessories varied in quality and appearance, owing to the fact that stocks were obtained from

Right: Annotations on Smith's portrait of a major general and a staff officer in 1816 included an image of the latter individual's "Black bicorn with gold tassels at each end," while he noted the former officer had a "Black bicorn with gold lace, tassels, cockade loop and button. Black cockade with gold (?) eagle." By permission of the Harry Eakins Widener Collection. HL

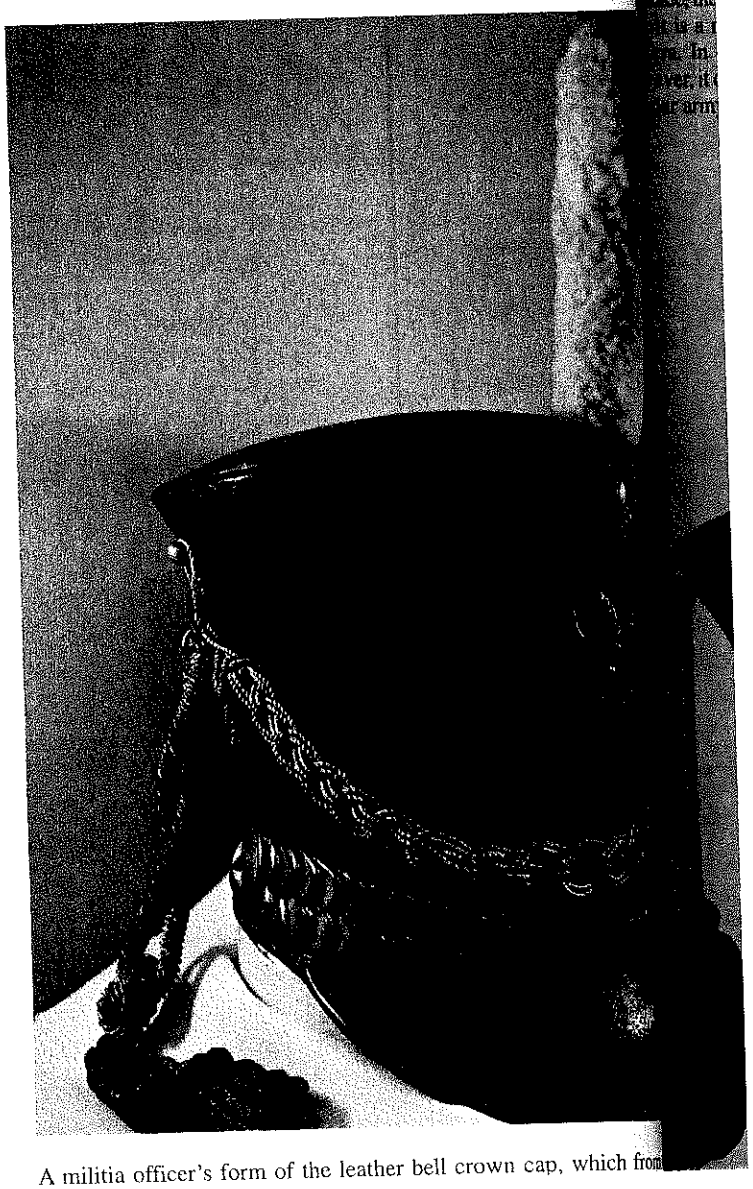


Charles Hamilton Smith's painting of "United States Artillery" provided a glimpse of the black shako with yellow borer and cords, along with white plume prescribed in 1813. By permission of the Harry Eakins Widener Collection. HL

assorted makers and at different times. Variations included not only cap bodies, but also as noted the plates and even pompons.[33]

Additionally, this pattern did not completely replace the "yeoman crown" cap, a pattern that had a top that was larger than the base. Indeed, the rifle regiments were authorized this headgear from 1812 through 1815, while certain infantry regiments some artillerymen likewise evidently retained the pattern, at part of the war, despite the fact that Irvine indicated no more were being made by 1814. Some two years later Captain Will of the Corps of Artillery commented on the leather artillery cap by that time had been adopted for gunners.[34] As of February ther clarification provided for field officers of the Rifle Re retain the chapeau, while company officers would have the with yellow band, tassels, and eagle and green plume, as w commissioned officers and the soldiers.[35]

Even as the cap for foot troops was evolving, so, too, doe that the dragoon helmet authorized in 1808 was in a state of 1812 orders simply described the piece as "According to pa feather with white top, feather nine inches long." This orna have been attached via a cockade and eagle on specimens is in the war. Evidently this leather helmet was again to bear a p



