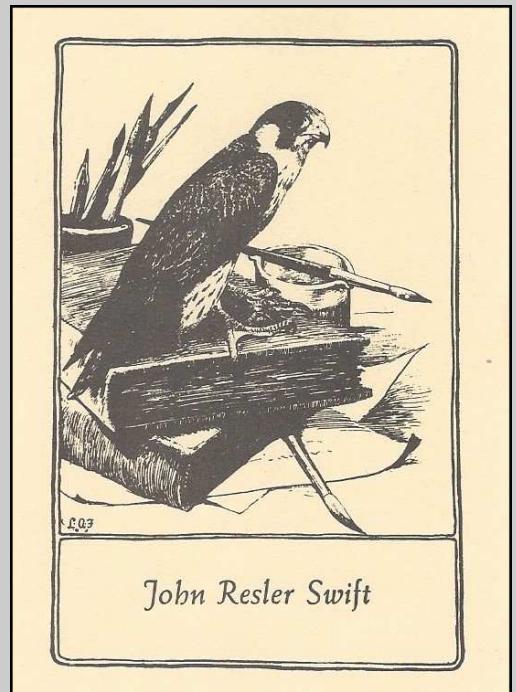
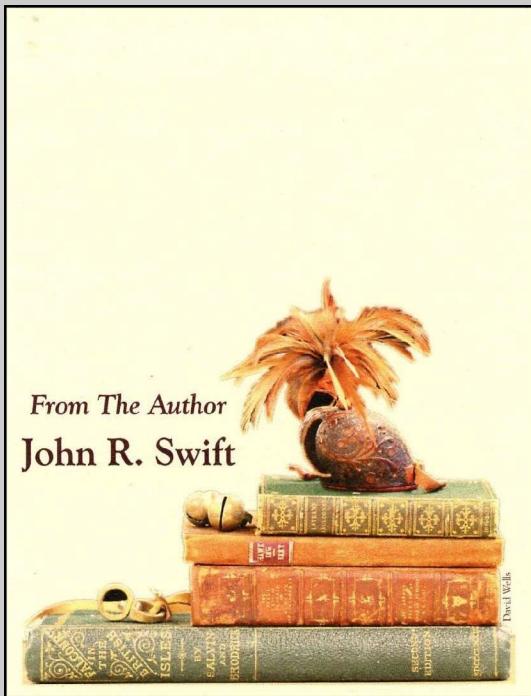


The Court-Martial of Lieut. William Wadman

by Lt. Colonel Thornton Of The West York Militia



**John R. Swift-Retired Curator
The Archives of Falconry**



Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Thornton

John R. Swift became interested in Colonel Thomas Thornton while utilizing James Edmund Harting's *Bibliotheca Accipitraria* as a falconry book collecting guide. The Falconer's Tea Urn presented to Colonel Thornton prompted John to expand his falconry collecting to all things "Thornton". He amassed a large repository of written and pictorial evidence of Colonel Thornton's sporting activities which he utilized in his publications about Colonel Thornton. They are as follows:

Colonel Thomas Thornton Of Thornville Royal. (2014). 225 pp.

Colonel Thomas Thornton of Thornville Royal and the West York Militia. (2016). 256 pp.

The Court-Martial of Lieutenant William Wadman by Colonel Thornton, 1794. (2016). 62 pp.

The Court-Martial of Lieutenant Colonel Thornton, 1795. (2016). 66 pp.

The Memorial of Thomas Thornton Esq. by Thomas Thornton, 1796. (2016). 70 pp.

An Elucidation of a Mutinous Conspiracy by Thomas Thornton, 1800. (2016). 90 pp.

Front Cover-Colonel Thomas Thornton of the West York Militia. Courtesy of Cider House Galleries.
John Russell (1745-1806) ca 1772.

Back Cover-Colonel Thomas Thornton with his Gyrfalcon *Sans Quartier*. and his Greyhound *Major*.
Note the medallion entitled The Triumph of Truth presented by the ladies at Tiverton in 1795
Courtesy of Alexander Guest. Philip Reinagle (1749-1833) ca. 1795.

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The Court-Martial of Lieutenant William Wadman

Colonel Thomas Thornton And The West York Militia

Colonel Thomas Thornton had been a member in the 3rd West York Militia since 1763 when he became an Ensign. His father Colonel William Thornton helped form the original Militia during the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745. He also became a staunch advocate of the Militia as a way to help defend England while regular troops were engaged elsewhere. Three major conflicts such as The Seven Years War (1754-1763), The American Revolution 1775-1783, and The War of the French Revolution 1793-1802 kept the regular army engaged around the world. England's Militia was "embodied" or called to duty for much of these periods of conflicts. This required local militias to report for annual "musters" in different regions of the England, which were often hundreds of miles from home. These musters required a 30-day period of training for officers and men often at great inconvenience to all. The men would be quartered on the "encampment" areas while officers would be billeted in local accommodations. Colonel Thornton fulfilled his militia responsibilities for over 30 years seemingly without conflict until an incident on July 22, 1794 with a Lieutenant William Wadman. This court-martial in September 1794 seemed to lay the foundation for Colonel Thornton's own subsequent court-martial the following year on the 17th of August 1795. The copies of these various proceedings as well as Thornton's own writings on the matters appeared to have been destroyed during the bombing of York in WWII. Recently these documents have once again come to light and are included in this important military section on his life. They have been reproduced in facsimile when possible in order to provide Thornton researchers with an accurate information and depiction of the events of that period. Thornton's personal decline seems to have originated from these events. Was it a conspiracy originating from the Duke of York over Thornton's purchase of Thornville Royal four years earlier? Hopefully this information will help the readers to their own conclusion.



Colonel Thornton's full length portrait

The Court-Martial of Lieutenant William Wadman

The following proceedings are from the court-martial of Lt. William Wadman in 1794 and published by Colonel Thornton to gain public support for his own Court-martial held a year later from August 17th, 1795 to September 14th, 1795. The intent was to illustrate his own actions with regards to the discipline he gave to Lt. Wadman for the refusal to return to his tent. In the scuffle that ensued with the guards Lt. Wadman was nearly killed from their bayonets. Colonel Thornton was convinced that Lt. Wadman had been encouraged by fellow officers to enlist other militia members to ostracize Thornton or "to send him to coventry". The following pages are from those original court-martial proceedings as published by Colonel Thornton in 1794 from the only copy in private hands. All pages were transcribed from the only known other copy in existence today. These pages were designed to replicate the originals as much as possible in both type and layout. The old English use of an "f" for an "s" was changed for easier reading.

PROCEEDINGS
OF A
GENERAL COURT MARTIAL,

HELD AT
ROBOROUGH CAMP,

On the 11th Day of SEPTEMBER 1794,

BY ORDER OF THE RIGHT HONORABLE,

General Lord George Henry Lennox,

GOVERNOR OF PLYMOUTH,

Commanding his Majesty's Forces in the South West District;

Being thereto authorised by a Warrant under His Majesty's Sign Manual,

FOR THE TRIAL OF

Lieut. WILLIAM WADMAN,

Of the Second West Yorkshire Regiment of Militia,

Upon the following Charges exhibited against him

By Lieut. Colonel THORNTON,

OF THE SAME REGIMENT,

And continued by Adjournment until the 18th of September 1794.

HAYDON:
CLARENCE PRESS,



The Court-Martial of Lieutenant William Wadman

(5)

P R E S I D E N T , Regiment of Militia.

M E M B E R S

Colonel Francis Rodd	Royal Cornwall.
Lieut. Col. John Oliver Williams	Ditto.
Lieut. Col. Purnell Purnell	Royal North Gloucester.
The Honorable Lieut. Col. J. Coventry	Worcester.
Major the Marquis of Worcester	Monmouth and Brecon.
Major Samuel Isted	Northampton.
Major Thomas Clutton	Worcester.
Captain Richard Brooke Supple	Northampton.
Captain Jacob Rudhall	Monmouth and Brecon.
Captain Rowland Mainwaring	Stafford.
Captain Henry Peter	Royal Cornwall.
Captain Richard Gough	Royal Glamorgan.
Captain John Kelly	Worcester.
Captain Thomas Pate Hankin	2nd West Yorkshire.

