

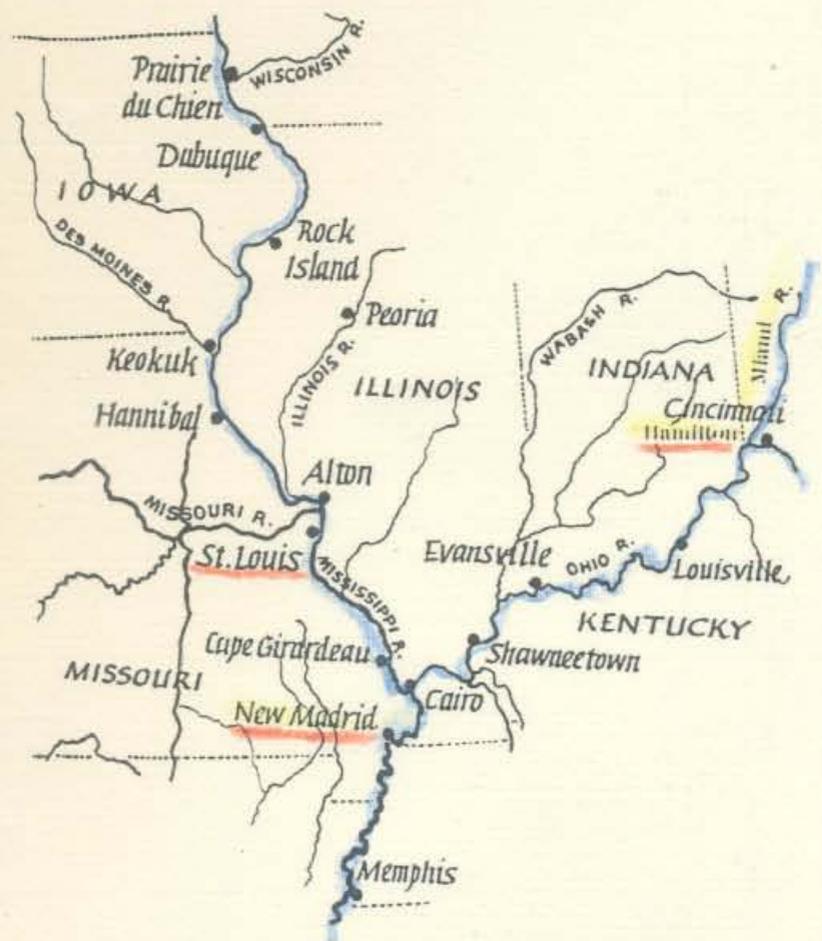
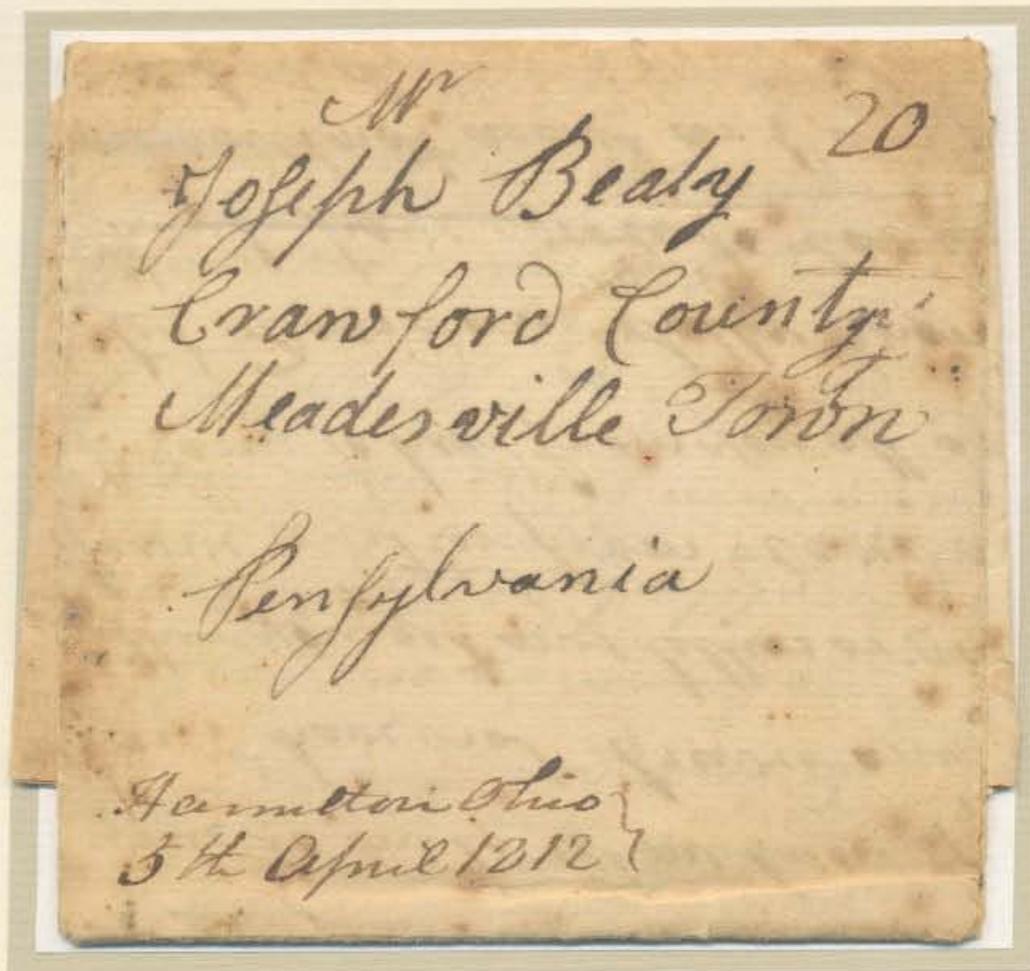
## THE WESTERN MAILS

"Hanover Thownship Buttler County  
Big Miami Near Fort Hamilton March  
the 23 1812".

The following letter was written 99 days after the the great earthquake at New Madrid on the Mississippi River on December 16, 1811 and 87 days before the War of 1812 was declared. The Indian "Engagement" was the battle of Tippecanoe on November 7, 1811 - 138 days before the letter. See note below.

"the Earthquakes Down the Missisipa have done Some Considerable Dammage to the River and Made the Navagation Difficult by the Banks falling in and Some Islands Sunk with a small town called New Madrid - we have had many shakes this winter but they Did no harm in our parts - the winter was very Cold until about the first of March but pleasant and warm Since - there was some Disturban[ce] Betwen the Indians and the White People last fall - they Came to an Engagement in which the Indians whare beatten and many killed and wounded - there Town [Prophetstown] taken and A dreat Deal of Corn burnt by the White people - the Indians blame their prophet [The Prophet, brother of Tecumseh] for the Disturbance and have promised to Delliver him up to the whites - there is no appearance of war now but many on the fronters are very much afraid... Peter Lintner"

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The Battle of Tippecanoe has been called the opening battle of the War of 1812, because it strengthend the alliance of the Indians with England and convinced the British of the need to inflame the Indians against the Americans. The day after the battle the army under General Harrison plundered Prophetstown and applied the torch to the town.

On December 14, 1811, John Bradbury, an English botanist and his exploration party arrived at New Madrid, Mo., in a flatboat. He described the settlement as being "some flimsy houses around a bare plain, and bought supplies in the town's two shabby stores." They were the last visitors to see New Madrid. Shortly after midnight of Dec. 16th, the most devastating earthquake to ever hit mid America, struck the Mississippi River Valley with a thunderous roar. The convulsions that followed actually reversed the flow of the river and then poured it back again, destroying everything in it's path and changing the geographical course of the river. New Madrid and Little Prairie, 30 miles below, were virtually wiped off the face of the earth. Quakes and tremors continued for almost two years.

Vincennes 19<sup>th</sup> May 1808.

Sir

The Shawnee imposes as required such an ascendancy over the minds of the Indians that there can be little doubt of their pursuing any course which he may dictate to them, and that his views are decidedly hostile to the United States is but too evident - I had a very considerable confidence in the Delaware and Miami to resist his designs, but a late circumstance has convinced me that altho they may not be converts to his divine mission they are under the greatest apprehensions of his Temporal Power - (The Prophet has selected a spot on the upper part of the Wabash for his future and permanent residence and had engaged a considerable number of Potawatomi, Ottawa, Chippawa, and other northern Indians to settle there under his auspices -) This circumstance so alarmed the Miami & Delaware that they resolved to defeat the measure at any risk and the Chiefs of the latter set out to inform him of their determination. The Prophet would not however deign them an interview - but dispatched his brother to meet them, whose threats or whose persuasions were sufficient to drive back the Chiefs with some indications of apprehension and terror - From the latest

INDIANA TERRITORY  
FIRST TERRITORIAL GOVERNOR

Vincennes 19th May 1808

Sir:

The Shawanoe Imposter\* as acquired such an ascendancy over the minds of the Indians that there can be little doubt of their pursuing any course which he may dictate to them, and that his views are decidedly hostile to the United States is but too evident. I had a very considerable confidence in the Delawares and Miamis to resist his designs, but a late circumstance has convinced me that altho they may not be converts to his divine mission they are under the greatest apprehension of his Temporal power. The Prophet has selected a spot on the upper part of the Wabash for his future and permanent residence and has engaged a considerable number of Potawatomis Ottawas Chippawas and other northern Indians to settle there under his auspices. This circumstance so alarmed the Miamis & Delawares that they resolved to defeat the measure at any risk and the Chiefs of the latter set out to inform him of their determination. The Prophet would not however deign them an interview - but dispatched his brother\* to meet them, whose threats or whose persuasions were sufficient to drive back the Chiefs with some indications of apprehension and terror. From the latest information it appears also that the Delawares were in a state of considerable alarm altho the council of their Chiefs had but a short time ago directed the warriors to prevent the Prophet from approaching the Wabash.

I have lately conversed with an intelligent man who passed (a few weeks ago) through some of the villages of the Potawatomies that are under the Prophets influence. He says that they are constantly engaged in what they term religious duties, But that their prayers are always succeeded by or intermixed with warlike sports, shooting with the bow, throwing the Tomhawk or weelding the war club. This combination of Religous and warlike exercise and the choice of weapons of their own manufacture sufficiently indicates the designs of their author.

I most sincerely wish the President would think himself authorized to have him siezed and conveyed to the interior of the United States until the present appearance of war is removed.

I have the Honor to be with the  
greatest respect Sir your  
Humble Servant.

Willm. Henry Harrison

Addressed to:  
Henry Dearborn  
Secretary of war.

Filling note in part "to be shown to the Presdt.

\*The Indian known as the Prophet and the brother of Tecumseh  
\*The famous Indian Chief Tecumseh.

PRELUDE TO WAR OF 1812



THE PROPHET.

Following the Revolution the British continued to harass the Americans on our coastline, the open seas and the Canadian frontier in the area north-west of the Ohio River. The British engaged and encouraged the Indians, under the Prophet and his brother Tecumseh, to wage war on the American settlers, who were moving into the Ohio valley. The following letters, written by Wm. Henry Harrison in the years 1808, 1809 and 1810 describe the situation on the Northwest Frontier, which led to the War of 1812.

The Prophet had established a permanent village near the confluence of the Tippecanoe and the Wabash rivers, called Prophet's Town.

"Vincennes 3d May 1809.

Sir The information which I have received since my letter of the 26 ult. was written, is intirely contradictory to that which I then detailed. The Mr. Dubois [Touissaint, fur trader] whom Wells [William, Indian agent at Fort Wayne] speaks of in the letter of which I had the honor to enclose you a copy arrived here a few days ago from Detroit via Fort Wayne. He is decidedly of opinion that the Prophet [Laulewasika, brother of Tecumseh] will attack our settlements. His opinion is formed from a variety of circumstances but principally from a communication made to Mr. Lafontain by two chiefs his friends, the substance of which was that the Prophet and his followers had determined to commence hostilities as soon as they could be prepared & to "sweep all the white people from the Wabash and White River" after which they intend to attack the Miamis. Dubois thinks there is no real misunderstanding between the Prophet and the Ottawas and Chippewas and that the Squaw who was said to have been killed by the latter died in reality a natural death and was then tomhawked and scalped by some of the Prophets party to carry on the deception and to prevent us from taking the alarm at the force he is collecting and which he pretends is to protect him against the Chippewas and Ottawas - about eight days ago he had with him three hundred and fifty warriors well armed with Rifles and tolerably supplied with ammunition - they have also bows & arrows war clubs and a kind of spear. I still think he will not dare to attack us but I am preparing the Militia as well as circumstances and the two companies which I have ordered out are rapidly improving in discipline being daily exercised either by the Major who commands them or myself in the evolutions practised by General Waynes [Anthony] Army. The Prophet cannot keep the number of men which he now has embodied any length of time - as soon as they disperse I shall dismiss the two companies which I have mustered agreeably to the instructions of Genl. Dearborn by a careful person selected for that purpose. I have the honor to enclose herewith an extract of my letter on instructions to the agent at Fort Wayne. Willm Henry Harrison"

The Honble/The Secretary at War"

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Postmarked at "Vincennes May 3rd" [Indiana Territory] "Free" in red ink. .  
Received May 20, 1809.

Vincennes 3<sup>d</sup> May 1809.

Sir

The information which I have received since my letter of the 26<sup>th</sup> ult. was written, is entirely contradictory to that which I then detailed - Tho Mr. Dubois whom well speaks of in the letter of which I had the honor to inclose you a copy arrived here a few days ago from Detroit via Fort Wayne. (He) is decidedly of opinion that the Prophet will attack our settlements - His opinion is formed from a variety of circumstances but principally from a communication made to Mr. LaFontaine by two Chiefs his friends, the substance of which was that the Prophet and his followers had determined to commence hostilities as soon as they could be prepared & to "sweep all the white" People from the Wabash and White River" after which they intended to attack the Miami & Dubois thinks there is no real misunderstanding between the Prophet and the Ottawa, and Chippewa, and that the Squaw who was said to have been killed by the latter died in reality a natural death and was then tomhawked and scalped by some of the Prophets party to carry on the deception and to prevent us from taking the alarm at the force he is collecting and which he pretends is to protect him against the Chippewas and Ottawas - (about eight days ago he had with him three hundred and fifty warriors well armed with Rifles and tolerably supplied with ammunition they have also bows & arrows War blubs and a kind of spear.) I still think he will not dare to attack us but I am preparing the militia as well as circumstances and the two companies which I have ordered out are rapidly improving in Discipline being daily exercised either by the Major who commands

PRELUDE TO WAR UNDER THE "INFLUENCE OF THE PROPHET" 1810

"Vincennes April 25th 1810

" Sir. I have lately received information from sources which leave no room to doubt it's correctness, that the Shononoe Prophet [Elkswatawa brother of Tecumtha] is again exciting the Indians to Hostilities against the United States. A Trader who is entirely to be depended on, & who has lately returned from the residence of the Prophet, assures me that he has at least 1000 Souls under his immediate control, (perhaps 350 or 400 men) principally composed of Kickapoos & Winebagos, but with considerable number of Potawatimies & Shawanoes & a few Chippiwias & Ottowas. The friends of the French Traders amongst the Indians have advised them to separate themselves from the Americans in this town, lest they should suffer in the attack, which they meditate against the latter. I have no doubt that the present hostile disposition of the Prophet & his \_\_\_\_\_ has been produced by British influence. It is certain that they have recd a considerable supply of ammunition from that source. They refused to buy that which was offered them by the Traders alleging that they had as much as they wanted, & when it was expended they could get more without paying for it & the former appeared the traders to be the fact, from the abundance the Indians seem'd to possess'd.

