

THE BRANDYWINE RANGERS IN THE WAR OF 1812

BY

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INTRODUCTION

During the War of 1812, the British forces posed a serious threat to the manufacturing establishments on Brandywine River in Northern Delaware. The British blockade choked off the bulk of international trade, and the United States was forced to fall back on its domestic resources. The Brandywine manufacturers realized the importance of their mills to the continuance of the war effort and acted to counter the British threat. Two prominent Brandywine manufacturers, Victor and Eleuthère Irénée du Pont, were doubtful that the Delaware militia would be able to protect their factories and those of their neighbors in the event of British attack. In the early summer of 1813, the du Pont brothers received permission from Joseph Haslet, Governor of Delaware, to form a local militia group, the Brandywine Rangers. The militia companies enlisted their personnel from the workmen of the manufacturing establishments along the Brandywine. Delaware law exempted these Rangers from formal militia duty. But only if a British offensive threatened the Brandywine mills were they to take up arms.

The election of 1813, in which the Federalists swept the State of Delaware, resulted in charges that the du Ponts had used their influence with the militia companies improperly. Running counter to the Federalist tide, the Democrats had cast a majority vote in Brandywine Hundred, and their detractors, most of whom were either Federalists or Francophobes, exerted pressure which finally resulted in the disbandment of the Rangers early in 1814.

The British offensive during the summer of 1814, especially the capture and burning of Washington on August 24-25, heightened the tension on the Brandywine. Late in August the du Pont brothers received permission from President James Madison to reorganize their Ranger companies. This time the militia units were under the direct responsibility of the Secretary of War to prevent a repetition of the earlier State meddling.

The signing of the Treaty of Ghent on December 24, 1815, ended the conflict between England and the United States, and the Brandywine Rangers were subsequently disbanded when the news of peace reached American shores. Although the Brandywine Rangers saw no action during the War of 1812, they were important as a home guard for the mills on the Brandywine and for the political and anti-French sentiment which they amplified in the minds of Delawareans.

THE BRANDYWINE RANGERS IN THE WAR OF 1812

In January 1810, the Brandywine manufacturers petitioned the Delaware General Assembly to take notice of the considerable expense which the manufacturers had undertaken to construct their establishments. The irregularity of their workmen was also a matter of concern and the manufacturers lamented the frequent demands made on the workers for militia duty and the heavy fines which were placed on those absenting themselves from drill sessions. The militia duties also furnished the workmen with excuses for neglecting their work in the factories and causing general dissipation. Some of the manufacturers carried on their operations by means of a gang, which meant that when one of the workers was absent all of those who belonged to the gang became unavoidably idle. The petition was signed by ten of the major manufactueers on the Brandywine. The signatory companies were: Rumford Dawes, manufacturer of rolling and slitting iron; Thomas Gilpin and Company, manufacturer of paper; William Young, manufacturer of paper; E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, gunpowder manufacturers; du Pont and Bauduy, woollen cloth manufacturers; Caleb Kirk, manufacturer of woollen and cotton; Thomas Massey, manufacturer of cotton yarn; Horatio G. Garrett, manufacturer of paper; and Thomas and Samuel Meeteer, manu-¹facturer of paper.

After prolonged consideration and in answer to the petition, the Delaware General Assembly passed on January 26, 1811, an "Act to

Encourage the Establishment of Certain Manufactories Within this State.”

The first provision of the Act concerned the workmen who were to be exempted from militia fines and duties.

That from and after the passing of this act, every artificer or workman, concerned or employed in the manufacture of paper, iron, gunpowder, woollen yarn, woollen cloth, cotton yarn or cotton cloth, at or in any manufactory of any such articles now established within this state, whereat the greatest power or force employed is produced by water-mill machinery, or in any woollen or cotton manufactory, wherein not less than two hundred spindles are employed, shall be and they are hereby declared to be exempted from all militia fines and forfeitures. ²

Another provision of the Act obligated employers to submit annually a list of workmen to be exempted from militia fines and duties to the commanding officer of the militia company for the district. The factory owner was also required to report to the local militia commander the names of workmen discharged from his factory. ³

Commercial rivalry between the United States and Great Britain culminated in open conflict in 1812. Within a few months the American coast was almost completely blockaded, and the United States was unable to purchase woolen and cotton cloth, gunpowder, and iron products abroad. As a result, the Federal government was forced to look to its own domestic sources.