DEPUTY JUDGE ADVOCATE,

Captain Percival Haslam Worcestershire.

The Court-Martial of Lieutenant William Wadman

(6)

Charges exhibited against Lieut. Wadman, of the Second West Yorkshire Regiment of Militia, by Lieut. Col. Thornton of the same Regiment.

1st. — For having been guilty of conduct unbecoming the Character of an Officer, and a Gentleman, by seducing some of the Officers of the Regiment, and by attempting to seduce others, by willful misrepresentations, to send Lieut. Colonel Thornton to Coventry, on the 22nd of July last; and also for disputing Lieut. Col. Thornton's authority on the same day.

2nd. — For mutinous conduct on the 2nd of August last, by repeatedly attempting to instigate the Soldiers under his command, to depart from their duty, due to Lieut. Col. Thornton; and upon their refusing so to do, he confined some, and attempted to confine his whole Guard; and also for confining Soldiers whilst on Guard, on the 2nd of August, and not reporting them.

3rd. — For disobedience of orders on the third of August, in not going to his Tent when ordered Co to do by Lieut Col. Thornton, and also repeating the same conduct, on the same day, to Lieut. Colonel Thornton, when Field Officer of the Picquet, and for abusing him in front of the Parade, and the Streets of the encampment.

Roborough Camp, 9th Sept 1794.

(Signed)

THOMAS THORNTON, Lieut. Colonel,
West Yorkshire Regiment of Militia

The Court-Martial of Lieutenant William Wadman

(7)

Lieut. Thomas Bracken, of the West Yorkshire Regiment of Militia,
sworn and examined by Lieut. Colonel Thornton.

Q. Was you the last Officer of the Regiment who joined the Corps with a
detachment from Cornwall?

A. I was.

Q. Did not Lieut. Wadman, on the 22nd of July last, in the Mess Room,
attempt to seduce you to send me to Coventry?

A. When I refused to shew Lieut. Colonel Thornton marks of
disapprobation, at the instigation of other Officers, Lieut. Wadman then
said, "we must send you to Coventry."

Q. What were the modes used at that meeting, by Lieut. Wadman, to
seduce the Officers to send me to Coventry?

A. I do not recollect that Lieut. Wadman said any thing more than the
words already stated.

Q. Was not Lieut. Wadman one of those Officers, who proposed, that a
shew of hands should constitute the opinion of those who wished to shew
marks of disapprobation; and that those who did not hold up their hands,
should be sent to Coventry?

A. Yes.

The Court-Martial of Lieutenant William Wadman

(8)

Q. Was it not your opinion at that time, that "Coventry" and "Disapprobation" meant the same thing?

A. Certainly.

Q. What reason did Lieut. Wadman assign to you for shewing me marks of disapprobation?

A. As an Individual, Lieut. Wadman did not assign any reason.

Q. Did he not agree with the rest of the Officers in shewing me marks of disapprobation?

A. Yes.

QUESTIONS by the COURT

Q. Was there a shew of hands?

A. There was.

Q. Did Lieut. Wadman hold up his hand?

A. I cannot possibly say that he did.

QUESTIONS by Lieut Colonel Thornton.

Q. Was Lieut. Wadman more active in attempting to seduce you to shew me marks of disapprobation than other Officers?

A. Lieut. Wadman said nothing more than, if I did not concur with the rest of the Officers in shewing you marks of disapprobation, that I would be sent to Coventry.

The Court-Martial of Lieutenant William Wadman

(9)

Q. Did you not conceive that Lieut. Wadman concurred with the rest of Officers, in shewing me marks of disapprobation?

A. Yes.

QUESTION by the COURT.

Q. Did Lieut. Wadman attempt to seduce you, by any conversation, to shew marks of disapprobation to Lieut. Colonel Thornton?

A. No.

QUESTION by the PRISONER.

Q. Did I on the Day allude to, make any particular remark to you, about shewing marks of disapprobation to Lieut. Col. Thornton, or did I make any speech about it to the other Officers?

A. No; you only said, if I did not concur with the rest of the Officers in shewing Lieut. Colonel Thornton marks of disapprobation, "that I mould be sent to Coventry".

SECOND CHARGE.

George Pybus, Sergeant in Lieut. Colonel Thornton's Company, of the Second West Yorkshire Regiment of Militia, sworn and examined by Lieut. Colonel Thornton.

The Court-Martial of Lieutenant William Wadman

(10)

Q. Did you not inform me on the third of August, that Martin Scott, Thomas Rounding, and John Draper; private soldiers in the Regiment were confined by Lieut. Wadman on the 2nd of August, and not reported to me?

A. Yes.

Q. Did not Lieut. Wadman say to you and to the Men on Guard, "can any one of you say that Lieut. Col. Thornton is an honorable Man"?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you not hear Martin Scott, Thomas Rounding and John Draper say, that Lieut. Col. Thornton was an honorable man, and had always behaved to the Men of the Regiment, like a Gentleman?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you not hear Lieut. Wadman say, that "Lieut. Colonel Thornton was a Rascal, a Scoundrel, a Rogue and a Villain"?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you not hear Lieut. Wadman say that "Lieut. Col. Thornton would bring an old House over their Heads, he could not command them long," then damn me you shall all be flogged?

A. Yes.

The Court-Martial of Lieutenant William Wadman

(11)

Q. At what time of the night did this circumstance happen?

A. As nearly as I recollect, between two and three o' Clock.

Q. What happened in consequence of the Men's refusing to speak disrespectfully of me?

A. They were confined by Lieut. Wadman's orders.

Q. When the rest of the Men refused to speak in a disrespectful manner of me; did not Lieut. Wadman order you to go to the Worcester Guard, for the purpose of confining those Men?

A. Yes.

Q. What happened in consequence of your application to the Worcester Guard?

A. I returned to Lieut. Wadman and reported to him, that the Sergeant of the Worcester Guard informed me that the Officer was gone in the rear.

Q. Did not Lieut. Wadman then go to the Worcester Regiment, for the purpose of bringing a party from thence to secure the remainder of the Guard?

A. Yes.

The Court-Martial of Lieutenant William Wadman

(12)

Q. Did not Lieut. Wadman try to intimidate the Men, and instigate them to mutiny, because they would not speak disrespectfully of me?

A. Yes.

QUESTION by the COURT.

Q. What method did Lieut. Wadman use for the purpose of intimidating the Men and instigating them to mutiny?

A. He said that in case any man spoke in favor of Lieut. Col. Thornton, he would confine him.

QUESTION by Lieut. Col. Thornton.

Q. Who made out the Report of the Guard?

A. I did, and delivered it to Lieut. Wadman.

QUESTION by the COURT.

Q. Were those Men in confinement when the report of the Guard was made out?

A. Yes.

Q. Were they inserted in the Report?

A. I do not know.

The Court-Martial of Lieutenant William Wadman

(13)

Q. Were those Men in confinement when the Guard was relieved?

A. Yes.

Q. Did Lieut. Wadman say that the three Prisoners should go about their business, before or after he signed the Report?

A. Before he signed the Report.

Q. Was there any other Prisoner in the Guard, when the three Prisoners were there?

A. Yes, Abraham Rawson.

Q. Did you insert him in the Report?

A. Yes.

Q. Why did you not insert the names of the other three Prisoners in the Report?

A. Because that Lieut. Wadman told them they might go about their business, for that they mould not go off the Guard with the rest of the Men.

QUESTION by Lieut. Col Thornton.

Q. Have you not been intimidated by Lieut. Wadman from giving free Evidence to this Court?

The Court-Martial of Lieutenant William Wadman

(14)

A. No.

Harrison Armstrong, Sergeant in Lieut. Col. Thornton's company of the Second West York, sworn and examined by Lieut. Col. Thornton.

