

## Narrative of Battle of Green Spring

By Aaron Ogden

Excerpt from Autobiography of Aaron Ogden, of Elizabethtown  
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I was a Captain of a company of Light Infantry of General the Marquis de Lafayette... in Virginia in 1781... Early in this Campaign General de Lafayette formed a legionary corps of horse and foot commanded by Major McPherson. The foot was composed of one Company selected from each of his three regiments of Light Infantry. These were all picked men, and always lay between the two armies, and so particularly exposed to a surprise, which though frequently attempted was never affected, and to guard against which required the greatest vigilance...

[Near Jamestown Island on 6 July] General LaFayette discovered this feint but just in time to save himself, after marching to attack the rear of the enemy as he supposed. He however ordered an attack on the left of the front of the enemy, and Captain Ogden was ordered with the infantry of this legionary corps and a body of militia, to march to the left and cover the retreat of the main body, which retreat at the same time was ordered by the General. After marching some distance as directed Captain Ogden discovered the right wing of the British Army advancing rapidly to turn the left of our army, when in order to conceal the comparative weakness of his force. He threw his men into a neighboring wood and posted them behind a surrounding fence. This caused the enemy to halt & reconnoitre, and form their line of attack, which marched up to charge into the woods, in this however they were checked by a galling fire from our men behind the fence, by which the right wing of the enemy was retarded until the firing on the left had entirely ceased, when Captain Ogden drew off his men, and fell into the rear of our main body and so covered the retreat.