

Robert Wideen : 2025

Soufflenheim Genealogy Research and History

Alsace • Bas-Rhin • France
www.soufflenheimgenealogy.com

New Soufflenheim Research : September 14, 2025



Ceramics Elchinger, Soufflenheim, Art Deco Ceramic

CONTENTS

New Soufflenheim Research.....	1
Marriage and Burial Records	2
Jean Joseph de Barth	3
General John Baptiste de Barth	5
John de Barth Walbach	6
John Baptiste de Barth Walbach.....	12
The German Soldier in the Wars of the United States	14

MARRIAGE AND BURIAL RECORDS

Marriage Record

Found with the baptism records in Series 2, image 102.

09 Jan 1792	Stein, Michael	Schwartzenberger, Anna Maria	Son of Joannis Stein and Elisabetha Lehmann Daughter of deceased Adami Schwartzenberger and Maria Eva Haller	2/102
-------------	----------------	------------------------------	--	-------

Baptism and Burial Record

Found with the baptism records in Series 2, image 121.

28 Sep 1792	Eck	Catharina	Beck, Georgii	Bildstein, Catharina	Because of the urgency of death and schism in their father's house, they were baptized by the midwife Maria Anna Hasser shortly after their death.	2/121
28 Sep 1792	Eck	Ignatius	Beck, Georgii	Bildstein, Catharina	Because of the urgency of death and schism in their father's house, they were baptized by the midwife Maria Anna Hasser shortly after their death.	2/121

Because of the urgency of death and schism in their father's house, they were baptized by the midwife Maria Anna Hasser shortly after their death. (Propter instantin morteue et schismatis in doma paterna ab obstetric Maria Anna Hasser baptizati sunt paulo post mortui.)

A schismatic ceremony is a religious act that reflects a division or departure from a main religious body or tradition, often characterized by unique practices and beliefs.

Baptism and Burial Record

Contributed by Todd Farmerie.

This record not only reports their death, it states that a baptism had been performed by the midwife, in expectation of the infant's imminent death. This type of record was usually recorded in the baptismal registers.

17 Jun 1792	DAUL	N.N.	Josephi Daul	Catherina Hochedel	N.N. (Name not Known) baptized by the midwife in expectation of the infant's imminent death	2/111
-------------	------	------	--------------	--------------------	---	-------

JEAN JOSEPH DE BARTH

Jean Joseph De Barth, who signed the Soufflenheim baptism, marriage, and burial ledgers in 1788 and 1789, emigrated to the United States in 1790. He is described in various records as:

- Esquire, Counselor to the King, Royal Bailiff of the bailiwick of the great prefecture of Haguenau
- Esquire, Counselor to the King, Royal Bailiff of the great bailiwick of the prefecture of Haguenau
- Esquire, counsellor of the King, royal bailiff of the Grand Bailliage and Prefecture of Haguenau,
- Esquire, counsellor of the King, bailiff of resort of Prefecture of Haguenau
- Esquire, counsellor of the King and royal bailiff in the bailiwick of the Upper Prefecture of Haguenau
- Esquire, royal counsellor of the grand bailliage and Prefecture of Haguenau

Passenger List for the ship Patriot

Left: Le Havre, France February 19, 1790. Arrived: Alexandria, Virginia May 3, 1790.

De Barth, Jean Joseph	Counselor to King	M	Haquenault [sic] Alsace	65
-----------------------	-------------------	---	----------------------------	----

Transcribed by Beth Haney. Source: "The French 500" by the Gallia County Genealogical Society OGS Chapter: <https://galliagenealogy.org/French500/french500.htm>

Jean Joseph De Barth

Source: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia : https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean_Joseph_de_Barth

Born 1726 in Haguenau, Alsace, France, Died 24 September 1793 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Spouse Marie Therese de Rohmer. Children: Françoise de Barth, François Joseph Meinard de Barth de Bourogne; Marie-Antoinette (Mother Edmond-Paul) de Barth; Rev. Adolphus Louis de Barth; John Baptiste de Barth Walbach; Suzanne de Barth; Françoise de Barth (wife of Capt. Claude Joseph Guy Edouard Blondeau). (1)

Count Jean-Joseph de Barth (1726–1793) was an Alsatian member of the French National Assembly,[2] counselor to Louis XVI of France,[3] and *préteur royal* and bailiff of Munster,[4] who led the "French 500" [3] fleeing the French Revolution to America's Ohio Valley, where they founded Gallipolis on the Ohio River in 1790.[2][5]

De Barth was aided by Thomas Jefferson,[6] George Washington,[5] and Alexander Hamilton,[7] the first two hoping to sell their Ohio Valley lands to the Frenchman. De Barth showed his appreciation with gifts to Jefferson from France and the American frontier, including a French art book,[8] buffalo skin, and rather mysterious "tooth of a carnivorous elephant." [9]

De Barth and his followers were aristocrats and city merchants, not pioneer material, and struggled with land speculators, Indians, and the wilderness. The aging de Barth soon moved on, purchasing a manor at Springettsbury in Philadelphia. This unfortunately turned out to be an even more dangerous move; shortly thereafter he succumbed to the 1793 Philadelphia yellow fever epidemic, and his home became a hospital for the treatment of victims of yellow fever.[10] (Note: the records conflict on the manor location within the Springettsbury estate, one specifying the Bush Hill estate, while others contradict that.)