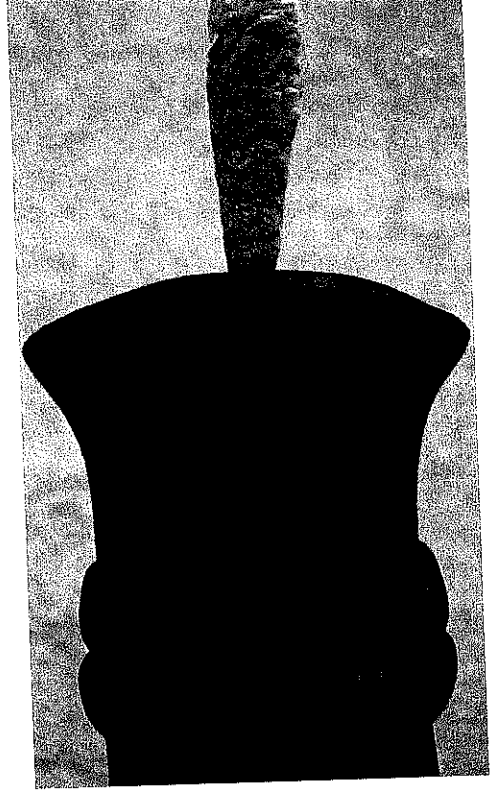
A militia officer's form of the leather bell crown cap, which from

ously applied to designate the horse soldiers.

ing to a similar plate called for in 1800. Specifications for the 1812 pattern did not mention leopard or bearskin trim.[36] Caps made around 1814 through 1815 have no indication of the feather ever being attached, although the white horsehair crest remained. Surviving examples may be part of a contract delivered by Henry Cressman of Philadelphia in May 1815, less than two months before Congress abolished the dragoons as part of the U.S. regular force.[37]

For nearly a decade, the patterns that came into being during the War of 1812 remained regulation, at least for the artillery and infantry. The dragoon helmet, however, was abandoned after horse soldiers disappeared from the rolls on June 15, 1815, as one of many economic moves to reduce the military.[38] Further, the chapeau was retained for generals, staff officers, and certain other officers throughout this period, and in various permutations continued to exist well into the twentieth century.[39]

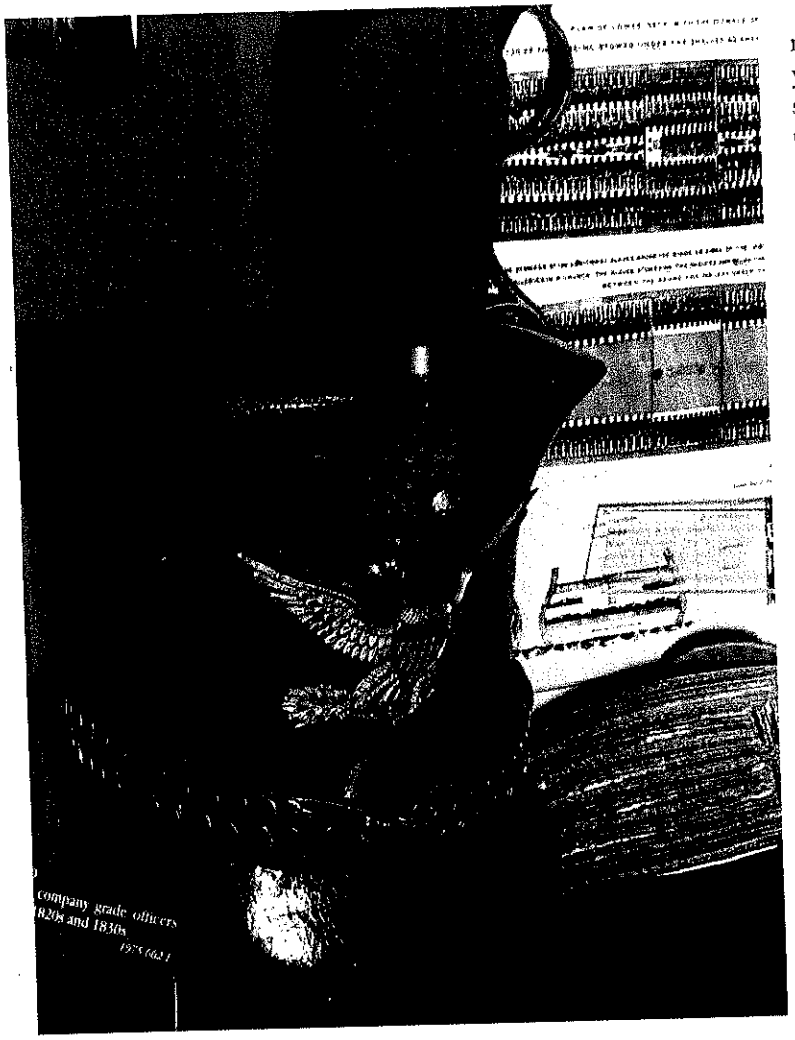
In 1820, the status quo gave way with the introduction of a new leather "bellcrown." This particular nickname aptly described the item in that the top bells out, or is "scuttle-shaped," and is of a type which can be traced back to the Napoleonic era in Russia. Adopted in 1812, the *kiver* of Czar Alexander I's army soon caught the eye of other martial leaders.[40] This fashion ultimately spread to the Prussian, English, and other European forces, and subsequently made its way across the Atlantic.[41]