Aware that the manufacture of gunpowder was closely linked to the nation's ability to sustain its war effort, E. I. du Pont placed his mills and all of their resources at the command of the government. ⁴ Victor du Pont, his brother, also put the services of his mill, du Pont and Bauduy, at the disposal of the government. Much of the woolen cloth for the uniforms worn by the state militiamen in the conflict was manufactured

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in his factory. Other Brandywine manufacturers, Rumford Dawes, Caleb and Samuel Kirk, and Thomas Massey, in turn offered the products of their mills to the government.

As the War shifted to the Middle Atlantic States, Delaware became one of the focal points of British action. In March and April 1813, Commodore Beresford, commander of the British squadron blockading the Delaware Capes, threatened Southern Delaware with attack. On April 6-7, his squadron bombarded the small Delaware town of Lewes. After the bombardment a possible invasion of Northern Delaware was anticipated by the Brandywine manufacturers. The two du Pont brothers immediately ordered and received arms to equip a contemplated local militia group to defend their factories in the event of British attack.

The British burned Frenchtown, Maryland on April 29, 1813, and the following day marched on the small town of Elkton. The news that the British had burned private property increased the fears of British invasion on the Brandywine. Several people wrote to Irénée du Pont warning him of the danger and expressed concern for safeguarding gunpowder stored on the Brandywine.

On May 7, E. I. du Pont reported to the Commissary General at Philadelphia, Callender Irvine, that an American ambassador had been sent to the British commander to make necessary arrangements for passports. The British commander told the American emissary that he planned to "...pay a visit to a certain French gentleman on the Brandywine, Mr. du Pont."

du Pont realized that he would not be able to organize the contemplated militia companies and train them in time to afford full defense of the Brandywine area in the event of British attack. On May 13, 1813,

he wrote to the Secretary of War James Armstrong and pointed out the importance of the Brandywine factories in supplying the army and navy with woolen cloth, gunpowder, grain, and iron products. He proposed that Armstrong call out the Pennsylvania militia and place them on Shellpot Hill, a promontory north of Wilmington overlooking the Delaware river, for the protection of both Wilmington and the Brandywine. Two days later a Pennsylvania militia group of 327 well-armed troops under the command of Colonel Lewis Rush was despatched from Philadelphia to the encampment.

Governor Joseph Haslet on May 15, 1813, issued warrants for the formation of two local militia companies on the Brandywine. The rumors by this time were wildly flying that the British intended to make a direct attack on the Brandywine factories. The Governor granted officers warrants in Brandywine Hundred to: Victor du Pont, Captain; Vidal Garresche, First Lieutenant; Nathaniel H. Clifford Perkins, Second Lieutenant; Richard Hambly, Third Lieutenant; and Charles du Pont, Ensign. The Brandywine Hundred group was organized as the North Brandywine Rangers. On the same day Governor Haslet appointed the South Brandywine Rangers in Christiana Hundred. They were: E. I. du Pont, Captain; Raphael Duplanty, First Lieutenant; James Phelps, Second Lieutenant; George Hodgson, Third Lieutenant; and Charles Dalmas, Ensign.

E. I. du Pont immediately sent circulars to the other factory owners along the Brandywine requesting their aid in the organization of the Rangers. "I . . . call on the hands of your factory to ask if any of them will be willing to join us for the general defence and ask them if they will or will not join us." The mill owners and their employees, exempted from the regular militia duty under the provisions of the Act of 1811, responded quickly. The group of volunteers was so large that du Pont requested Callender Irvine for permission to form another Ranger company and to send additional muskets.

Irvine was personally disposed to comply with du Pont's request but felt he could not extend the number permitted in the Ranger companies or the supply of additional arms. The order of the Secretary of War confined the number of exempts capable of bearing arms on the Brandywine and Irvine felt he could not rescind the original order. However, two weeks later Irvine took matters into his own hands and issued 100 English muskets to du Pont and authorized the formation of a third company of Brandywine Rangers.