Q. What do you know of Martin Scott, Thomas Rounding, and John Draper, being confined by Lieut. Wadman, the 2nd of August last?

A. Sergeant Pybus told me they were confined, I asked him for what reason, he told me, for not speaking disrespectfully of Lieut. Col. Thornton.

Q. Were they released?

A. They were ordered by Lieut. Wadman to be released, but they said they would remain in confinement as they thought themselves ill used.

Q. Did you hear Lieut. Wadman, on the 2nd of August, speak disrespectfully of me?

A. Yes.

O. What words did he make use of?

A. He said that Lieut. Col. Thornton was a Scoundrel, a Rogue, and a Villain, and he could prove him so, and that he would give any man a Shilling who would go and tell him so.

O. Where were you when you heard these words?

A. In my own Tent.

Q. Where was Lieut. Wadman?

The Court-Martial of Lieutenant William Wadman

(15)

A. The sound came from the quarter Guard.

QUESTION by the COURT.

Q. How long did the three Men remain in confinement?

A. Two days and a half.

Q. Who persuaded them to leave their confinement?

A. I do not know.

QUESTION by Lieut. Col Thornton.

Q. Did you hear Lieut. Wadman say that they would bring an old house over their heads, that Lieut. Col. Thornton could not command them long, "and then damn me you mail all be flogged?"

A. Yes.

QUESTION by the COURT to Lieut. Col. Thornton.

Q. Were these three Prisoners reported to you in any subsequent report of the quarter Guard?

A. No,

QUESTION by the COURT to Sergeant Armstrong.

Q. At what hour of the night did you hear Lieut. Wadman use those expressions?

The Court-Martial of Lieutenant William Wadman

(16)

A. It was dark, but I believe towards three o' clock.

QUESTION by the PRISONER.

Q. Were not there three Men reported to Lieut. Col. Thornton in the morning state of the Company?

A. Yes.

The Court adjourned to Friday morning at eleven o'clock 12th September, 1794 and met again agreeable to the order of adjournment,

Friday 12th September 1794, Second Day.

SECOND CHARGE.

Corporal John Smith, of Capt. Winn's Company, of the Second West Yorkshire Regiment, sworn and examined by Lieut. Col. Thornton.

Q. Were you Corporal of the Guard upon the second of August last?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you hear Lieut. Wadman abuse me on that day whilst you was on Guard?

A. Yes.

Q. What words were they?

The Court-Martial of Lieutenant William Wadman

(17)

A. He said that Lieut. Col. Thornton was a Rogue, a Rascal, and a Villain.

Q. Did you not hear Lieut. Wadman say, if the Men did not agree with him, that "Lieut. Col. Thornton would bring an old house over their heads, that the Lieut. Colonel could not command them long, and then damn me you shall all be flogged"?

A. Yes.

Q. Did not Martin Scott, Thomas Rounding, and John Draper say, that I had always acted as an Officer and a Gentleman?

A. Yes.

Q. In consequence of those expressions, did not Lieut. Wadman order those Men into confinement?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you confine them?

A. Yes.

QUESTIONS by the COURT.

Q. At what hour of the night did Lieut. Wadman make use of these expressions?

The Court-Martial of Lieutenant William Wadman

(18)

A. At about half past twelve o'clock

Q. Did you hear Lieut. Wadman order the Men to be released before the Guard was relieved?

A. Yes.

Q. But the Prisoners remained in the Quarter Guard?

A. Yes, the Prisoners refused to be released.

QUESTIONS by Lieut Colonel Thornton, to the Evidence

Q. When Lieut. Wadman made use of those expressions alluded to, what reward did he offer to them?

A. He offered them a shilling a piece, and to release them.

Martin Scott private Soldier in Lieut. Colonel Thornton's company, of the 2nd West Yorkshire Regiment of Militia, sworn and examined by Lieut. Col. Thornton.

Q. Was you on the Quarter Guard, on the 2nd of August last?

A. Yes.

Q. Was you ordered into confinement by Lieut. Wadman during the time you was upon Guard?

A. Yes.

The Court-Martial of Lieutenant William Wadman

(19)

Q. What crime had you committed that Lieut. Wadman ordered you into confinement?

A. Lieut. Wadman ordered him, the Evidence, into confinement, because he said that Lieut. Col. Thornton was an honorable Man.

QUESTIONS by the COURT.

Q. Was you confined by Lieut. Wadman, for not speaking disrespectfully of Lieut. Col. Thornton, or for murmuring at being under Arms?

A. For not speaking disrespectfully of Lieut. Colonel Thornton.

Q. How long was you under confinement?

A. Between two and three Days.

Q. Did not Lieut. Wadman order you to be released before the Guard as relieved?

A. Yes.

Thomas Rounding, private Soldier, in Lieut. Colonel Thornton's company of the 2nd West Yorkshire Regiment of Militia sworn and examined by Lieut. Colonel Thornton,

Q. Was you ordered into confinement by Lieut. Wadman, during the time you was upon Guard?

The Court-Martial of Lieutenant William Wadman

(20)

A. Yes.

Q. For what reason was you confined?

A. Lieut. Wadman having ordered the Guard under Arms, between twelve and one o'clock at night, the Men fell in and were dismissed immediately; about ten minutes afterwards, they were ordered out again, at which the Men murmured and were tardy in turning out; Lieut. Wadman then came out of his Tent and said, that he would see if he could not stay out as long as any of them, and that if they had any complaint to make they might apply to Lieut. Col. Thornton; and added, that they were all a pack of Scoundrels, and Lieut. Col. Thornton was one also, and appealed to the Guard if they did not think him so too; and asked several, if they dared to say to the contrary; and when it came to his turn to be asked, he said, if he must speak, that Lieut. Colonel Thornton was an honorable Gentleman; upon which Lieut. Wadman ordered him to be confined.

QUESTIONS by the COURT

Q. When the Guard was turned out, was it a moonlight night, and whether did it rain or not?

A. It was not quite dark and it rained.

The Court-Martial of Lieutenant William Wadman

(21)

Q. Was you confined by Lieut. Wadman for not speaking disrespectfully of Lieut. Col. Thornton, or for murmuring at being under Arms?

A. For not speaking disrespectfully ;of Lieut. Col. Thornton.

Q. How long was you under confinement?

A. Two days and a half.

Q. Did not Lieut. Wadman order you to be released before the Guard was relieved?

A. Yes.

John Draper, private Soldier in Capt. Dawson's company of the Second West Yorkshire Regiment of Militia, sworn and examined by Lieut. Colonel. Thornton.

Q. Was you on the Quarter Guard, on the 2nd Day of August, under the command of Lieut. Wadman?

A. Yes! I was.

Q. Was you ordered into confinement by Lieut. Wadman during the time you was upon Guard.

A. I was.

The Court-Martial of Lieutenant William Wadman

(22)

Q. For what reason was you confined?

A. For speaking in behalf of Lieut. Col. Thornton.

Q. How long was you in Confinement?

A. About two Days to the best of my recollection?

QUESTIONS by the COURT.

Q. Did not Lieut. Wadman order you to be released before the Guard was relieved?

A. He did

Q. What time of the night was you ordered into confinement?

A. Betwixt one and two o' clock, to the best of my recollection,

Q. Was it a dark night?

A. Not very dark.

THIRD CHARGE.

Thomas Bracken, Lieutenant, Second West Yorkshire Regiment of Militia sworn and examined by Lieut. Col. Thornton.

Lieut. Bracken deposeth, that on Sunday evening, the third of August last that he was at the door of Lieut. Col. Thornton's marquee, when he mounted

The Court-Martial of Lieutenant William Wadman

(23)

mounted his Horse he observed Lieut. Wadman, with another Officer not with their Companies, upon which Lieut. Col. Thornton ordered them to their Potts, for words to that effect upon which Lieut. Wadman gave for answer, that he would go when he liked. He, the Evidence was not so near as to hear what Lieut. Col. Thornton said: But he heard Lieut. Wadman say, he was a Scoundrel, upon which I went away, but upon walking away, I heard Lieut. Wadman frequently repeat the above word.