Jean Joseph de Barth was buried at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church (Philadelphia).[10]

The count's lands included 10,000 acres on the Elk River[11] in what is now West Virginia. This land passed to his son, General John Baptiste de Barth Walbach, for whom the town of Wallback, West Virginia and the Wallback Wildlife Management Area are named. Walbach, the oldest officer to ever serve in the U.S. Army, had in his long career commanded most American eastern seacoast forts and became adjutant general of the United States.

Another of de Barth's sons, Rev. Adolphus Louis de Barth, was vicar general and administrator of the diocese of Philadelphia, and established several early frontier Catholic churches. A daughter, Marie-Antoinette de Barth, became Mother Edmond-Paul, Abbess of the Cistercian nuns of Notre-Dame-de-la-Misericorde at Koenigsbruck Abbey in the Forest of Haguenau. [12]

In 1795, the Alsatian home that the de Barth family fled to escape the guillotine was purchased by industrialist Andre Hartmann, and later was the beginning of the beautiful Albert Schweitzer Park.[13][14]

Notes

1. Rowan, Eileen. "Count Jean-Joseph de Barth". Rootsweb Worldconnect.
2. Smith, William Henry (1882). *The St. Clair Papers: The Life and Public Services of Arthur St. Clair, Soldier of the Revolutionary War; President of the Continental Congress; and Governor of the North-western Territory; with His Correspondence and Other Papers*. R. Clarke. p. 195. Retrieved 13 August 2016.
3. "The French 500". Gallia County Genealogical Society.
4. Levrault (1787). "Dictionnaire géographique, historique et politique de l'Alsace, Vol. 1". p. 239.
5. "Prospects for the Gallipolis Settlement: French Diplomatic Dispatches". 1994. pp. 41–56. Archived from the original on 2016-10-12. Retrieved 2016-08-13.
6. "From Thomas Jefferson to John Joseph de Barth, 17 March 1792". National Archives: Founders Online.
7. "Alexander Hamilton to Arthur St. Clair, [19 May 1790]".
8. "To Thomas Jefferson from John Joseph de Barth, 29 October 1792". National Archives: Founders Online.
9. "To Thomas Jefferson from John Joseph de Barth, 3 [March] 1791". National Archives: Founders Online.
10. Rosengarten, Joseph George (1890). *The German Soldier in the Wars of the United States*. J. B. Lippincott Company. pp. 160–165.
11. "Political Mirror Virginia" (PDF). 1801.
12. *Des moniales face à la Révolution française: aux origines des Cisterciennes-Trappistines*. Editions Beauchesne. 1989. p. 201. ISBN 9782701011820.

13. "Les Hartmann". Société d'histoire du val et de la ville de Munster. Archived from the original on 2016-09-0. Retrieved 2016-08-14.
14. "Munster Official Site: André Hartmann Park" (in French).

References

- Cutler, William Parker (1888). "Life, Journals and Correspondence of Rev. Manasseh Cutler, L.L.D."
- Moreau-Zanelli, Jocelyn (1994). Gallipolis: histoire d'un mirage américain au XVIIIe siècle (in French).

GENERAL JOHN BAPTISTE DE BARTH

General John Baptiste de Barth was the son of Jean Joseph De Barth, Royal Bailiff of the bailiwick of Haguenau, and signatory of six Soufflenheim sacramental registers.

Brevet Brigadier General John Baptiste de Barth, Baron of Walbach, an Alsatian aristocrat in the French army and military advisor to Alexander Hamilton, was commissioned into the U.S. Army by George Washington and became Adjutant General of the United States during the War of 1812. Commanding most forts on the eastern seaboard during his 57-year career, he died on active duty at age 90, the oldest acting officer in U.S. history.

His father, Count Jean Joseph de Barth of the French National Assembly, led the "French 500" to escape the French Revolution and settle the colony of Gallipolis on the Ohio River. Walbach Americanized his name by using his title of nobility as his last name. Since Alsace at times was formerly part of Germany, his older biographies describe him as German.

Source: Find a Grave, database and images: (https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/148679156/john_baptiste_de_barth-walbach: accessed September 4, 2025), memorial page for Gen John Baptiste de Barth Walbach (3 Oct 1766–10 Jun 1857), Find a Grave Memorial ID 148679156, citing New Cathedral Cemetery, Baltimore, City of Baltimore, Maryland, USA; Maintained by Eileen Rowan (contributor 48913505).

JOHN DE BARTH WALBACH

Source: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia : https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_de_Barth_Walbach



John Baptiste de Barth Walbach (October 3,^[1] 1766 – June 10, 1857) was an Alsatian baron who fought in the French Revolutionary Wars, and was one of the few foreign-born senior officers in the United States Army prior to the American Civil War, attaining the rank of brevet brigadier general.