Criticism of the action taken by the Brandywine factory owners to protect their mills by organizing a "private army" spread throughout the Brandywine neighborhood. Delawareans with Federalist sympathies and those with Francophobic feelings attacked the du Ponts for committing treason against the State. In reply to censure bearing on the organization of the mills' employees to defend". . .our home against invaders and incendiaries," E. I. du Pont denied any political implication in the formation of the militia companies. Du Pont felt his duty as a citizen required an organization to protect the neighborhood and he shrugged off the charge that the Rangers would be used for his own private amusement.

Governor Haslet was also conscious of these attacks and made it clear that the formation of the Ranger companies was only". . . in consequence of the imminent danger to which this State is now subject by reason of a threatened invasion by the British squadron now lying in the Delaware and of the great interest, which the public has in the preservation of the manufactories on the Brandywine." Both du Pont and Governor Haslet made it clear in their declarations that the Rangers were an emergency force organized to serve a specific purpose to be disbanded after the danger had passed.

On May 18, 1813, Victor du Pont, in a letter to President Madison, pointed out that the enemy was well aware of the importance of the Brandywine. He also reported that a large Federal majority in the Delaware State Government unfortunately wished to stop the du Ponts and other factory owners from organizing a personal militia company. Victor declared that all of the Brandywine Rangers were well equipped and organized, but the officers could not obtain formal commissions from the State of Delaware. He noted that their enemies were trying to discourage the Rangers by telling them that they would be hung if they took up arms because their officers were not commissioned. Governor Haslet, a well wisher to their cause, was not empowered to issue commissions, only warrants which expired after the immediate emergency had passed. Victor requested President Madison for commissions to be issued to the officers in the Ranger companies. The Secretary of War subsequently issued the commissions over the howls of some of the Federalist legislators in the Delaware General Assembly, who wanted to see the organization anything but permanent for the duration of the War.

The Rules of the South Brandywine Company of Volunteers were drawn up and adopted by a committee of E. I. du Pont, David Murphy, William Baldwin, James Phelps, Raphael Duplanty, John North, William Boyd, and William Martin, on June 18, 1813. At Eleutherian Mills, residence of du Pont, eighty-four volunteers acknowledged the regulations of the committee and signed the petition of approval. Each member promised to oppose any attacks of the enemy on the Brandywine and to respect and obey the officers.

Under the rules the Company was to be paraded every other Saturday. The rules also provided for the drilling of platoons, meetings of officers, fines for not attending drill, and roll call. The officers, sergeants,

and corporals were to drill once a week. The afternoon of the first Saturday of every second month was to be a grand parade day with every officer presiding. Any Ranger who did not keep his equipment in good order was subjected to a fine by his officer. Fines were also fixed for firing a gun out of rank, intoxication, and quarrelling in the ranks. No new member could be admitted in the Ranger Company unless he had been approved by the court martial.²¹ The rules drawn up for the North Brandywine Rangers under Captain Victor du Pont were similar to those of the South Brandywine Rangers.

The uniform was furnished by each Ranger and he paid for it out of his own wages. Du Pont, Bauduy and Company manufactured the woolen cloth for these uniforms. The officers and privates were responsible for their own cap and military regalia.²² Contributions were made toward furnishing caps and buttons for those North and South Brandywine Rangers who could not furnish themselves with the whole militia uniform at once.²³

Any offense against the rules of the Company was to be brought before a court martial. Provisions for the make-up of the court martial and the duties of its members were drawn up. Court martials usually dealt with intoxication, quarrels, or loss of military equipment. At a court martial on July 13, 1813, the proceedings were recorded by Charles Dalmas, secretary of the court martial as follows:

The Captain having reported to the court that John Heyman and James McBride have been intoxicated on the parade of fifth of July, the court had sentenced them the said John Heyman and James McBride each and every one of them to the fine of one dollar for the said offence.

