

State of Pennsylvania  
Union County

**Testimony given by Martin Cronmiller on 1 December 1834**  
**Re: Martin Tschudy's Revolutionary War Service at Trenton in 1776**

Personally appeared before me Henry Yearick one of the Justices of the Peace in and for said County Martin Cronmiller, of the Township of West \_\_\_\_\_ in the County and State aforesaid who being sworn according to Law doth depose and say, that he was well acquainted with Martin Tschudy now of the City of Baltimore in the state of Maryland, but has not seen him for about forty years. That Deponent and the said Tschudy served together in the Revolutionary War but at this distant period is unable to state the precise month of the year that the said Tschudy or himself entered the service. That he knows that it was in the year 1776 and that both of them served for six Months. That the Body of Troops to which they were attached was called the Flying Camp. That the deponent belonged to the Regiment commanded by Colonel Swope. That the Company to which he belonged was commanded by Captain Starkes. That Major Bailey was attached to the said Regiment. That he is unable to say positively to what Regiment said Tschudy belonged as the Brigade consisted of several Body of Troops but he is certain that said Martin Tschudy served in what was called the "Flying Camp" and that he did serve for six months and that he conducted himself in a soldierlike manner during the whole of his service. That they are both now very old men. That he deponent is in the Seventy fourth year of his age. That he cannot recollect the particular of their service but recollects that the service was principally performed in the state of New Jersey in a subsequent year which Deponent cannot remember said Tschudy served in a company with him in guarding prisoners taken by the American Army at Trenton.

That said Tschudy and Deponent at that time talked over the occurrences of their former service. That said service of guarding prisoners was performed about four miles below York Pennsylvania where Deponent knows said Tschudy served for and during two months\_ Their Captain was Peter (Ford?) their Majors name was Bailey said Tschudy conducted himself well. Further this Deponent saith not except that he believes that the said Martin Tschudy acted as a corporal during the whole time of his first service.

Martin Cronmiller

I do hereby certify that the foregoing Deposition was sworn and subscribed to before me and that the said Martin Cronmiller the deponent is well known to me and that he is a man of worth and veracity.

Given under my hand and seal this thirty first day of December Eighteen hundred and thirty four.  
(This was signed by H Yearick, Justice of the Peace)

State of Pennsylvania  
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I Joseph Stilwell Prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas for the County of Union aforesaid do certify that Henry Yearick, Esq. before whom the above affidavit appears to have been taken is and was at the date thereof a Justice of the Peace duly appointed and commissioned for the County aforesaid \_\_\_\_\_ faith \_\_\_\_\_ are and ought to be given to his official \_\_\_\_\_ and the name "H.

Yearick" I believe to be the proper hand writing of the said Justice in witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed name and affixed the seal of the Court at New (Berlin?) the first day of January AD 1835.  
Joseph Stilwell

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On the internet I found the following in 2007:

Swope, Michael (Pa). Colonel ?Pennsylvania Battalion of the Flying Camp, June, 1776; taken prisoner at Fort Washington, 16th November, 1776. Since he is mentioned in the testimony given to support Martin Tschudy's service, it might be safe to assume that since Martin was assigned to the Flying Camp that he too was in Fort Washington in November of 1776. ...

He was appointed, June 30, 1775, by Act of Assembly, one of the Council of Safety. In 1775 he was elected major of the Independent Light Infantry Co. The next year, on the organization of the celebrated Flying Camp, he was made colonel of the first battalion of the first brigade. Col. Swope's battalion suffered as severely as any during the Revolutionary war. At Fort Washington, near New York, nearly his entire command was either killed or taken prisoners, he was among the latter. ...

Col. Michael Swope commanded the first battalion of the Flying Camp which had been formed from members of five battalions of York County militia into two battalions. In July 1776 they had marched from York County to New Jersey. They suffered severely in the battles of Long Island and Fort Washington. Colonel Swope and fourteen of his officers were captured by the British on the sixteenth of November 1776 when Fort Washington was defeated. He was released January 26, 1781 in an exchange of prisoners in Elisabethtown, New Jersey and walked the distance of 170 miles to his home in York.

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On the site of the New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection it states:

In the months leading up to the battle of Trenton, General George Washington and the Continental Army retreated across New Jersey. Attempts to successfully engage the British forces in New York had failed. The Americans were outflanked and outmanned. Washington managed to move his army south across the Delaware River and into Pennsylvania by early December 1776. To check the enemy's pursuit, the Continental Army confiscated all available boats along the river and hid them on the Pennsylvania side. With 6,000 troops now situated along the west bank of the Delaware River. Washington planned his march on Trenton where approximately 1,400 British forces were stationed.

Three divisions of the Continental Army would cross the Delaware River on Christmas night, attacking the British from three directions. Colonel Cadwalader's division would move north from Bordentown. General Ewing would attack at Trenton Ferry. Washington, with approximately 2,400 men, would lead the main attack from the north.

Hessian colonel Johann Gottlieb Rall was in command of the British forces in Trenton. Despite reports of an American attack, Rall, who considered the Continental Army to be little more than a loosely organized group of farmers, ignored the warnings. He, along with his fellow officers, continued to celebrate the Christmas holiday, it was a fatal mistake.

Throughout the cold, snowy night, Washington continued his advance on Trenton. His planned three-pronged attack, however, failed to materialize. Cadwalder and Ewing were unable to cross the

Delaware as directed due to heavy river ice and extreme weather conditions. Unknowingly, Washington was going to engage the enemy with only a third of his forces.

As dawn approached, the American troops surprised the British forces occupying Trenton. In less than an hour, Washington's army met with victory. Thirty officers, 918 prisoners, 1,000 muskets and rifles, six cannons, six wagons, and 40 horses were captured. Colonel Rall lay mortally wounded, dying a day later. Not a single patriot was killed in the conflict.

The victory at Trenton was a strategic, as well as a military success. It also served to boost the morale of a dwindling and dispirited Continental Army and to galvanize the resolve of those Americans who still believed in America's war for independence. The significance of the patriots' victory at Trenton was not forgotten in the ensuing years. Three years after the battle, colonial secretary of state for King George III, Lord Germain, told Parliament "all our hopes were blasted by that unhappy affair at Trenton."