Q. Did you hear me desire Lieut. Wadman to go to his Tent, during the course of that night?

A. Yes.

Q. Did he go to his Tent?

A. No: he went to the head of his Company,

Q. Did you see Lieut. Wadman with his Sword drawn?

A. No, I did not.

QUESTION by the COURT.

Q. Where did you hear Lieut. Wadman abuse Lieut. Col. Thornton?

A. In the front of Lieut. Col. Thornton's Marquee?

The Court-Martial of Lieutenant William Wadman

(24)

John Wilkinson, private Soldier in Lieut. Col. Thornton's company of the 2nd West Yorkshire Regiment of Militia, sworn examined by Lieut, Col. Thornton.

Q. Was you in the front of my Marquee, on Sunday evening, the third of August last?

A. Yes, I was.

Q. Was you holding my Horse?

A. Yes, I was.

P. When I came from my Tent, what did you hear me say to Lieut, Wadman.

A. You rode up to Lieut. Wadman in a very civil manner, and said, the Parade was waiting for him. Lieut. Wadman replied, he would not go for him; nor for any such Scoundrel as he was. I followed Lieut. Col, Thornton, and Lieut. Wadman into the lines, I heard Lieut. Wadman abuse Lieut. Col. Thornton, and repeatedly refuse to go to the Parade.

Q. Did you hear me frequently order Lieut. Wadman to go to his Tent?

A. Yes, 1 did.

The Court-Martial of Lieutenant William Wadman

(25)

Q. Did he go?

A. No, he did not,

Q. What did he say?

A. No, he would not go, nor for any such rascal as he, Lieut, Colonel Thornton,

Questions by the Prisoner

O. At what distance was you from Lieut. Wadman when this happened?

A. About twenty yards.

Q. Where did this circumstance happen?

A. Betwixt Capt. Winn's and Ensign Thurman's Tents.

Questions by the Court,

Q. Was Lieut. Bracken there when Lieut. Col. Thornton ordered Lieut, Wadman to the Parade, or during the conversation?

A. I do not recollect whether he remained there the whole time.

Edward Owen, Lieut. Col. Thornton's Groom sworn and examined by Lieut. Col. Thornton.

Q. Was you present when I mounted my horse at my Tent door, on the third of August last, in the evening?

A. Yes.

The Court-Martial of Lieutenant William Wadman

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Q. Was you on horseback also?

A. Yes, I was.

Q. Did you see Lieut. Wadman and another Officer at that time, at the left of my tent?

A. I did.

Q. What did you hear me say?

A. "Gentlemen," you said, the parade is "waiting, will you go to your companies?"

O. What was the answer you heard Lieut. Wadman give?

A. He said, "I will go to my company when I please."

Q. Did I not, upon that, bid you take notice of what Lieut. Wadman had said?

A. Yes.

O. Did you hear me desire Lieut. Wadman to go to his tent?

A. Yes.

Q. Did I not say this immediately upon my coming out of my tent?

A. Yes.

Q. Was I within twenty yards of my tent?

A. You was.

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(27)

Questions by the Court.

Q. Did you bear Lieut. Wadman make use of any other expressions to Lieut. Col. Thornton at that time?

A. Yes.

Q. What were they?

A. He said, what, do you mean by ordering me to go to my company I will not go for any such Scoundrel and Blackguard as you are."

Questions by Lieut. Col. Thornton.

Q. Did I not frequently desire Lieut. Wadman to go to his Tent?

A. Yes you did.

Q. Did Lieut. Wadman as frequently refuse?

A. Yes, he did.

Q. Did you see Lieut. Wadman follow me into the street where the Grenadiers are?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. Did you hear me say to Lieut. Wadman, "you will be pleased to repeat the words you made use of before at this place?"

A. Yes.

The Court-Martial of Lieutenant William Wadman

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Q. What did Lieut. Wadman say?

A. He drew his sword, and said, "that he and Lieut. Col. Thornton should go to that, sooner than he would be taken by him, or any of the men, that he would not be taken."

Q. What passed afterwards?

A. He said he was a damned rascal, and a scoundrel, and he would prove him so anywhere.

Q. Did you not hear me say to the Grenadiers, take notice what this man says?

A. Yes.

Q. What answer did the Grenadiers make?

A. They said, yes, they would.

Q. Did you hear them say any thing more?

A. I cannot recollect that they said anything more.

Q. Did the Gunfire about that time?

A. It did.

Q. Did you not hear me send for the Adjutant?

A. I did,

Q. What did you hear Lieut. Wadman say when the Adjutant came up?

A. You ordered the Adjutant to take Lieut. Wadman to his Tent, and he said

The Court-Martial of Lieutenant William Wadman

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he would not be taken by him; the Adjutant then said to Lieut. Col. Thornton, what mud I do? Lieut. Col. Thornton then said, you know your duty.

Q. When I came in the front of the Parade, what did you hear Lieut. Wadman say there?

A. I do not recollect.

John Hay, Lieutenant in Captain Winn's company, and Adjutant in the Second West Yorkshire Regiment of Militia, sworn and examined by Lieut. Col. Thornton.

Q. Did I not send to you on the third day of August last, on the evening parade?

A. Yes.

Q. When you came, did I not desire you to take Lieut. Wadman to his Tent?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you not find him with his Sword drawn?

A. I do not recollect that his Sword was drawn at the time I came.

Q. Do you recollect his Sword being drawn at any subsequent period that evening?

A. Certainly I do recollect.

The Court-Martial of Lieutenant William Wadman

(30)

Q. Did he not refuse to go to his Tent?

A. He did.

Q. Did you not hear him abuse me?

A. I heard very high words between Lieut. Col. Thornton and Lieutenant Wadman, but I do not recollect, what they were.

Q. When you reported to me that Lieutenant Wadman would not go to his Tent, what did I say to you?

A. You ordered me to warn a File of Men, upon which I ordered a Corporal and a File of Men of the Grenadiers, who was parading the men of his company for Picquet, to take charge of a File of Men, and obey Lieutenant Colonel Thornton's orders.

Q. Do you recollect saying to me, what can I do?

A. It is very possible I did say so, but from the confusion, I cannot charge my memory with it.

Q. Did I not desire you to order a File of Men to take Lieutenant Wadman away?

A. You did.

The Court adjourned till Saturday morning, at Eleven o'clock, the 13th of September, 1794.

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September 13th, 1794, the Court met agreeably to the order of adjournment.

Samuel Wheatley, Sergeant in the Royal Regiment of Artillery, sworn and examined by Lieutenant Colonel Thornton.

Q. Was you standing at the Evening Gun, in front of the line, on Sunday evening, the third of August?

A. Yes.

Question by the Court.

Q. Where was that Gun placed?

A. On the right of the West York, and in the front of the anterior Camp Color.

Question by Lieutenant Colonel Thornton.

Q. Did you observe any thing particular in the front of the West York, and what was it?

A. I saw Lieutenant Wadman in front of the Regiment, between Lieut. Colonel Thornton and the Adjutant; Lieutenant Wadman had then his Sword drawn, and standing in a threatening position; I then saw the Adjutant go away from Lieutenant Colonel Thornton, and ordered the Picquet to advance; a little after that, Lieutenant Wadman put up his Sword, and went up to Lieutenant Colonel Thornton, who was on

The Court-Martial of Lieutenant William Wadman

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horseback, and doubled his fist at him, and called him a scoundrel, and a rogue, and that he would prove him one; during this time, several of the men of the West York came and surrounded Lieutenant Wadman; a scuffle ensued between Lieutenant Wadman and the men with arms, and I saw Lieutenant Wadman fall. I believe he was knocked down; then some men took him up, and carried him away.

Questions by the Court.

Q. Did the scuffle ensue on the Parade, in front of the Regiment?

A. Yes.

O. When Lieutenant Wadman stood with his Sword drawn, in a threatening position, who did it appear that he meant to threaten?

