

Newburgh Address

On March 10, 1783, General George Washington learned that his officers planned to meet on the following day at the Temple of Virtue, a large hall at the New Windsor Cantonment near his headquarters in Newburgh, New York. At the meeting they were to discuss a petition calling for the officers to mutiny if Congress failed to provide them back pay and pensions. If the war continued, they would lead the army into "some unsettled country" and let the American people fend for themselves against the British. If the war was over, they would march on Congress and demand their pay at gunpoint.

While Washington was just as concerned that Congress had failed to pay the army, he was determined to prevent a mutiny among his officers and desired to rectify the situation. Banning the March 11 meeting, he ordered his men to meet instead at noon on March 15. On that day, as his officers crowded into the Temple of Virtue, Washington slipped in through a side door unnoticed. His men were surprised when he suddenly stood before them and read a passionate nine-page speech, ever after known as the Newburgh Address, sympathizing with their demands but denouncing the methods they now contemplated to achieve them.

Jonathan Perkins

2nd Lt. Jonathan Perkins, 1st Regiment N.H. Continental Line – Original Member

Jonathan Perkins, son of John Perkins of Epping, and grand-son of Abraham Perkins of Rye, was born in Epping, New Hampshire in 1749. He enlisted in the Army May 1, 1775, as a Sergeant in Captain Daniel Moor's Company, of Colonel John Stark's 1st New Hampshire Regiment then at Cambridge, near Boston. He was in the Battle of Bunker Hill and on September 2, 1775, he was drafted as a Sergeant in Captain Henry Dearborn's company in the Detachment commanded by Benedict Arnold against Quebec. On January 1, 1776, he was taken prisoner at Quebec, and was thus detained till the 24th of September 1776, when he was landed at Elizabethtown Point, in New Jersey. He was not exchanged until June 1777.

On July 29, 1777, he received a Commission as Ensign in Captain Jason Wait's Company of the 1st New Hampshire Regiment, Continental Line then commanded by Colonel Joseph Cilley. When the Continental Army was encamped at Valley Forge, he was listed as "Present" in December 1777, "Wounded/On Furlough" for January-March 1778, and again "Present" for April-June 1778. On March 24th, 1780, he received a Commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in Captain Moody Dustin's company of the 1st New Hampshire, and continued in that service till the close of the war.

After the Revolution he became one of the original 30 members of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of New Hampshire on February 5, 1784.

He died August 11, 1824.