

on the recovery. I presume ever this he is
well. Permit me, Sir, to confess that I hold in
grateful remembrance the numerous & innumera-
ble kindnesses I have received from you & family
& hope I shall never forget them. My affection
to all the children & Hannah, I suppose will think
she is wronged if she is not particularly mentioned.
My best regards to Mr. Holmes & Mrs. Brooks =

I am Sir, respectfully yours
Theophilus Mather

Raymond W. Postrees
May 12th 1812

Albany - May 12

1812

John Holmes Esq^r

Comstock's Lane

Albany

Delivered to Me

Sacket's Harbor July 5th 1813

Dear Sir,

Enclosed is my deposition agreeable to your request. I have there stated the substance of what I could recollect relative to the affair. Perhaps it is less particular than you expect but I believe I have stated intelligibly whatever is important in the matter within my knowledge.

I can give you but little information of the proceedings here ~~except~~ than you see in the public papers. We are disciplining our troops as fast as possible - Genl. Lewis has lately arrived & now commands here. The rigging of the Genl. Pike goes on rapidly - she will soon be ready to sail, till then we shall not venture out on the lake. Last wednesday Sir James Yeo with about eight hundred men principally sailors started from Kingston in boats with a determination to enter our harbor & destroy

of our shipping in the night at all hazards. The night proved so dark they could not find the way & were light and they therefore landed on a point of land at the mouth of harbor called point peninsula about 12 ~~the~~ miles from our shipping. They hauled their boats ashore, & covered them with brush & lay concealed on Thursday with a determination to put their plan in execution that night: but so many of their men deserted, Sir James thinking, it is presumed, that we had got information, & fearing to trust any longer to the fidelity of his men, returned to Kingston. One of the deserters got to camp just before night on Thursday which put us on the alert & early next morning our fleet went out to intercept him, but he had made his escape. Fifteen deserters from him have already reported themselves at this post & say that nearly fifty left him who have probably scattered into the country. We are constantly prepared for some desperate attack from the enemy on our fleet; for we know their great object is to destroy a part of it before the Genl. Pike is ready. This is a very important object. I consider that our superiority on the lake depends the success of the campaign in a great measure. We are particularly on the alert tonight as it is reported that the

enemy have four thousand troops embarked at Kingston
to attack this place & the wind is very favorable. I
do not believe the report because they have not shipping
enough to convey half that number in addition to the ships
crowds. They may however make an attack thinking to take
us by surpris. If they do, I am confident they will
respect of their rashness. If the enemy with their whole fleet
& one thousand troops were obliged retreat when our whole fleet
was about 2 we had not more than eight hundred men
(except militia) & not more than six hundred men
they cannot expect any better success now even if they
bring four thousand troops. In regard to the late attack
I would observe that I have been very much surpris'd that
with his force the enemy did not succeed, but much of
that surpris has ceased since we know that his loss was at
least two hundred & eighty. ^{for certainty} They left upwards of fifty
killed, wounded & prisoners & we have correct information that
two hundred & thirty wounded were carried into their hospital
in Kingston. They probably had many wounded who were not
carried in. Some estimate the whole at near four hundred.
Among this killed & wounded was a full proportion of officers.

Some of our recruits, it is true, did not fight with the
regularity of old soldiers, but skulking by companies behind
whatever would screen them they kept up a most destructive
fire. This mode of fighting though it does not great credit
to our discipline, completely failed the enemy: his orders
were to fire one or two rounds on our line & then to charge
bayonet, but he found that when he attempted to charge
one company they retreated & were covered & protected by
others in the rear. The enemy boasts that he drove us
several times; this is true, but in all that time he did
not get half a mile. The militia were stationed near where
they landed and all fled as soon as the enemy were ashore. I
would except a few under Capt. M. Nitt. Gen. Brown says
one hundred, but Gen. Brown belongs to the militia & his
partiality has probably more than doubled the real number.
Gen. Brown is no doubt a brave man but not a conque-
rante general. The volunteers I believe fought well. I
know very nearly the number in each corps & am satisfied that
we had not more than seven hundred engaged at one
time including the volunteers and I may perhaps add Capt.
M. Nitt's militia. The enemy had at least nine hundred

