

A
BLUE
AND
SCARLET
SKELETON



A STORY, SETTING THE STAGE




St. Johann's Church

- There once was a young man in Ansbach, Germany who was very troubled, and who made a life changing decision.
- This begins his story.

A Bit of History 1

Mercenary Soldiers

- A “mercenary soldier?”
- The Arrangements
- The Recruitment 
- The Guilt?






THE STORY- ARRIVING IN AMERICA



Running the Gauntlet

A Bit of History 2

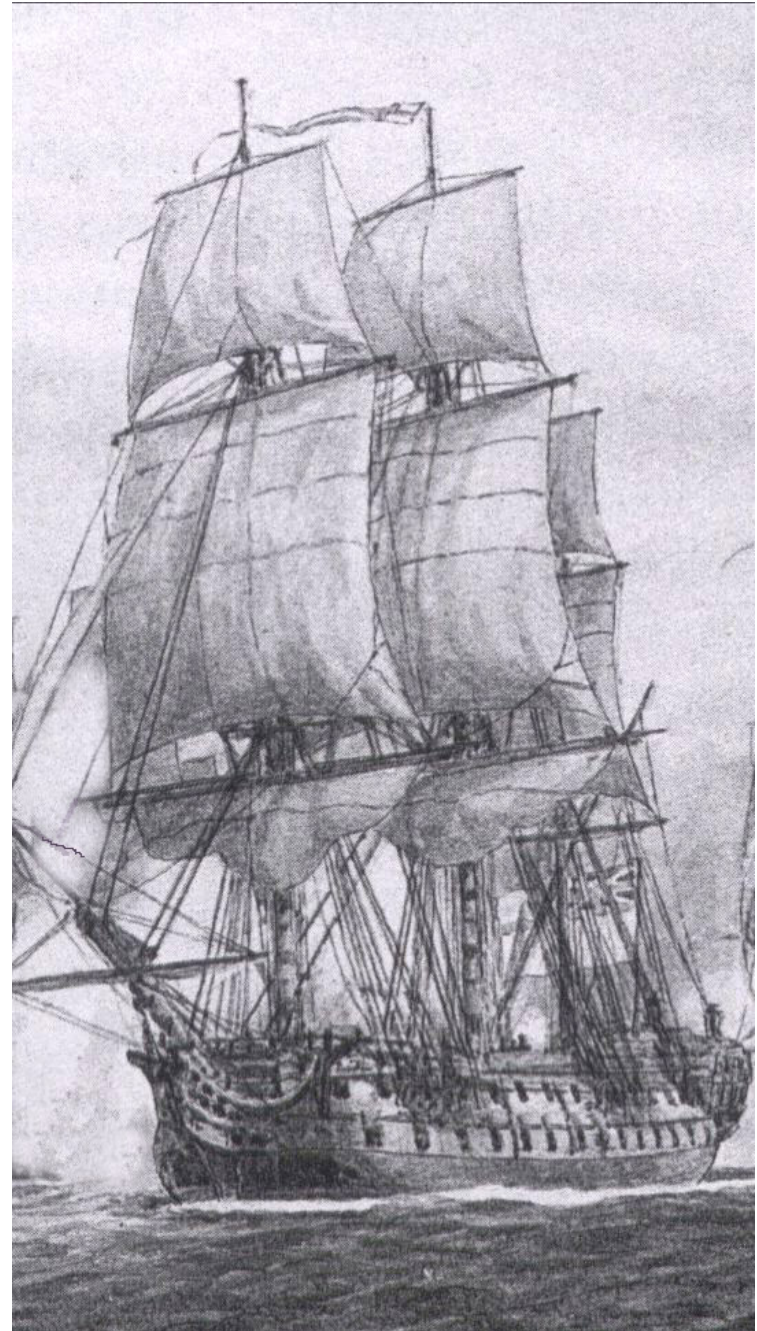
Hessian Soldiers

- Getting There 
- How Many?
- What were they like?
- What History Reports?