I have before done myself the honor to describe to you the exposed situation of this Town & how susceptible it is of surprise by a very small force. The Militia in the country are so scatter'd that they could not be collected time enough to be of any service in repelling an attack. There are not more than a full company of American Militia in the Town, & the French for any military purpose are worth nothing. I think it probable that the British agents in Canada have anticipated the orders if their government in their endeavours to set the Indians upon us, & that the first account of a favorable change of disposition towards America in that government, will induce them to countermand the orders which have been given to their Indian allies. But in the mean time, the report of the Indians having meditated hostilities, will do us great injury by retarding the settlement of the country. We lost several hundred families last spring, in consequence of the hostile appearances. And it will probably be eternally the case unless the rescally Prophet is driven from his present position ["Prophet's town" on the Wabash] or a Fort built somewhere on the Wabash, about the upper boundary of the late purchase. [Fort Harrison, built in October of 1811]. I beg leave to recommend this measure most earnestly to the President, as one from which the greatest advantages would arise both to the Boundary & to the United States. Under cover of this Fort the new purchase above this will settle rapidly & a Militia force be collected on the Wabash, that would be able to cope with all the Indians in the neighborhood.

The public Arms in my possession are much in want of cleaning. Shall I be authorised to employ a person to do it? I have the Honor to be with great respect  
Sir yr Humble Servt

The Honble William Eustis Esq  
Secty of War"

*William Henry Harrison*



DOCKET NOTE

"Vincennes April 25th 1810. Gov. Wm. Henry Harrison Relative to certain indications of a Hostile disposition exhibited by a Party of Indians of Tribes under the influence of " the Prophet": Suggests the expedience of Erecting a Fort on the River Wabash &c &c. " No postmarks, but probably entered the mails at Vincennes as indicated by "Free" notation.

Vincennes April 25<sup>th</sup> 1810.

Sir,

I have lately received information from sources which leave no room to doubt its correctness, that the Shawanoe Prophet is again exciting the Indians to Hostilities against the United States. A Trader who is entirely to be depended on, & who has lately returned from the residence of the Prophet, assures me that he has at least 1000 Souls under his immediate control, (perhaps 350 or 400 Men) principally composed of Kickapooos & Winnebagoes, but with a considerable number of Potawatimies & Shawanoes & a few Chippewas & Ottawas.

The friends of the French Traders amongst the Indians have advised them to separate themselves from the Americans in this town, lest they should suffer in the attack, which they meditate against the latter.

I have no doubt that the present hostile disposition of the Prophet & his Volantes has been produced by British interference. It is certain that they have received a considerable supply of ammunition from that source. They refused to buy that which was offered them by the Traders alleging that they had as much as they wanted, & when it was expended they could get more without paying for it & the former appeared to the Traders to be the fact, from the abundance the

## THE WESTERN MAILS

"Vincennes 11th July 1810

Sir Since I had the honor to write you on the 4th Ist. I have received a letter from Mr, Johnston [John ] the Indian Agent at Fort Wayne containing information on the subject of the hostile combination of Indians against the United States which agrees almost in every particular with that which I had received at this place conformably to his instructions. I presume that Mr. Johnston has transmitted to you a duplicate of his communication to me. I fear however that I shall soon have to announce to you proofs of the hostility of the Prophet & his followers which will be more convincing than all that has been hitherto forwarded even if that which I am now about to relate should not be so considered. On this day week four canoes passed the Wea Village [the Wea were a branch of the Miami tribe] of Terre Haute with four or five men in each of the Prophets followers & were supposed to be coming here .A Wea Chief who came down by land gave me this information on Saturday. Hearing nothing of them in the course of that day I dispatched a Lieut. of Militia and eight men to see what had become of them At a settlement about sixteen miles above this - they learned that one canoe only had come down as low as that with four Kickapoos [Indians]. That they had left their canoe there and had gone to the meeting of the Shakers [ A white religious faith, whose preachers had an influence on the Prophet that led him to quit drinking; that lifted him out of indolence and become one of the most extraordinary leaders of his race] on Sunday. They returned late in the evening of that day & proceeded up the Wabash [river] about one half mile where they left their canoe. Cut a hole in her & in the night stole five horses. Those fellows were all completely armed - had no skins to trade with nor did they profess to have any other business than a visit to the Shakers. That they were spies from the larger party. I have not the least doubt and the manner in which the horses were stolen is the strongest indication of a hostile disposition that they have yet discovered. Far from wishing to disguise it their canoe paddles & a small fish gig were left on the shore with in a short distance of the place from whence the horses were taken. Four or five days before other three horses were taken from the same place. The People in the neighbour-hood from whence the horses were taken are so much alarmed that they have collected together for their defence. I have forbid their pursuit of the thieves because I know that it will produce blood shed. Indeed from the little pains which was taken to conceal the tracks of the horses I am convinced that pursuit was desired by the Indians & that a larger party was lying in ambush at some distance. I was informed some considerable time ago that this was one of the methods they intended to take to bring on the War i.e. to send parties to steal horses & if they were pursued to kill the pursuers. As long however as no Blood is spilt I have hopes of bringing the Prophet to reason. But our people will not suffer their property to be taken & I dailey expect to hear of some Indians being killed in an attempt to take off horses nor will this be the most disagreeable circumstance attending those depredations. I fear that some of the friendly Indians will suffer from the crimes of others. Indeed so difficult would it be to distinguish the Tribes & so little pains will be taken by our people to do it that I have no other expectation than that of seeing all the Tribes united against us in six months after hostilities shall have commenced. I fear too that the Prophet or his friends may have discovered this mode of accomplishing his object. I expect the return of Col Vigo [Francis, a trader ] in a few days & by him some important information. Captain Posey [Thomas, appointed governor of Indiana to succeed Harrison in 1813 ] arrived here on the 5th. He is now commencing the block house & lines of pickets which I have recommended him to erect. On Monday the two companies of Militia were dismissed . I am far from thinking that there services were no longer necessary but a great proportion of them being farmers and this the season of harvest they could not remain longer from home without loseing [a ] great part of their grain. Willm. Henry Harrison"  
To the/Honb. William Eustis/ Secretary of War"

Vincennes 11<sup>th</sup> July 1810

Sir

Since I had the honor to write you on the 4<sup>th</sup> Inst. I have received a letter from Mr. Johnston the Indian Agent at Fort Wayne containing information on the subject of the hostile combination of Indians against the United States which agrees almost in every particular with that which I had received at this place Conformably to his instructions, I presume that Mr. Johnston has transmitted to you a duplicate of his communication to me I fear however that I shall soon have to announce to you proofs of the hostility of the Prophet & his followers which will be more convincing than all that has been hitherto forwarded even if that which I am now about to relate should not be so considered.

On this day week four canoes passed the Wea Village of Towhate



# NEW-HAMPSHIRE

"INDULGING NO PASSIONS WHICH TRESPASS ON THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS, IT SHALL BE OUR

No. 36, of Vol. III.]

CONCORD, (N. H.) TUESDAY,

NEW-HAMPSHIRE PATRIOT.  
PUBLISHED BY  
**I. & W. R. HILL,**  
CONCORD, (N. H.)  
BY WHOM PRINTING IN GENERAL IS  
EXECUTED WITH ELEGANCE, ACCU-  
RACY AND DISPATCH.

## CLEAN WORK!

**T**O prevent all misunderstanding, to supersede the necessity of all excuses, the subscribers give notice, that all persons who, on the first day of January next, are found indebted for more than one year's subscription, and who are individually accountable to them, will be charged, agreeably to the conditions, twenty-five cents in addition for each year that may have been due more than three months.

The respective Agents whose accounts may have been open more than one year, and the Post Riders who have not settled within the last three months, are called on to settle and pay up to that time.

Those otherwise indebted, whose accounts have been more than three months standing, will not be surprised if they are called on in a more summary way.

**I. & W. R. HILL.**

Patriot-Office, Dec. 10, 1811.

## JAMES TALLANT

**R**EQUESTS the subscribers on his route to make payment up to the first of January, he being then called on to complete his payments to the Printers.  
Dec. 10, 1811.

## SAMUEL TALLANT

"WANTS money and must have it," from all persons whose accounts have been six months standing on the first day of next January.  
Dec. 10, 1811.

## CLEMENT EMERY

THE old and faithful Post-Rider, solicits his patrons to reciprocate his favors. He has been faithful to them; and he trusts they will deal with him accordingly.

Dec. 10, 1811.

## JOHN MAY

PRESUMES this short hint only will

Just published by C. NORRIS and Co. and for sale wholesale and retail at their Bookstore,

## THE NEW-HAMPSHIRE REGISTER,

AND  
United States Calendar,

WITH AN  
Ephemeris for the year of our Lord,  
1812.

CONTAINING  
Civil, Judicial, Ecclesiastical and Military Lists in NEW-HAMPSHIRE; Associations and Corporate Institutions for Literary and Religious Purposes; A List of Post-Towns, with the names of the Post-Masters in New-Hampshire.

ALSO,  
Catalogues of the Officers of the General Government,

With its several Departments and Establishments—Times of the sittings of the several Courts—Governors of each State—USEFUL TABLES—And a Variety of other interesting Articles.

The publishers having spared neither pains nor expense in endeavoring to render their REGISTER worthy of public patronage, and having procured correct lists of the Members of Congress and officers of the General Government direct from the City of Washington, flatter themselves that it will be found, on perusal, to contain more correct and useful information, than any heretofore published. To it have been added lists of the standing Committees in Congress, of the Governors in the several States, of the United States' ministers and consuls resident in foreign countries, and foreign ministers and consuls resident in the United States, and much other valuable information not contained in the Register of last year.

Among the important additions to the above Register, are—an improved summary of the Geography to the State; notes attached to the several offices, extracted from the constitution and the laws, specifying their duties, the rights of the citizen, &c.; useful forms; rates at which polls and rateable estates are valued in the inventory; method of procedure in town meetings; how votes should be returned; a geographical table of the length, breadth and boundaries of the U. States; general information respecting Probate business, &c. &c.

Exeter, Dec. 10, 1811.

The above REGISTER may be

## Sale of REAL ESTATE

BY virtue of a License from the Superior Court of Judicature, sold at Public Vendue to the order, at the house of Daniel Bow, on Wednesday the 13th of December next, the following lands in said Bow (to wit) also of woodland, being part of the 14th Range, adjoining Col. Walker's homestead—also, hundred acres of Woodland, meadow land, and joins the north said lot No. 8, and said Daniel's farm. Conditions of sale well known at the time and place mentioned.

WILLIAM ROBERTSON

Nov. 19, 1811.

## VENDUE.

WILL be sold at Auction, at the house of Benjamin Green in Concord, on Monday, the 11th of January next, at 2 o'clock, a large DWELLING-HOUSE, a new BAKE HOUSE and a Barn, about three and a half acres. Said land has an extensive front on Main Street, on State Street and on a Street in said Concord, and is owned by Col. Peter Green, the property of Capt. Peter Green. For pleasantness of situation and fertility of soil, none exceeds it. Conditions of sale made known at the place.

RICHARD

Dec. 7, 1811.

## FARM AT VEN

THE sale of the CHASE Farm, on the Hopkinton road in Concord, effected at the late Vendue, the said Farm will be sold at one o'clock on the 1st day of December instant; and the subscribers at that time will be entitled to the right, title and interest in the Farm which passed from Peter Green to Benjamin Carrigan, Esquire, Benjamin Noyes, Esq. Sale at the premises.

JOHN LEVY

WENNING

Concord, Dec. 2, 1811.

## Partnership Dissolved

THE Copartnership of T. WARD & ROBERTSON, dissolved, by mutual consent. The subscribers to said Firm are hereby notified to make payment to J. L. Robinson, who is fully authorized to settle all the accounts of the concern, and to collect

## THE PATRIOT.

CONCORD, DECEMBER 17, 1811.

## INTERESTING REPORT.

The Report of the Committee on Foreign Relations, published in this day's paper, will be read with interest by the citizens of New-Hampshire. It is a manly and correct exposition of our wrongs, expressed in language forcible and perspicuous. Mr. HARRER, from New-Hampshire, was a member of that Committee; and it is to the honor of that gentleman that he was one of the number who matured so finished an appeal to the good sense and patriotism of our country.

## BATTLE ON THE WABASH.

While every patriotic American deeply regrets the loss of our brave countrymen in a contest instigated and set on by the emissaries of a treacherous external foe—while he sorrows for the untimely fate of the generous and undaunted DAVISS, and the no less brave OWENS, BAEN, and heroic compeers, who died for the glory of their country—he will rejoice, that in this battle has been evinced a coolness of conduct and an invincibility of spirit, which must make our enemies, wherever they may be, tremble at the idea of contending with freemen, whose object is, not the aggrandizement of a tyrant, but the security of their own rights.—The Indians, reposing confidence in the divinations and supernatural power of their fanatic leader, as well as in their superiority of numbers, and urged on by the agents of Britain, probably attacked with a positive assurance of success; and the most sure calculators, when they considered the situation of the American army, its paucity of numbers, its inexperience in the art of war, and more especially its entire ignorance of the Indian mode of warfare—we say, the most sure might have calculated the chance was more than two to one that the whole of our troops would have fallen victims to Indian ferocity. But there is a spirit in freemen, in Americans, as invincible as it is noble. We have seen it proved during the whole course of our revolutionary struggle—and we have more recently proved it before the walls of Tripoli, in the Deserts of Barca, and on the waters of the Wabash. Let the admirer of Britain exult in the vain idea that nothing can withstand the valor of British troops—let the Frenchman boast that there is no nation that can stand before the mercenaries of a French despot: we glory in the American name—we proudly aver, that a "little band" of our heroes, with similar advantages of experience and discipline, cannot be conquered by an equal number of the most warlike nation on earth.

It is to be lamented that the late encounter on the Wabash is made a subject for the floutings, the sneers and the misrepresentations of the federal party. On such an occasion, if we had not already known that faction, we should have expected that all parties would have agreed.

But the British faction, determined at all events to complain, ask us, why the American troops were permitted to be attacked by the Indians? What would they have said, had the Americans attacked and burnt the Prophet's town? They would have told you—"The innocent natives have been massacred and their towns fired, to satiate the rapacity of the menials of a corrupt administration: they will have drawn frightful pictures of what our frontier inhabitants might expect in retaliation for such a murderous deed; and they would have searched the annals of war in vain to find a parallel for so gross an act. The truth is, Gov. Harrison had orders not to attack, so long as there was a prospect for conciliating the Indians, who had been duped to assume a warlike attitude, without the least prospect of ultimate success. If Gov. H. were not prepared to meet an attack, he will be answerable to the government: this point remains to be investigated. For ourselves, the manner in which the Indians were received and repulsed, is pretty conclusive evidence that *he was prepared.*

Such the warlike and ferocious Capt. Dunham, of "Washingtonian" memory—"And what have we gained? The ground, which an Indian never keeps; and the ashes of the Prophet's town, which some accounts intimate to have been fired by himself. The loss of poor Baen is more than it is all worth. And I do firmly believe, that with proper prudence, the same victory might have been obtained without the loss of a man." The prudent Capt. Dunham, had he been placed in the situation of Gov. Harrison, to prevent "the loss of poor Baen," or from his aversion to the smell of gunpowder, would probably have retreated to the other side of the Ohio, leaving the whole frontier a prey to the tomahawk and scalping knife; for by what other prudent measure could he have effected a "victory without the loss of a man"? He surely could not have killed Indians without exposing his own troops to be killed; and if he had not in some way defeated them, the "same victory," in our humble estimation, would not have been won.—In his intimation, that the Prophet burnt his own town himself, would the Captain wish to hide an important fact implicating his good friends the British? Does he not know that several accounts concurred in proving, not only that the Americans burnt the town, but that *in it they found a large quantity of newly manufactured ENGLISH rifles and fuses?* "And what have we gained" by this battle? Nothing, the Captain intimates. Have we not convinced the Indians of the futility of their warlike measures? and have we not convinced the British, that their intrigues with the Indians will be as unavailing as their intrigues with European monarchs? By this battle, however

dearly won, the Aborigines will be taught to respect and fear Americans, when, otherwise, they in different quarters might have been induced to substitute the tomahawk for those implements of industry with which they have humanely been supplied by our government.