in the engagement after deducting their probable loss
in landing. Add to this the assistance they received
from their shipping which was considerable - Col. Mills
was killed by a grape shot from one of this gun boats
& a considerable proportion of our killed & wounded
were their wounds from the same quarter. 'Tis true
we had some field pieces but I do consider that they
rendered us so much service as the shipping did them
& besides I reckon the men that remained them among
the number engaged on our side. I cannot determine
in my own mind which had the advantage of ground. Where
the enemy landed they had a cleared spot, the woods
partly cleared, there a few large trees with under brush & finally
the ground they retreated from perfectly clear. Part of the
time they had the disadvantage of being fair marks in the cleared
ground while our troops were in the woods & part of the
time we labored under the same disadvantage. The
enemy, in his official orders asserts that our troops threw
themselves into block houses which obliged him to retreat.
This is not true: the probably meant a few miserable
huts built of round sticks which had been occupied as
barracks but which were so open that I doubt whether
they were any benefit to us except they gave our men
some confidence & scared the enemy. In fact several
of our men were shot in them. In the above
sketch you have I believe very nearly a correct account
of the relative force & advantage of both parties & can
judge of American bravery when compared with British
bravery aided by skill & discipline

I am sorry to learn from your letter & one I rec'd from
Mr. Goodwin of the continued sickness of Bradford and
sincerely hope he is restored to health. I have
been quite unwell but am perfectly restored to health.

My best wishes attend you & your worthy family & that you
may ^{all} enjoy health, peace & happiness is the earnest prayer
of your friend & humble servant
Rufus W. Dutton

P. S. J. B. & J. Wentworth have enjoyed good health & make good
soldiers. Ezra Haskell died in June of an inflammatory fever &
he was a very faithful & excellent soldier & made a good non-
commissioned officer

Profus M. P. P. P.
July 5th 1813

St. Albans July 5.

John Holmes Esq^r

Cambridge St. Jan^y

West York County
St. Albans

10

Sackett Harbor Sept 11th 1813

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 26th August last came to hand yesterday & am
much obliged to you for the same. Your speculations
in regard to the invasion of Canada & best mode of
conducting the war on the frontiers are in my opinion
very correct, and are what I hope to see soon realized.
The command of Lake Ontario is still doubtful - Both
squadrons are out & a few days will decide the superiority.
The command of this Lake is not considered by Gen.
Wilkeson as necessarily connected with the operations of the
army tho' the particular movements of the army will
~~necessarily~~ probably depend on it. We expect to leave this
place soon but cannot conjecture in what direction.
We are ordered not to write to our friends any
thing relative to the movements of the army till the
close of the campaign - you will therefore per-
ceive the impropriety of my saying any thing that
can be construed into a breach of the order. Gen^l
Wilkeson has gone to the Niagara frontier - The Secretary
of War is here - Gen^l Lewis has gone eastward - he said
to the Springs for his health - may the waters
prove salutary to - the army of the U. States.
Gen. Wilkeson has inspired new spirit into the troops
at this post. He inspired a degree of confidence
in every officer & soldier that I never saw equalled.
Under him I am confident the army will not shew a
want of courage or conduct. He throws a mystery

that are impenetrable & are highly necessary when
so near the enemy & where every thing that can
be known is immediately communicated to the enemy.
Col. Walbach, one of the Adjutants general, is here &
is as popular as Adjt Gen^l as he was as Captain &
commander of Fort Constitution. We have many other
officers that would do honor to any army.
You speak of the army under Boyd as the most
experienced troops - they are so no doubt and have

been harassed and persecuted into a degree
of watchfulness & discipline that make them
useful; but I dare engage that ^{the} troops now here,
should they ever be engaged with the enemy, will
do as much honor to the American name as
any troops that ever fought under Gen. Boyd.
There ^{are} five companies of our Regiment here
and are allowed to equal, both in appearance &
discipline, any troops in the service. Our Regt
have not distinguished themselves yet - in con-
sequence of their having ^{been} kept by the commanding
General as a corps de reserve, the highest
complement that could be paid them.