After immigrating to the United States to join his father, Walbach became an aide to Alexander Hamilton, rising to Adjutant General of the United States during the War of 1812. With a military career spanning over 57 years, he remained in active duty until his death at the age of 90, making him the oldest acting officer in U.S. history. During his long career he commanded most forts along the eastern seaboard: Fort Constitution, Fort Trumbull, Fort Severn, Fort Monroe, Frankford Arsenal, Fort McHenry, and Fort Pickens.^[1] Many American place names are in his honor, including Fort Walbach.

Biography

Early years in Europe and West Indies

John de Barth Walbach was born on October 3, 1766, in Munster, Haut-Rhin, Alsace, France, and was the third son of French nobleman Count Jean Joseph de Barth and Marie Therese de Rohmer. Walbach's full name was Antoine Jean Baptiste de Barth, Baron de Walbach,^[3] but he Anglicized it after emigrating to the United States in 1798.^[1] Although born in France,^[4] Walbach's main biographies were written during the late 19th century while Alsace was temporarily part of Germany, so most references refer to him as German. His extant correspondence is in French and English, and his father was described by Thomas Jefferson,^[5] George Washington,^[6] and others as a Frenchman.

Walbach received his military education from the military academy of Strasbourg, Alsace, France, and was commissioned as an ensign in the Royal Alsace Regiment in 1782. He then served as 2nd, then 1st lieutenant in the Lauzun hussars in the French Royal Army from 1784 to 1789.^[1]

In 1790, Walbach's aging aristocrat father led a group called the "French 500" to America to escape the French Revolution, creating a new settlement called Gallipolis in what is now Ohio. Walbach remained behind to fight for the French monarchy in the French Revolutionary Wars with several forces in the Armée des Émigrés, including the army of the Comte d'Artois (later King Charles X of France), the Austrian Chasseurs of Condé, and Rohan's Hussars.^[1]

Rohan's Hussars, with Walbach as 3rd officer, were sent in 1795 to the French colony of Saint-Domingue (now Haiti) by England to defend British and royalist French planters against the slave revolt and to take the colony from France. By 1798, only 130 of the 1200 men in the regiment had survived the yellow fever that was wiping out the colonists.^[1]

Early United States military career

In 1798 he obtained a six months' leave of absence, with a view of visiting his father, who had come to the United States at the opening of the French Revolution. But the father had died in Philadelphia, and his estate had been sold by the sheriff. Walbach resigned his commission in the Hussars de Rohan in April 1798, and was appointed aide-de-camp to Brigadier General William MacPherson.

The United States Army was greatly expanded during the Quasi War with France and Walbach was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant of the U. S. Regiment of Light Dragoons and appointed as regimental adjutant on January 8, 1799. He was aide-de-camp to Major General Alexander Hamilton in May, assistant adjutant-general to Brigadier General William North in September, and in December was assigned to the staff of Major General Charles C. Pinckney, whom he assisted in preparing regulations for

the cavalry. He was honorably discharged, along with most other officers who had served during the Quasi War, on June 15, 1800.

In February 1801, he was commissioned a first lieutenant in the Regiment of Artillerists and Engineers, and, on October 25 of the same year, he was appointed aide-de-camp to Brigadier General James Wilkinson, then the commanding general of the Army.

Walbach was retained in the Army in April 1802 as first lieutenant of artillery, and became regimental adjutant on December 1, 1804. He was a first lieutenant at Fort Jay, New York as of January 1, 1805. He was promoted to captain January 31, 1806 and assumed command of a company in the Regiment of Artillerists, from which is descended the modern day 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment.^[7]

Walbach was in command at Fort Constitution near Portsmouth, New Hampshire when, on July 4, 1809, there was an explosion of over 100 pounds of gunpowder resulting in the loss of seven lives. In reaction to the explosion Walbach said, *"I have faced death in its most dreadful form -- I have witnessed the desolations of war, and have mingled in all the hazards and havoc of battles, but never before did I feel a pang so terrible and intolerable as this."* While at Fort Constitution, Walbach designed a two story 60 by 20 foot barracks for the soldiers at the fort. The foundations of the barracks are still visible.

He was appointed assistant deputy quartermaster general in March 1812, assistant adjutant general, with the rank of major, in June 1813, and on August 6, 1813 adjutant general of the Army with the rank of colonel. Walbach served as aide de camp to Major General Wade Hampton from about June 1812 until August 1813, when he (Walbach) became adjutant general of the U.S. Army.

He took part in the Battle of Crysler's Farm, Canada, 11 November 1813. Major General George W. Cullum, in his *Campaigns and Engineers of the War of 1812-1815* says that the enemy, "discovering our disorder and slackened fire, pushed vigorously forward and endeavored by a flank movement to capture our cannon, when Adjutant-General Walbach, a German veteran in our army who had seen much foreign service, gave the order to 'charge mit de dragoons,' and thus saved the pieces." Walbach received a brevet (honorary promotion) to major for his performance in this battle.

In 1814, Walbach, was again in command at Fort Constitution and oversaw construction of a Martello Tower to cover the land approaches to the fort. This structure, commonly called the Walbach Tower, was allowed to deteriorate over years of disuse and neglect but its ruins can still be seen.