The Captain reported that William Mullen was intoxicated at the parade of the fifth of July, in consequence of which the said William Mullen has lost his cartridge container and bayonet belt. The court has sentenced the said Mullen to one dollar and fifty cents for his misbehavior and also to pay for the value of the accoutrements lost by him.²⁴

Most of the court martials were exceptionally lenient and a reduction of the penalties imposed by a former court martial was not uncommon. "The court martial having been convened by the Captain and . . . upon having heard Thomas Montgomery and John Armstrong express their repentance for their misbehavior. . . has been pleased to cancel the sentence . . . and has reduced the penalty pronounced."²⁵

The Brandywine Rangers, 200 strong, marched into Wilmington to participate in the 1813 Fourth of July celebration. After parading before the arsenal and through the town the Rangers retired to Peter Brynberg's farm where a dinner was served. Du Pont's detractors were along the parade route during the celebration as "Du Ponts Private Army" paraded in public for the first time. The feathers and cockades worn by the Rangers in the parade served to strengthen the detractors' charge against the "alien enemies." Many of the Delawareans remembered that the tri-colored cockades stood for the disruptive ideas and actions of the French Revolution.²⁶

The meal served at Peter Brynberg's farm was followed by a number of toasts, the twelfth in honor of the manufacturers on the Brandywine, "Bees in Peace, Hornets in War." This slogan was thereafter adopted by the Rangers and placed on one of their company banners.²⁷

The organization of the Brandywine Rangers caused serious political implications in Delaware during the October election. Early in September, 1813, E. I. du Pont posted notices on a number of trees and posts about the Brandywine area with the message that "the manufacturers on the South side of the Brandywine creek and other citizens wishing to join them, are invited to meet at the Eleutherian Mills residence on Tuesday the fifth of October, at nine in the morning, and from there to march together to the Buck Tavern and give their votes."²⁸

In the Delaware gubernatorial campaign held in September and early October, James Riddle, a Democrat and a militarist, opposed Daniel Rodney,

a Federalist who was in favor of only defensive measures on the part of the State of Delaware. The du Pont brothers favored James Riddle because they hoped for a vigorous military action in Delaware against the British to safeguard their factories.

Du Ponts' neighbors in Brandywine Hundred harbored grave suspicions about the "French foreigners" and especially their private army. During the course of the campaign their detractors pointed to the Brandywine Rangers and accused the du Ponts of ". . . raking the gutters of Philadelphia to form a body of men to defend their own private property." Their enemies also posted notices throughout the Brandywine neighborhood to stir up anti-Democrats and pro-Federalist sentiment.

In the election of October 5, 1813, Daniel Rodney, the Federalist, was elected Governor of Delaware, but Riddle, the Democrat, received a majority in Brandywine Hundred. Thomas Beeson, a neighboring farmer who had bet heavily on the outcome of the election in favor of the Federalists in Brandywine Hundred, charged the "alien enemies" of having cast illegal votes.

On October 23, 1813, Joseph Chandler, John Simmons, and James Hamilton assembled a committee appointed to investigate the proceedings covering the election in Brandywine Hundred. The committee met to inquire into the number of votes which were cast and the manner of casting them. They also investigated complaints by Federalists that the du Pont brothers arrayed their men in military order on the election grounds and instructed them how to vote. The judges of the election after consultation decided that all aliens were to enjoy the same right of suffrage as the native born or naturalized citizens. Since public notices in writing had been posted throughout the Hundred informing all aliens that they had a right to come forward and vote, they had been permitted to do so.

The election judges declared that the infantry company commanded by du Pont had been marched to the polls in military formation and had been instructed by their commander how to vote in the election. The judges also charged that a number of votes were received from persons, members of the Ranger companies, who had not been a resident of the Hundred more than fifteen minutes before they voted. The poll officials clearly challenged the use of what they termed ". . . an abuse of the Brandywine Ranger companies" in the election of 1813.