Another example of the 1821-1832 regulation bell crown with white (pewter) metal chin scale, and eagle prescribed for the infantry. This example does not have the white worsted enlisted cords, the regimental numeral cut into the shield of the eagle, or the infantry button in the center of the cockade, thereby indicating that it is a militia piece of the era. In other respects, however, it conforms to the regular army style. CF

Infantry enlisted 1821 pattern leather cap for a soldier of the Fifth U.S. Infantry. FWSQ

An earlier photograph of the same Fifth U.S. Infantry 1821 pattern enlisted cap, taken in the 1870s, inexplicably depicted three tassels (not two) on the right side, but showed the correct original white pompon. MHS



U.S. Marine Corps company grade office's bell crown of the 1820s through 1830s. Photograph by A.M. de Quesada. USMCM

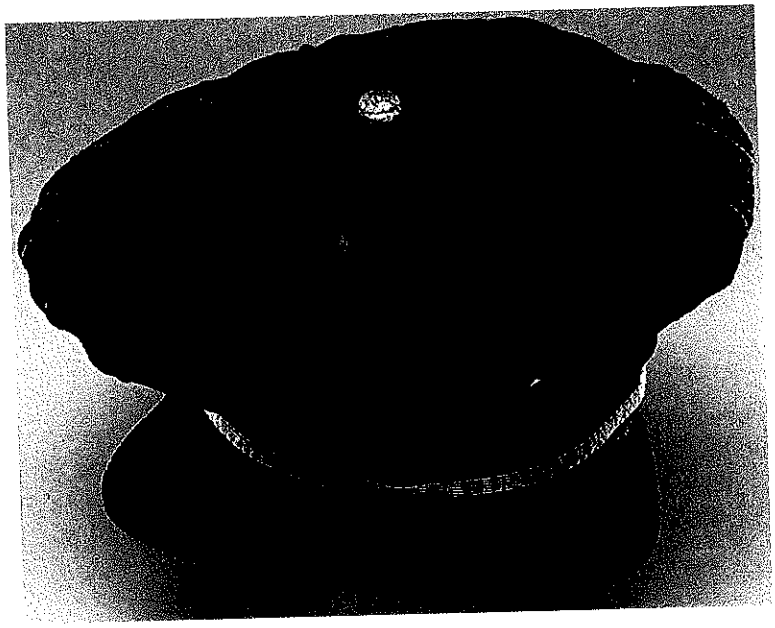
The version that came into being in the United States, while auth rized in April 1820, was not available immediately. By the follow year, however, the *General Regulations for the United States Army* scribed the model for company officers (second lieutenants through c tains) and enlisted men as:

> ...of leather bell crown; gilt scales; yellow eagle, in front, three inches between the tips of the wings, with the number of the regiment cut in the shield; black leather cockade, one and one half inch in diameter, having a small yellow button in the centre, with an eagle impressed on it. Those of enlisted men will be leather, and of the same form as those prescribed for officers; brass scales.[42]

The regulation went on to state:

> Chapeau de bras will be worn by all officers, whether of line or staff, except company officers. Caps will be worn by all company officers when on duty with their companies....

To further set off officers of artillery, "yellow pompons five inch in length" were to be worn, while light artillery officers were to h white pompons with red tops, infantry officers white ones, light inf try officers yellow ones, and rifle company officers green ones. T men in each of these various units were to follow suit in terms of po pon colors.



gold cord and bullion being called for the artillery and rifle officers, and silver cord and bullion for infantry officers. Enlisted artillerymen were to have "yellow worsted cords; those enlisted men of infantry...white worsted; and those of the enlisted men of the rifle corps...green worsted."