On 1 May 1815, he was breveted as a lieutenant colonel "for meritorious service."

Later career and death

He spent much of his later career in command of coastal fortifications including Fort Constitution near Portsmouth, New Hampshire (before 1809 to July 1821), Fort Trumbull in New London, Connecticut (December 1823 to as of February 1827), Fort Severn in Annapolis, Maryland (as of January 1, 1828 to as of October 1828), Commandant, Artillery School of Practice at Fort Monroe, Virginia (as of January 1, 1830), Frankford Arsenal in Pennsylvania (as of January 1, 1831 to as of January 1, 1832) and Fort McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland (November 1832 to March 1834), Fort Severn (June 1834 to December 1839), Fort Monroe (December 1839 to September 1848), Fort Pickens (November 1848 to April 1849) and Fort McHenry (October 1, 1853 to June 10, 1857). (Source - Official Army Registers 1825 to 1840. Returns of Army Posts.)

He was promoted to colonel and placed in command of the 4th Artillery Regiment on March 15, 1842. He took command of the regiment at Fort Monroe and was also the commander of Fort Monroe by right of being the senior officer present. In May 1850 he received a brevet promotion to brigadier general retroactive to 1823. Walbach and the regimental headquarters moved on Fort McHenry on October 1, 1853.^[8] He remained as colonel of the 4th Artillery until he died in 1857. Walbach did not serve in Mexico during the Mexican War due to his age at the time (80 years).

Walbach possessed mental and physical vigor until an advanced age. As there was no mandatory retirement age prior to the Civil War, he remained on active duty until he died, at the age of 90, in Baltimore, Maryland on June 10, 1857. The official announcement of General Walbach's death contained this eulogy - *His long life and military career were characterized by some of the best traits of a gentleman and as soldier - unwavering integrity, truth and honor, strict attention to duty and zeal for service; and he tempered the administration of an exact discipline by the most elevated courtesies.*^[9]

Walbach was buried in the New Cathedral Cemetery in Baltimore. His wife and his son Louis are buried near him.

Family

Walbach married Mary Louise Harberger in Philadelphia in 1802.^[2] His children included:

John de Barth Walbach (1811-1892), who was appointed a midshipman in the United States Navy in 1827, and resigned as a lieutenant in 1861 to join the Confederacy. He served as a first lieutenant in the 10th Battalion of Virginia Artillery which was part of the Stonewall Brigade.

Louis Augustus de Barth Walbach, who was graduated at West Point Military Academy in 1834, and died a captain of ordnance, 26 June 1853.

His daughter, Adelphine de Barth Walbach, born in 1815, married in 1841 Thomas Elzear Gardiner, a prominent Maryland tobacco planter. Their son John de Barth Walbach Gardiner was military critic for the *New York Times* and author of the book *German Plans for the Next World War*.^[2] Another son, James de Barth Walbach (who dropped the "Gardiner" from his name), was a member of the Maryland House of Delegates representing Charles County from 1898 to 1906.^[2]

Walbach's brother was the Reverend Louis de Barth who was a Roman Catholic priest who oversaw parishes at Lancaster and Conewago. He was born at Munster, November 1, 1764. When the See of Philadelphia became vacant by the death of Bishop Egan, Father de Barth became administrator of the diocese. He died October 13, 1838.

A great-great grandson of General Walbach was James de Barth Walbach. He was born in Maryland on August 20, 1893 and entered West Point in 1912 and graduated in 1916. He received the Legion of Merit during World War II, retired from the Army as a colonel in the Coast Artillery Corps in July 1947.^[10]

Legacy

General Walbach holds the record for being the oldest officer to serve on active duty in the history of the United States Army, as well as the oldest person to serve on active duty in the United States Armed Forces, being 90 years old at the time of his death. His 58 year career was third only in length to that of

Generals of the Army Douglas MacArthur (64 years) and Omar Bradley (69 years). (Generals MacArthur and Bradley were allowed to remain on active duty for life following their promotions to General of the Army. They effectively retired (i.e. having no active assignment) after 51 and 42 years of service respectively.)

Several streets near Army installations he commanded are named after him, including Walbach Street near Fort Trumbull in New London, Connecticut; Walbach Street near Fort Constitution in New Castle, New Hampshire; and Walbach Street near Frankford Arsenal in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The latter is jointly named for his son, Louis Augustus de Barth Walbach, who also served as arsenal commander.^[11]

The Walbach Tower near Fort Constitution was built under his supervision and is named for him. Ruins of the tower still remain.

Fort Walbach (a.k.a. Camp Walbach) is located on Lodge Pole Creek, approximately 25 miles northwest of Cheyenne, Wyoming, and was established on September 20, 1858 and named in honor of General Walbach. As this post was temporary, it was abandoned on April 19, 1859. The site of Fort Walbach was marked by the Wyoming Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1914.

Battery Walbach at Fort Wetherill in Jamestown, Rhode Island was also named after him when it was constructed in the early 20th century.