You mention the reports of a fatal sickness
~~had~~ to prevail here - 'Tis true we have had many
sick principally of the diarrhoea or camp disorder
but not more than is common with all
new armies till the men get habituated to
a camp life. The health of the camp is greatly
improved - not one half so many or rather sick
report as there were in the first of August
& the most of those sick are convalescent & will
soon be fit for active service

I have frequently heard of John Hancock - he was
in the taking of York & I understood was not hurt
he went to the taking of Fort George where he is
now ^{only} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~heard~~ ^{heard} from. I & several others have
inquired. His manner of writing to his friends
is not only indecorous & ungrateful but is directly
against orders. Could he be convicted of it before a
Court martial he would be cashiered or was the Secretary
of war to know the fact he would be struck
from the rolls of the army

I am sorry to know that Mr. Bragden has ^{been}
Mr. Johnson. he did very wrong - it was my fault
that the writ ~~was~~ ^{was} not returned - I sent it by mail

I have mentioned to S. ... to say whether he want ...
has gone home or ...
give my best respects to ...
all the neighbors are ...
Mr. ...
I hope Mr. Goodwin's family, all the ... family & ...

but it did not arrive so soon as usual by a few hours. I told Bragdon I would pay him & agreed to offset a debt he owed my brother & I supposed the matter settled - Bragdon commenced another action & next Libbey settled all affairs ^{and}, as I supposed, wanted content themselves with taking a bill of cost, unnecessarily swelled, from me. I shall write to York at this time & stop the business - I believe by agreement of Bragdon I settle with you a charge you had against him & I should write after, but have nothing to write except the affairs of the army and of them we are forbidden to write or rather it is difficult to distinguish what is proper & what is not. You very justly remark that there are many things about an army that never reach you through the papers I believe, the truth is never more than half told - that the most important is kept back. I know that to be the case at the attack on Sacket's Harbor & that Gen. Brown was ~~promoted~~ from a Brig. Gen. in the militia to a Brig. Gen. in the regular service - I will not say in consequence thereof but I will say that had the enemy done what they might with ease (burnt the new ships) Gen. Brown would have been more censured than Smyth or any other. - A heavy cannonading is now heard on the lake - the fleets are undoubtedly engaged - they are so near that I feel the barrack jar very sensibly every discharge (40' back - C.M.) - I was interrupted when I had written the above. The cannonading continued one hour & a half very heavy of an hour before sunset, & continued till sunset most tremendously - almost a continual roar of cannon - since that not a gun has been heard (10 o'clock evening). The command of the lake is no doubt now decided. The force of each nearly equal - very doubtful which has gained the victory. A few guns like signal guns or those in Spain were heard all day - I will not close this till I know the result. The mail is stopped between this & Utica & we are obliged to depend on the expresses - I don't consider it well to send money or I would inclose you 50 or 100 dollars which I wish you had. - I would also send a few dollars to E. Haskell's father & some others.

I have mentioned to S. ... to say whether he want ...
has gone home or ...
give my best respects to ...
all the neighbors are ...
Mr. ...

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If the evening had been successful ~~we should~~ we
~~supposed that~~ we should see this have been
 a Royal salute from Kingston or on other
 like occasions. It is not improbable that our
 fleet would proceed up the lake after their
 services to report to the commanding General
 We are extremely anxious to hear the certainty
 of this thing - There is a mail going again
 I must close
 Rufus W. Peck

John Holmes Esq^r

Cornwall at Law

Alfred (York Co)

District of Maine

11 Feb 1813
 Rufus W. Peck

P.S. Mr. Peck we have mentioned in some of our
 information from the fact in the fact. It is reported
 that we have seen that we have seen that we have
 among them three ships - of this we have seen
 captured a vessel of the enemy's government. Reports
 from other sources says that the Wolf only
 escaped - that all the others were captured or destroyed
 and that the ship is a small vessel. I do not
 know what credit to give these reports.

Basin Harbor, Grenadier Island Oct. 23^d 1813

Dear Sir

I recd. yours last evening & having an opportunity
of sending to the Lakes Harbor I enclose you a
sketch of a part of the shore of Ontario & St. Lawrence
which you may rely on as correct. - You will
hardly expect at this day a letter from me here
but the weather has been bad in the extreme & this
is the general rendezvous of our troops from
Niagara & Lakes Harbor - a most beautiful
spot by nature. Many of our boats are
stove on the shore between here & Lakes Harbor
but no lives lost - they are arriving daily - about
1000 men now here & will be all in in two days
if the weather will permit - I saw John
Penson here but ^{he} has gone on to gravelly point
he is very well & has command of a company of 125 men.
We shall move as soon as possible. I sent a
letter to you the day I left S. Heales containing thirty
dollars & hope you will receive it before you
get this. I am in good health tho' I have been
much exposed having been in Chemont Bay two
nights on my way here not being able to get
round Point Peninsula. I have sixty nine effective
men with me in my company and but one Lt -
my first Lt, ^{on the hour of embarkation} Fudge, transferred to Capt Brooks who has pieces
of Art attached to his company - my 2^d Lt, Gray,
appointed Quarter Master - & my 3^d Lt, Lobbens Curtis now
with me - he (Curtis) says he is acquainted with Mr. Hoehn
having formerly lived with Mr. Tent. He has lately been

promised from Sergeant Major — Give my respects
to all friends, & love to the children. Tell Mr Holmes
I am much obliged to her for her information.