[OFFICIAL.]

Extract of a letter from Governor Harrison to the Secretary of War, dated Head-quarters, near the Prophet's Town Nov. 8th, 1811.

SIR—I have the honor to inform you, that the dawn of yesterday terminated an action between the troops under my command and the whole of the Prophet's force. Their precipitate retreat, leaving a number of the warriors dead on the field, and the subsequent abandonment of their town, (which was partially fortified) attest for us a complete and decisive victory. It has, however, been dearly purchased. A number of brave and valuable men have fallen victims to their zeal for their country's service. The behaviour of the regulars and militia troops was such as would have honored veterans. I arrived at my present position, (a mile from the town) on the evening of the 6th instant; a correspondence was immediately opened with the Prophet, and there was every appearance of a successful termination of the expedition, without bloodshed. Indeed there was an agreement for a suspension of hostilities, until a further communication should take place on the next day. Contrary, however, to this engagement, he attacked me at half past four o'clock in the morning, so suddenly, that the Indians were in the camp before many of the men could get out of their tents. A little confusion for a short time prevailed, but aided by the great exertions of the officers, I was soon enabled to form the men in order. The companies which were hard pressed were supported, several successful charges made, and about day light, the enemy were finally put to flight. Our killed and wounded amount to 179; of these 42 are now dead.

I have not been able to ascertain the number of Indians in the action, it must however, have been considerable.

The principal chief of those Potawatemics, who have joined the Prophet, is wounded, and in our possession. I have taken care of him, and shall send him back to his tribe. At a more leisure moment I shall do myself the honor to transmit a more particular account of the action, and of our previous movements, and am, with the highest respect, sir, your humble servant.

WM. HENRY HARRISON.

Hon. Wm. Eustis, Sec. of War.

IMPORTANT  
STATE PAPERS.

DECLARATION OF WAR.

WASHINGTON, JUNE 18, 4 o'clock, P. M.

THE injunction of secrecy was about an hour ago removed from the following Message, Report, and Act.

MESSAGE.

*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.*

I communicate to Congress certain documents, being a continuation of those heretofore laid before them, on the subject of our affairs with Great Britain.

Without going back beyond the renewal in 1803 of the war in which G. Britain is engaged, and omitting unrepaid wrongs of inferior magnitude, the conduct of her government presents a series of acts hostile to the United States as an independent and neutral nation.

British cruisers have been in the continued practice of violating the American flag on the great highway of nations, and of seizing and carrying off persons sailing under it; not in the exercise of a belligerent right founded on the law of nations, against an enemy, but of a municipal prerogative over British subjects. British jurisdiction is thus extended to neutral vessels in a situation where no laws can operate but the law of nations, and the laws of the country to which the vessels belong: and a self redress is assumed, which if British subjects were wrongfully detained and alone concerned, is that substitution of force for a resort to the responsible sovereign, which falls within the definition of war. Could the seizure of British subjects, in such cases, be

be adopted by the Constituted Authorities, for obtaining a speedy, a just, and an honorable peace.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed to these presents.

(SEAL.)

DONE at the City of Washington, the nineteenth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and twelve, and of the Independence of the United States the thirty-sixth.

JAMES MADISON.

(Signed)

*By the President,*

(Signed)

JAMES MONROE,  
*Secretary of State.*

Annual Return of Infantry of the *second* Brigade in the *fourth* Division of

No. of the Regiments.	Lieut. Colonels' Names.	OFFICERS.																	
		Brig. Staff.			Field.		Regimental Staff.					Company.			Non-Commissioned.				
		Brig. Generals.	Brig. Majors and Inspectors.	Brig. Quarter Masters.	Lt. Colonels.	Majors.	Adjutants.	Q. Masters.	Chaplains.	Surgeons.	Surgeon's Mates.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Ensigns.	Serg. Majors.	Qr. M. Serg.	Drum Majors.	Fife Majors.	
		1	1	1															
1 <sup>st</sup>	Charles Chapman				1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	10	10	1	1	1	1
2 <sup>d</sup>	Puck E. Newcomb				1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	9	9	0	1	1	1	1
3 <sup>d</sup>	Epli <sup>m</sup> Wheeler				1	2	1	1	1	-	1	1	9	0	9	1	1	1	-
4 <sup>th</sup>	<del>Patrick Bryant</del> Lieut. Robert Dawes				1*	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
5 <sup>th</sup>	Thomas Longley				1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	9	0	1	1	1	1
5	Total	1	1	1	5	9	5	4	5	4	4	4	41	44	43	5	5	5	5

NOTE!—Returns of every Brigade must be made, without fail, to the Major-Generals, and to the Adjutant-General, in the next Year, the last best Return of such Regiment must be inserted in the Brigade Return, and the cause thereof noted in the Regimental Returns must be noted in those of the Brigades.—It is to be understood that there can be no impossibility of making the Returns of the Regiments immediately after July, and the Returns of the Cavalry and Artillery must be submitted to the Brigadier-General, and countersigned by the Brigade-Major.—The Returns of the Cavalry and Artillery must be submitted to the Brigadier-General, and countersigned by the Brigade-Major.

Epli: Hoyt } Brigade-Major }  
 \* Lt. Col: Patrick Bryant, the commanding officer  
 July 20 - 10

the Militia, Commanded by Brigadier-General *Isaac Matthey Esq*

Arms, Ammunition, and Accoutrements.

ned.		Rank and File.	Arms, Ammunition, and Accoutrements.											
Sergeants.	Drums and Fifes.		Musquets.	Bayonets.	Cartridge Boxes.	Iron Rods.	Scabbards and Belts	Flints.	Wires and Brushes.	Knapsacks.	Cartridges with Balls.	Rifle Guns.	No. of Balls.	Pounds of Powder.
40	20	534	539	530	537	538	530	1125	507	420	6467	102926	4902	10
34	31	475	439	436	436	430	430	1313	459	375	7050	12254	4 1/2	9
39	36	536	468	457	460	459	456	1049	451	266	2966	371919	69	10
31	16	371	352	351	353	352	352	754	339	330	5020	7120	3	0
35	33	511	500	493	501	497	475	1105	479	106	6024	31494	31	9
179	144	2427	2290	2275	2207	2284	2252	5346	2315	1585	28335	696713	605	46

month of July annually.—And if from any absolute impossibility, the Return of a Regiment cannot be obtained for the current year, the Brigadier-General must order the Brigadier-Generals to obtain the Returns for the next year, and all Remarks in the Returns must be made in the margin of the Returns, and the Brigadier-Generals are desired to order immediate Returns to be made, under penalty of arrest.—This Return must be signed by the Brigadier-Generals, and returned to the same Rules.

acting officer, is under an arrest.

*Isaac Matthey* } Brigadier-General.



BY HIS HONOR  
 GEORGE TRACEY SMYTH, Esquire,  
 PRESIDENT of His MAJESTY'S Council  
 and Commander in Chief of the Pro-  
 (L. S.) vince of New-Brunswick, Major-Gen.  
 in His Majesty's service, &c. &c. &c.  
 G. S. SMYTH.

### A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS the Government of the United States of America, by an Act of Congress on the 18th day of JUNE last, has declared WAR against the United Kingdom of Great-Britain and Ireland—And Whereas every species of predatory warfare carried on against defenceless Inhabitants, living on the shores, and on those parts of the Territories of the United States, contiguous to this Province, will greatly distress Individuals, without answering any good purpose. I have therefore thought proper, by and with the advice of His MAJESTY'S Council, to order and direct all His MAJESTY'S Subjects, under my Government, to abstain from molesting the Inhabitants living on the shores, and on those parts of the Territories of the United States, contiguous to this Province, and on no account to molest the goods or unarmed Coasting or Fishing Vessels belonging to the defenceless Inhabitants upon the Frontiers, so long as they shall abstain on their parts from any acts of hostility and molestation towards the Inhabitants of this Province, and of the Province of Nova-Scotia, who are in a similar situation. It is therefore my wish and desire, that the Subjects of the United States, living on the Frontiers, may pursue in peace their usual and accustomed trade and occupations, without molestation, so long as they shall act in a similar way towards the Frontier Inhabitants of this Province and of the Province of Nova-Scotia.

And I do hereby order and command all His MAJESTY'S Subjects, within my jurisdiction to govern themselves accordingly, until further orders.

*Given under my Hand and Seal at Fredericton, the tenth day of July, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Twelve, and in the fifty-second Year of His Majesty Reign.*

By His HONOR'S COMMAND,  
 JON. ODELL.

THE WESTERN MAILS

Liverpool, 4th August, 1812.

Recd  
Messrs. Brown & Sons

THE American Declaration of War was received here on the 31st ult., and the next morning an order was received for the detention of all American vessels. On the 3d instant, however, our Collector received fresh instructions, directing him to take off the embargo from all vessels having British Licences: most of the vessels in this port had secured Licences, and they are now proceeding in taking in their cargoes. They must, in conformity with the terms of the Licences, clear out on or before the 15th instant, after which period our direct intercourse with America will cease for the present. We heard from an intelligent correspondent in London, that Licences continued to be granted on Saturday, though Government had the Declaration of War on Wednesday: if it is true, and they continue to grant them, every American vessel in our ports will be able to get away. Parliament was prorogued the day after the Declaration of War was received, and the following is the passage of the Speech relating to America:—

“ His Royal Highness has commanded us to assure you, that he views with most sincere regret the hostile measures which have been recently adopted by the Government of the United States of America towards this country. His Royal Highness is nevertheless willing to hope that the accustomed relations of peace and amity between the two countries may yet be restored; but if his expectations in this respect should be disappointed by the conduct of the Government of the United States, or by their perseverance in any unwarrantable pretensions, he will most fully rely on the support of every class of his Majesty's subjects, in a contest in which the honour of his Majesty's crown and the best interests of his dominions must be involved.”

This, and the other measures of our Government, evince a spirit of forbearance, from which we are led to expect the best effects, now that the revocation of the Orders in Council has reduced the complaints contained in the President's late Message to Congress to one, namely—the impressment of American seamen; which, though a most difficult and important subject, will not, we hope and believe, prevent an amicable arrangement. We annex a copy of the Order in Council directing the embargo, and that all American vessels on the high seas shall be detained and brought into port.

Intelligence of some American frigates having fired into his Majesty's frigate Belvidere, preceded the receipt of the Declaration of War, but did not cause much sensation in our market: the latter news has produced as much, or more, perhaps, than the situation of the two countries warrants, especially when it is considered, that the general impression here is, that the differences will be settled.

American produce generally has advanced. Sales have been made chiefly to speculators; of Pot Ashes at 50s, Pearls at 52s; prime Quercitron Bark at 48s; soft Turpentine at 24s per cwt.; of Tar at 32s per barrel; Pine Timber at 3s 2d per foot. Cotton, Sea Island 1s 10d a 2s 4d, New Orleans 1s 2½d a 1s 5d, Uplands 1s 2d a 1s 4d, Tennessee 1s 2d a 1s 3d.—Tobacco has advanced ½d a 1d per lb.—Several holders are not desirous of selling, unless at a further advance; but we do not think there is likely to be much variation in prices until it is known what effects the revocation of the Orders in Council is likely to have in America. There are about thirty American vessels here, half to two-thirds of whose cargoes will consist of salt, coals and crates, as the manufacturers are not now disposed to ship.

Peace between Great Britain, Russia and Sweden, was signed at Orebro on the 18th ult. No battle has yet taken place between the Russians and French.

The wet weather continues; and the prices of Wheat, Flour and Rice, remain without alteration.

We are, respectfully,

Your friends and servants,

Provided  
R. D.

HUGHES & DUNCAN.

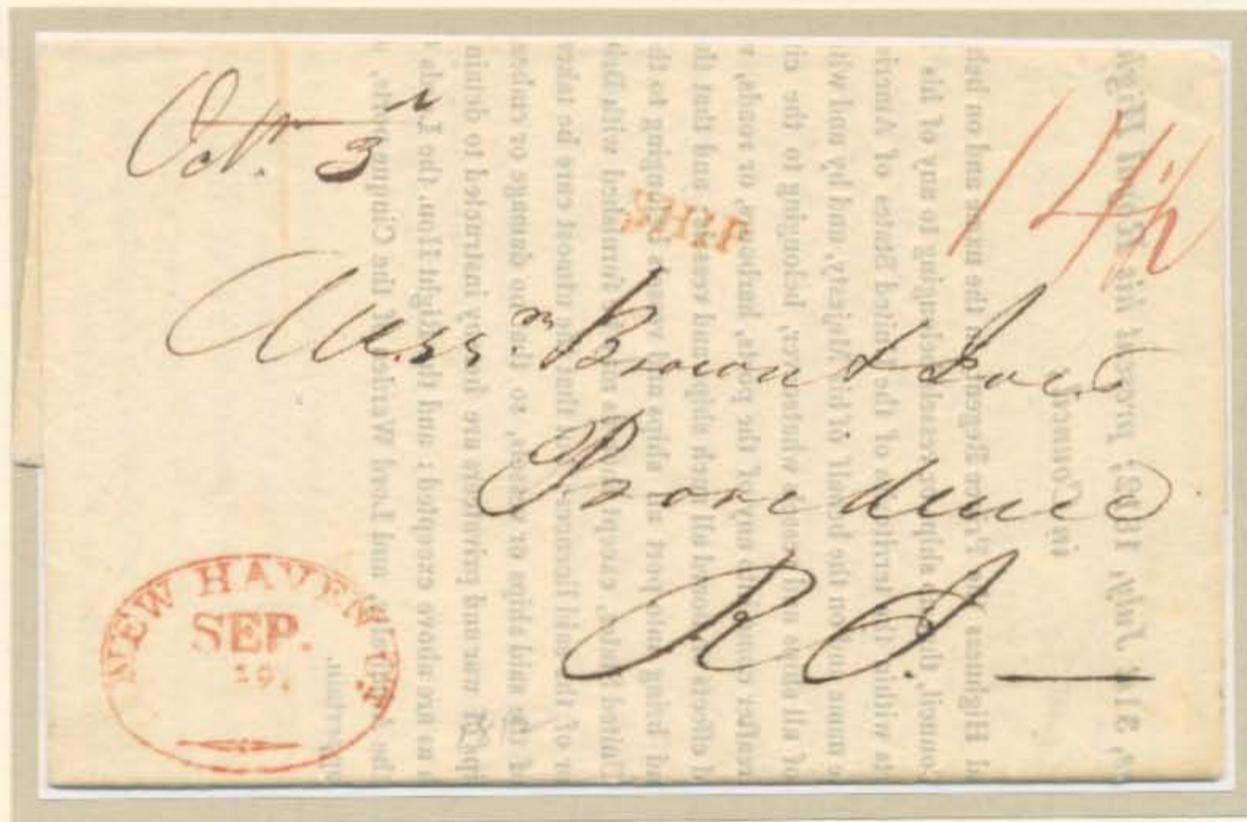
THE WESTERN MAILS

AMERICA DECLARES WAR ON GREAT BRITIAN  
JUNE 19, 1812

*At the Court at Carlton House, 31st July, 1812; present his Royal Highness the Prince Regent,  
in Council;*

It is this day ordered, by his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, in the name and on behalf of his Majesty, and by and with the advice of his Majesty's Privy Council, that no ships or vessels belonging to any of his Majesty's subjects be permitted to enter and clear out for any of the ports within the territories of the United States of America, until further order: and his Royal Highness is further pleased, in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty, and by and with the advice aforesaid, to order, that a general embargo or stop be made of all ships and vessels whatsoever, belonging to the citizens of the United States of America, now within, or which shall hereafter come into any of the ports, harbours, or roads, within any part of his Majesty's dominions, together with all persons and effects on board all such ships and vessels; and that the commanders of his Majesty's ships of war and privateers do detain and bring into port all ships and vessels belonging to the citizens of United States of America, or bearing the flag of the said United States, except such as may be furnished with British licences, which vessels are allowed to proceed according to the tenor of the said licences; but that the utmost care be taken for the preservation of all and every part of the cargoes on board any of the said ships or vessels, so that no damage or embezzlement whatever be sustained; and the commanders of his Majesty's ships of war and privateers are hereby instructed to detain and bring into port every such ship and vessel accordingly, except such as are above excepted: and the Right Hon. the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and Lord Warden of the Cinque ports, are to give the necessary directions herein as to them may respectively appertain.