By December the Delaware General Assembly was swamped with petitions which charged the du Ponts with illegal methods in getting out the vote in Brandywine Hundred. The exaggerated reports by late December had the du Pont brothers marching their military company in full dress and armament to the polls with colors flying. The anti-war group charged that Victor du Pont in particular had paraded the Rangers for political purposes and marched them to the polls in an attempt to overawe and cow opposition voters. As the allegations grew and tempers flared, shouts were heard against "Du Ponts men", and whenever the Rangers appeared some-³³one would call against the "gutter scrapers."

On the day of the election Victor du Pont had been ambushed by a small group of men armed with stones and clubs. Before serious injury resulted, "Du Ponts' Men" appeared and drove off the attackers. The exaggerated reports of a mob of twenty or thirty were not true, and Isaac Dickey, a witness and participant in the foray, swore in his deputation to that effect. He was at George Miller's tavern on the eve of October 5, 1813, and saw Thomas Gray in conversation with Victor du Pont. He heard Gray report that he could ". . . flay every gutter scraper in the du Pont Company." At the same time Dickey saw Thomas C. Smith jump up and declare that he could ". . . flay every Democrat in the Hundred." Dickey ran to the defense of Victor, and a fight ensued between Dickey and Thomas Smith.

Dickey swore in his deputation that he believed du Pont did his best to prevent any disturbance and had exhorted the workers not to retaliate in kind.³⁵

Exaggerated reports drummed up by the Federalists who had lost the election in the Hundred were no doubt the cause of much of the post-election enmity. John Simmons, one of the poll judges, later disavowed a statement attributed to him that he had reported Victor du Pont as having ordered his men to meet on the usual field of parade where they were formed in military order, marched to the place of election, and instructed to vote Democratic. Simmons declared that he had never furnished such a declaration and if his name had been used it was for the wrong purpose,³⁶ done without his authorization or knowledge.

On January 17, 1814, Victor du Pont drew up an affidavit denying the charges that he had used his Ranger company illegally. Victor's affidavit was presented to the committee investigating the charges brought before the legislature by the Federalists. Victor swore that he had not called his Ranger company together and that the men were in fact exempted from militia parade and training during election week. Victor admitted that some of his men did request his permission to make banners with mottos on them under which they planned to march to the polls. He only gave them permission after they explained that workers from other factories planned to do the same. Victor felt the mottos which they affixed to the banners-- Don't Give up the Ship, James Riddle, Bees in Peace and Hornets in War -- were not offensive to anybody.³⁷

Victor testified that his Rangers did not walk to the polls with their official colors flying, that they did not carry arms or drums, and that they were wearing no uniforms. He declared that the Rangers were also accompanied to the polls by other workmen and farmers in the neighborhood.³⁸

Du Pont felt he had made every effort to prevent violence restraining his own son on one occasion. Victor objected to the many handbills which had been circulated about the Brandywine neighborhood. The handbills attacked the du Ponts and their Rangers as being "Alien Enemies," "Friends of Robespierre and Marat," "Imported Manufacturers," and "Scourings of the Earth." These handbills, Victor felt, served to stir up much sentiment against the Rangers which flared into the open on election day. Victor swore that he tried to prevent as best he could any violence, and had retreated gracefully with his men. ³⁹

In defense of his brother's deposition, Irénée du Pont reminded the committee that most of the men did not necessarily confine themselves to the wearing of their uniforms on muster day but wore them on almost all important occasions. Du Pont reported that to his knowledge a small number of the North Brandywine Rangers, some with uniforms and others without, did walk together to the polls but were not led to the polls by their officers, and they did not march. He admitted that some of the men did carry banners with slogans, but he felt this was not a violation of the election law. Banners were not uncommon and many men wore uniforms on holidays. Irénée felt that no undue influence had been brought to bear on the voting and that the allegations against the du Ponts and the Rangers were trumped up charges brought by the Federalists. ⁴⁰ Several members of the North Brandywine Ranger company swore to the validity of Victor and Irénée's testimony before the legislative committee.