A year later, in 1822, a slight adjustment was made in that the chin scales and insignia for infantry was changed from yellow metal to white. Shortly thereafter pewter versions began to be produced and issued with the caps.[43]

Traditionally, promulgation of a new regulation issue item lagged behind its actual distribution to the troops. This was the case for the new cap, although by 1823 all enlisted men were to have them. One cap was provided for each five year enlistment. At the conclusion of this service, the cap was to be returned to the government, unlike other components of the soldier's uniform.[44]

One of the reasons for this close accountability was the cost. The cap was charged to the soldier at $1.50 plus an additional $1.51 for the pompon, tassel, bands, cockade, and insignia. This price likewise included either a foul weather painted linen cover or oilcloth cover made under contract by Benjamin Morange and Son or William Debraufre, respectively. In turn, officers laid out the princely sum of $8.50 to George Armitage for a complete cap, out of a base pay of $75 per month for company officers.[45]

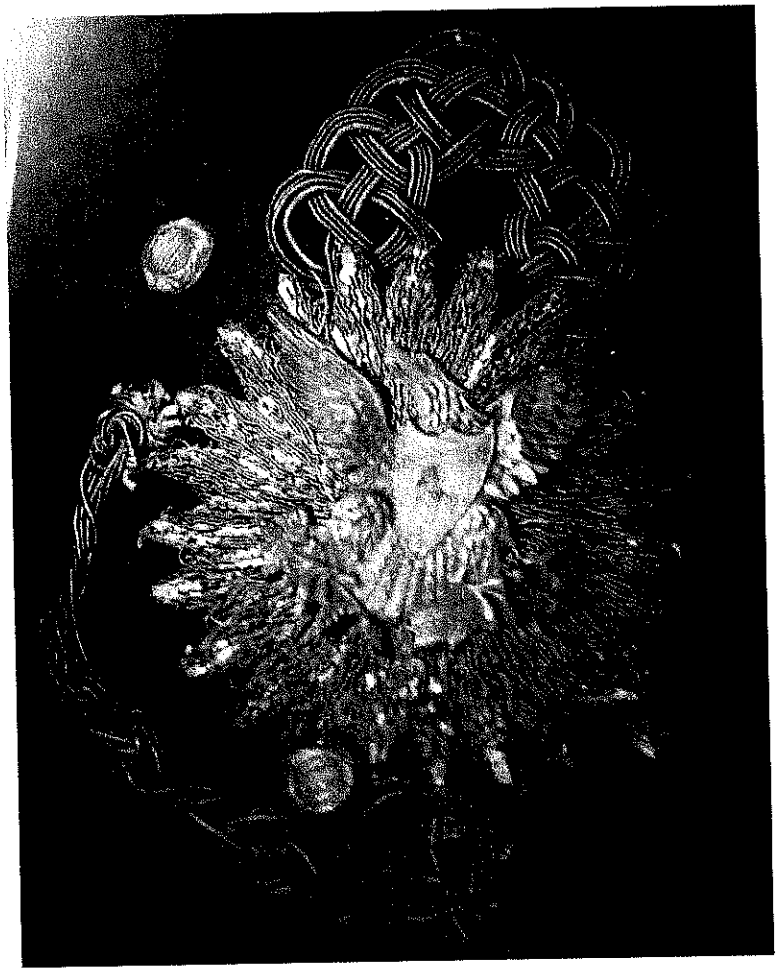
In the case of officers, bands and tassels probably were made of silver or gold bullion, and evidently were plaited. Those for enlisted men, however, were of worsted in white for infantry and yellow for artillery, both styles being provided for by contracts, with John Gethem often receiving orders for these accessories at a cost of $.12 each. These cords were to be ten inches long with a 5/8 inch circumference, and [illegible] to end in two and one-half inch tassels that had a round head from a brass ring, and seem to be the only adornment save the insignia, cockade with button, scales, and pompon.[46]

Thereafter, this cap first authorized in 1820 remained unchanged, except for pompons. For example, according to new uniform regulations adopted in 1825 the pompon for light artillery companies was to be yellow with a red tip, and for light infantry companies the color was to be white with a red top "should the President order one per regiment to take this designation."[47]