CHETWYND.



Although the United States declared war on June 19th it was not received in Liverpool, England until July 31st. This printed letter, under date of August 4th to commercial clients in the U.S., did not arrive at NEW HAVEN Ct until Sep. 19. Here it was rated as a SHIP letter at 14½ cents and forwarded to Providence, R.I. where it arrived on October 3rd. The date that it sailed from Liverpool in a commercial packet is unknown.



*J. C. Colthorn Esq*

*No 22 Howard Street Oct 4. 1846*

*My Dear Sir*

*There has been an importation of 18 head of cattle - 20 sheep 15 or 20 hogs & a mare & colt of the Day breed; all from England. They surpass any thing for beauty size blood & every desirable quality of the respective species that I have ever seen.*

*They are to go to the interior of N.Y. if not sold during the Fair of the American institute which commences here tomorrow - indeed only part are to be sold. I have a very great desire to purchase one of the Cotswold Bucks - They are invariably a no horned sheep very large, weighing at 18 months old from 40 to 50 to the quarter & cutting from 10 to 12 lbs of wool - most very fine. From the circumstance of the owner coming in the same ship with Mr. Yates (the Philadelphia) from London I can have some little favor shown me in the purchase of a Ram. I am offered one that cost in England 17<sup>l</sup>. 6<sup>d</sup>. for 150<sup>l</sup>.*

BATTLE OF FORT MEIGS BY A BRITISH SOLDIER

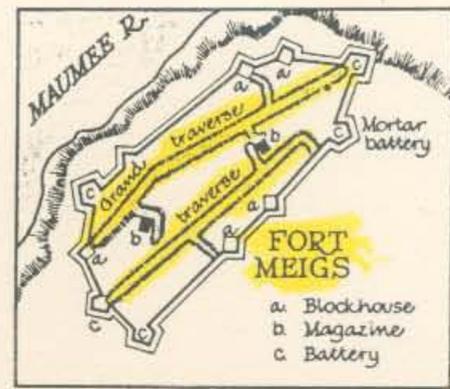
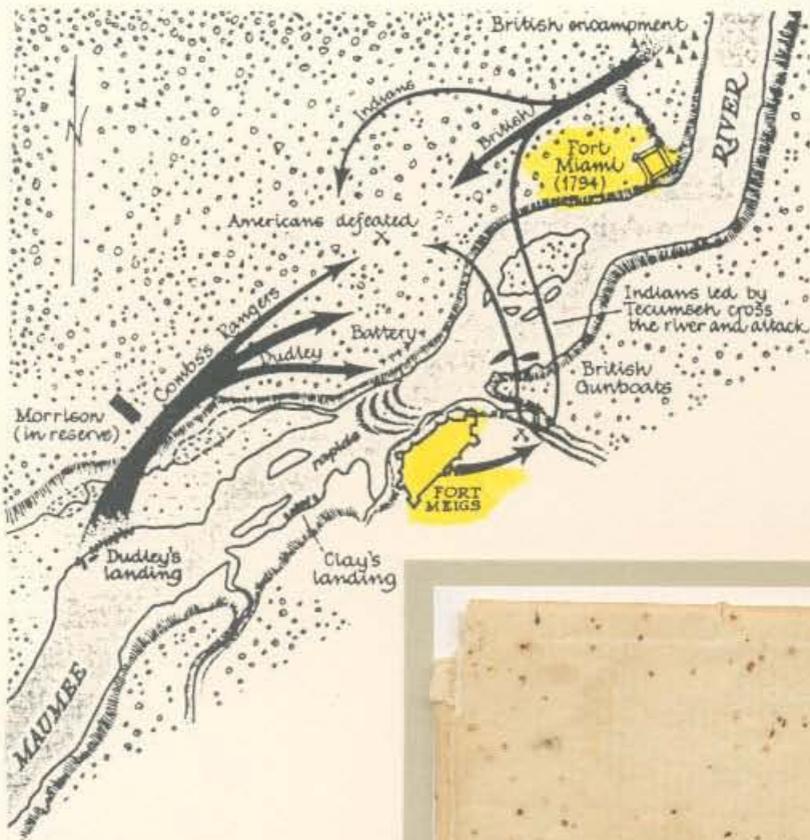
"Amherstburgh 17th May 1813

....On the 24th of April our Troops &c : Commanded by General Proctor left this place on an expedition to the Miamis where they arrived safe without molestation at the old Bristish Fort [Miami] - The Yankee fort [Meigs] being about 1½ miles above, on the opposite side of the River [Maumee], by the 30th we had all our Guns up and Batteries fixt at a distance of 800 yards and the cannonading commenced from our different batteries which consist of Two 24 Pounders, Two 12 Pod. Two 6 Pod. one 8 Inch Howitzer - one 5½ inch Mortor and a Battery called the Sailers of one 12 Pod. At ten o Clock in the morning of the 1st May our Batteries open on their Fort and an incessant fire was kept up all that day. We expected great effect from our Guns. we were disappointed, the Enemy had thrown up an Empardment [embankment of earth] which in a great Measure sheltered them from our fire, and there was a number of Traverses [SEE Fort diagram on opposite page] within their Fort. The Enemy fired occasionally at us without doing any injury - We the whole of the next day kept up a continual fire, but the Enemy was very sparing of their shot. The Indians taking Hogs - Oxen - Horses &c from under the very Guns of their Fort and bring them over to our side in great quantity - some hund. Hogs and not less I believe than one Hundred Bullock and near as many horses - The day before this the mails from Sandusky was intercepted by the Indians and taken and by this it was discovered that a reinforcement was coming consisting of thirteen hundred men from St. Marys in Boats. This intelligence one would have thought was enough to make us keep a good look out, but this was not so well attended to as I could have wished, and on the 5th May intelligence was brought to our Encampment (which by the by is 1½ [miles] from the Batteries) that the Enemy were landing. Orders were immediately given for our Army to march forward for the protection of the Battery and when they arrived at them found them in possession of the Enemy, after some time the Enemy were driven out and in about three hours from the time of their landing they surrendered [SEE General Harrison's letter from Fort Meigs under date of May 5, 1813 in this collection]. It is with regret that I state that a dreadful slaughter commenced on the arrival of the Prisoners at the encampment, the Indians could not be repressed. One of our men was shot in the act of saving the Prisoners - by great exertion we succeeded in sending 467 away on boats &c to Sandusky on their Parole of Honor not to serve against Great Britain during the war unless regularly exchanged. Major [Captain Peter L] Chambers went over to them with a Flag of Truce, was blindfolded and led into the Garrison [Fort Meigs] where he saw General Harrison and effected a exchange of Prisoners and was treated very politely by him. I had almost forgot to tell that we had troops and Batteries on both sides of the River & when the action commenced at our Batteries they made a Sortie from the Fort so powerfull in numbers that they soon got possession of it and took Lieut. McIntyre & Hails with 33 men but the Indians soon came up - retook the Battery and drove them back again with great slaughter (our officers & men were exchanged) so that out of the army of thirteen hundred men only 467 are saved so that there is 993 who died by the Tomahawk &c - But after all this great achievement we were not able to the fort from the Enemy on acct of their having fortified themselves in so strong a manner, therefore the General [Proctor] thought properment we were not able to get the fort from the Enemy on acct of their having fortified themselves in so strong a manner, therefore the Generla [Proctor] thought proper to return without accomplishing it. I think we are in no danger here from them, as they are well watched and affraid to come out of their hold. We have disagreeable news from your Quarter but trust not so bad as represented? My dear girl keep up your spirits. God is all sufficient and I sincerely hope he will be pleased to protect us and give us power to drive the Enemys from our Country. Our loss has not been so great as might be expected in such a conflict - 14 of the 41st [Br. Regiment] killed 47 wounded & Captain of Militia Bondy killed and one or two wounded & from 16 to 18 killed & wounded. I am happy to tell you McKee is recovering very fast and hope in the course of a week he will be able to go up to Detroit where all the Indian Department are ordered to proceed as soon as possible. This is the place fixt for their Dept. Commodore Grant is no more he died at Gross Point and was brought over to Sandwich to be buried. .... Poor Deck Boothe was killed by the Americans. Scalped and cut up by the Americans in a most inhuman manner hardly to be paralled by Indians. Major Chambers will hand this to you ..

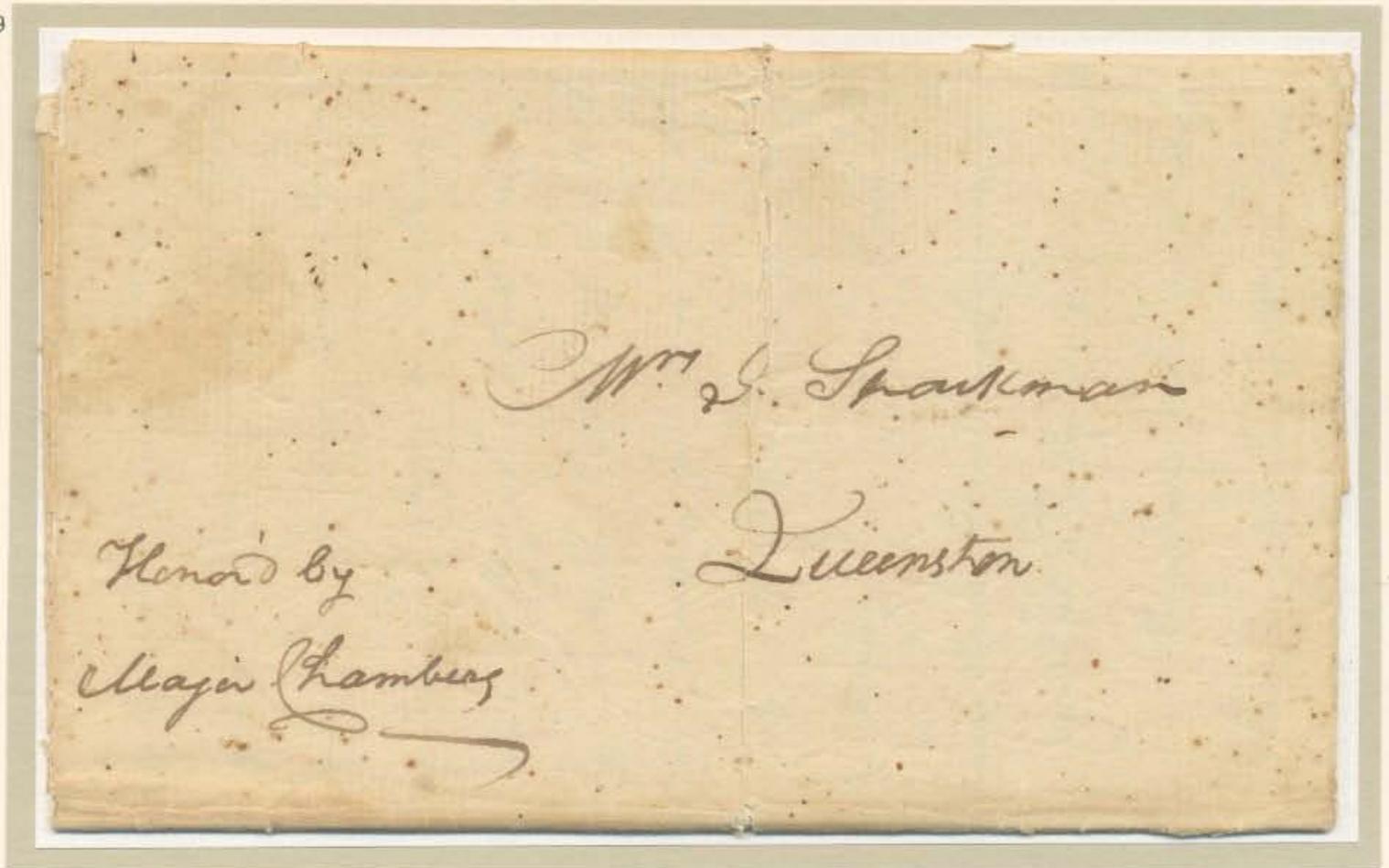
Jon Sparkman"

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## THE WESTERN MAILS



### The Battle of Fort Meigs



Folded letter carried by Major Chambers to Mrs. Sparkman in Queenston, Canada.

When Major Chambers went to General Harrison under a flag of truce, was under orders from General Proctor to demand the surrender of Fort Meigs, which, of course, was refused by Harrison.

Major Chambers also demanded the surrender of Fort Meigs - that General Proctor wanted to avoid further bloodshed - that he has with him a large force of Indians. Of course, Harrison refused to surrender under any terms. The veiled threat of a large force of uncontrolled Indians had been used against General Hull at Detroit and Harrison was not going to expose his garrison to another massacre like the one at the River Raisin in January.

The captured Kentuckians were marched to Fort Miami, where they were forced to run the "gauntlet" between rows of Potawatomi Indians, who beat them with tomahawks, war clubs and rifles, killing many. As mentioned in the letter, a British regular from the 41st, tried to call a halt, but was shot through the heart and the slaughter was on. Only appearance of the Shawnee war chief TECUMSEH, who stops the action, prevents it from becoming a general massacre. Many of the prisoners were taken into captivity by the Indians and some were made members of the tribes. . . SEE Henry Clay letter regarding prisoners of war taken by Indians, under date of December 26, 1815, in this collection.