There was a widespread feeling that the charges made against Victor and the Brandywine Rangers were well founded. Less than two weeks after Victor's affidavit was presented to the Delaware Legislature, the Assembly outlawed all military companies organized by the manufacturers. ⁴¹

On January 26, 1814, the Delaware General Assembly passed an "Act to Repeal an Act to Encourage the Establishment of Certain Manufactories Within the State." The Act nullified the 1811 Act and all of its provisions.⁴² The representatives from New Castle County protested the nullification and called the Act "most injurious, repressive and unconstitutional."⁴³

On the day after the repeal of the 1811 Act, Captains Victor and Irénée du Pont assembled the companies of Brandywine Rangers under their command and communicated to them the news that the Delaware Legislature had thought proper to repeal the law exempting certain classes of workmen from militia duty. In consequence the Rangers were to become incorporated with the militia of their respective districts. The brothers du Pont also took the opportunity to defend their course of action in organizing and equipping the Rangers and to criticize their enemies responsible for the repeal of the Act. "When the foe threatened our shores, you armed and equipped yourselves and tendered your services for the common defence. Is the zeal you displayed on that occasion an offence?" They both went on to declare that the act of the legislature could easily be avoided, for every man had a right to bear arms. But bowing to the wishes of those who wished to diminish the military force of New Castle County, the du Ponts requested that the workmen turn in their arms to the respective factories⁴⁴ where they would be stored and used in the event of future danger.

A Committee speaking for the Rangers returned a grateful answer to the du Ponts for their leadership. The memorial regretted the annihilation of the Ranger companies and their incorporation into the Delaware militia, a militia without arms and with men who had been ". . . lesser trained in the art of warfare."⁴⁵

It was not until later on in the year that the Federalist feeling was really exemplified in an article which appeared in the Delaware Gazette

of May 16, 1814. In this article a vicious attack was made on the du Ponts and their Rangers by a "Citizen of Delaware." The writer felt that the Democratic-Republican criticism of the Legislature's position had to be defended.⁴⁶ The "Citizen of Delaware" reported that the exemption from militia duty under the umbrella of the 1811 Act was only to facilitate the employment of labor. During the War of 1812, "the people were called on to wage war against a powerful foe; the physical strength of the state was demanded to defend her shore, and all classes of citizens required to get up their armour to protect their firesides. The privileged order of manufactories alone remained exempted." The writer went on to point out that the art of defence was always directed where the enemy could be met and crippled before he could get a foothold. But the selectmen of the Brandywine were posted ten miles away from the first possible encounter with the enemy the "noise of the cannon warning the Praetorians to secure their valuables."⁴⁷

The article in the Delaware Gazette went on to attack the Rangers for their arrogant independence toward state authority, particularly for their bold formation during times of intense crisis. The writer charged the du Ponts with employing and harboring men in the factories, thereby contributing to the drain of military power in Delaware. The writer viciously summed up his attack by stating:

Those fine towering plumes which were so often wont to decorate the heads of our modern plautiani and dazzle the eyes of the little boys; those terrible swords which used to flash their brilliance among the rocks of the Brandywine, must now all be hung up in inglorious ease, the rusty monuments of departed greatness . . . and those hornets in War, be compelled to use their strings for other than riotous purposes. 48

On February 7, 1814, E. I. du Pont informed Callender Irvine, Commissary General at Philadelphia, that the legislature of the State of Delaware had repealed the law which exempted factory workmen from militia duty. In consequence, the militia companies were destroyed, and the military equipment was collected and stored in the Brandywine factories. Du Pont went on in his letter to criticize the legislature for destroying such a well disciplined and equipped group which could oppose the invading enemy within a few moments' notice. He deprecated the State Militia, which he felt was ill equipped and badly trained. He reported that the greater part of the State Militia was destitute of arms and if so furnished would not know how to use them. Irénée noted that this type of protection in case of invasion would not be enough and that there would be a greater danger of attack in the spring. Du Pont pointed out that there were no government stores in the lower part of the State "inhabited by the Friends of England, nor in fact anything worth destroying." The British, du Pont felt, would surely attempt to sail up the Delaware and make an attempt on the Brandywine factories. Irénée summed up his report by declaring that no protection could be expected from the State of Delaware if and when a threatened British invasion materialized.