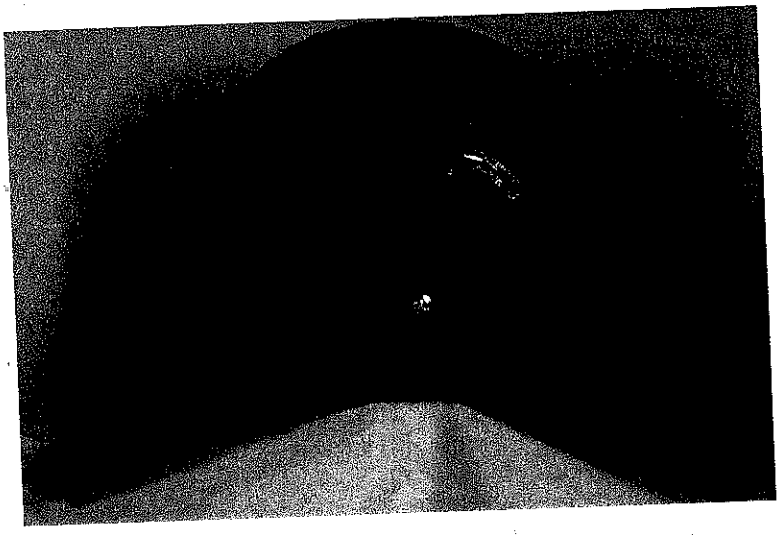
While the "tar bucket" was a thing of beauty to some, it was not an entirely practical item for all occasions. In fact, from time to time over the early years of its existence, the U.S. Army had provided its troops with various sorts of "foraging caps." In certain instances, old issue dress caps were to be dispensed for this purpose, which was the case in 1821 when the secretary of war approved a request to provide surplus 1813 "Waterloo" pattern leather caps to the troops, who could cut them down for fatigue wear.[48] A cheap gray cloth cap also was produced in that same year through the army's Schuylkill Arsenal in Philadelphia. It could be rolled to fit in the knapsack, and probably had some sort of flaps so the headpiece could be extended to protect the face and chin.[49]

This style was short-lived though, and in turn was replaced by a new forage cap approved in 1825, although the gray cap continued to be used for two or more years in some units. The 1825-pattern forage cap was to be of dark blue "sergeant's cloth," a fairly good grade of wool, to which a flat unbound leather "poke," or bill, was fastened. Worsted tape in branch colors (white was for infantry and yellow for artillery) encircled the base of enlisted caps, while company officers had silver or gold lace and displayed the regimental numeral on their *chakos*, as this item was called in the 1825 uniform regulations. Enlisted men, on the other hand, were to have company letter of white or yellow metal that

Side view of Thomas S. Jesup's c. 1825 chapeau de bras. Jesup served as quartermaster general of the United States Army from 1818 through 1860. WJS



Right: Detail of the cockade of Jesup's chapeau. WJS



The chapeau remained in use throughout most of the post-Napoleonic era, as evidenced by this example worn by William Jenkins Worth as a major of the Ordnance Department. Worth was promoted to this rank on May 30, 1832. This item dates from that period. FWS&HM

was pierced at several points so it could be sewn to the headbands. Once again the color depended on the branch, as did the cuff-sized branch button set into the center of the chako's top.[50] From this button twenty twisted 1/4 inch worsted cords radiated and ended at the top of the band. The color of these cords may have been dark blue, although on the existing specimens they are dark green, perhaps having changed to this color over a period of time from fading.

Only one chako was issued per each five year enlistment, at a cost of $1.70. The fact that this cap was worn more extensively than the bell crown led to some complaints about the fact that no foul weather cover was provided for it as protection against the elements. Despite this shortcoming, the cap was far more suitable for most martial functions than the "tar bucket."[51]

Perhaps the fact that no inclement weather accessories were made for the chako led to further consideration of the matter of headgear for field and fatigue duty. For this reason and others, the head of the army Clothing Bureau noted that a new type of cap was about to be selected as a replacement for the 1825 pattern. Adoption of this new style triggered the next round in the evolution of martial headgear.

Notes:

1 Richard H. Kohn, *Eagle and Sword: The Beginnings of the Military Establishment in America* (New York: The Free Press, 1975), offers an overview of the traces the early years of what became the United States Army from the American Revolution to 1802, and thereby provides an in depth analysis lacking in the foregoing brief introduction. John Mollo, *Military Fashion* (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1972), 45.

3 It should be noted that in January 1799, the War Office issued orders that the black cockade would bear a white metal eagle, in the case of non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates of tin. J. Duncan Campbell and Edgar M. Howell, *American Military Insignia 1800-1851* (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution, 1963), 9.