## THE WESTERN MAILS

### WAR OF 1812

Head Quarters, Camp Meigs

5th May, 1813

Sir; I am sorry to inform you of another disaster to the Kentucky troops, not indeed bearing any comparison to that of the River Raisen in point of killed and wounded, but exceeding it as to the number of prisoners. I had the honor to inform you in my letter of the 28th Inst. that the British Troops destined to besiege this place was then in view. On the succeeding night they broke ground upon the heights opposite & on the following morning our Batteries opened upon them and continued a partial firing through out that and the following day. On the first of May the Enemy returned it from two gun & one mortar Battery and on the 2nd from a third gun Battery. On the night of the 3d they passed a unit of their troops to this side of the River & opened another gun & mortar Battery within two hundred & fifty yards of our lines - they were soon however driven from that position & obliged to take one at a more respectful distance - On the 1st 2d & 3d Inst the force was most incessant and tremendous 5½ & 8½ Inch shells with 24 Ball fell in showers on our Camp and would have produced the most unfortunate effect but from the great pains & labour which had been bestowed in the erection of Traverses which in a great degree shielded our Camp from the former. For the latter there was no preventive but that of taking the Batteries - about 12 oclock last night an officer arrived in a boat from Genl. Clay [Green] to inform me of his approach & that he would reach this place in about 2 Hours - I immediately determined upon a general Sally & sent an officer to Genl. Clay directing him to land Eight hundred men some Short distance above, to attack & carry the batteries - spike the cannon and destroy the artillery - the Genl. was unfortunately delayed longer than he expected, in passing the Rapids and the detachment destined to make the attack did not reach the landing until near nine Oclock, this however did not prevent them from making the attempt and never was any thing more completely successful - the four Batteries were immediately taken possession of & their defenders driven off & the cannon spiked. Here the work of our men was done - But that confidence which always attends Militia when Successful proved their action altho there was time sufficient to return to the boats before a reinforcement arrived. . . . They remained upon the ground in spite of the repeated calls which we made across the River to bring them back, to their boats & they suffered themselves to be amused and drawn into the woods by some faint Skirmishing whilst the British Troops & an immense body of Indians were brought up - A severe action then took place - The British immediately intercepted the retreat of our men to the plain near the river where they would have been under cover of our cannon but about one hundred & fifty only out of nearly Eight hundred effected their escape to the boats, where the ballance of Genl. Clays force made its appearance & attempted to land above the Garrison, their flank was attacked by a large body of Indians. I immediately ordered out a Detachment consisting of part of the 19th U.S. Regt. - about one hundred twelve months volunteers & some Militia. They however succeeded in driving the enemy entirely off Pursuant to the plan which I had formed - an attack was then made upon the Batteries on this side of the River conducted by Col Miller of the 19th Regt., with part of his Regt - the aforesaid volunteers & a few Militia. This attack was also completely successful - the Enemy were driven from their works a number killed and two British officers & forty one privates brought into camp - This attack was intended to be simultaneous with that on the other side and it was nearly so. Notwithstanding the severe loss we have sustained in the Kentucky Militia, the events of the day have been honorable to the American army - The Detachment under Col Miller [Lieut. Col. James] suffered very little, and had the militia been contented with what they were ordered to do with executing - every object which I had contemplated would have been accomplished. I have only time to

THE WESTERN MAILS

Head Quarters, Camp Meigs  
5<sup>th</sup> May 1813

Sir,

I am sorry to inform you of another disaster to the Kentucky troops, not indeed bearing any comparison to that of the River Raisin in point of killed and wounded, but ~~not much short of it~~ <sup>exceeding</sup> as to the number of prisoners. I had the honor to inform you in my letter of the 28<sup>th</sup> Inst. that the British Troops destined to besiege this place was then in view. On the succeeding night they broke ground upon the heights opposite & on the following morning our Batteries opened upon them and continued a general firing throughout that

add that I am confident of my ability to defend this place until the expected large reinforcements arrive, and that I am with great respect

Sir yr. Hb. Serv/Willm Henry Harrison

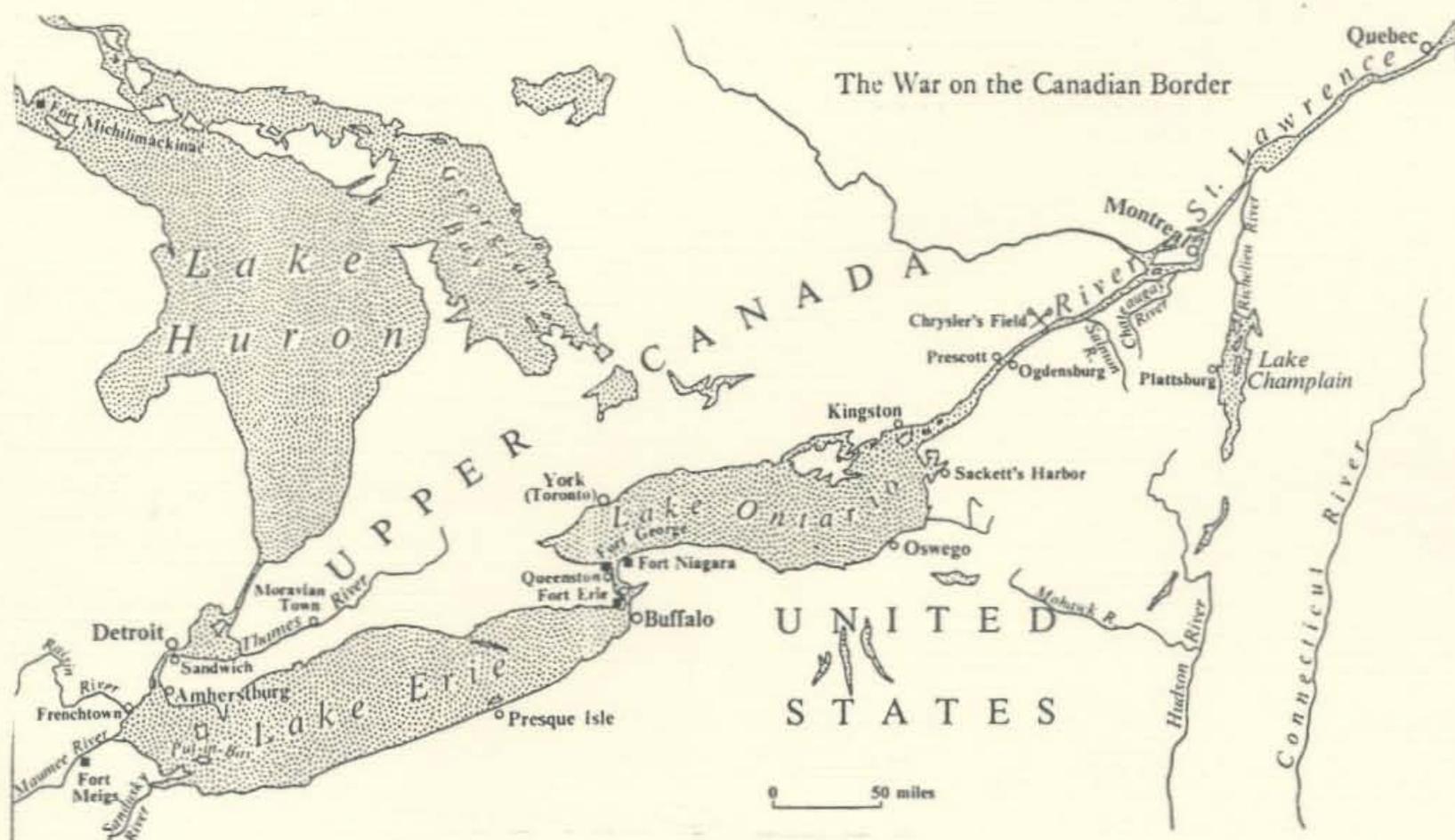
You will pardon the inaccuracy of this when I inform you that I write in midst [of] a thousand interruptions. I will endeavour to transmute a more detailed account in a day or two - if the fort is not again [attacked] by Indians who I believe at this moment all retired - I have reason to believe that the guns of the enemy were very imperfectly spiked.

Honl. John Armstrong Esq/Sect of War." No address sheet or postmarks.

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A very important letter in which General William Henry Harrison describes the defeat of the Kentucky troops at the battle for Fort Meigs. The British with a large force of Indians had set up gun batteries across the Maumee River opposite the fort. On the 30th of April the fort began to fire on the British works and the battle was on. Genl. Harrison gives a good description of how 500 of the Kentuckians were captured and 150 or more killed and/or massacred by the Indians. Although the fort was not taken, it was a blow to the Americans, almost as bad as the massacre at the Raisin River, which had become the battle cry of the Kentuckians - "Remember the River Raisin"! The British troops were commanded by Maj. Genl. Henry Procter who later on was defeated by Harrison at the battle of the Thames - October 5, 1813.

## THE WESTERN MAILS



On Aug. 16, 1812, Genl. Wm. Hull had surrendered Detroit to British forces under Genl. Sir Isaac Brock. Although Genl. Henry Procter had defeated Harrison at Fort Meigs on the first week in May, 1813, and taking 500 prisoners, he failed to take the fort. With Perry's victory on Lake Erie the U.S. was now in command of the lakes and President Madison ordered Harrison to form a sizeable force and invade Canada. On Sept. 23rd the British abandoned Fort Malden at Amherstburg and Detroit on the 27th. The above letter was written from Sandwich, across the river from Detroit, where it was placed in the mails as per postmark "Detroit 31 Sep. 1813". Harrison sent Col. McArthur with a force to occupy Detroit and continued up the Thames River in pursuit of Procter's regulars and Indians under the renowned war chief Tecumseh. On Oct. 5th he caught up with them three miles below Moravian Town and by sunset the British were in retreat and the Indians defeated. SEE MAP. Tecumseh was killed during the battle, but there is no corroborated evidence as to just what happened to him. The Indians carried his body off during the night never to be seen again. In Harrison's report of the battle he never mentioned Tecumseh, probably because he never knew what had happened to him. This letter is probably the only time that Harrison mentions Tecumseh by name in regards to the battle. The battle of the Thames ended the war on the Canadian border in the northwest.

\*Previous to the surrender of Detroit, Hull had ordered the abandonment of Fort Dearborn at Chicago. At the time a large group of hostile Potawatomi Indians had gathered near the fort. In order to get the Indians to give the garrison of soldiers, women and children safe conduct, all the property was distributed to the Indians except for ammunition and liquor. On the morning of Aug. 16, 1812 the garrison under Captain Nathan Heald marched out and about 2 miles from the fort they were attacked by 400 Potawatomi Indians. After a short fight Heald surrendered to the Indians after the Potawatomi chief, Black Bird, had promised to spare the lives of the survivors, which amounted to about half of the garrison. Most of the prisoners later escaped or were ransomed, although not withstanding their promises several men were tomahawked by the Indians.

\*Main Poc was a Potawatomi chief second only to Tecumseh in rank among the Indians. Although Main Poc was with Tecumseh, near Detroit, at the time of the Fort Dearborn disaster, it was his influence that brought it on.

WAR OF 1812

Part of a letter by Gen Wm. Hull to Elisha Whittlesey ( Private Sec'y to Gen. Wm. Henry Harrison).

---had rec'd no information War having been declared and on the 1st of July had no idea that War was declared. I received the information on the 2nd of July- I do not know precisely when it was received ~~at~~ M at Malden, but it was some days before I received it. It is known that Capt. Chapin was at Malden, the day before, his vessel was chartered at the Miami, that he knew that war was declared- If so, being an American he ought to be punished, instead of being paid- I have however no positive evidence, only circumstantial-

--- war, and he could not (have) been there, without (being) informed of it- that he refused to keep (?) the west shore, although, I advised or directed him to do it.

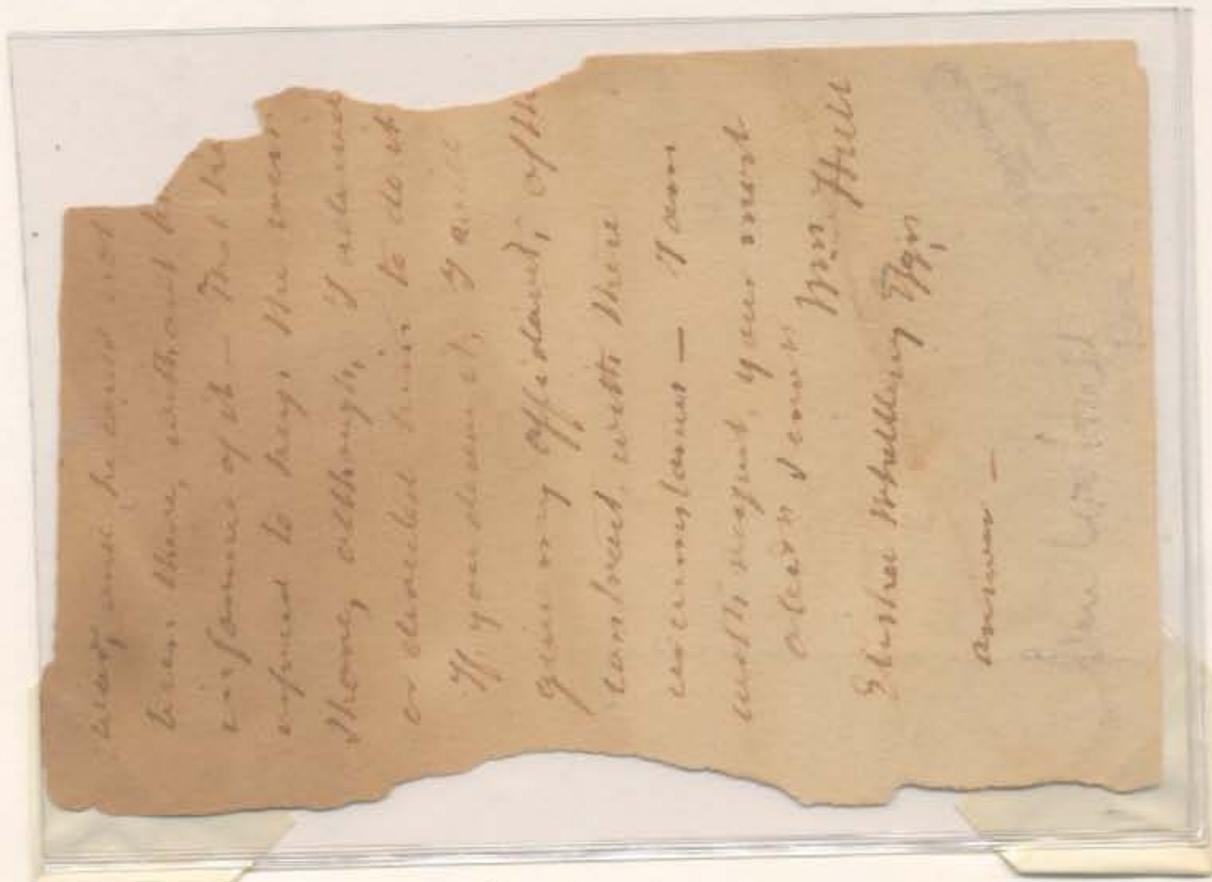
If you desire it, I will give my affidavit, of the contract, with these circumstances- I am, with respect, your Most Obed. Servt

Wm. Hull

Elisha Whittlesey, Esq.

answer -

Note: Gen. Hull led attack from Detroit into Canada but was outmaneuvered by the British & surrendered, 1812. Court marshalled & convicted of cowardice, sentenced to be shot, but spared because of his Revolutionary War record.



# PUBLICAN, L GAZETTE.

SEPTEMBER 7, 1812.

