

THE ARTILLERY DETACHMENT AT FORT MEIGS, 1813

by
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On 23 May 1813 a General Muster and Inspection of all of the troops in the Garrison at Fort Meigs was ordered by Colonel John Miller, Acting Commandant.¹ The first paragraph of the Garrison Orders for that day reads:

Camp Meigs May 23rd 1813

Garrison Orders

An inspection of all the troops in the garrison will be made by Major Hukill A, I, Genl on the last day of this Inst-- of whom Blank Muster Rolls may be had by the Commandants of Companies on application being made--²

Even then, the muster rolls were to be made out in triplicate. One of the muster rolls of the artillery detachment of the garrison survived and is now in the Archival Collections of the Ohio Historical Society. This muster roll [FIG. 1], entitled, "Muster Roll of a Detachment of Troops — under the command of Capt Daniel Cushing of the Second Regiment of Artillery in the service of the United States, from the date of the last muster to the thirty-first day of May 1813 inclusive."³; is very detailed. In looking over the information on the muster roll, Cushing's Detachment appears to have been an exception in an army where disease and desertion accounted for most of the losses in man power.

Judging from the contents of the muster roll it was the first one made of the detachment since Cushing's original company was mustered into Federal Service in September or October of 1812. The information on the form indicates that the original strength of the company was 43 officers and men. This broke down into the following: one captain, one first lieutenant, one second lieutenant, three sergeants, three corporals, three artificers and thirty-one privates. When the company marched out of Franklinton (Columbus), Ohio to join the Northwest Army on 1 January 1813, it was 39 men strong. The three artificers had been detached for extra duty by order of a Colonel Morrison, the order dated 1 January 1813,⁴ and one man was left in hospital. Captain Cushing states in his diary that "January 1, 1813 — I left Franklinton with my company for Upper Sandusky by way of Worthington and Delaware — marched with 34 non-commissioned officers and privates, myself and three lieutenants"⁵ Exclusive of the extra lieutenant, this leaves a difference of two men between what was recorded on the muster roll and in Captain Cushing's diary. Possibly others were left behind and not recorded or rejoined the company at a later date. For the purpose of continuity within the information on the muster roll the number thirty-nine as the number of men with Cushing will be used.

When Captain Cushing's Company arrived at the rapids of the Maumee River, the site of Fort Meigs, on 6 February 1813 his effective strength should have been forty officers and men.⁶ The man left behind in hospital had died on 2 February, one man had been placed on detached duty (no

order or date given) and two men had joined the company on 20 and 21 January.

From the time of their arrival at Fort Meigs to the beginning of the First Siege of Fort Meigs, 1 May to 9 May 1813, some major changes were made in the detachment. On 5 March two small groups of men were attached to Cushing's command by the order of General Harrison.⁷ One, a party of the Seventh Infantry under Lieutenant Samuel Kercheval⁸ of the same regiment but left at the blockhouse at Portage in the care of Lieutenant Thomas Mountjoy⁹ of the Seventeenth Infantry, consisted of two corporals, one musician, one artificer and fourteen privates. The other group had no unit designation but consisted of one sergeant, one corporal and seven privates. On 6 March a corporal of the original company died. On 16 March a private from the second attached unit died and on 26 March a private of the original company died. On 8 April two privates from the original company, one of whom was killed, were captured by Indians. On the following day the Indians captured another private from the original company. On 6 March the second lieutenant of the company went on furlough and on 25 March, after two false starts, the first lieutenant of the company went on furlough.¹⁰ All of these changes would have brought the total strength of the company to one officer and fifty-eight enlisted men by the beginning of the First Siege of Fort Meigs.

Between 1 May and 31 May, the date of the muster, the detachment again increased in strength. On 5 May, by order of General Harrison, the remains of a company of the Light Artillery consisting of one corporal, two musicians and seven privates was attached to Cushing's Detachment. The commanding officer, Captain Samuel Price,¹¹ and the rest of the company were all killed or captured in the fighting with the British and Indians on the same day. On 12 May a private of the original company was discharged as a result of wounds received during the siege. On 15 and 25 May two more privates of the original company died at Fort Meigs. The final change to the detachment took place on 31 May when a private of the Fourth Infantry was taken in charge by Major Hukill and mustered with Cushing's Detachment. By the end of May 1813 Captain Daniel Cushing's Detachment of Artillery at Fort Meigs contained sixty-seven officers and enlisted men.

Captain Cushing's remarks on the muster roll state the following alterations to the unit since the last muster roll; 2 joined, 1 discharged, 0 deserted, 0 reduced, 1 promoted, 7 dead, 0 transferred, 38 attached, 2 on furlough, and 2 in captivity. On the back of the muster roll is a recapitulation of the condition of the detachment which breaks down as follows:

	Capt.	Lieut.	Sergt.	Corp.	Artic.	Music.	Privt.	Total
Present fit for								
Duty	1	0	4	4	0	2	32	43
Sick present		0	0	2	1	1	20	24
On								
Detachment		0	0	0	0	0	1	1
On Extra								
Service		0	0	0	3	0	0	3
On Furlough		2	0	0	0	0	0	2
In Captivity		0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Discharged		0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Dead		0	0	1	0	0	6	7
Aggregate	1	2	4	7	4	3	62	83

The muster roll lists a total of eighty-three officers and enlisted men assigned or attached to the Artillery Detachment at Fort Meigs. Of this number Captain Cushing had a total of sixty-seven, himself included on hand at Fort Meigs as of 31 May 1813. Of this number only forty-three were fit for duty. The record of Captain Cushing's Detachment is amazing in an army where there was a high rate of desertions and an even higher rate of death from disease and speaks well for the abilities of Captain Daniel Cushing.