4 Howell and Kloster, *United States Military Headgear to 1854*, 2-3. According to John R. Elting, ed., *Military Uniforms in America: Volume II Years of Growth, 1796-1851* (San Rafael, CA: Presidio Press, 1977), 6, in 1802 the creation of the Corps of Artillerists and Engineers that were stationed at West Point had by that time adopted red plumes for the enlisted men.

5 General Orders, Headquarters, Fort Adams [Mississippi], March 30, 1800, Record Group 94, Records of the Adjutant General's Officer, National Archives, Washington, DC (hereinafter referred to as RG94, AGO, NA).

6 As noted by Earl J. Coates and James L. Kotchan, *Don Troiani's Soldiers in America, 1754-1865* (Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 1998), 117, this style was adopted in 1812, but "During the 120 years of wear, it underwent a series of changes both in form and trimmings."

7 Howell and Kloster, *United States Military Headgear to 1854*, 3. Uniform Regulations, February 1812, General Orders and Orders, Southern Department, Vol. 677, RG98, U.S. Army Continental Commands, NA. The latter document called for the chapeau of infantry field officers to consist of a fan "not less than 9 1/2 inches, or more than 11 inches high & not less than 16 nor more than 18 in length, bound round the edge with a black ribbon, one half inch wide, with a white button, silver tassels and loop; black cockade 3 1/2 inches in diameter, with a silver eagle in the center. The cockade to rise about one inch above the brim; a white plume to rise 8 inches above the brim of the hat." This same February 1812 pronouncement likewise prescribed the same style for all artillery officers and enlisted men, except that the button and eagle would be of yellow metal and the plume would project only 6 inches above the head gear of enlisted personnel while it was to be 8 inches high for officers, while surgeons and surgeon mates were to have the chapeau as well with "a black cockade & eagle & black Ostrich feather."

8 Howell and Kloster, *United States Army Headgear to 1854*, 9. For additional discussion of this subject see, William K. Emerson, "Cockades and Eagles," *Military Collector and Historian* XXXV No. 3 (Fall 1983): 104-112.

9 Kloster and Howell, *United States Army Headgear to 1854*, 8-9.

10 General Orders, Headquarters, Fort Adams [Mississippi], March 30, 1800, RG94, AGO, NA.

11 Ibid. These plates were struck in thin brass and backfilled with lead. The oval device then was attached by a double wire fastener soldered to the back according to, Campbell and Howell, *American Military Insignia*, 7.

12 During June 1807, after HMS *Leopard* "attacked and disabled the USS *Chesapeake* and impressed several members of the crew" caused a wave of anti-English sentiment to grow. This affair fueled national politics as "war hawks" clamored for retaliation. Maurice Matloff, ed., *American Military History* (Washington, DC: Office of the Chief of Military History United States Army, 1969), 122-3

ment to be made of this material. Campbell and Howell, *American Military Insignia*, 11.

14 Joseph M. Thatcher, "U.S. Light Dragoon Belt Plates and Helmets, 1808-1812," *Military Collector and Historian* XXVII No. 1 (Spring 1975): 16-18. Similar headgear of the regular army's light dragoon helmet was worn during and long after the War of 1812 era by some state troops. For some examples consult: Frederick P. Todd, "Uniforms in Connecticut, 1784-1820," *Military Collector and Historian* XXV No. 3 (Fall 1973): 126-39; Philip G. Maples, "Uniform of the 5th Regiment Cavalry Connecticut Militia ca. 1835," *Military Collector and Historian XXXIV No. 4 (Winter 1982)*: 7; Charles Cureton and Fitzhugh McMaster, 4th Cavalry Regiment, South Carolina Militia, 1841," *Military Collector and Historian* XXXIII No. 3 (Fall 1981): 123; Philip G. Maples and Anthony Gero, "Helmets of the Lockport Light Dragoons, 1838 To 1860," *Military Collector and Historian* XXXII No. 4 (Winter 1980): 155-6.

15 Elting, *Military Uniforms in America*, Vol. II, 4.

16 John T. Powell, "Regiment of Riflemen Cap Insignia, 1808-1812," XXVII *Military Collector and Historian* No. 4 (Winter 1975): 180, illustrates an excavated set of this insignia from a U.S. military site occupied between 1798 and 1810. See also, Campbell and Howell, *American Military Insignia*, 11.

17 Marko Zlatich and Detmar Finke, "The Uniform of the United States Rifle Regiment 1808-1810," *Military Collector and Historian* L No. 3 (Fall 1998): 123.