No 862

at the ship  
sel, with a  
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British sub-  
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The officer of the gun boat had the right to seize the Superior, with her cargo, while she was in the act of violating the non-importation law. But it is his duty to deliver her, within a reasonable time after a seizure for that cause, in the charge of the collector of the district, in which she was seized; and which the question of forfeiture can alone be tried.

That part of non-intercourse system, which authorised seizures by public armed vessels, and a distribution of the forfeitures, according to the rules prescribed in the case of prize, by the act for the government of the navy, is no longer in force. Whether the public armed vessels are entitled on general principles, to share as informers, upon seizures which they make, is a distinct question, and not within the scope of the present enquiry.

Upon the whole, I am of opinion, that the ship Superior is liable to seizure upon both grounds; but that being seized by a public armed vessel, as prize of war, before any seizure by the collector of Delaware, for a breach of the non-importation act, the proceedings against her must, in the first instance, be on behalf of the captors.

I am, sir, with great esteem, Your obedient serv't. A. J. DALLAS  
August 27, 1812.  
To Com. Alexander Murray.

## BRITISH ACCOUNT

*Of the capture of Detroit, and General Hull's army, by capitulation on the 16th of Aug. 1812.*

From the Bee, printed at Niagara, Aug. 22.

The pleasing task has now fallen to our lot, in confirmation of the uniform predictions of the Bee, to announce to the public the important intelligence of the capture of Detroit, with general Hull and all his army, on the 16th inst. together with the Adams vessel of war and other naval force. The following is the substance of an official communication, addressed to Col. Myers, upon the subject—the despatches having been forwarded to his Excellency Sir George Prevost, by way of York.

On the night of the 13th inst. General Brock arrived at Amherstburg, with a reinforcement of 400 men, including militia and regulars, and immediately proceeded to make arrangements for advancing to Sandwich, which the enemy had evacuated a few

science, to freely and fearlessly communicate his sentiments—Under this impression I address you, fully persuaded, that nothing but awakening the people from their lethargic sleep, can save this nation from irretrievable ruin. There was a time when the people of America, tremblingly alive to every invasion of their rights, “snuffed tyranny in every tainted gale;” when the faithful guardians of liberty, stood unslumbering upon her watch tower, and at every signal, drew armies to the threatened point. But the age of vir uous enthusiasm is no more—our republican institutions have so long protected us in our freedom and happiness, that implicit confidence has taken place of salutary distrust; we have not believed in any possible danger to liberty, whilst the intrenchments thrown up round her camp, retained their original form—we have admitted deserters from the enemy, and have relaxed our discipline. The last twenty years have presented to our eyes such a constant succession of splendid European enormities—such abuses of liberty—such successful usurpations—triumphant treacheries, sanguinary battles and merciless massacres, that our minds have become stupified; they have lost their natural sensibility; and can only be moved by the tremendous villainies of a Bonaparte. Men of sound judgments, cool heads, and virtuous hearts, who have been preserved from this alarming stupour, and who, fixing a steady eye upon the liberty and happiness of our republic, have from time to time, warned us of our danger, have been treated with contempt, or have been utterly disregarded. Ruin has been advancing upon us with slow but steady steps. Commerce has been vainly struggling under grievous and unnatural burdens—common interest, the only strong and sure band of our federal union, has been loosening every hour, a war of conquest has been let loose, which threatens the poor remains of our greatness—and, finally, an attempt is made to force upon a people no longer united by common interest or common feeling, a false, hollow, and slavish unanimity, by destroying that last and dearest hope of liberty, the freedom of the press. Fellow citizens, awake!—This is no common call; the massacre of Baltimore is no common massacre. Let us not that the life, liberty, and

## THE WESTERN MAILS

### WAR OF 1812 ON THE CANADIAN NORTHWEST FRONTIER

Head Quarters Sandwich  
(Upper Canada) 30th Sept. 1813

Sir The enemy having broken down the bridges over several unfordable creeks between Amhurstburgh and this place I was unable to reach it until yesterday - Genl. Procter [Henry] had the night before left his encampment eight miles above pursuing the road on the margin of the Lake to the Thames. Having so much the start of me & having striped the country of Horses which prevented me from procuring a sufficiency to mount even the General officers it was impossible to pursue him further with any hopes of success until we could be joined by Col Johnsons [Richard M., commanding 1000 mounted Kentucky Infantry], Regiment of mounted infantry which was on its way from Fort Meigs & which had the night before encamped at Brownstown. The Col. arrived this day at Detroit & his Regt. is now crossing over as our boats are illy calculated to carry horses it is attended with much difficulty. I hope however that they will be all over early in the morning when we shall again take up the line of march. Genl. Procter has with him four hundred & seventy five Regulars of the 41<sup>st</sup> and Newfoundland Regiments, sixty of the 10<sup>th</sup> Regiment of veterans - forty five Dragoons and from six hundred to a thousand Indians. Some deserters that left him the night before last give the latter as the number, the citizens of Detroit suppose the former to be correct. If he makes the contemplated stand on the river Trench he will be able to add several hundred Militia to his force. My great apprehension however arises from a belief that he will make attack. The Potowatomies & a Banditti of Winebagoes . . . . . and other Northwestern Indians are on the River Rouge, they remain in the vicinity of Detroit until the arrival of the Army at this place and continue to plunder the inhabitants to the last moment; indeed but for our opportune arrival, it is more than probable that there would have been a general massacre of the Inhabitants and burning of their houses. The Ottawas and Chippewas have withdrawn from them [British] and have sent in three of their Warriors to beg for peace. Promising to agree to any terms that I shall prescribe. I have agreed to receive them upon condition of their giving hostages for their fidelity and immediately joining us with all their Warriors. The Wyandots, Miamis and the band of Delawares which had joined the the enemy, are also desiros to be received upon the same terms. I shall enter into no engagement with them upon the subject of their lands but refer the whole to the decision of the President, the propriety of receiving the Indians in the manner here proposed, appears to me to be so obvious as to require no illustration. It was recommended to me by all the unanimous voice of all the General officers and by the urgent entreaties of the Citizens of Detroit, whose safety cannot be ascertained without it - Two thousand men placed at Detroit could not protect the scattered settlements from the deprecations of the hostile Indians. The gleanings of the farms and the corn fields would afford their support for months. I think it necessary however that some example should be made and every motive of justice and policy points out the Potawatimies as the Tribe, which ought to be selected for the purpose; They are the most guilty - and the most able on any further occasion to give trouble to the U. States. The celebrated Chief Mair Pock is at the head of the hostile band on the Detroit side of the Straight. **Tecumseh** leads that which remains with the British. The inhabitants of Detroit who were in daily communication with them, make the former from one thousand to twelve hundred - their object in dividing their force was to make a night attack upon the part of the army which crossed over to Detroit or that which remained on this side by a junction of their force some miles above. A detachment of the army and some of the vessels of War will set out for the reduction of Maccinac [Fort Mackinac] and St Josephs in a few days, the occupancy of Chicago must be left for another season\*; the Militia have already become restless and desirous of returning home. They

THE WESTERN MAILS

Head Quarters Sandwich

(Upper Canada) 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 1813

No.

Sir

The enemy having broken down the bridges over several unfordable creeks between Amherstburgh and this place I was unable to reach it until yesterday Gen<sup>l</sup> Procter had the night before left his encamp-

Detroit 31 Sep. 1813.

Free

Public Service  
from Gen<sup>l</sup> Harrison  
John Chambers aid de  
Camp

The Double John Armstrong Esq.

Secretary of War

Washington City  
George - Indiana  
John - Detroit

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will go however with cheerfulness as long as there is prospects of overtaking the enemy, but no human influence will keep them longer. I shall have, after their departure and that of the 12 months Volunteers, about twenty five hundred regulars; these will be sufficient for the reduction of Maccinac and for the safety of the Country, but until the Indians are more completely under our control, I do not think it would be proper to make any Detachment to reinforce the army below.

Honble/John Armstrong Esq.  
Secy. of War

I have the honor to be with great respect, Sir your Humbl. Servt.

[Signed] Willm Henry Harrison

\*\*\*\*\*

Folded letter above entered the mails, as per postmark, "Detroit 31 Sep. 1813" and was rated "Free" on "Public Service/from Genl. Harrison/John Chambers aid de Camp".

N<sup>o</sup> 97.

Head Quarters.

Buffaloe N.Y.

Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> 1813.

Sir,

[ I have this moment landed at this place, from on board of the schooner Ariel which is one of ~~the~~ several vessels, with which I left Detroit, having on board the greater part of McArthur's Brigade and the detachment of the U. States Rifle Regiment under Col Smith - The other vessels are all I believe in sight and will be up in a short time - The aggregate number of Troops with me, is about thirteen hundred but not more than one thousand fit for duty - Before this reaches you, you will no doubt be informed of the loss of your messenger Capt Brown, with the dispatches that were entrusted with him - Not having received your directions and being entirely ignorant of the state of our military operations in this quarter - I was much at a loss to know how to proceed - but believing that Gen<sup>l</sup> Cass with his Brigade would be able to secure Detroit and our adjacent conquests, after having concluded an armistice with the greater part of the hostile Tribes, I concluded that I could not do better than to move down the Lake with the remaining part of the Troops - A part of McArthur's brigade is still at the Bass Islands where they were left for the want of the means of conveyance - and a considerable portion of their baggage was also left from the

THE WESTERN MAILS



*William Henry Harrison*

BATTLE OF THE THAMES

"Head Quarters/Buffaloe.N.Y.  
Oct.24th 1813.

Sir, I have this moment landed at this place, from onboard of the Schooner Ariel which is one of seven vessels, with which I left Detroit, having onboard the greater part of McArthur's Brigade and the detachment of the U. States Rifle Regiment under Col Smith. The other vessels are all I believe in sight and will be up in a short time. The aggregate number of Troops with me, is about thirteen hundred but not more than one thousand fit for duty. Before this reaches you, you will no doubt be informed of the loss of your messenger Capt Brown, with the dispatches that were entrusted with him. Not having received your directions and being entirely ignorant of the State of our military operations in this quarter I was much at a loss to know how to proceed.- but believing that Genl. Cass [Lewis] with his Brigade would be able to secure Detroit and our adjacent conquests, after having concluded an Armistice with the greater part of the Hostile Tribes, I concluded that I could not do better than to move down the lake with the remaining part of the Troops. A part of McArthur's [Duncan] brigade is still at the Bass Islands where they were left for the want of the means of conveyance - and a considerable portion of their baggage was also left from same cause. Means have however been taken to collect and bring them on. I shall move down the Troops immediately to Fort George where I shall await your orders unless an opportunity should previously occur of striking at the enemy. The information I have received here of the situation and movements of the enemy on the Head of Lake Ontario is vague and contradictory. I propose to send off my Adjutant General Col. Gaines [Edmund Pendleton], to see you in the morning, if his state of health will allow it. Presuming that my official dispatches from Detroit via Washington must have reached you, I scarcely need add that on the 5th Instant, I was fortunate enough to overtake Genl. Proctor and after a short action to capture upwards of six hundred of his regulars and to defeat his Indian force. I have the honor to be with great respect/Sir your Humb. Servt/Willm Henry Harrison

P.S. I have promised the bearer that you will reward him in proportion to the exertion he makes to deliver you this. It is now 2 O'clock P.M. W H H

Honble John Armstrong Esq."

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BATTLE OF THE TELLANIES - BATTLE OF TROUANSHEIL.

From the original picture in the possession of the Publishers.

Johnson & Co. Publishers, New York.

This engraving is not of course the original picture of the battle, but of the southern edition of New York.

here immediately for that County and to  
take with him such of the Warriors of the  
friendly Indians as feel disposed to accompany  
and can be immediately equipt: we have  
promised them Sixty Cents per day for each  
man and Horse and one Dollar per day  
for each Chief in the proportion of one to  
every Twenty Warriors - we trust the Govern-  
ment will ratify this agreement. it will  
be the cheapest force of this description  
that can be employed

The residue will remain here agreeably  
to the disposition we have made and of  
which we have had the honor to advise you  
very respectfully. we have the honor  
to be, your Mo. Sv. tly

Will<sup>m</sup> Henry Harrison

The Honble

Lewis Cass

John Armstrong

Secy of War

Washington

Greenville July 25. 1814

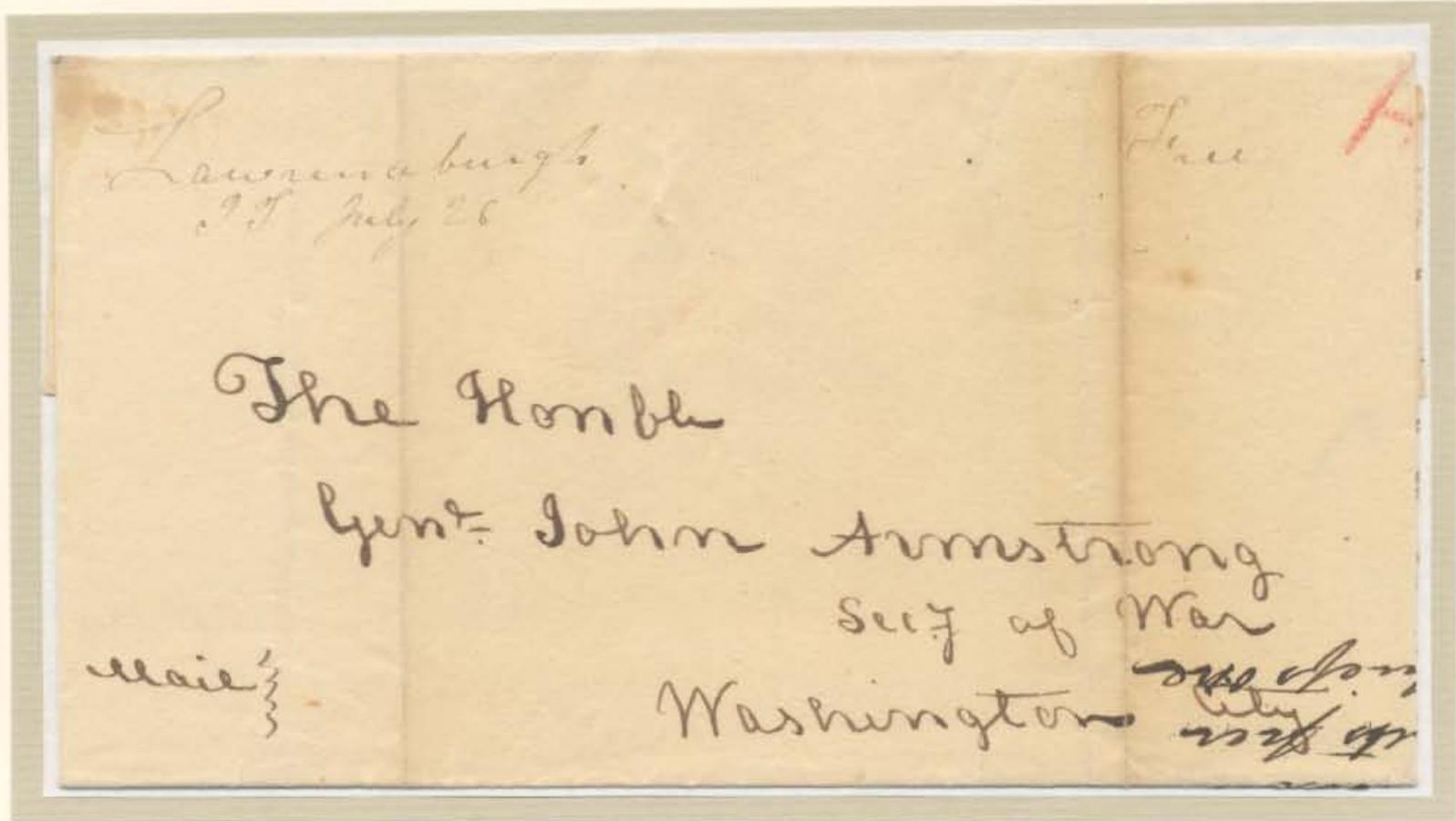
Sir,

Information has reached us within the last three days from Detroit which convinces us that the situation of that Country is critical. The facts upon which this opinion is founded we have not now time to detail and they will probably reach you in a less questionable shape from Detroit. Suffice it to say it is there believed that the British will make an attempt upon that Post during the absence of the Troops - such an attempt if made would probably succeed, as the force which remains there is merely nominal. It has had the effect of alarming the Country, of encouraging the disaffected on the Canada side, and of breaking up many of the settlements in the vicinity of Detroit - Its effect among the Indians is already perceptible.

