

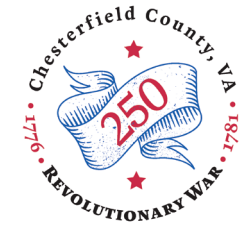
Chesterfield Barracks



Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia  
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# The Chesterfield Barracks Memorial Walkway



**"The Valley Forge of the South"**





In December of 1780 a training barracks for Continental troops was established at Chesterfield Courthouse. General Friedrich Wilhelm Baron von Steuben, was given the task of organizing and training the Continental battalions being raised in Virginia.

Throughout the winter of 1780-1781, a hospital, manufactories, storehouses, and eventually a town of 160 huts for quartering troops were built. Despite the huts, conditions that winter were brutal for the troops and recruits stationed there. General Steuben's commandant of the barracks, Colonel William Davies, wrote to Governor Thomas Jefferson on January 25, 1781: "...all the troops...had by order of Baron Steuben come back to this station, from their utter inability to keep the field, from the want of almost every species of clothing. Many men have not a remnant of clothing larger than a good napkin to cover their nakedness, and a number of these are dependent upon others for a part of a blanket to shelter them at night from the cold."

Despite the hardships, several hundred Virginia recruits were formed into Continental battalions, that went on to fight in battles that changed the course of the war in the south such as Guilford Courthouse and Eutaw Springs. Troops trained at the Chesterfield Barracks also served at the Siege of Yorktown in the Fall of 1781. There they entrenched close to the British lines and helped force British General Cornwallis' army to surrender on October 19, 1781.

The training depot here at Chesterfield Courthouse proved significant but short lived. On April 27, 1781, the forces of British General William Phillips marched through Chesterfield, capturing and burning the barracks, courthouse, and other buildings.

The Chesterfield Historical Society in partnership with the Chesterfield County 250th Committee is honoring the service and sacrifice of the soldiers who were from Chesterfield County or served at the Chesterfield Barracks during that long winter of 1780-81.

To commemorate those Revolutionary War Patriots we are creating a brick walkway on the Courthouse Green. Each brick will be engraved the name of a soldier who endured the hardships of "The Valley Forge of the South."

The Chesterfield Historical Society maintains a data base with the names of soldiers who were from Chesterfield or were trained at the Chesterfield Barracks. You may contact the Chesterfield Historical Society to choose a soldier to sponsor from the list or one can be assigned to you.

Please support this effort to honor those soldiers from 250 years ago.

Bricks are available for a donation of \$100.



## Revolutionary War Patriot Memorial Brick Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Bricks (\$100 each) \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me about selecting a Soldier

Please assign a Soldier to me

**Make Checks payable to:**  
**Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia**  
**Note on Check-Chesterfield Patriots 250 Fund**  
**Mail to : Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia**  
**P.O.Box 40**  
**Chesterfield, VA 23832**

Online orders can also be made at

[www.chesterfieldhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.chesterfieldhistoricalsociety.com)