The town of Wallback, West Virginia and the nearby Wallback Wildlife Management Area are named for him. Walbach had inherited extensive lands from his father, Jean Joseph de Barth, including 10,000 acres on the Elk River.^{[12][13][14]}

Dates of rank

French Army

- Ensign, Regiment of Royal Alsace - 1 December 1782
- 2nd Lieutenant, Lauzun Hussars - 17 January 1784
- 1st Lieutenant, Lauzun Hussars - 27 May 1789
- Captain, Rohan's Hussars - 21 October 1790
- Major, Rohan's Hussars - 25 November 1795

United States Army

- 2nd Lieutenant, Light Dragoons – 8 January 1799
- Discharged - 15 June 1800
- Lieutenant, 2nd Regiment of Artillerists and Engineers - 16 February 1801
- Captain, Artillerists - 31 January 1806
- Major and Assistant Adjutant General - 27 June 1813
- Colonel and Adjutant General - 6 August 1813
- Brevet Major "for gallant conduct in the Battle of Chrystler's Field, Upper Canada" - 11 November 1813
- Brevet Lieutenant Colonel "for meritorious service" - 1 May 1815
- Relieved as Adjutant General and retained as Captain, Corps of Artillery - 15 June 1815
- Major, Corps of Artillery - 25 April 1818

- Brevet Colonel "for ten years faithful service in one grade" - 1 May 1825
- Lieutenant Colonel, 1st Artillery - 30 May 1832
- Colonel, 4th Artillery - 19 March 1842
- Brevet Brigadier General "for meritorious service" - May 1850 (to date from 11 November 1823)^[15]

Notes

1. *Rosengarten, Joseph George (1890). The German Soldier in the Wars of the United States. J. B. Lippincott Company. pp. 160–165.*
2. *Rowan, Eileen. "Gen. John Baptiste De Barth Walbach". Rootsweb Worldconnect. Retrieved 27 December 2015.*
3. *"Document signed by a secretary : Versailles, 1784 Jan. 9. Louis XVI, King of France, 1754-1793". ArchiveGrid.*
4. *"Death of General Walbach" (PDF). The Metropolitan. V: 392. 1857.*
5. *Jefferson, Thomas. "From Thomas Jefferson to John Joseph de Barth, 17 March 1792". Founders Online. Retrieved 29 December 2015.*
6. *Washington, George. "From George Washington to George Clendinen, 21 March 1791". Founders Online. Retrieved 29 December 2015.*
7. *"1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment | Lineage and Honors". Archived from the original on July 21, 2022.*
8. *"Fourth Regiment of Artillery | the Army of the US Historical Sketches of Staff and Line with Portraits of Generals-in-Chief". Archived from the original on 2010-11-06. Retrieved 2015-09-14.*
9. *General Order No. 9. Headquarters of the Army. New York. June 13, 1857.*
10. *Register of Commissioned Officers of the United States Army. 1948. Vol. 2. pg. 2481.*
11. *Farley, James J. (1994). Making Arms in the Machine Age: Philadelphia's Frankford Arsenal, 1816-1870. p. 113. ISBN 0271010002.*
12. *"New Hampshire Gazette". 1 July 1834.*
13. *"Death of the Oldest Soldier in the Army". Richmond Dispatch. 12 June 1857.*
14. *"Political Mirror Virginia" (PDF). 1801.*
15. *Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army, 1789-1903. Francis B. Heitman. 1903. pg. 994.*

References

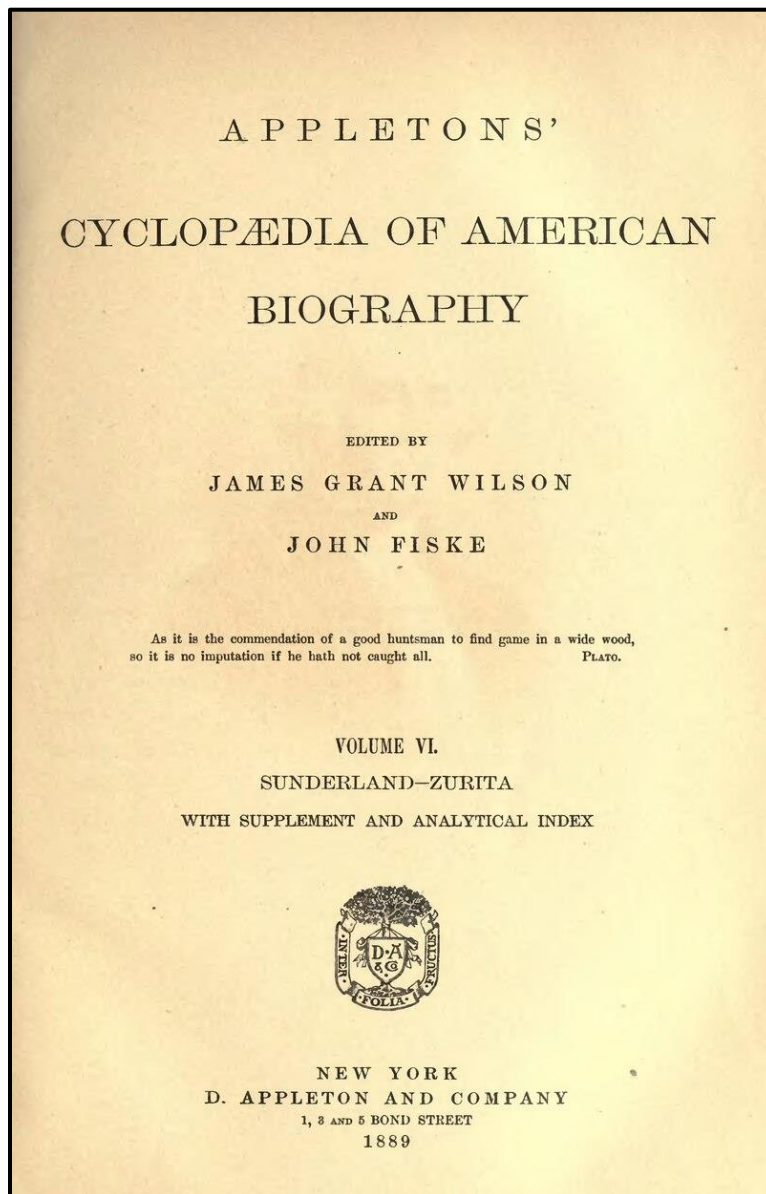
- This article incorporates text from a publication now in the public domain: *Wilson, J. G.; Fiske, J., eds. (1889). "Walbach, John Baptiste de Barth". Appletons' Cyclopædia of American Biography. New York: D. Appleton.*
- *Sketch of General John de Barth Walbach, U.S.A., Dundas F. de Sales, 1933, Records of the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia, 44(4), 369-374.*