In this situation we have deemed it expedient for General Cass to leave

THE WESTERN MAILS

Lawrenceburgh  
27 July 26



Folded letter above entered the mails, as per postmark, at Lawrenceburgh, Indiana Territory on July 26, 1814. It was rated "Free" and forwarded to Washington, D.C. SEE below and opposite page for letter.

" Greenville [Ohio ] July 25, 1814

Sir, Information has reached us within the last three days from Detroit which convinces us that the situation of that Country is critical - The facts upon which this opinion is founded we have not now time to detail and they will probably reach you in a less questionable shape from Detroit suffice it to say it is there beleived that the British will make an attempt upon that Post during the absence of the Troops. Such an attempt if made would probably succeed, as the force which remains there is merely nominal. It has had the effect of alarming the Country, of encouraging the disaffected on the Canada side, and of breaking up many of the settlements in the vicinity of Detroit. Its effect among the Indians is already perceptible. In this situation we have deemed it expedient for General Cass [Lewis, Gov. of Michigan Territory ] to leave here immediately for that Country and to take with him such of the warriors of the friendly Indians as feel disposed to accompany and can be immediately equipt. We have promised them Sixty cents pr. day for each man and horse and one Dollar per day for each Chief in the proportion of one to every Twenty Warriors - we trust the government will ratify this agreement. It will be the cheapest force of this discription that can be employed. The residue will remain here agreeable to the disposition we have made and of which we have had the honor to advise you.

The Honble/John Armstrong/  
Secy of War/Washington.

Signed: Willm Henry Harrison  
Lew Cass"



Published &amp; Sold by Varine &amp; G. H. Wall, S. E. Cor. of Broad New York.

Brooklyn October 28<sup>th</sup> 1840

Dear Sarah

Your very acceptable favor of the 21<sup>st</sup> September came duly to hand and was perused with pleasure.

So long a time had elapsed since the date of your former Letter and also since I had heard any thing from our friends at Vernon that the information obtained from you had become quite important &

I conclude from your Fathers have attempted to resume his former employment that his Business at Vernon was found insufficient for the support of himself & family — that it should so be I very much regret as he seemed pleasantly situated and in a Business much more suitable and comfortable for him than a Country Practice I hope at any rate that he will be able to make such arrangements as not to be long separated from his family &

I conclude your Brother Horace will succeed well at Rome

The current of publick opinion appears to be setting so strongly in his favor not only in his particular neighborhood, but all over the State and Country that he can hardly fail of obtaining a liberal patronage and support for his Paper &

I was pleased with the account you gave of your trip to Hudson on so interesting an occasion as a Marriage — could circumstances



GEN. WM. H. HARRISON.



Brookline Mass. Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> 1840.

My dear Jonathan,

A thousand new & interesting objects have, until now, prevented my writing even you. Be-



The famous "old" Quaker "you live in (SAY) COFFEE and with a spoon of tea that will a year and one week hold the rest of his days contented in a LOG CABIN." Says de you hear that? YOU'ND PROBLE SAY THEY WON'T LET HIM. You'll you hear that?

October, 17th, 1840

Dear Sir,

I have sent, by the bearer (an inexperienced hand) a load of wheat, which if you are in the market, you will please take and send me the value by him. If you are not buying I will take it, as a favour if you will attend to the sale of it. I expect to send the whole of my crop of wheat to town and if you are buying you can have the refusal of it. Inform me as to the price of the article in the two markets of Hingham & Frederickburg, and the prospects of future prices. I am authorized to call on you for a load of goods for Mr. Williams.

Yours

Willis Browning



*Dear Sir*

*P. Chase. P. M.*

*Robins Post*

*Missis*



*C. P. P.*

*in Roxbury & can visit her mother with much less fatigue than she could  
from Philadelphia - Margaret is here with her family - left E. Graham's care  
but no hope of her recovery - My dear husband's desire affectionate  
since the warm weather commenced his health has been better than  
join me in love to each member of your blessed family ever dear & please  
I hear within in heart dear sister please  
never the many mistakes I have made  
Yours sincerely  
C. P.*



GEN. WM. H. HARRISON.



New York April 18<sup>th</sup> 1841

My Dear Friend

I recieved your letter and was very happy to hear from you. I hope you will excuse me for not writing to you before I hope you have got acquainted in a little more and I shall be a little more part.

I suppose you know I the the

the the

I have

come here

I play a

my tea

to bed. You

go for log

come up and see you in the Knickerbocker stages. Mary Jane sends her love

To Master A. M. Mackay  
 Major Mackay St Louis  
 Mo

I have not yet  
 hours after you  
 am a whiff and I  
 and Hard Cider. I will  
 in the Knickerbocker stages. Mary Jane sends her love



to Charlotte Lizzy and Helen and all  
the family and Adelaide also. I heard  
by the paper that you had a slight shock  
of our Earthquake I wish to know whether  
you felt it.

Your affectionate ~~friend~~<sup>friend</sup>  
Edward Cores

Alexander Mackay

P.S. Ma sends her love to Mrs Mackay  
and says that Miss Mackay is about to  
be married

MAY 1848

A. MACKAY

45

44

Head quarters fort Erie August 16<sup>th</sup> 1814

Dear Brother I must tell you that Brother  
Guy and cousin Elisha arrived here one day  
since who fetches good news from home they  
tell me that Polly Holbrook is married  
to Mr. Willson you must wish them much  
joy for me you must tell Moses Vangore  
that his cousin William is here and is well  
and you must tell Elias Westbrock that  
Satonson is here and is well  
I have nothing more to write to  
excepting giving you an account

#### BATTLE OF FORT ERIE 1814

Samuel Tozer writes from Fort Erie the day after the attack by the British.: "Head quarters fort Erie August 16th 1814.....giving you an account of the battle that was faught here yesterday morning - the enemy attackted our fort on both wings - they attacked our fort without flints in their guns to take us by the point of the bayonet - the enemy entered one bastion of the fort with about three hundred men which instantly blew up and they were killed and made prisoners our loss was small when compared with the enemy - our loss was about twenty killed and wounded while the enemy lost about eight hundred or a thousand men killed and prisoners....."

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NOTE. The British began to fire on the fort with six cannon on the 13th and the 14th. At 2 AM on the 15th the attack began as Tozer states - with bayonets and without flints in their guns. One of the attacking parties, led by Col. Hercules Scott, was repulsed by the accidental explosion of a powder magazine, in which he was killed along with many of his men. The British loss was 57 killed, 307 wounded and 538 captured or missing. The Americans lost 17 killed, 56 wounded and 11 missing, plus 9 killed and 36 wounded during the preliminary bombardment.

*THE WESTERN MAILS*

BATTLE OF LAKE ERIE SEPTEMBER 10, 1813.

"Mouth of Portage River  
18th Sept 1813"

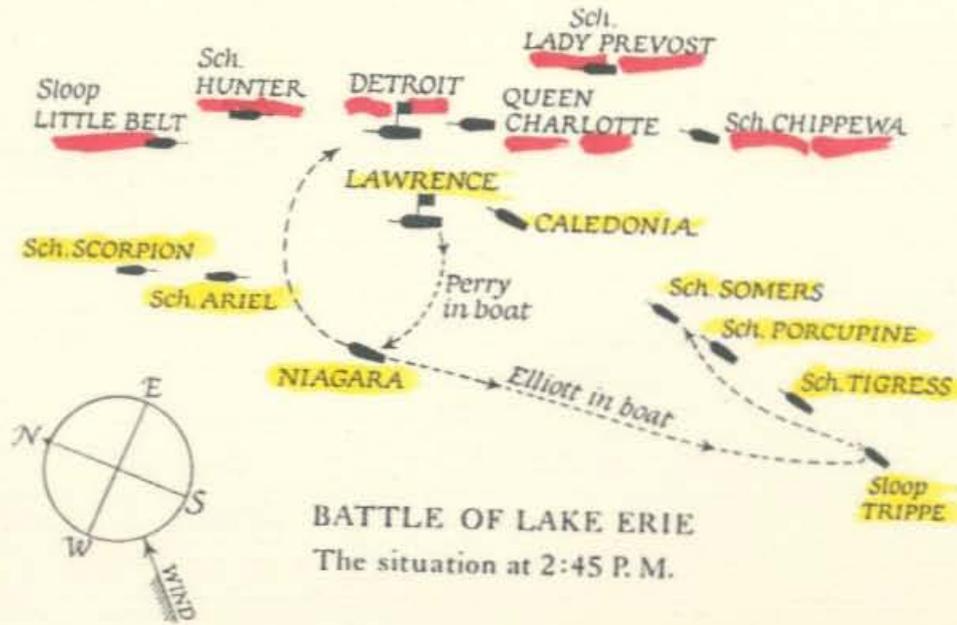
"Dear Mother, In consequence of the late serious conflict of our vessels on the lake, we have been longer delayed in embarking than was expected but if the winds abate, before tomorrow evening our whole force will be afloat, nearly all the regulars embarked this morning for an Island 8 or ten miles off. For ten days past I have been... indisposed [but]... fortunate to be speedily recovering...., Our victory upon the lake was so complete (the capturing of the whole British navy on this lake, two small vessels of no consequence excepted) that the greatest obstacle, in accomplishing the object of the operations of this army, is now removed. I contemplated upon our being in possession of Malden & Detroit in the course of five days - which done I believe it is the Gen[erals] intention, after providing for the retaking of Machinaw, to move down the Lake and cooperate with the northern army. Our Troops, Regulars & Volunteers, in high spirits are anxiously awaiting the moment when they will be permitted to measure their strength & skill with the enemies - which I trust is close at hand. .... Col Croghan [George] is on board the fleet. The Lawrence, our best vessel, contended with the whole of the British fleet & sustained their fire till all but 9 of her men were killed or wounded, when she was abandoned by the Commodore [Oliver H. Perry]; who was getting on board the Niagara renewed the attack and in a short time made the two, much shattered ships and the rest strike. The action lasted 3 hours & 40 minutes. The enemy's vessels carried nine more cannon than ours and a considerably larger number of men. I know not the number killed & wounded on either side, but it was very great on both. Admiral Barclay [Robert H., commanded British fleet] is mortally wounded [he survived]; the second in command had his hand shot off and some Lieutenants were killed on the enemy side - on ours, except some unidentified men, only one Lieut of Marines. The B.[ritish] officers, made prisoners, left here today for Chillicothe - while with us every kindness and attention were lavished upon them. There yet remains about 300 seamen & Marines to be sent off tomorrow..... John O'Fallon."

*John O'Fallon*

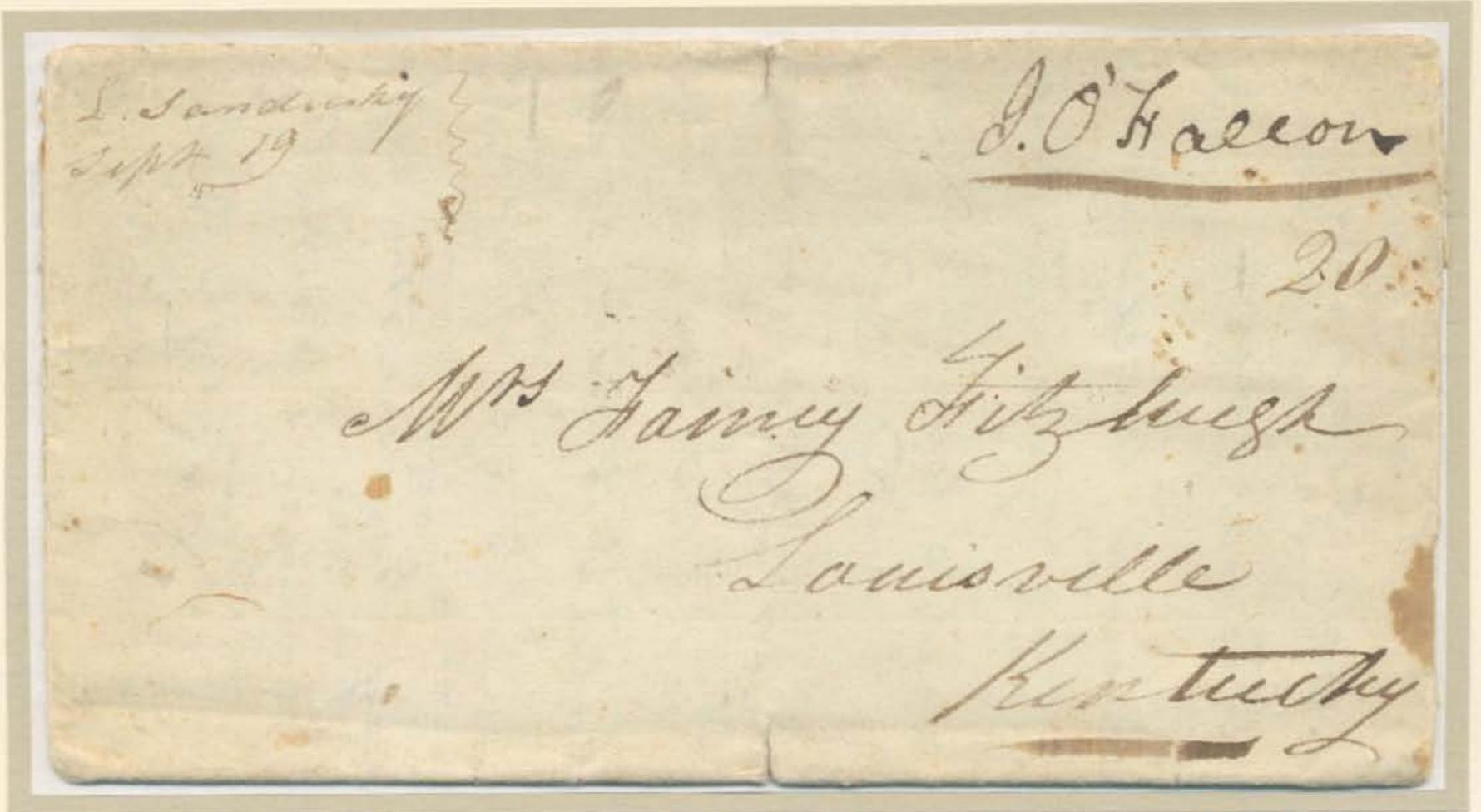
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John O'Fallon entered the army as an Ensign in the 1st Infantry Sept. 28, 1812. Thence to 1st Lt. Aug. 15, 1813. He resigned as a Captain of the 2nd rifles on July 31, 1818. Previously he had campaigned against the Indians in 1811 under Gen. Wm. Henry Harrison. O'Fallon was a cousin to George Croghan and his second wife was the sister of George Rogers and William Clark. In 1818 he went to St. Louis becoming a merchant and fur trader associating with Robert Campbell and the firm of Smith, Sublette & Jackson. Died at St. Louis December 17, 1865.