A. Either Lieutenant Colonel Thornton, the Adjutant, or the Men with arms.

Q. What do you mean by the threatening position?

A. I thought that if any person had then approached Lieutenant Wadman, he would have struck him with his Sword.

Thomas Dugdale, Corporal, in Captain Harvey's Grenadier Company, in the Second West Yorkshire-Regiment of Militia, sworn and examined by Lieutenant Colonel Thornton.

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Q. Was you Corporal of the Picquet on Sunday evening, the third of August last?

A. I was the Corporal who paraded the Men of the Grenadier Company for Picquet, but not on that duty myself.

Q. What did you observe at that time?

A. I observed Lieutenant Wadman coming to the front of the Regiment, and Lieutenant Colonel Thornton riding after him, and Lieutenant Col. Thornton asked him to go to his Tent, Lieutenant Wadman observed he would not go; Lieutenant Colonel Thornton then ordered the Adjutant to take him there; and Lieutenant Colonel Thornton ordered a File of Men. I being the Corporal parading the Grenadiers for Picquet, he ordered me to assist, I advanced a little to Lieutenant Wadman, he; retreated, and said, "he would take care that I did not take him, or Lieut. Colonel Thornton." Lieutenant Wadman had his Sword drawn. I then stopped, and did not see that I could secure him, without charging Bayonets, and injuring Lieutenant Wadman, or being hurt myself.

Q. Do you recollect my ordering the Adjutant to order a File of Men to take Lieutenant Wadman?

A. I recoiled a File of Men being ordered, and I was the Corporal who was ordered by the Adjutant to take charge of the File of Men.

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Q. Do you recollect hearing me say, send to the Worcester?

A. No.

Q. Do you recollect my saying, "I will try once more and see if my Company will act?"

A. No.

Questions by the Court.

Q. Where was you standing when you first saw Lieutenant Wadman and Lieutenant Colonel Thornton?

A. I was standing in front of the street, parading the Men for Picquet.

Q. Had any other person his Sword drawn at that time, besides Lieutenant Wadman?

A. Yes.

Q. Who?

A. Lieutenant Colonel Thornton.

Q. Did you see Lieutenant Colonel Thornton draw his Sword?

A. No, I did not see him draw it, I only saw it was drawn.

Thomas Wilson, Sergeant, and Master of the Band, in Lieutenant Col.

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Thornton's Company, sworn, and examined by Lieut. Col. Thornton.

Q. Do you remember my calling up the Band?

A. Yes.

Q. For what purpose did I call them up?

A. To take notice of what words Lieutenant Wadman used to you.

Q. What did you hear Lieutenant Wadman say?

A. He said, "Lieutenant Colonel Thornton was a Scoundrel, and he would fight him tomorrow".

Question by the Prisoner.

Q. Was you present during the whole time?

A. I was in front of the Parade, but did not observe what passed in the rear.

Question by Lieutenant Colonel Thornton.

Did you see the two Grenadiers refuse to act?

A. Yes.

Question by the Court.

Q. Did the two Grenadiers endeavor to take Lieutenant Wadman?

A. No.

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Question by Lieutenant Colonel Thornton.

Q. Did I act coolly upon this occasion?

A. It appeared to me that you acted as coolly as a man could possibly do.

William Chathurn, Private Soldier in Captain Harvey's Grenadier Company, Second West Yorkshire Regiment of Militia, sworn, and examined by Lieutenant Colonel Thornton,

Q. Was you one of the Men ordered to assist in securing Lieutenant Wadman, on Sunday evening, the third of August last?

A. Yes.

Q. Why did you not secure Lieutenant Wadman?

A. I was afraid that I should either damage Lieutenant Wadman, or receive injury myself.

Q. Why was you afraid?

A. Because he drew his Sword, and swore that neither the Lieutenant Col. nor the Men should take him.

Q. Did you hear me say that u I would send to the Worcester for a Guard?"

A. No, I do not recollect.

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Q. Was my conduct cool?

A. Yes, very cool.

Questions by the Court.

Q. Was the Picquet formed at this time?

A. We were paraded at the head of our own Streets, ready for formation.

O. Was Lieutenant Colonel Thornton's Sword drawn at this time?

A. No.

Question by Lieutenant Colonel Thornton.

O. Had the evening Gun fired at that time?

A. I do not recollect.

Question by the Court.

Q. When you declared that you was afraid to attempt to secure Lieutenant Wadman, was his Sword then drawn, or did he draw it up on your advancing towards him?

A. His Sword was then drawn.

John Carty, Sergeant, in Captain Maude's Company, of the Second West Yorkshire Regiment of Militia, sworn, and deposeth.

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That on Sunday evening, a little before Gun-firing, Lieutenant Colonel Thornton rode up to Lieutenant Wadman, who was then Handing in the front of the Grenadiers, and ordered him, in the most civil manner, to his Tent, Lieutenant Wadman refused, and said he would not go to his Tent, but upon Lieutenant Wadman refusing repeatedly to obey his orders, Lieutenant Colonel Thornton called for the Adjutant, and desired that he would take him to his Tent; Lieutenant Wadman said, he would be damned if either the Adjutant, or any one else, should take him to his Tent. The Adjutant used every means possible to induce Lieutenant Wadman to go to his Tent, but without any effect. Lieut. Colonel Thornton then ordered a File of Men; Lieutenant Wadman then looked earnestly upon Lieutenant Colonel Thornton at that word, and said a File of Men, A File of Men; and as he spoke these words he drew his Sword, and swore he would run the first man through the body, that dared to lay hands upon him; he called the Lieutenant Col. a Scoundrel, and a Rogue, and said if he would come from his horse, he would fight him, and damned his body, he would see him out the next morning. The Corporal who commanded the File of Men, had formed a circle round Lieutenant Wadman, soon after the circle was formed, I saw Lieutenant Wadman fall.

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Questions by the Court.

Q. Did you hear any conversation between Lieut. Wadman and Lieut. Colonel Thornton, before he ordered Lieut. Wadman to his Tent?

A. No.

Q. Was Lieutenant Colonel Thornton's Sword drawn at that time?

A. No.

Q. Where was you standing at this time?

A. Being attached to the Battalion Guns, I was standing about four or five yards in the rear of the Grenadiers.

Questions by Lieutenant Colonel Thornton.

Q. Did it appear to you, that when Lieutenant Wadman drew his Sword, it was for the purpose of doing his duty as an Officer, or to act in an hostile manner?

A. I believe it was to act in an hostile manner.

Q. Do you recollect, at this time, that I said I would send to the Worcester for a Guard?

A. I do not recollect.

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Question by the Court.

O. What reason have you for supposing that Lieutenant Wadman drew his Sword with an hostile intention?

A. Because Lieutenant Wadman went up to Lieutenant Colonel Thornton and lifted up his Sword as though he would strike him.

Questions by Lieutenant Colonel Thornton.

Q. When Lieutenant Wadman was surrounded by the Men with Arms, how many Men was there?

A. About two or three Files.

Q. Was my conduct cool on that evening?

A. It was perfectly so, so much so, that it was admired by a great number spectators who were around.

Questions by the Court.

O. Where was Lieutenant Wadman when the Adjutant attempted to induce Lieutenant Wadman to go to his Tent?

A. In the Grenadier Street.

Q. Is it usual in the West York Regiment for a number of people to be admitted near the men, at the time of Parade?

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A. Near our Parade there are a great number at times.

Q. Being attached to the Guns, do you not parade between the Artillery
Tents and the Grenadier Company?

A. Yes.

John Smith, Sergeant Major, in the Second West Yorkshire Regiment of
Militia, sworn, and examined by Lieut. Col. Thornton.

Q. How many Years have you been in the Regiment?

A. Twenty Years.

Q. Do you recollect my saying on the evening of the third of August, that I
would send to the Worcester Regiment for a Guard?

A. I do not.

Q. Did you see a File of Men of the West York in front of the line?

A. Yes.

Q. Did it appear to you at this time, that there was any disturbance in the
Regiment?

A. Yes.

Q. Did that disturbance appear to you to be of a very serious nature?

A. It did.

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Q. Was my conduct during the Whole of that business, cool and collected?