JOHN BAPTISTE DE BARTH WALBACH

By Henry Carey Baird, Appletons' Cyclopædia of American Biography, Vol. VI, 1889 Edition, D. Appleton & Company, New York, James Grant Wilson and John Fiske, Editor.

Wikisource:

[https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Appletons%27_Cyclop%C3%A6dia_of_American_Biography/Walbach,_John Baptiste de Barth](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Appletons%27_Cyclop%C3%A6dia_of_American_Biography/Walbach,_John_Baptiste_de_Barth)



WALBACH, John Baptiste de Barth, Baron de Walbach, soldier, b. in Münster, valley of St. Gregory, upper Rhine, Germany, 3 Oct., 1766; d. in Baltimore, Md., 10 June, 1857. He was the third son of Count Joseph de Barth, and received his military education at Strasburg.

In 1786-'92 he was a lieutenant in the Lauzun hussars. He returned to his native land to join the army of the Comte d'Artois, brother of Louis XVI. He was present during the campaign of 1792 in Champagne in the advance of the Prussian army until it was disbanded at Maestricht, on 6 Jan., 1793, participated in the attack on Frankfort, and subsequently served during the campaign of 1793 in attacks on the French lines at Germersheim, Langenkandel, and Weissenburg. In October, 1793, he accepted a captaincy in the Hussars de Rohan in the German service, and took part in covering the retreat of the Duke of York upon Holland and Germany.

In 1798 he obtained a six months' leave of absence, with a view of visiting his father, who had come to the United States at the opening of the French revolution. But the father had died in Philadelphia, and his estate had been sold by the sheriff.

Resigning his commission in the Hussars de Rohan, in April, 1798, he was appointed aide-de-camp to Gen. William Macpherson. He became 1st lieutenant of U. S. cavalry and adjutant on 10 Jan., 1799, was aide-de-camp to Gen. Alexander Hamilton in May, assistant adjutant-general to Gen. William North in September, and in December was assigned to the staff of Gen. Charles C. Pinckney, whom he assisted in preparing regulations for the cavalry.

In February, 1801, he was made 1st lieutenant in the regiment of artillerists and engineers, and on 25 Oct. following he was appointed aide-de-camp to Gen. James Wilkinson. He was retained in April, 1802, as 1st lieutenant of artillery, and became adjutant, 1 Dec., 1804.

He was promoted captain, 31 Jan., 1806, made assistant deputy quartermaster-general in March, 1812, assistant adjutant-general, with the rank of major, in June, 1813, and on 6 Aug., 1813, adjutant-general.

He took part in the battle of Chrysler's Field, Canada, 11 Nov., 1813. Gen. George W. Cullum, in his "Campaigns and Engineers of the War of 1812-'15," says that the enemy, "discovering our disorder and slackened fire, pushed vigorously forward and endeavored by a flank movement to capture our cannon, when Adjutant-General Walbach, a German veteran in our army who had seen much foreign service, gave the order to 'charge mit de dragoons,' and thus saved the pieces."

On 1 May, 1815, he received the brevet of lieutenant-colonel "for meritorious services." He became major of artillery, 25 April, 1818, brevet colonel for "ten years' favorable service," 1 May, 1825, lieutenant-colonel in the 1st regiment of artillery, 30 May, 1832, and colonel of the 4th artillery, 19 March, 1842. In May, 1850, he received the brevet of brigadier-general, to date from 11 Nov., 1823.