## THE WESTERN MAILS



The battle began at 11 AM and ended at 4PM on Sept. 10 1813, with the surrender of the British fleet. The diagram shows the line of battle - the British in red and the U.S. fleet in yellow. It also shows the transfer of Commodore Perry from the wreck of the Flag Ship Lawrence to the Niagara.



Folded letter above dated at "Mouth of Portage River/18th Sept 1813 describes the Battle of Lake Erie on Sept. 10th, 1813 by Lt. John O'Fallon. It entered the mail, as per postmark, at "Sandusky [Ohio] Sept 19 [1813] and was rated "20" cents.

THE WESTERN MAILS  
BATTLE OF CHIPPEWA JULY 5, 1814

To Captain *Doniram Allen* commander of the private armed  
*Boat* called the *Madison*

INSTRUCTIONS

FOR THE PRIVATE ARMED VESSELS OF THE UNITED STATES.

1. THE tenor of your commission under the act of Congress, entitled "An act concerning letters of marque, prizes, and prize goods," a copy of which is hereto annexed, will be kept constantly in your view. The high seas, referred to in your commission, you will understand, generally, to extend to low water mark; but with the exception of the space within one league, or three miles, from the shore of countries at peace both with Great Britain and with the United States. You may nevertheless execute your commission within that distance of the shore of a nation at war with Great Britain, and even on the waters within the jurisdiction of such nation, if permitted so to do.

2. You are to pay the strictest regard to the rights of neutral powers, and the usages of civilized nations; and in all your proceedings towards neutral vessels, you are to give them as little molestation or interruption as will consist with the right of ascertaining their neutral character, and of detaining and bringing them in for regular adjudication, in the proper cases. You are particularly to avoid even the appearance of using force or seduction, with a view to deprive such vessels of their crews, or of their passengers, other than persons in the military service of the enemy.

3. Towards enemy vessels and their crews, you are to proceed, in exercising the rights of war, with all the justice and humanity which characterize the nation of which you are members.

4. The master and one or more of the principal persons belonging to captured vessels, are to be sent, as soon after the capture as may be, to the judge or judges of the proper court in the United States, to be examined upon oath, touching the interest or property of the captured vessel and her lading: and at the same time are to be delivered to the judge or judges, all passes, charter parties, bills of lading, invoices, letters and other documents and writings found on board; the said papers to be proved by the affidavit of the commander of the capturing vessel, or some other person present at the capture, to be produced as they were received, without fraud, addition, subduction or embezzlement.

By Command of the President of the United States of  
America.

*James Monroe* Secretary of State

## THE WESTERN MAILS

### ARMED PRIVATEERS - WAR OF 1812

Printed instructions for the private armed "Boat" called the "Madison" by "Command of the President of the United States of America" signed by "Jas Monroe, Secretary of State". Also approved and signed in print by "H. CLAY, Speaker of the House of Representatives; WM. H. CRAWFORD, President of the Senate" and by the President of the United States, "JAMES MADISON". The largest and most successful of the Gloucester privateers was the MADISON, of 28 tons. She carried 28 men, and in one short cruise took a ship of 400 tons and a brig of 300 tons, both with valuable cargoes. They paid out in prize money about 900 dollars per share to the crew. SEE also, the court decree made out for the capture of the British Brig. ANNES in this collection.

To Captain *Doniram Allen* commander of the private armed  
*Boat* called the *Madison* -

### INSTRUCTIONS

#### FOR THE PRIVATE ARMED VESSELS OF THE UNITED STATES.

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2. You are to pay the strictest regard to the rights of neutral powers, and the usages of civilized nations; and in all your proceedings towards neutral vessels, you are to give them as little molestation or interruption as will consist with the right of ascertaining their neutral character, and of detaining and bringing them in for regular adjudication, in the proper cases. You are particularly to avoid even the appearance of using force or seduction, with a view to deprive such vessels of their crews, or of their passengers, other than persons in the military service of the enemy.
3. Towards enemy vessels and their crews, you are to proceed, in exercising the rights of war, with all the justice and humanity which characterize the nation of which you are members.
4. The master and one or more of the principal persons belonging to captured vessels, are to be sent, as soon after the capture as may be, to the judge or judges of the proper court in the United States, to be examined upon oath, touching the interest or property of the captured vessel and her lading: and at the same time are to be delivered to the judge or judges, all passes, charter parties, bills of lading, invoices, letters and other documents and writings found on board; the said papers to be proved by the affidavit of the commander of the capturing vessel, or some other person present at the capture, to be produced as they were received, without fraud, addition, subduction or embezzlement.

By Command of the President of the United States of  
America.

*Jas Monroe* Secretary of State



# THE WAR.

"LET THE RALLYING WORD, THROUGH ALL THE DAY, BE "LIBERTY OR DEATH."

Vol. I.

NEW-YORK....SATURDAY, JULY 18, 1812.

No. 4.

**THE WAR,**  
 WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY,  
 (FOR THE EDITOR)  
 At \$2 per annum, payable quarterly in advance.  
 At No. 473 Pearl-street, New-York.

**CONGRESS.**  
 [SECRET JOURNAL.]  
 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Thursday, June 4, 1812.  
 [IN CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 9.]

The question was then taken on the amendment proposed by Mr. Quincy.  
 And passed in the negative.

YEAS. Messrs. Baker, Bleecker, Breckenridge, Brigham, Champion, Cheves, Chittenden, Cooke, Davenport, Davis, Ely, Emott, Fitch, Gold, Goldsborough, Jackson, Key, Law, Lewis, M'Bryde, Milnor, Mosely, Nelson, Pearson, Pitkin, Potter, Quincy, Randolph, Reed, Richardson, Ridgely, Rodman, Stewart, Sturges, Sullivan, Taggart, Tallmage, Tracy, Van Cortlandt, Wheaton, White, Wilson—42.

NAYS. Messrs. Alston, Anderson, Archer, Bard, Bartlett, Bassett, Bibb, Blackledge, Boyd, Brown, Burwell, Butler, Calhoun, Carr, Cochran, Clopton, Condit, Crawford, Dawson, Desha, Dinsmoor, Earl, Findley, Fisk, Gholson, Goodwyn, Green, Grundy, B.

postponed until the first Monday in October next.

And the question thereon being taken, It was determined in the negative.

YEAS. Messrs. Baker, Bartlett, Bleecker, Boyd, Breckenridge, Brigham, Carr, Champion, Chittenden, Cooke, Davenport, Ely, Emott, Fitch, Gold, Goldsborough, Hufly, Jackson, Key, Law, Lewis, M'Bryde, Milnor, Mosely, Newbold, Pearson, Pitkin, Potter, Quincy, Randolph, Reed, Ridgely, Rodman, Stanford, Stewart, Sturges, Taggart, Tallmage, Tracy, Van Cortlandt, Wheaton, White, Wilson—42.

NAYS. Messrs. Alston, Anderson, Archer, Bard, Bassett, Bibb, Blackledge, Brown, Burwell, Butler, Calhoun, Cheves, Cochran, Clopton, Condit, Crawford, Davis, Dawson, Desha, Dinsmoor, Earle, Findley, Fisk, Gholson, Goodwyn, Green, Grundy, B. Hall, O. Hall, Harper, Hawes, Hyneman, Johnson, Kent, King, Lacock, Lefever, Little, Lowndes, Lyle, Macon, Maxwell, Moore, M'Koy, M'Kee, M'Kim, Metcalf, Mitchell, Morgan, Morrow, Nelson, New, Newton, Ormsby, Pickens, Piper, Pleasants, Pond, Richardson, Ringgold, Rhea, Roane, Roberts, Sage, Seaver, Sevier, Seybert, Shaw, Smilie, G. Smith, J. Smith, Strong, Taliaferro, Troup, Turner, Whitehill, Williams, Widgery, Winn, Wright—81.

A motion was then made by Mr. Stow, that the farther consideration of the said bill be postponed until to-morrow.

And the question thereon being taken, It was determined in the negative—

YEAS. Messrs. Avery, Baker, Bartlett, Bleecker, Boyd, Breckenridge, Brigham, Champion, Chittenden, Cooke, Davenport, Ely, Emott, Fitch, Gold, Goldsborough, Hufly, Jackson, Key, Law, Lewis, M'Bryde, Milnor, Mosely, Nelson, Pearson, Pitkin, Potter, Quincy, Randolph, Reed, Richardson, Ridgely, Rodman, Stewart, Sturges, Sullivan, Taggart, Tallmage, Tracy, Van Cortlandt, Wheaton, White, Wilson—42.

The question was then taken, *that the said bill do pass?*

AND RESOLVED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.

YEAS.

New-Hampshire. Dinsmoor, Hall, and Harper—3.  
 Massachusetts. Seaver, Carr, Green, Richardson, Turner, and Widgery—6.

Rhode-Island. None.

Vermont. Fisk, Shaw, and Strong—3.

Connecticut. None.

New-York. Pond, Avery, and Sage—3.

New-Jersey. Condit, and Morgan—2.

Pennsylvania. Seybert, Anderson, Brown, Roberts, Findley, Smilie, Lyle, Whitehill, Bard, Davis, Lefever, Hyneman, Piper, Lacock, Crawford, and Smith—16.

Delaware. None.

Maryland. Kent, Little, M'Kim, Ringgold, Brown, and Archer—6.

Virginia. Nelson, Gholson, Goodwyn, Newton, Taliaferro, Dawson, Bassett, Smith, Hawes, Roane, M'Koy, Pleasants, Clopton, and Burwell—14.

North-Carolina. Alston, Blackledge, Macon, King, Cochran, and Pickens—6.

South-Carolina. Williams, Cheves, Lowndes, Butler, Calhoun, Earle, Winn, and Moore—8.

Georgia. Troup, Bibb, and Hall—3.

Kentucky. Johnson, Desha, New, M'Kee, and Ormsby—5.

Tennessee. Rhea, Grundy, and Sevier—3.

Ohio. Morrow—1.

NAYS.

New-Hampshire. Bartlett, and Sullivan—2.

Massachusetts. Quincy, Reed, Taggart, Ely, Brigham, White, Tallman, and Wheaton—8.

Rhode-Island. Potter and Jackson—2.

Vermont. Chittenden—1.

[13]

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

*DOCUMENTS RELATIVE*

TO THE

COMMENCEMENT AND PROGRESS

OF

*ANY ACTS OR SYSTEM OF RETALIATION*

UPON

PRISONERS OF WAR,

BY THE

GOVERNMENTS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND THE U. STATES.

---

OCTOBER 28, 1814.

Read, and referred to the committee on foreign relations.

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WASHINGTON:

A. & G. WAY, PRINTERS.

.....  
1814.

Charley Dec<sup>r</sup> 10 1813

Dear Brother

War is a topick much in Vogue at the present time in every part of our Country. Another Campaign being now ended and the Dir of arms having ceased for this winter, time is given for all serious persons to reflect as to the policy and rightness of the present war. Yet there is one thing certain whether we approve or Disapprove in this frontier part we have to bear a heavy portion of the curses, privations and Dangers that follow in its train. — Knowing that you are ever willing to hear from one that is more than a friend I will detain you a Day or two that when my self and family were in a very unpleasant situation. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of Nov<sup>r</sup> at evening an express came from the lines brot intelligence that four British Row Gallies were entering our waters and also that a land force of twelve hundred had entered Champlain (about seven Miles Distance this gave the Troops stationed here which consisted of about three hundred Vermont Militia 200 from this state and 100 Riflemen in all 600 Commanded by the Noble Gen<sup>l</sup> Fasset from Ver<sup>mt</sup>) reason to expect an attack and they were on the alert throughout the night. Next day light the next morning they had positive intelligence that they had <sup>the land force</sup> recrossed the lines which calmed the full grown fears of our brave Commander and added three fold vigour to his Courage that Day viz November 3<sup>rd</sup> from the occurrence of it will long be remembered by me and mine, the morning was





BATTLE OF NIAGARA.

Chazy (N.Y.) Decmbr 10, 1813.

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any individual we Did not feel alarmed the british landed at the wharf about 100 Rods south Demanded the Public property found Nothing but one batteaux which they Claimd the best Right and Slowly moovd towards the north and now a mean Cowardly tragical farce was acted that was acted that enough to fill an Angel with disdan contempt an horror General Fasset sent a Captan Wadams (a fellow whofe Soul was Cast in tha mold with his own) with about 15 or twenty men to anoy the british flotilla with their Small arms and this foolish son of folly and Cowardis took Shelter behind a Rise of land but a little back of my house and from 25 or thirty Rods from the Lake Shore at which time the british flotilla was at least 100 to 150 Rods from the Shore at this time the Renowned Capt with his sturdy warriors fired at the enemy but Did no dammage except wounding some small fruit trees standing near my house and endangering the life of my boy who was Directly in the Course where they fired the boy fled to the house for Safety but the thundering of the British 24 pounder convinced us that our old house was but a Poor Shelter to Stand the test of ball Canister Langreen Shot -- Figure to yourself my Situation Your sister Sick in Childbed the fourth day after Delivery of a Still born Child in my house a Soldier immovable Sick and myself with three Small Children and the enemy believing it to be a guard house ware evidently fireing at the house I immediately gave directions for my family to Repair to the barn and take Shelter behind a haymow and taking the youngist in my arms the rest followed except the Soldier when passing from the house to the barn we ware between two fireings and the Shot from the Cannon Struck the ground on all sides of us and almost beclouing us with dust the Roar of the Cannon and the Shrieks of my Children and the Actual Danger that surounded us raised feelings to pitch far above Discription. But by the Providence of Him who Directs the vivid lightnings we escaped the Horrid Scene unhurt ----- I Requested the Capt to leave his Situation (not in Supliant terms but as an injured Freeman) that my family might not be thus exsposed which So enraged the Son of Mars that he ordered a file of his brutal Soldiers to take me in Custady which gave my family another Source of trouble but he soon thought fit to release me about this time the enemy Ceased fireing after Dischargeing two on the South and two on the side of my house and some of their grape pafed within a few feet of it -- and Several balls and shot and two canisters one of them within a few feet of my barn have since been picked up by my Children --- Brother well may you think it a privilege to live at a Distance from the seat of war and the Neighbourhood of armies Sheep, poultry, bees, sauce and other personal property are taken by them and your only Reward is abuse and insult Many things more might be noticed but I must finish my epistle on the same subject --- about the first of this month the British went past to Cumberling head in sight of our army with five Rowgallies and burnt a public store but did not much Damage and returned unmolested. in the evening when they past the Village they gave a Salute over the houses which so frightened my family that the smallest left their beds naked and Steerd for the barn unbidden but ware soon followed by the oldest with their Clothes and placed themselves the second time behind the haymow for safety - by this time the Sick Soldier bore their Company and had the satisfaction of hearing one of their balls not far Distant pafs in Rapid Strides through the air till it met his mother earth which gave a check to his Rapid Strides through the elementary world. they did no other damage by this time I think your eyes must ach for my hand Does in writeing So I am more than I ever was your affetionate Brother

Env Hawkins