A. It was, more than I could have imagined.

Questions by the Court.

Q. Where was you at this time?

A. About Eve Yards to the right, in front of the Colors.

Q. Was Lieut. Col. Thornton's Sword drawn at the time that the disturbance happened?

A. Yes, and Lieut. Wadman's also.

Q. Did you see Lieut. Col. Thornton draw his Sword?

A. No.

Q. Did you see Lieut. Wadman draw his Sword?

A. I did.

Q. Was Lieut. Col. Thornton's Sword drawn before Lieut. Wadman's?

A. I cannot be positive.

Q. Did you remain in the same place where you stood at the beginning of the disturbance?

A. I removed, about twenty yards towards the right.

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Q. Did Lieut. Wadman draw his Sword for the purpose of mounting Picquet, or did he draw it in an hostile manner?

A. According to my judgment, it could not be for the purpose of mounting Picquet, as it is not usual for the Officer so to do, until he comes in front of the Picquet.

Q. Did you ever know Lieut. Wadman draw his Sword, when for Picquet, before he took pod in the front of it?

A. I did not.

Thomas Hay, Lieutenant in Captain Winn's Company, and Adjutant in the Second West Yorkshire Regiment of Militia, sworn, and examined by Lieut. Col. Thornton.

Q. Was Lieut. Wadman on Guard, on the evening of the 3rd of August?

A. He was.

The Court adjourned till Monday the 15th of September, 1794, at Eleven o'clock in the Forenoon.

Monday, 15th September, 1794.

The Court met agreeable to the order of adjournment.

Defence of the Prisoner, Lieut. William Wadman, of the Second West Yorkshire Regiment of Militia,

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My Lord Duke, and Gentlemen of the Court Martial.

In addressing you upon this awful occasion, I shall intrude as little as possible upon your Time, nor mould I have hesitated in the first instance to have pleaded Guilty of some of the Charges exhibited against me, were it not from a conviction, that the Service has been grossly violated in my Person, by an unjustifiable and cruel abuse of that Power, which Lieut. Colonel Thornton possessed, as commanding Officer of the Regiment. The deplorable and truly lamentable state to which I am reduced, by the Violence that has been offered to me, by Lieut. Col. Thornton's orders, has induced the Court most humanely to permit me to have the assistance of some of my brother Officers, in making my Defence, for which indulgence, I now beg the Court will be pleased to accept my most grateful thanks.

I shall content myself with slightly mentioning a few points adduced by Lieut. Col. Thornton, in support of the Charges he has exhibited against me, and shall then proceed to bring Evidence in my Defence,

To the first Charge, I conceive, that the single Evidence which Lieutenant Colonel Thornton has produced, has by no means substantiated the Charge of my having seduced, or attempted to seduce, by willful misrepresentations,

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any Officers of the Regiment, to send Lieut. Colonel Thornton to Coventry, nor is the disputing of his authority attempted to be proved in the most remote degree. I therefore rest my defence against that charge, upon the Evidence adduced by Lieut. Col. Thornton.

To the second Charge I shall not attempt to make any Defence, as far as it relates to the imprudence of my Conduct", in attempting to instigate the Men to speak disrespectfully of Lieut. Col. Thornton. The only excuse I can make for such unjustifiable Conduct, is my being in a state of intoxication at the time, and whilst I acknowledge that circumstance, I do not mean to impress the Court with the idea, that I offer it by way of extenuation of the Offence, but leave it to the candor and humanity of the Court to decide, whether it may not, in a small degree, remove the idea of my being under the determined influence of Conduct tending to mutiny. That the Men were confined I also confess, but their having chosen to remain in confinement after I had given orders for their release, which by their own confession was before the Guard was relieved, cannot, I think, in the Opinion of this Court, look me with a breach of Duty, as I could not report Men as Prisoners, when I had liberated them myself, whilst I had the power of so doing it.

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The Evidence which I have to adduce, in the Defence of the third Charge exhibited against me, will, I trust, prove to the satisfaction of the Court, that the disobedience of orders alleged against me, was in a vain endeavor to resist the attempt to confine me in the Quarter Guard: when intoxicated, as I then was, I had recollection enough to know that was not the proper place for an Officer to be sent to; under this impression, regardless of the consequence, I certainly did resist to submit to so degrading a measure, as to suffer the Service to be violated in so serious a manner, by the arbitrary commands of Lieut. Colonel Thornton; if it were possible, that a commutation of punishment could take place for the Offence, of which I acknowledge myself to be guilty, I should not be without hopes after having been knocked down by the Soldiers, with their Firelocks, and stabbed with their Bayonets in four different places, (the effects of which I shall feel to the last hour of my existence) it might be thought, that what I have already endured by a confinement to my Bed; and a deprivation of my intellects for almost six weeks, might tend to soften the disgrace of my punishment, but in this, as well as in all other points, I submit myself to the honor of the Court, and to the clemency of His Majesty, consoling myself with this hope, that however I may suffer as an Individual, I shall be the means of proving, that, in no instance

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whatever, can a commanding Officer be justified in urging the Soldiers to commit unnecessary violence upon the Person of an Officer.

I cannot conclude without calling to the recollection of the Court, that when the deputy Judge Advocate applied in my name, for Captain Dawson to assist me in taking Notes for my Defence, that Lieut. Colonel Thornton objected to it in the strongest manner, as he then declared, he had ten thousand points to examine him upon, I must therefore suppose, that since he has not called upon Captain Dawson, nor upon more than two Officers out of twelve others of the Second West Yorkshire Regiment, whom he has returned as Evidences for the prosecution, that his only motive was to deprive me of the abilities of that Gentleman in particular, and of the assistance of the other Officers in general.

Signed, William Wadman, Lieut. Second West Yorkshire Regiment of Militia, Monday, 15th September, 1794.

Lieut. William Wadman's Evidence, in his Defence.

Timothy Thurnam, Surgeon and Ensign in the Second West Yorkshire Regiment of Militia, sworn, and examined by the Prisoner.

Q. Did you see me after the Evening Parade on Sunday the third of August?

A. I did.

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Q. In what condition did you find me?

A. I found a wound given with a Bayonet, (as I supposed) which had pierced about three quarters of an inch into the Windpipe, and your Face much swelled with wind, in consequence of that wound, and likewise a wound in your Thigh, and a very small one near your Hip, given to appearance, with the same sort of Instrument: likewise a Bruise upon your Brest supposed to be given with the but end of a Firelock; likewise a blow upon your head.

Q. Did you think my Life endangered in consequence of the bruises and wounds I received?

A. Certainly.

Q. Did you not report my Situation to Lieutenant General Morris, as dangerous, many days after I received the ill treatment above-mentioned?

A. I did, in consequence of Lieut. General Morris's application to me.

Question by Lieut, Colonel Thornton.

Q. Do you not believe, that the date of intoxication, in which the Prisoner had been, might have caused a greater degree of inflammation than would have otherwise been produced?

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A. It might have done it, but did not do it.

John Boone, Physician General to his Majesty's Forces in the South Western District, sworn, and examined by the Prisoner.

Q. Was you not desired to visit me by Lieut. General Morris's orders?

A. I was.

Q. What was the substance of your report to Lieut. General Morris?

A. My report was, that from the wounds, which you had received, and from the fever which was then upon you, your life was in danger.

Questions by Lieutenant Colonel Thornton.

Q. Do you not believe that the state of inflammation, in which you saw the Prisoner, was considerably increased by the intoxication in which you found him?

A. The Prisoner did not appear intoxicated when I visited him.

Q. Do you not believe, that if the wounds which the Prisoner received, had been given whilst in a state of intoxication, the inflammation would have been considerably greater than if he had been sober?

A. Yes,

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Questions by the Court.

Q. How long was it after the Prisoner had received those wounds, that you visited him?

A. Between two and three days.

Q. Did you examine the wounds?

A. I saw the wound in the Windpipe only.

(D. With what instrument do you suppose the wound was given?

