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Biographies

## **BARON VON STEUBEN**

A Working Bibliography of MHI Sources

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### **GENERAL SOURCES**

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**See also:**

-Bibliographies on Valley Forge in Revolutionary War-Battles and Places; Pre 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Tactics in Tactics; and Biographical Sketch File, Arch.

**NOTE: VON STEUBEN'S TRAINING METHODS, VALLEY FORGE, 1778**

After arrival and orientation to the Valley Forge encampment, Baron von Steuben introduced his system of drill to the American Army utilizing troops present at the site. Initially, General Washington's "Life Guard" and a hundred additional men received instruction directly from von Steuben. This prototype unit then served as cadre, with elements parceled out to each of the fourteen brigade inspectors designated as instructors for the line components. The language barrier between von Steuben and his cadre appears to have been solved partially by a loose network of translations from German to French to English and partially by his learning a bit of English. Sources:

Bodle, Wayne K., & Thibault, Jacqueline. Valley Forge Historical Research Report. Vol. 3. Valley Forge, PA: National Historical Park, 1980. pp. 344-52 & 513-15. E234.B5v1.

Trussell, John B.B. Birthplace of an Army: A Study of the Valley Forge Encampment. Harrisburg, PA: PHMC, 1976. pp. 58-62, 121-23 & 135-37. E234.T712.

**NOTE: VON STEUBEN'S REGULATIONS**

On 23 Feb 1778, "Baron" Friedrich Wilhelm Ludolf Gerhard Augustin von Steuben, a Prussian veteran who had served previously in Frederick the Great's special corps of aides, arrived at Valley Forge as a volunteer without rank. A short time later Gen George Washington detailed Steuben to prepare a system of "discipline, manueveres, evolutions, and regulations for guards." The following autumn, a board of generals reviewed Steuben's drill procedures and recommended only one minor change. On 29 Mar 1779, the Continental Congress approved his drill manual for publication.

Steuben's Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States (often called the "Blue Book" from the color of the original binding) served as more than a simple drill manual. In addition to a detailed explanation on tactical drill, the small publication included bits of combat doctrine and administrative instructions. It also provided guidance to small unit officers on the general welfare of their units and even outlined a general routine for military duty.

Initially published in Philadelphia by Styner and Cist, the Blue Book subsequently went through numerous editions to meet demands, chiefly from state militias. On file in MHI's Rare Book Collection are the following editions:

Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States, Part I. Phila: Styner & Cist, 1779. 154 p. UB501.1779b.pt1.

NOTE: Only Part I was ever published.

\_\_\_\_\_. Worcester, MA: Isaiah Thomas, 1788. 96 p. UB501.1779c.

Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States, to Which is Added, An Appendix, Containing the United States Militia Act, Passed in Congress, May, 1792. Baltimore: Keatinge's Bookstore, 1794. 153 p. UB501.1794d.

Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States... The Twelfth Edition, to Which is Added, the Manual Exercise & Evolutions of the Cavalry as Practised in the Late American Army. Bennington, VT: Anthony Haswell, 1794. 94 p. UB501.1779e.

Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States. Phila: M. Carey, 1809. 72 p. UB501.1779f.

Steuben's Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States, Illustrated by a Frontpiece, Exhibiting the Manual Exercise, and Eight Other Copperplates, Explanatory of the Movements of a Company, Regiment, or Battalion. Boston: William Pelham, 1807. 81 p. UB501.1779g.

Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States. Albany: Backus & Whiting, 1807. 116 p. UB501.1779h.

Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States, to Which is Added, an Appendix, Containing the United States Militia Act, Together With the Law Organizing the Militia of the State of New-York, As Now Amended. Albany: Daniel & Samuel Whiting, 1803. 146 p. UB501.1779i.

Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States, Part I. Charles Cist, 1794. 73 p. UB501.1779j.pt1.

Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States, Embellished With Nine Copperplates, Including a Plate Exhibiting the Various Motions of the Manual Exercise. Boston: William Norman, 1805. 81 p. UB501.1779k.

Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States. Lancaster, PA: Francis Bailey, 1802. 76 p. UB501.1779l.

Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States, by Baron de Steuben, to Which are Prefixed the Laws and Regulations for Governing and Disciplining the Militia of the United States and the Laws for Forming and Regulating the Militia of the State of New Hampshire. Portsmouth: J. Melcher, 1794. 151 p. UB501.1779m.

Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States, Part I. Hartford, CT: Nathaniel Patten, 1790. 102 p. UB501.1790.pt1.

\_\_\_\_\_. Phila: Charles Cist, 1792. 151 p. UB501.1792.pt1.

\_\_\_\_\_. Hartford: Nathaniel Patten, 1792. 95 p. UB501.1792a.pt1.

\_\_\_\_\_. Phila: E. Oswald, 1794. 94 p. UB501.1794b.pt1.

Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States, to Which is Added: An Appendix, Containing the United States Militia Act, Passed in Congress, May, 1792. Exeter, MA: Henry Ranlet, 1794. 91 p. UB501.1794c.

\_\_\_\_\_. Boston: Thomas & Andrews, 1794. 153 p. UB501.1794d.

Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States, Part I. Phila: Charles Cist, 1795. 151 p. UB501.1795pt1.

### **FACSIMILE EDITIONS**

Riling, Joseph R. Baron von Steuben and His Regulations. Phila: Riling Arms, 1966. 154 p. UB501.1966.

Steuben, Friedrich von. Baron von Steuben's Revolutionary War Drill Manual. NY: Dover, 1985. 153 p. UB501.1985b.