Crossing the Atlantic Ocean

April 5, 1778 to
September 30, 1778



THE STORY- HELL IN VIRGINIA



A Bit of History 3

The Battle of Yorktown

- Significance of the Battle
- The Battle ◀
- The Surrender
- The Prisoners ▶







WASHINGTON
ROCHAMBEAU
ROUTE



609



THE STORY - A NEW ADVENTURE

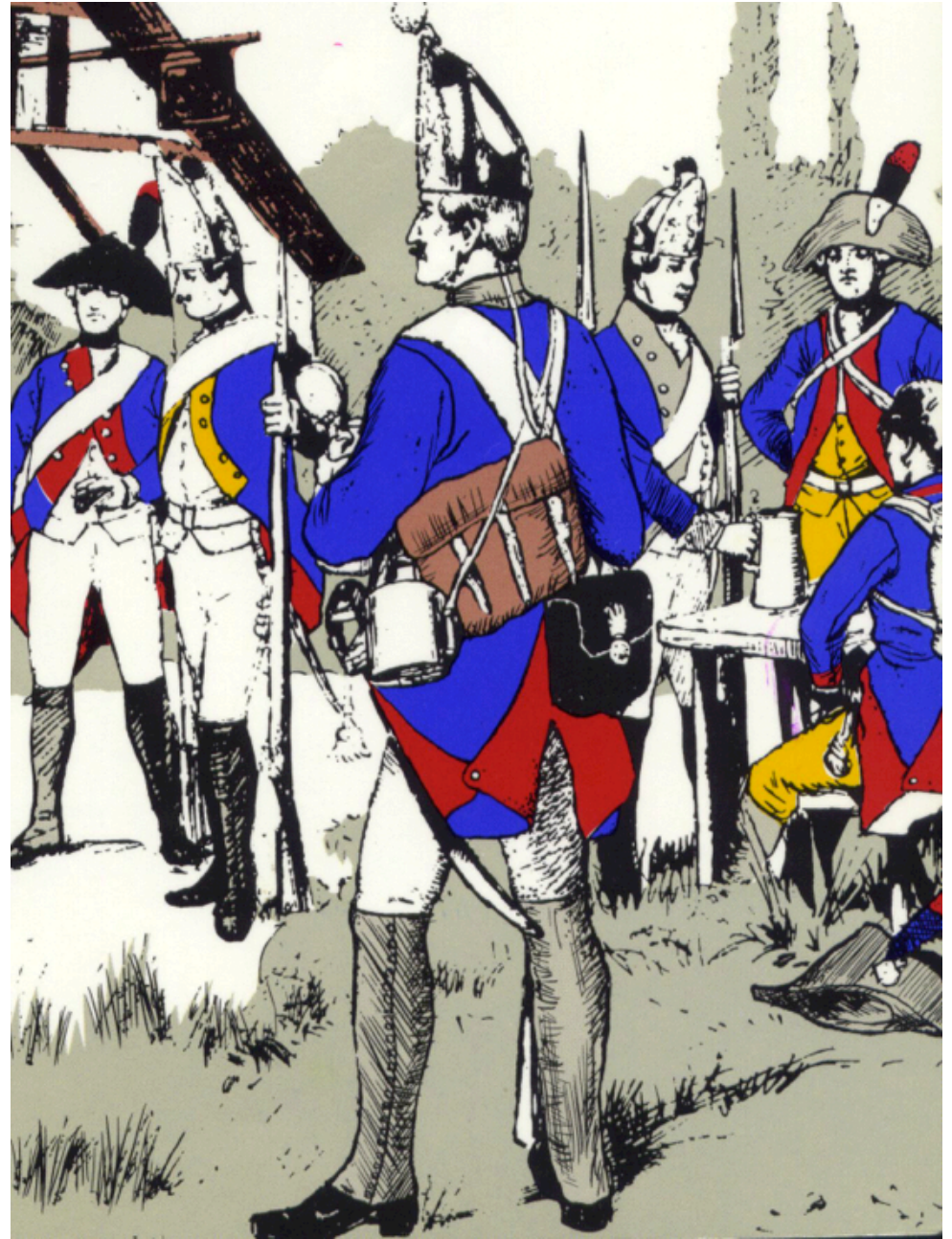


Clearing up the Obfuscation



**Ansbach
1st Regiment**

**Regiment of
Private Johann
Wolfgang Odoerfer**



The soldier's personal equipment consisted of:

- 2 linen shirts
- 1 waistcoat.
- 1 pair woolen breeches.
- 1 wool soldier's coat.
- 2 pair of stockings.
- 1 pair of shoes + extra soles
- 1 pair woolen gaiters.
- 1 neck stock
- 1 sword belt
- 1 sword or hanger
- 1 cartridge box w leather strap
- 1 linen bread bag
- 1 cowhide knapsack
- 1 canteen
- 1 musket with red leather strap.
- 1 bayonet.
- 1 tricorn hat



How I Met My Skeleton

- An Ancestor from Germany?
- The Meeting 
- Serendipity!





“ODOERFER, Johann Wolfgang, private A/5 Deserted 12 October 1782. According to Stadtarchiv Ansbach Am 1041, " ... he had spent all of his estate and, therefore, had to enter military service. He has a wife, a 15 year old son, and a 12 year old daughter who are in very straitened circumstances.”



The Rest of Wolfgang's Story

- Becoming an American
- Starting a New Life
- A Questionable Reward ☒
- The Final Chapter ☒

Revolutionary War Records from the State of Virginia

Memorandum.-- All the men whose names are in this return(except the drafted men), are entitled to 200 acres of land from Virginia-- and all whose names are followed by the letter **e**, are entitled to 100 acres of land from the United States, and *were so reported to congress* at its session of 1827-28. They whose names are *not marked as above*, are also believed to be entitled to land from the United States, *if they have not already received it.*

73. Odoffer, John, e, Private, 1782



**A Portion of the
Final Inventory
of the Estate of
John Odoerfer,
April, 1816**

An Inventory and appraisal
of the personal property of
John Odoerfer Deceased taken this
3rd day of April 1816

One Horse	30.00
1 Sprinkle bow	19.00
one Weaver Loom	8.00
one Coffy Pot	00.30
Three Old Shirts	1.50
One pair of Shears	1.00
one Straw Bonnet	5.00
one Rypding boot	7.00

Epilogue

- Historical Impact of the Hessian Soldiers
- Personal Impact of Johann Wolfgang Odoerfer