A. Either with a Sword or Bayonet.

Q. Did you examine the bruises?

A. Yes; he was very much bruised upon the breast, so that he spit blood.

Question by Lieutenant Colonel 'Thornton.

Q. When did you report the Prisoner out of danger?

A. I believe about fourteen days ago.

Joseph Marshall, Lieutenant in the Second West Yorkshire Regiment of Militia, Sworn, and examined by the Prisoner.

Q. Did you see a party of Soldiers, of the Second West Yorkshire, attack

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me on the Parade, on Sunday evening, the third of August last, with their Firelocks?

A. Yes.

Q. By whose orders?

A. By Lieutenant Colonel Thornton's.

Q. What ensued?

A. They surrounded you, and in consequence you fell apparently dead.

Q. Did I appear to you to be much intoxicated at that time?

A. Very much so.

Q. Did you not come forward to prevent any disturbance that might ensue?

A. Before the Soldiers surrounded you, I did.

Question by the Court.

Q. How many Soldiers surrounded the Prisoner?

A. About seven or eight,

Questions by the Prisoner.

Q. Did not Lieut, Col. Thornton upon that order you back to your post?

A. He did.

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Q. Did I not fall back to prevent any injury I might do to Lieut. Colonel Thornton, or the Soldiers, when they approached me?

A. I saw you retreat several steps, and Lieut. Col. Thornton advance.

Q. Did not my actions appear to you on that day to proceed wholly from having drank too much?

A. Entirely from having drank too much.

Q. Did it appear to you, from any actions of mine, that I deserved to be so treated?

A. No.

Questions by Lieutenant Colonel Thornton.

Q. Do you mean to infer by the word "entirely," that the Prisoner was not any ways instigated to act as he did?

A. I believe he was not instigated.

Q. Where was you standing when the Prisoner fell?

A. About twenty yards from him.

Q. Was you not with your company?

A. On the right of it.

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Question by the Court.

Q. How do you know that these men acted by Lieutenant Col. Thornton's orders?

A. I heard Lieutenant Colonel Thornton order the Men to secure the Prisoner, and take him to the Quarter Guard.

Questions by Lieutenant Colonel Thornton.

Q. To whom were these orders given?

A. To the Soldiers who surrounded the Prisoner,

Q. What were the precise words of these orders?

A. I do not recollect the precise words, but to the best of my recollection, they were, "seize him, damn him, and take him to the Quarter Guard," or words to that effect.

Nathaniel Fowler, Lieutenant in the Second West Yorkshire Regiment of Militia, sworn, and examined by the Prisoner.

Q. Did you see a party of Soldiers, of the West York, attack me on the Parade, on Sunday evening, the third of August last, with their Firelocks?

A. Yes.

Q. By whose orders?

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A. By Lieutenant Colonel Thornton's.

Q. What ensued?

A. Lieutenant Wadman appeared to me to wish to extricate himself from the Soldiers, he held his arms up above them, but could not get from them; part of them pushed at him with their Bayonets, and part of them with their Butts, and one of them knocked him down with the Butt; he did not appear able to rise by himself, and they carried him off the Parade.

Q. Did I appear to you much intoxicated at that time?

A. Yes.

Q. Did I attempt to offer any violence to Lieutenant Colonel Thornton or the Soldiers?

A. I did not observe that you did.

Q. Did not Lieut. Col. Thornton order me to the Quarter Guard?

A. Yes, he did.

Q. Did I not fall back, in order to prevent any injury I might do with my Sword, when Lieutenant Col. Thornton or the Soldiers approached me?

A. You seemed to be afraid of hurting the. Soldiers, and endeavored to retire.

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Q. Did you not hear Lieutenant Colonel Thornton call me an impudent fellow?

A. Yes, I did.

Questions by the Court.

Q. Do you know what occasioned the Soldiers to use their Bayonets in securing the Prisoner?

A. I do not positively know, but to the best of my understanding, it proceeded from Lieutenant Colonel Thornton's orders to the Adjutant.

Q. Did you hear him give orders for any violence to be used in securing the Prisoner?

A. Yes.

Q. What were the words used by Lieutenant Colonel Thornton?

A. He said, to him, damn him, to him, run him through.

Questions by Lieutenant Colonel Thornton.

Q. Did you come from the Mess-Room with the Prisoner, on the third of August last?

A. I do not recollect: that I did

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Q. Did you hear the Adjutant order them to "charge their Bayonets" upon the prisoner?

A. I did not recollect that I did.

Edmund Mark Winn, Captain, in the Second West Yorkshire Regiment of Militia, sworn and examined by the Prisoner.

Q. Did you see a party of Soldiers, of the Second West York, attack me on the Parade, on Sunday evening, the third of August last with their Firelocks?

A. I did.

Q. By whose orders?

A. By Lieutenant Colonel Thornton.

Q. What ensued?

A. The Soldiers attacked the Prisoner with their Firelocks and he received a blow, which brought him to the ground.

Q. Did I appear to be much intoxicated at the time?

A. Extremely so.

Q. Did I attempt to offer any violence to Lieutenant Colonel Thornton or to the soldiers?

A. You did not.

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Q. Did not Lieutenant Colonel Thornton order me to the quarter guard?

A. He did.

Did I not fall back in order to prevent any injury I might do with my sword, when Lieutenant Colonel Thornton approached me?

A. You did.

By Lieutenant Colonel Thornton.

Q. Where was you when the prisoner fell?

A. At the left of my company.

Q. Was you in the streets of the encampment?

A. I was.

By the Prisoner.

Q. Do you recollect, since the regiment has been in camp. Colonel Thorntons having dismissed the piquets, when field-officer of the day, without having his sword drawn?

A. I do.

Q. Do field officers usually draw their swords when dismissing the piquets?

A. They do not.

*Lieutenant and Adjutant Hay Sworn,
and examined by the prisoner.*

Q. Was the piquet formed at the time this unfortunate affair took place?

A. No.

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By the court, at the desire of Lieutenant Colonel Thornton.

Q. Had the gun fired at this time?

A. I do not recollect.

The Court adjourned til Tuesday, September 16th, 1794, at 11 o'clock in
the forenoon. P. Haslam. D. J. A

September 16th, 1794. – The Court met agreeably to the adjournment.

The accuser summed up the evidence.

The Court adjourned to Thursday the 18th of September at Twelve
o'clock at noon. P. Haslam, D.J.A.

September 18th, 1794, The Court met agreeably to the act of
adjournment.

The Court proceeded to adjudication.

Defence of Lieutenant Wadman, of the West York Regiment.

My Lord Duke, and Gentleman of the Court Martial,

IN addressing you upon the awful occasion, I shall intrude as little as possible upon your time; nor should I have hesitated in the first instance to have pleaded guilty of some of the charges exhibited against me, were it not from a conviction, that the service has been grossly violated in my person, by an unjustifiable and cruel abuse of power which Colonel Thornton possessed as commanding-officer of the regiment.

The deplorable and truly lamentable state, to which I am reduced, by the violence that has been offered me by *Lieutenant Colonel Thornton's* orders, induced the court most humanly to permit me to have the assistance of some of my brother officers, in making my defence; for which indulgence I beg the Court will be pleased to accept of my most

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grateful thanks. I shall content myself with slightly mentioning a few points, adduced by Lieutenant Colonel *Thornton* in support of the charges he has exhibited against me; and shall then proceed to bring evidence in my defence.

To the first charge, I conceive that the single evidence which Colonel *Thornton* has produced, has by no means substantiated, the charge of my having seduced, or attempted to seduce by willful misrepresentations, any officers of the regiment, to send Colonel *Thornton* to Coventry; nor is the disputing of his authority attempted to be proved in the most remote degree; I therefore rest my defence against that charge upon the evidence adduced by Lieutenant Colonel *Thornton*.

