

## The Martock Volunteers

1798-1802



**D**uring the Napoleonic Wars, there was a real fear that France would invade England with invasion fleets in French ports, kept at bay by the blockades of the Royal Navy. In the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century, many volunteer militia units were formed (or re-formed in some counties) to help with local defence to meet this threat.

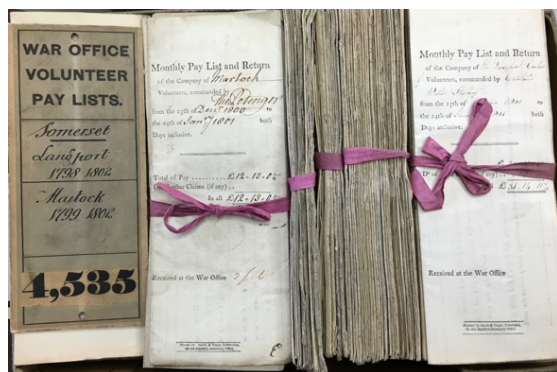
*Martock Volunteers.*  
Thomas Potenger, Esq. to be Captain.  
John Potenger Westcote, Esq. to be Captain.  
George Lilly, Gent. to be Lieutenant.  
William Adams, Gent. to be Lieutenant.

Martock was part of this patriotic surge and, no doubt, this knowledge would have terrified the French invaders. Martock formed two companies of volunteers. Officers were appointed

from the local merchants and landholders in the Government Gazette of 1798 and set about the task of building up an efficient force.

In the National Archives at Kew are pay sheets for the Martock and Langport Companies from 1799-1802 ( PRO WO 13/4535). Tucked in to the pay sheets

for 1800 are some loose pieces of paper invoicing the Company Commander – Captain Westcote – for repairs and adjustments to the volunteers’ weapons, the rent of land for training and for the cartage of ammunition from Exeter to Martock for the year.



Captain Westcote To Wm Stocker

1799	Oct 29	W Hawkwell	Repairing Lock	- 6
	Oct 30	W Hawkwell	2 Screws to hold on the lock	8.
	Nov 2	M Pullman	Screw to hold on the Lock and repairing the Lock	1 6.
	Sept 15	J Matlock M.B.	to the Bayonette	1 -
		W Rogers	Taking down the Springs of the Lock Making it go easy	1 3
			Screws to the Breech	6
		J Fulver	a New Loop to hold Ram Rod	- 1
		J Nail	Taking down Springs of the Lock Making it go easy	1 6.
		J Rawson	Screw to the Breech	6
		J Gard	Repairing Tumbler & Dog	1 6.
			Making it go Easy	-
		J Coggan	Taking down Springs of the Lock Making it go easy	1 3
		J Worwood	Mending a Ram Rod	1
		W Godding	Screw to hold on the Lock	8.
		J Palmer	Repairing the Lock	8.
				£0 13 6

1800 Oct 10. Recd of Captain Westcote  
on Found one Shilling for cartage  
of ammunition from Exeter for  
this year & last - by me J. Fulver

Captain Westcote To Wm Stocker

		Bill delivered	-	11
	March 26	M.B. Stop for the Bayonette	-	1
	26	R Richards	Main Spring	1 6.
			Making the Lock go easy	6.
		Wm Hill	New main Spring	1 6.
			Making the Lock go easy	6.
			Repairing Tumbler & Dog	6.
		John Lee	Spring to the Steel	1
			Repairing patch of the Tumbler and	1
			Making the Lock go easy	1 -
		James Pullman	screw to the Breech	6.
			Making the Lock go easy	6.
		J Dornick	New Lock	6.
		W Pullman	Repaired the Lock fully to half	2 6.
		Wm Hall	Screw to the Breech	1
				6
				£1 3 6
		by me Wm Stocker		13 6
				7-17-0



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Prepared by Noel Adams.