

PRIMARY SOURCES FOR BRIGADE SUTLERS

“The Commissaries are directed to take all the liquors in the hands of the sutlers, at a reasonable price if they can agree, and if they cannot, the sutlers are to carry them away. And no sutler shall be allowed to continue in the camp after the 5th instant.”¹

“A Grand Sutler ought in my opinion to be appointed to each Division of the Army, & furnished with Liquor for the Officers at a reasonable rate, and the Officers to be allowed to draw, as many Jills of Spirits as they are entitled to Rations, but the Returns for Spirits ought to be made for all the Officers of the Regt at one Time, & signed by the Commanding officer of the Regt, & divided between the Messes by the Qr Master Sergeant, This Sutler should not be allowed to take any Profit on the Liquor, but be allowed Wages for his T rouble.”²

“A board of General Officers having recommended that a Sutler be appointed in each Brigade—whose liquors shall be inspected by two officers appointed by the Brigadier for that purpose and those liquors sold under such restrictions as shall be thought reasonable. The Commander in Chief is pleased to approve of the above recommendation & to order that such Brigade Sutlers be appointed, and liquors sold at the following prices and under the following regulations—Peach brandy by the quart at 7/6; by the Pint 4/—by the Gill 1/3—Whiskey and Apple brandy at 6/ pr quart—3/6 pr pint and 1/ by the gill—Cyder at 1/3 by the quart—Strong beer 2/6 by the quart—Common beer 1/ by the quart—Vinegar 2/6 by the quart—Any Sutler who shall be convicted before a Brigade Court-Martial of having demanded more than the above rates, or of having adulterated his liquors or made use of deficient Measures shall forfeit any quantity of his liquors not exceeding 30 gallons or the value thereof at the foregoing rates—The fourth part of the liquor or the value thereof, so forfeited, to be applied to the benefit of the Informer and the remainder, if liquor to be put into the hands of a person appointed by the Brigadier who shall deliver it out to the non commissioned officers and Privates of the Brigade at one gill pr man, pr day; if money, the same to be laid out in liquors or necessaries for the non commission'd officers and privates of the brigade and distributed in due and equal proportion.

The brigade sutler is also at liberty to sell leaf tobacco at 4/ pr pound; Pigtail at one dollar pr pound and hard soap at 2/ pr pound; but no other articles rated for the public market shall be sold by him or any person acting under him on any pretence whatever.”³

“The Commander in Chief directs that only one Sutler be allowed to each Brigade, who shall have one Sutling Booth within the limits of the Brigade (and shall sell liquor at no other) where he shall sell his liquor at the following prices to the officers and men of the Brigade to which he belongs and on no Pretence to any other under penalty of having his whole stock seized and being rendered incapable of ever serving as sutler in the Army again—Whiskey, Peach Brandy Apple-Brandy, Cordials of all kinds and any other home-made spirits at 15/ pr gallon—pr quart 4/ pr pint 2/ pr half pint 1/3—West India spirit pr quart full proof 15/—a bowl of toddy containing half a pint of spirit 7/6—no persons whatever besides such licensed sutlers or Commissaries sent by particular States shall sell liquors of any kind in Camp or within seven miles of Camp under penalty of having their whole stock seized without payment for the use of the Army—except that the Quarter-Master General is authorized to allow one or more houses of Entertainment to

¹ “General Orders, 1 November 1777,” Founders Online, National Archives, accessed September 29, 2019, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-12-02-0069>. [Original source: The Papers of George Washington, Revolutionary War Series, vol. 12, 26 October 1777–25 December 1777, ed. Frank E. Grizzard, Jr. and David R. Hoth. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 2002, pp. 74–76.]

² “Colonel Daniel Brodhead to Lieutenant Colonel Tench Tilghman, 30 December 1777,” Founders Online, National Archives, accessed September 29, 2019, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-13-02-0057>. [Original source: The Papers of George Washington, Revolutionary War Series, vol. 13, 26 December 1777–28 February 1778, ed. Edward G. Lengel. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2003, pp. 59–63.]

³ “General Orders, 26 January 1778,” Founders Online, National Archives, accessed September 29, 2019, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-13-02-0308>. [Original source: The Papers of George Washington, Revolutionary War Series, vol. 13, 26 December 1777–28 February 1778, ed. Edward G. Lengel. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2003, pp. 349–350.]

accommodate Travelers and Strangers who must necessarily be in the Vicinity of the Camp—The persons receiving their license for that purpose, giving sufficient security not to vend their liquors to any person belonging to the Army. The Brigadiers and Officers commanding Brigades are to report to the Adjutant General the names of the sutlers of their respective Brigades and when any change happens they are to report it accordingly.”⁴

⁴ “General Orders, 16 April 1778,” Founders Online, National Archives, accessed September 29, 2019, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-14-02-0483>. [Original source: The Papers of George Washington, Revolutionary War Series, vol. 14, 1 March 1778–30 April 1778, ed. David R. Hoth. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2004, pp. 529–531.]