In April and May of 1814, Daniel King of Philadelphia continued to send bullets and composition ball to E. I. du Pont in anticipation of invasion by the British. During the months of June, July and August, the apprehension of British invasion hung over the Brandywine like a pall. However, during the summer the du Pont brothers were not idle. They gained permission from the War Department to reorganize the Ranger companies for the defense of the Brandywine region.

On August 29, 1814, a notice was posted in the mill villages by Victor du Pont. The notice advised all of those workmen who belonged to the former volunteer corps of Rangers that their former Captain, Victor du Pont, was authorized by order of General Bloomfield to reorganize their

company under immediate orders of the President of the United States. Those who volunteered would again be exempted from militia service, and it was guaranteed that they would not be sent beyond the vicinity of Wilmington. Those who desired to volunteer were instructed to give their names to Lieutenant Hambly and told that an election for non-commissioned officers would take place as soon as a sufficient number had enrolled. On August 30, 1814, 135 men offered their service to the reorganized Ranger companies.⁵³

Victor du Pont reorganized his company of Rangers on August 31 with 110 men and officers. He took charge as Captain of the North Company of Rangers with Richard Hambly as First Lieutenant, Charles I. du Pont as Second Lieutenant, William Alfred as Third Lieutenant, and Joseph R. Martin as Ensign. E. I. du Pont reorganized his company of South Brandywine Rangers on September 6 with 101 men and officers. He was Captain, with Raphael Duplanty as First Lieutenant, James Phelps as Second Lieutenant, George Hodgson as Third Lieutenant, and Charles Dalmas as Ensign. The rules of both Ranger companies were basically the same as those of the June 1813 organization.⁵⁴

On September 21, 1814, the reorganized North and South Brandywine Rangers received their arms.⁵⁵ They also collected money for purchasing uniforms and other equipment.⁵⁶ Two hundred military caps were purchased by the Rangers, and an additional 100 were ordered to arrive at a later date.

The South Brandywine Rangers were divided into two companies on October 15, 1814. Robert McCall was appointed Captain of the Second Company. He held forty-three men in his command, the overflow from the other two companies. New officers were elected in this reorganization, in place of those whose commissions had expired and for new officers in the Second South Ranger Company. Those elected from the First Company of South Brandywine Rangers were: E. I. du Pont, Captain; Raphael Duplanty,

First Lieutenant; Charles Dalmas, Second Lieutenant; and A. Dautremont, Ensign. Lieutenants James Phelps and George Hodgson joined Captain Robert McCall in the Second Company of South Brandywine Rangers. ⁵⁷

On the following November 18, 1814, at a meeting of the officers for the three companies of Rangers held at Captain E. I. du Pont's house, a committee was appointed for the purpose of revising the rules for the three companies. At this meeting E. I. du Pont extolled the superiority of his Rangers over the performance of the regular state militia. ⁵⁸

Thomas Caldwellader, Brigadier General and Commissary of the Fourth Military District, recommended to Victor du Pont on December 13, 1814, that all arms in his possession were to be kept in order at the expense of the Ranger corps. General Caldwellader also informed Captain du Pont that he did not have the power to authorize the appointment of a Major for the Brandywine Battalion. This in reply to a request made by the du Ponts for a commanding officer for the three Ranger companies. Their request was subsequently forwarded by General Caldwellader to The War Department in Washington. But the war was terminated before the recommendation could be acted upon. Victor du Pont was considered as the candidate for the position of Major for the Brandywine Battalion. ⁵⁹

On December 24, 1814, the Treaty of Ghent was signed, ending the War of 1812. Because the news of the peace was slow in coming to North America Irénée du Pont was still purchasing military equipment on the last day of December. The news of the signing of the Treaty did not reach Wilmington until February 13, 1815. Irénée and Victor then retroactively set January 3, 1815, as the date on which official duty had been terminated for the three companies of Brandywine Rangers. ⁶⁰

However, the lengthy business of settling the accounts of the Rangers still had to be completed. During the month of July, 1816, more than a year after the conflict had ended, the arms and equipment received by the du Ponts for use by the Ranger Companies were returned to the arsenal in Philadelphia. ⁶¹

The payment of the accounts for the Rangers was delayed until 1817 because E. I. du Pont failed to file his account separately from that of Captain McCall and his brother Victor. All had originally submitted their accounts under Irénée du Pont's signature. It took the federal government one year before the red tape was cleared away. Final settling of the account for Victor du Pont's company of Rangers came in October, almost three years after the war ended.