NOTES

1. Colonel William H. Powell, *List of Officers of the Army of the United States from 1779 to 1900* (U.S.A., 1900), p. 84. (John

Miller, Colonel, Nineteenth U.S. Infantry Regiment, 6 July 1812.)

Harlow Lindley, ed., *Fort Meigs and the War of 1812, Orderly Book of Cushing's Company and Personal Diary of Captain Daniel Cushing* (Columbus, Ohio Historical Society, 1975), pp. 27 and 31. (Between 16 May and 25 June 1813 Colonel John Miller was acting commandant at Fort Meigs due to the indisposition of the post commandant, General Green Clay, Kentucky Militia).

- Lindley, p. 29.
- Muster Roll of Cushing's Detachment*, Larwill Collection, Library Archives, Ohio Historical Society.
- Ibid.*
- Lindley, p. 86.
- Ibid.*, p. 98.
- Powell, p. 68, (William Henry Harrison, Major General, Commanding the 8th Military District; Kentucky and Ohio and the territories of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Missouri).
- Ibid.*, p. 78, (Samuel Kercheval, First Lieutenant, Seventh U.S. Infantry Regiment, 6 April 1813).
- Ibid.*, p. 82, (T. Mountjoy, First Lieutenant, Seventeenth U.S. Infantry Regiment, 13 March 1813).
- Ibid.*, p. 75, (Joseph H. Larwill, First Lieutenant, Second U.S. Artillery Regiment, 6 July 1812; Alexander Meek, Second Lieutenant not listed in Powell). See also Lindley, pp. 104 and 107.
- Powell, p. 73, (Samuel Price, Captain, U.S. Light Artillery Regiment, 15 August 1811).

MUSTER ROLL of a Detachment of Artillery under the command of Daniel Cushing of the Regiment of Artillery in the service of the United States, from the date of the last muster to the last day of May 1813 inclusive.

No.	NAMES.	RANK.	Dates of Appointment or Enlistment.	To what time Engaged or Enlisted.	NAMES PRESENT.	Remarks and Alterations since the last Muster.
1	Daniel Cushing	Capt.	9 th Jan 1812		Daniel Cushing	
2	Joseph H. Larwill	1 st Lieut.				
3	Alexander Meek	2 nd Lieut.				
4	Thomas Morgan	1 st Lieut.	Jan 24 th 1812	July 29 th 1812	Thomas Morgan	
5	Samuel Kercheval	1 st Lieut.	July 2 nd 1812	July 2 nd 1812	Samuel Kercheval	
6	Isaac Smith	3 rd Lieut.	Nov 13 th 1812	Nov 13 th 1812	Isaac Smith	
7	John Williams	4 th Lieut.			John Williams	
8	William H. Harrison	1 st Lieut.	Aug 23 rd 1812	Aug 23 rd 1812	William H. Harrison	
9	William S. Price	1 st Lieut.	Aug 10 th 1812	Aug 10 th 1812	William S. Price	
10	Isaac Smith	3 rd Lieut.	Aug 11 th 1812	Aug 11 th 1812	Isaac Smith	
11	Michael Spillman	4 th Lieut.			Michael Spillman	
12	Isaac Bowman	5 th Lieut.	24 th Oct 1812	24 th Oct 1812	Isaac Bowman	
13	Joseph Lindsey	6 th Lieut.	24 th Oct 1812	24 th Oct 1812	Joseph Lindsey	
14	John Norton	Private	17 th Sept 1812	17 th Sept 1812	John Norton	
15	Bene Johnson	Private	24 th Oct 1812	24 th Oct 1812	Bene Johnson	
16	John Sedgwick	Private	7 th Sept 1812	7 th Sept 1812	John Sedgwick	
17	John Campbell	Private	31 st Aug 1812	31 st Aug 1812	John Campbell	
18	David Hunt	Private	3 rd Sept 1812	3 rd Sept 1812	David Hunt	
19	Andrew Nicholson	Private	7 th Sept 1812	7 th Sept 1812	Andrew Nicholson	
20	Samuel Houston	Private	23 rd Sept 1812	23 rd Sept 1812	Samuel Houston	
21	Thomas Gaultney	Private	24 th Oct 1812	24 th Oct 1812	Thomas Gaultney	
22	John Brewer	Private	24 th Oct 1812	24 th Oct 1812	John Brewer	
23	Frederick Lewis	Private	24 th Oct 1812	24 th Oct 1812	Frederick Lewis	
24	George M. Coffey	Private	24 th Oct 1812	24 th Oct 1812	George M. Coffey	
25	Isaac Bowman	Private	24 th Oct 1812	24 th Oct 1812	Isaac Bowman	
26	Isaac Bowman	Private	24 th Oct 1812	24 th Oct 1812	Isaac Bowman	
27	Isaac Bowman	Private	24 th Oct 1812	24 th Oct 1812	Isaac Bowman	
28	Alexander Campbell	Private	14 th Sept 1812	14 th Sept 1812	Alexander Campbell	
29	William H. Harrison	Private	13 th Sept 1812	13 th Sept 1812	William H. Harrison	
30	Joseph Lindsey	Private	17 th Sept 1812	17 th Sept 1812	Joseph Lindsey	
31	Isaac Smith	Private	13 th Sept 1812	13 th Sept 1812	Isaac Smith	
32	John Williams	Private	13 th Sept 1812	13 th Sept 1812	John Williams	
33	Isaac Bowman	Private	10 th Aug 1812	10 th Aug 1812	Isaac Bowman	
34	Richard Quinn	Private	10 th Aug 1812	10 th Aug 1812	Richard Quinn	
35	Samuel Kercheval	Private	10 th Aug 1812	10 th Aug 1812	Samuel Kercheval	

FIG. 1

Muster Roll of Cushing's detachment of artillery troops at Ft. Meigs, 1813.