18 Howell and Kloster, *United States Army Headgear to 1854*, 15.

19 Uniform Regulations, February 1812, General Orders and Orders, Southern Department, Vol. 677, RG98, NA.

20 J. Crane to C. Irvine, August 19, 1819, Consolidated Correspondence Files, Office of the Quartermaster General, "Uniforms," RG92, NA, hereinafter referred to as CCF, OQMG. The original plan was for the heavy and light artillery to have yeoman crowned caps, as were riflemen. C. Irvine to A. Stetson, August 5, 1813, LS, Book B, Commissary General of Purchases (CGP), OQMG, RG92, NA.

21 See, Elting, *Military Uniforms in America*, II, 72, 76, and 80, for examples of the British progenitor of the cap, sometimes referred to various as the "Wellington," "Ironstone," "Waterloo," or "Belgic" shako. Further, Robert H. Rankin, *Military Headdress: A Pictorial History of Military Headgear from 1660 to 1914* (London: Arms and Armour, 1976), 17-18, offers additional information as well as two photographs of specimens clearly depicting this item's influence on the U.S. model. For additional information consult, Alex R. Cattley, "The British Infantry Shako," *Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research* XV No. 60 (Winter 1936): 188-208. The British actually took their inspiration for this design from Napoleon's Legion Portuguese, but had modified the look to the degree that the Duke of Wellington wanted a side mounted plume rather tan a one in front. Cecil P. Lawson, *A History of Uniforms of the British Army* (London: Kaye & Ward, Ltd., 1967), 18-21.

22 C. Irvine to W. Eustis, December 26, 1812, LS, Book B, 1813, CGP, OQMG, RG92, NA.

23 W. Eustis to C. Irvine, January 23, 1813, LS, Microcopy No. 6, Roll 6, Vol. 6, Secretary of War, 1808-1889, RG107, NA.

24 "Dallam," "Foering," and "Gilder" CCF, OQMG, RG92, NA. Each of these contracts called for the delivery of 1,000 caps, the dates being March 20, 1813, March 15, 1813, and March 10, 1813, respectively.

25 "Primrose" and "Lukens" April 10, 1813, and April 12, 1813, ibid.

26 Frederick C. Gaede and Stephen E. Osman, "Notes on the 1813 Infantry Cap" *Military Collector and Historian* LXII No. 3 (Fall 1991): 110. This article is highly in

the cap which "is believed to have been first introduced in 1814." This version is "distinguished by having the raised front made integral to the one-piece body, rather than being separately attached as on the 1813 contract caps."

For more on Smith read: René Chartrand, "The United States Forces of 1812-1816 as Drawn by Charles Hamilton Smith, Officer and Spy" *Military Collector and Historian* XXXV No. 4 (Winter 1983): 142-9.

Ibid., 104, notes that only one of the three 1813-pattern contract caps shows evidence of have a front plate. According to Elting, *Military Uniforms in America*, Vol. II, 44, the U.S. Corps of Artificers wore a similar cap, but this one was made of felt "bound with gold lace" on the front, with a leather visor attached. A yellow band and tassels, along with a brass colored metal plate, a black rose cockade with a gilt eagle, and a green plume completed this headdress.

Campbell, *American Military Insignia*, 12-16, illustrates a number of variations of the 1812-1814 period. Gaede and Osman, "Notes on the 1813 Infantry Cap": 111, indicates that some caps did not bear plates.

Ibid., 112, offers considerable details about plates, eagles, and cockades.

During the War of 1812 and onwards to about 1818 the cords were made in the main by Sebastian Salade of Philadelphia. These came in white cotton for infantry and yellow for artillery at a cost of $.08 per set. Sometimes white ones were dyed at the army's clothing facility at Schuykill Arsenal. Although worsted ones were called for in 1816, cotton evidently continued to be used instead. Stephen E. Osman, "Bands and Tassels on the 1812 Army Cap," *Military Collector and Historian* XLII No. 4 (Winter 1990): 147.

Stephen E. Osman, "Some Additional Notes on the 1813 Infantry Cap and Trimmings," *Military Collector and Historian* LXIV No. 3 (Fall 1992): 135.

See Elting, *Military Uniforms in America*, Vol. II, 26-29, 36-37, and 40-1; and Gaede and Osman, "Notes on the 1813 Infantry Cap": 111. For Captain Gates' complaints about the height of the leather cap see, Detmar H. Finke, "An Additional Note on the Leather Artillery Cap, 1815/16," *Military Collector and Historian* XLIII No. 3 (Fall 1991): 115. This article further notes that on February 2, 1817, joint orders from the Adjutant General and Inspector General's Offices required the infantry leather cap to be worn by all corps.