Victor du Pont's account for his North Brandywine Ranger company totaled \$4,423.32. Victor took the liberty during the year of 1816 to pay off his men and had billed the government for the amount. Many of Victor's men were paid in cloth manufactured in his woolen mill, du Pont
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Bauduy and Company.

On February 13, 1818, exactly three years to the day that news of the peace had reached Wilmington, E. I. du Pont received the sum of \$4,455.29, as per account for his company of South Brandywine Rangers. He received
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\$3,987.50 for pay, \$432.00 for subsistence, and \$35.79 for clothing.

CONCLUSION

The Brandywine Rangers were of little importance in Delaware's wartime operational measures, but the Rangers served rather as an effective moral deterrent to attack by the British on the Brandywine manufactories. The Rangers had been trained by the du Ponts to be an effective fighting force within a few moments, which made them something more than a parading society.

It was very important to the nation's war effort that the mills on the Brandywine be protected from British invasion. The concern for the safety of the powder mills can be shown by the production of gunpowder for the Federal government immediately and during the first two years of the conflict. In 1811 the du Pont Company produced powder for the Federal government in the amount of 50,000 pounds; in 1812 the amount increased to 200,000 pounds; and in 1813 the Company produced 500,000 pounds of gunpowder.⁶⁴ The du Ponts could not help but be aware of the large quantity of gunpowder they were producing for use by the American Army and Navy. In the interests of protecting a vital source of gunpowder necessary to sustain the war effort, the du Pont brothers took it upon themselves to create an effective local militia force, with the approval of the Federal government and over the adverse criticism suffered on the State level. This is one of the first times in American History that a manufacturing establishment took the responsibility on itself to create such a force.

The Brandywine Rangers were important for the latent fears which they aroused in the minds of their neighbors. Even in America at this time, the fears of a private aristocratic army were not uncommon. The old European fear of an autocratic prince intimidating his neighbors with his army was still very much in the minds of Delawareans.

The Federalist and Anti-Federalist sentiments were intensified in the election of 1813. The abuse of the militia powers which had been invested in the du Pont brothers was challenged and the intimation that they had used the Ranger companies to swing the election in favor of the Democratic candidate in Brandywine Hundred became widespread. This charge was subsequently used by the Federalists to destroy the Rangers in January 1814.

The clash between the powers of the State and Federal Government was also a point of contention in the formation of the Rangers. The conflict over obtaining commissions for the officers of the Ranger companies resulted in the Federal Government asserting its prerogatives over those of the State of Delaware in the controversy. The Rangers in the second organization were clearly responsible to the Federal Government and were wholly outside the authority of the Delaware State Legislature and State militia commander. State authorities retreated to a legalistic interpretation of their laws and branded the Rangers as treasonous. The State authorities clearly demonstrated their ignorance as to the importance of the Brandywine factories in sustaining the war effort from 1812 to 1815.

The contributions of the Brandywine Rangers as a deterrent to attack was wholly overshadowed by the fears on the part of Delawareans of a private army, political maneuverings, and a disposition to State over Federal power. When the War of 1812 was terminated, not one word of gratitude was ever extended by the State of Delaware to either the officers or men who gave so fully of their time and money both in the factory and on the parade ground.

FOOTNOTES

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7. Daniel King to E. I. du Pont. March 4, April 5, 1813. Longwood Manuscripts (hereafter cited as LMSS) Group 5, Series A, Box 10. EMHL.
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10. E. I. du Pont and Company to James Armstrong, Secretary of War, Washington, D.C. May 13, 1813. National Archives M62.11. R.G. 107, Reel 1. EMHL.
11. Commissary General's Office to George Ingels, U. S. Military Storekeeper, Philadelphia. May 15, 1813. National Archives M 62.11. R.G. 92, Reel 3. EMHL.
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