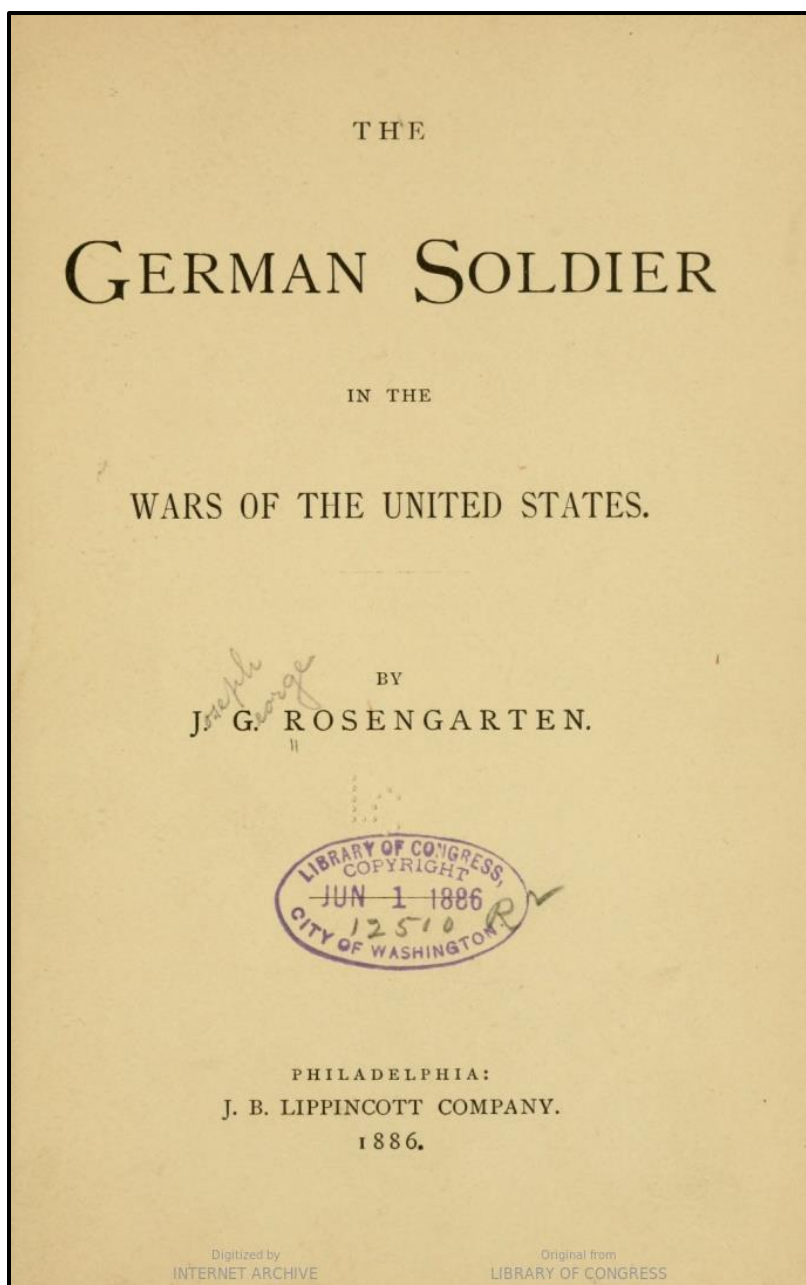
Gen. Walbach possessed mental and physical vigor till an advanced age. He married in Philadelphia in 1807, and had two sons, John de Barth, who entered the navy, and Louis Augustus de Barth, who was graduated at West Point in 1834, and died a captain of ordnance, 26 June, 1853.

THE GERMAN SOLDIER IN THE WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

The German Soldier in the Wars of the United States. By J. G. Rosengarten. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1886. Pages 55-61

Source: Wikimedia Commons:

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b7/The_German_soldier_in_the_wars_of_the_United_States_%28IA_germansoldierinw01rose%29.pdf



The registers and rolls of the regular army of the United States bear the names of many distinguished soldiers of German birth and descent, and not a few of them brought to the service of their new fatherland the training and experience acquired in their native country. In the exhaustive dictionaries of the army by Gardiner and Henry and Hamersly, and in the invaluable pages of General George W. Cullum's "Record of the Graduates of West Point," are found many examples of the German soldier in the army of the United States.

One example deserves special mention. John Baptiste de Barth, Baron de Walbach, brigadier-general and colonel commanding Fourth Artillery, U.S.A., was the third son of Count Joseph de Barth and Marie Therese de Rohmer. He was born in Munster, Valley of St. Gregory, Upper Rhine, Germany, on the 3d day of October, 1766, and was educated at the military school at Strasbourg. In December, 1792, he entered as a cadet the company commanded by Baron de Wald, Regiment of Royal Alsace, Prince Maximillian of Deux Ponts colonel and proprietor, in the service of the King of France. He was promoted and served in the same regiment as ensign until October, 1783, and then until November as gentleman volunteer in the hussars, General Baron de Kellerman commanding.

From January, 1783, until January 9, 1784, he served in the Regiment of Luzern Hussars, when he received the appointment of sub-lieutenant (cornet), and continued to serve in the successive grades, second lieutenant, first lieutenant, until May, 1792, and captain.

