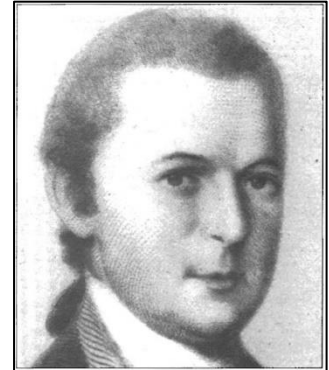


Pennsylvania: Clement Biddle

Born on May 10, 1740 in Philadelphia, PA, to a devout Quaker family, Clement Biddle appeared to be destined for life as a successful businessman working in his father's shipping business.⁸⁹ However in the early 1760s, despite his Quaker upbringing, Biddle raised a Pennsylvania militia unit called the "Quaker Blues." Biddle and his unit fought a series of battles to defend a group of friendly Native Americans from the "Paxton Boys", a vigilante group of Western Pennsylvania settlers that emerged in response to Chief Pontiac's Revolt. When the threat posed by this group ended, Biddle returned to his father's shipping business.⁹⁰



After the battle of Trenton, Clement Biddle was the American officer who accepted the swords from the defeated Hessian officers
Courtesy of the Library of Congress

Almost a year after the American Revolution began, Biddle raised a second company of Quaker soldiers and was rewarded by being given the position of Deputy Quartermaster of "the flying army", a mobile reserve unit that consisted of soldiers from Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland.^{91 92} As an officer in the regiment, Biddle participated in many of the major battles during Washington's 1776 New York Campaign. Additionally, Biddle was present at some of the major battles around Philadelphia in 1777, the encampment at Valley Forge (where he was the Commissary General), and the battle of Monmouth. After briefly retiring from the army, Biddle ended the war as the quartermaster general for the Pennsylvania militia with the rank of colonel.⁹³

⁸⁹ "History - The First Generation of United States Marshals/The First Marshal of Pennsylvania: Clement Biddle," U.S. marshals Service, last estimated release October 21, 2019, <https://www.usmarshals.gov/history/firstmarshals/biddle.htm>. (Accessed October 21, 2019).

⁹⁰Rossiter Johnson, "Clement Biddle," in *The Twentieth Century Biographical Dictionary of Notable Americans* (Boston: American Biographic Society, 1906), pg. 308.

⁹¹ Johnson, *The Twentieth Century Biographical Dictionary of Notable Americans*, 308.

⁹² John Allen Miller, "The Flying Camp Battalion," Emmetsburg Area Historical Society, last estimated release November 1, 2019, http://www.emmitsburg.net/archive_list/articles/history/rev_war/flying_camp_battalion.htm. (Accessed November 1, 2019).

⁹³ Johnson, *The Twentieth Century Biographical Dictionary of Notable Americans*, 308.

evidence supporting this theory.¹⁰³ Alternatively, Biddle may have hoped to utilize the economic data he collected and his position a U.S. marshal to further his private business interests.¹⁰⁴ Regardless of Biddle's motivations for including the economic data, Pennsylvania's 1790 census schedule is unique because the census did not begin collecting economic data nationwide until 1810.

The final 1790 census tabulation noted that Philadelphia was the second largest city in the country, behind New York City, with a population of 28,522 people.¹⁰⁵ Also, Pennsylvania was the second most populous state, behind Virginia, with a total population of 434,373 people.¹⁰⁶

After the census, Biddle had developed gout, which prevented him from chasing two fugitives at the behest of the Secretary of State, Thomas Jefferson in 1792.¹⁰⁷ Furthermore, he was unimpressed with the minuscule compensation he received as a marshal. For these reasons, Biddle did not ask President Washington to renew his appointment when his four years expired. Instead, he returned to working in the private sector and spending time with his family.¹⁰⁸ Clement Biddle died in Philadelphia on July 14, 1814, when he was 74 years-old.

¹⁰³ W.S. Rossiter, "The First Census of the United States," pgs. 44-45.

¹⁰⁴ "To George Washington from Clement Biddle, 23 August 1793," *Founders Online*, National Archives, last estimated release September 29, 2019, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/05-13-02-0351>. (Accessed October 21, 2019). [Original source: *The Papers of George Washington*, Presidential Series, vol. 13, 1 June–31 August 1793, ed. Christine Sternberg Patrick. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2007, p. 529.]

¹⁰⁵ "Pennsylvania", *Return of the whole number of persons within the several districts of the United States: according to "An act providing for the enumeration of the inhabitants of the United States," passed March the first, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one*, pg. 45.

¹⁰⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁷ "History - The First Generation of United States Marshals/The First Marshal of Pennsylvania: Clement Biddle."

¹⁰⁸ *Ibid.*