To the second charge, as far as it relates to the imprudence of my conduct in attempting to instigate the men to speak disrespectfully to Lieutenant Colonel *Thornton*, I shall not make any defence. The only excuse I can make for such unjustifiable conduct, was my being, at the time, in a state of intoxication. And whilst I acknowledge the circumstance, I do not mean to impress the Court with the idea that I offer it by way of extenuation of the offence; but I leave it to the candor and humanity of the Court to decide, whether it may not, in some small degree, remove the idea of my acting under the influence of a *disposition tending to mutiny*. That the men were confined I also confess; but there having chosen to remain in confinement after I had given orders for their release, which by their own confession, was before the guards were relieved, cannot, I think, in the opinion of the Court, convict me of a breach of duty in that instance, as I could not report men as prisoners whom I had liberated whilst I had the power of doing it.

The evidence I shall adduce in defence on the third charge exhibited against me, will, I trust, prove to the satisfaction of the Court, that the disobedience of orders alleged against me, was merely an endeavor to resist the attempt to confine me in the Quarter Guard: for, intoxicated as I then was, I had recollection enough to know, that the Quarter Guard was not the proper place for an officer to be sent to. Under this impression, and regardless of the consequences, I certainly did refuse to submit to so degrading a measure, as to suffer the service to be violated in so serious a manner, by the arbitrary commands of Lieutenant Colonel *Thornton*. If it were possible that a commutation of punishment could take place for their offences, I am willing to

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acknowledge myself guilty; and shall not be without hopes, that having been knocked down by the soldiers with their firelocks and stabbed with their bayonets in four different places, the effects of which I shall feel to the last hour of my existence; and what I have endured, likewise, by confinement to my bed, and deprivations of my intellects, for almost six weeks, may tend to soften the disgrace of my punishment. But in this, as well as all other points, I submit myself to the honor of the Court and to the clemency, of his Majesty: consoling myself with this hope, that, however I may suffer as an individual, I shall be the means of proving, that a commanding officer can in no instance whatever be justified in urging the soldiers to commit unnecessary violence upon the person of an officer.

I cannot conclude without calling to the recollection of the Court, that when the Deputy Judge Advocate applied, in my name, for Captain Dawson to assist me in taking notes for my defence: Lieutenant Colonel Thornton objected to it in the strongest manner, declaring he had ten thousand point to examine him upon. I must, therefore, suppose, that since he has not called upon Captain Dawson, nor more than two officers out of twelve others of the West York regiment whom he has returned as witnesses for the prosecution, that his only motive was to deprive me of the abilities of that gentleman in particular, and of the assistance of the other officers in general.

W. Wadman, Lieut. York Regt. 15th September 1794

On the 18th of September, 1794, the Court met conformably to the act of adjournment, and proceeded to adjudication; when the following sentence was delivered:

The Court having duly considered and weighed

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the evidence given in support of the charge against the prisoner, Lieutenant William Wadman; together with that produced in his defence, --is of opinion, that the prisoner is not guilty of any part of the first charge exhibited against him; the court, therefore acquit the prisoner of the whole of that charge.

The Court is also, of opinion that the prisoner is not guilty of that part of the third charge which relates to his disobedience of orders, in not going to his tent when ordered to do so by Colonel Thornton, when field officer of the picquet; they do, therefore, acquit him of that part of the third charge.

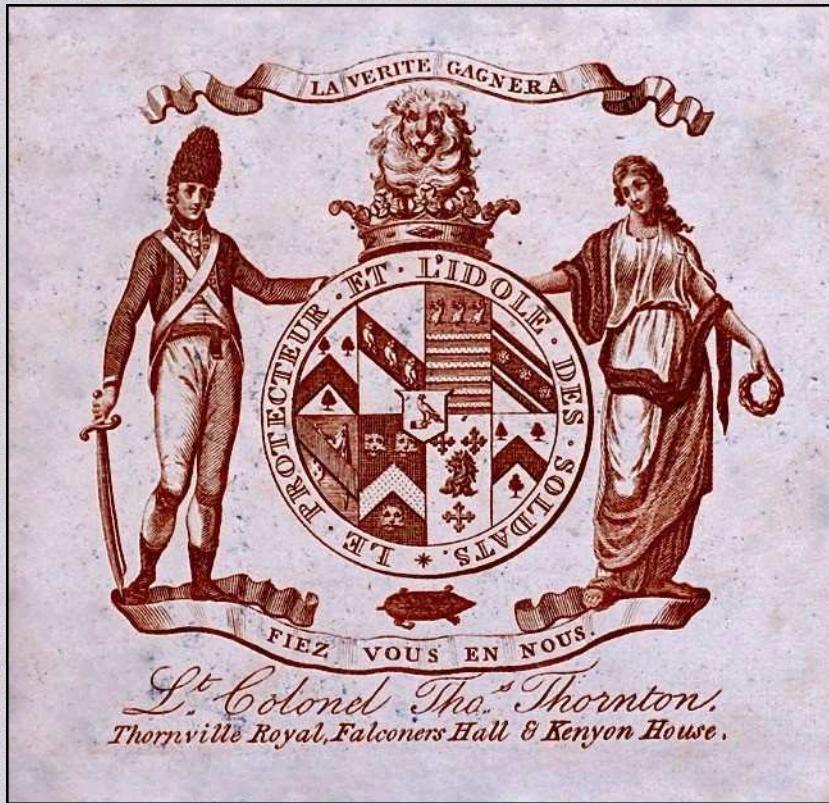
But the Court finds the prisoner guilty of the first part of the second charge, in breach of the third article of the second section of the articles of war. The Court also finds the prisoner guilty of the second part of the second charge, in breach of the second article of the twenty-third section of the articles of war. The Court further finds the prisoner guilty of the first part of the third charge, in breach of the fifth

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article of the second section of the articles of war. And the Court finds the prisoner guilty, also, of the third part of the third charge, in breach of the 22nd article of the 16th section of the articles of war. ---They do, therefore, sentence him, the said Lieutenant William Wadman, to be dismissed from his Majesty's service.

[Thus ended the trial of Lieutenant Wadman but this was only the beginning of seven court-martials for Colonel Thornton. It appears Lt. Wadman was encouraged by other officers to ostracize Colonel Thornton or as was said *send him to Coventry* in order to bring about Colonel Thornton's demise. The initial motive for these attacks appears to stem from Colonel Thornton's appointment of Count Beaurepere, a French citizen and former soldier in the French army to serve with him as an ensign in the 3rd West York Militia. The antipathy of the English toward the French was clearly evident and his appointment did not engender fraternity in the Militia. The Duke of York would have to consent to this action, as the Militia's were his responsibility. It appears these officers worked in concert with the Duke to pursue additional Court-martials against Colonel Thornton in the hopes of removing him from the West York Militia. There is evidence the Duke was allowing this action in retaliation for Colonel Thornton's embarrassing him over the sale of Thornville Royal. It is stated the Duke tried to cheat Colonel Thornton out of £5,000 after the sale price had been settled and was publically called out for this action. Colonel Thornton published the proceedings of his own Court-martial as *Copy of the Proceedings of a General Court-Martial, held at the Rutland Mess House on Burnham Down, on the 17th of August 1795... for the Trial of Lieutenant-Colonel THOMAS THORNTON.* He also published details of all the events as *The Memorial of Thomas Thornton, ... 1796* and *An Elucidation of a Mutinous Conspiracy by the Officers of the West York Militia in 1794, ... 1800.*]



Heraldic Arms of Lt. Colonel Thornton

The bookplate illustrates eight "quartered" Arms
This is a method of joining several different arms together in one shield by dividing the shield into equal parts and placing the different arms a person is entitled to bear in each division.

The Arms of Colonel Thornton are in the first and eight quarters

Top Row are: Thornton, Savile, Myster, Ames.

Bottom Row: Norton, Wentworth, Armitage, Thornton.

Latin Inscriptions:

La Verite Gagnera -"The True Winner."

Le Protecteur et L'Idole Soldats- "The Protector and the Idol of Soldiers."

Fiez Vous En Nous-"We trust you."

Colonel Thomas Thornton of Thornville Royal



Colonel Thornton with his Greyhound *Major*
and Gyrfalcon *Sans Quartier*