Declining the commission of captain, he left France to join the armies of the Prince, brother of King Louis XVI. He served in this army as gentleman volunteer, on horseback, at his own expense, under Colonel Count de Pestalozzi, his former colonel of the Luzern Hussars. With this corps he made the campaign in Champagne, in 1792, in the advance of the Prussian army, until it was disbanded at Maestrich.

He then left Liege, passed through the French lines to Treves, and brought back his sister, Mme. Blondeau, and placed her, with their three children, under the care of her husband, lieutenant-colonel, formerly major, of artillery, who had served in the army of Rochambeau in America.

He then went to Germany, took part in the attack on Frankfort, January 6, 1793, and later joined the Sixty-second Company, First Battalion of the Austrian Chasseurs of Conde, serving, during the campaign of 1793, in attacks on the French lines at Gernersheim, Yorkheim, Langenkardet, and Weissembourg, where the Austrians captured one hundred and fifty-five pieces of cannon; the losses in both armies being estimated at twenty-two thousand men. He then accepted a captaincy from the Prince de Rohan, and covered the retreat of the unfortunate army of the Duke of York northward to Holland and Germany.

Finally he embarked with his regiment, the Hussars of Rohan, for the British West Indies, on the promise of the British Government that they should always serve on horseback, and that at the end of four years they were to be returned to their homes.

In 1798, being then the third officer of the regiment, which had been reduced by yellow fever from twelve hundred to one hundred and thirty, he obtained leave for six months to visit his father, who had come to America at the outbreak of the French Revolution. With twenty-four other noblemen he had agreed to buy forty thousand acres of land on the Scioto River, Ohio, paying half the purchase-money to Joel Barlow and William Playfair, agents in Paris of Colonel William Duer, accredited by a letter from Thomas Jefferson. Count de Barth sailed with three hundred emigrants, landed in Alexandria, Virginia, in March, 1790, and then proceeded to Marietta, Ohio, where he found that Duer had become a bankrupt. He returned to Philadelphia, purchased a country-seat, —Springettsbury Manor, Bush Hill, a mansion with sixty acres, —but he died there September 24, 1793, and was buried in St. Mary's Roman Catholic

Church in Philadelphia. Bush Hill was occupied as a hospital during the yellow fever, and as there was no one authorized to make the last payment, it was sold by the redress. sheriff and passed from the family.

In 1798 Colonel, then Major, Walbach, on his arrival, retained Messrs. William Rawle, Jared Ingersoll, and James Heatly, but owing to the loss of documents could obtain no Major Walbach then resigned his commission as major in the Hussars of Rohan and became an adopted citizen of the United States. In the autumn of 1798 he entered the army of the United States on the invitation of Washington, Hamilton, and McHenry, as second lieutenant of cavalry, and was appointed adjutant of a cavalry regiment, holding that post until the corps was 1 disbanded in June, 1799. He then was employed in the office of the Adjutant-General of the United States, General William North, who had been aid to General Steuben. In December, 1799, he was employed to assist General Charles C. Pinckney in preparing regulations for the cavalry, and later to assist General Hamilton in preparing regulations for the artillery, and afterwards he was ordered to report to General Washington, to take charge of a detachment of dragoons. He was appointed, in 801, first lieutenant in the First Regiment of Artillery and Engineers, and in 1802 aid to General Wilkinson; in 1804, adjutant of artillery and military agent at Fort Constitution, New Hampshire; in 1806, captain of artillery; in 1812, assistant deputy quartermaster; in 1813, assistant adjutant-general with the rank of major, and assistant adjutant general with the rank of colonel, and brevet major, for gallant conduct at the battle of Chrystler's Fields; in 1815, major of artillery and brevet lieutenant-colonel; in 1830, brevet colonel for ten years' further service, and lieutenant-colonel in the First Regiment of Artillery; in 1842, colonel of the Fourth Regiment of Artillery, and made commander at Fortress Monroe and brevet brigadier-general; and in 185 he was assigned to the command of the Department of the East.

He died in Baltimore, Maryland, on the 10th of June, 1857, of disease contracted in the war of 1812. A highly commendatory order was issued by General Scott, lieutenant-general commanding at the time of his death, reciting his long military career, his distinguished services, and his unwavering integrity, truth, and honor, strict attention to duty, and zeal for the service, tempering the administration of an exact discipline by the most elevated courtesies. General George W. Cullum, in his " Campaigns and Engineers of the War of 1 812-15," at page 168, credits him with saving the artillery at Chrystler's Fields in 18 13. His grandson, John de Barth Walbach Gardiner, is an assistant surgeon in the United States army. His son, L. de B. Walbach, who died in 1853, was a graduate of West Point and a captain of ordnance. Another son died an officer of the United States navy.

General Walbach is well remembered by old officers of the regular army as a fine soldierly character, full of zeal and pride in his profession, and a man of many manly virtues and attractive qualities. His brother was a Roman Catholic priest in Baltimore, and in their old age these two men, living together, were typical examples of the professions of war and peace.