H.C. McBarron, "American Military Dress in the War of 1812," Pt. IV "Regular Riflemen" *Military Affairs* V (1940): 140.

Uniform Regulations, February 1812, General Orders and Orders, Southern Department, Vol. 677, RG98, NA.

Howell and Kloster, *United States Army Headgear to 1854*, 9-14.

According to Coates and Kochan, *Don Troiani's Soldiers in America*, 97, most of the dragoon caps from the 1814 contract "were delivered into stores and never issued, which accounts for their mint condition today."

See for example, Leonard F. Ball, "William M. Boyce, First U.S. Infantry, 1822-1836," *Military Collector and Historian* XXIV No. 2 (Summer 1972): 44-47, for an excellent example of a chapeau worn by a regular U.S. Army officer in the post-War of 1812 era, but prior to a new pattern being adopted in 1832.

Haythornewaite, *Uniforms of the Napoleonic Wars in Color, 1796-1814* (New York: Hippocrene Books, Inc., 1973), 167. See also Philip J. Haythornewaite, *Uniforms of the Retreat from Moscow, 1812* (New York: Hippocrene Books, Inc., 1976), 153 and 158.

Mollo, *Military Fashion*, 131-132, and 140, illustrates Russian examples and a Prussian one. Rankin, *Military Headdress*, 22, likewise illustrates an other ranks shako for the Prussian *Landwehr* infantry c. 1815. Although the body in all instances of these European specimens are felt with a leather top and visor, the basic outline is that of a "bell-top." It should be noted that Howell and Kloster, United States Army Headgear to 1854, 19, states: "by 1830 almost every European army except the French" adopted the style."

U.S. War Department, *General Regulations of the Army; or, Military Institutes* (Philadelphia: M. Carey & Sons, 1821), 155. Unless otherwise stated, the same reference is the source for subsequent quotations concerning this item.

Howell and Kloster, *United States Army Headgear to 1854*, 19.

General Orders No. 53, Adjutant Generals Office, August 14, 1822. Hereinafter referred to as GO No., AGO, and date.

Howell and Kloster, *United States Military Headgear to 1854*, 20-21.

Osman, "Bands and Tassels of the 1821 Army Cap": 148.

War Department, *General Regulations for the Army; or, Military Institutes* (Washington, DC: Davis & Force, printers, 1825), 36 and 157.

Gaede and Osman, "Notes on the 1813 Infantry Cap": 113.

Howell and Kloster, *United States Army Headgear to 1854*, 22.

Stephen E. Osman, "Company Letters for Regular Army Forage Caps, 1825-1872," *Military Collector and Historian* XL No. 4 (Winter 1988): 157, illustrates several excavated examples of the early letters, which were first obtained from contract by George Armitage of Philadelphia. According to this article: "By 1831, forage caps were routinely requisitioned and issued to units 'with letters.'"

The above information was taken from, Howell and Kloster, *United States Army Head gear to 1854*, 22-25. Further, according to a "Comparative Statement of the cost of clothing for the United States army during the years 1827, 1828, and 1829" and a "Comparative Statement of the cost of clothing for the United States army during the years 1830, 1831, and 1832," forage caps were charged at $1.63, $1.61, and $1.29 in 1827, 1828, and 1829, respectively versus $1.49 in 1830 and $1.39 in both 1831 and 1832, for infantry and artillery. This was as compared to $1.35 in 1827 and 1828, and $1.31 in 1829, while from 1830 through 1832 the costs were $1.31, $1.30, and $1.37 1/2 for the leather cap, and additional sum of $.20 for pompons, and $.12 for bands and tassels during the same period. Cockades and eagle were to be $.06 in 1830, $.4 1/2 in 1831 and 1832, whereas cap balls (to hold the pompon?) were charged at $.05 in 1830 and at $.04 in the following two years. Additionally, cap plates for artillery were $.08 in 1830, and $.04 thereafter, as compared to sets of scales which ran $.45 in 1830 and $.30 for 1831 and 1832 in contrast to infantry plates that were $.08 in 1830, $.05 in 1831, and $.05 1/2 in 1832 with the scales being $.45 in 1830 and $.40 in 1831 through 1832. Finally, the oil cloth cover for these caps were to be issued at $.41 in 1830, and $.30 3/4 in 1831 and 1832. Microfilm Collections, Box 82, U.S. Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, PA, hereinafter referred to as USAMHI.