In great haste yours

Rufus W. Smith

John Holmes Esq



Superintendent
23 Oct 1813

Barren Mass

6/10

Hon. John Adams Esq
Boston Mass

Friend

York County N.Y.

Camp, French Mills, Dec. 8th 1813

Dear Sir,

I wrote you from Grenadier Island at the commencement of our late expedition & then promised something more when the campaign ended. I was then in high hopes of being able to write you from Montreal or some other part of his Majesty's Dominion but the campaign has ended without having those hopes realized - we have nothing to do but make ourselves comfortable this winter & try again in the spring. To make ourselves comfortable we had to build huts which are nearly done.

Why has the expedition failed? Why was not Kingston & Prescott first reduced? Why did not Gen. Hampton cooperate with the command in chief? I can easily conceive that these & a thousand similar questions are every day asked by the good citizens who have been anxiously waiting to see these events and are questions which I am as unable to answer as you who are ~~at~~ ~~the~~ remote from the scene. It is however understood here that the plan of the expedition was laid by the Secretary of War, & tis said, contrary to the opinion of Gen. Wilkinson. I believe the old maxim had better been adhered to (not to leave a strong post in the rear undisturbed). Buonaparte has truly disregarded this maxim but Buonaparte moves with such rapidity that an enemy in the rear can do him no injury - we are not habituated to such movements. Much of the failure of the expedition I think may fairly be attributed to the delay in getting into the St. Lawrence the cause of which was

As I cannot give you any information on the more important points I will endeavor to give you a faithful account of the expedition itself & in doing this I shall be more particular in the circumstances which fell immediately under my observation. The last division of the army left Grenadier Island Nov. 2^d the same day arrived at French Creek - we found that ^{the} first division that had arrived at that place had been attacked by a part of the B. fleet and beaten them off by getting on shore a couple of 18 pounders. Two of the enemies schooners suffered

took up their line of march early & proceeded on till about noon unmolested. At this ^{time} we found a bridge broken down & Major Forsythe with his corps were examining the bridge & attempting to repair it when they were fired on from behind a little rising ground on the other side. The Riflemen kept up a scattering fire as they could see an object or Col. Scott with his command immediately proceeded up the creek in quest of ^{the} enemy & a fording place. The bushes were thick & retarded our march but we at length found a fording place & crossed - it was a few minutes too late for the enemy just slipped us - had we been ten or fifteen minutes sooner we should have cut off a few hundred of them - The front company however killed one indian & took two or three canadian prisoners. The Riflemen killed & wounded several. Ensign James of the Rifle corps alone pursued a party of six or eight of the enemy, killed one & took one prisoner. ~~The~~ night we first landed - an officer on horse back who was reconnoitering us - ^(James!) he fired at another ^{officer} & wounded him but he rode off we have since heard that he died of his wounds. — The enemy made another stand about a mile below in force from 6 to 12 hundred militia & about 30 indians but a shot from the Riflemen dispersed them into the woods - we then proceeded to within four miles of Cornwall & encamped - The next day marched two miles further & waited for the boats. After we left the army on the morning of the 11th the enemy made their appearance above in gun boats & they came down & commenced a fire on a part of the army that lay higher up than the rest. Genl. Boyd & Basington were ordered up with a part of their brigades to dislodge them from their post - this they effected the enemy retreated & threw themselves into a ravine & there made a stand. The enemy then having the advantage

did not follow them - but the enemy done not follow them - but the enemy done boats & came down. This I believe to be the substance of that affair. You will see in print I presume many particular accounts of it. I was not there so cannot speak from my own knowledge. On the 12th the boats came down & where we (the advance) were encamped & on the 13th we embarked & and arrived at this place.

It was no doubt proper to leave Canada at the time we did - without the cooperation of Genl. Hampton.

we could not expect to get ^{the} Mountains as the enemy
in superior force to us was waiting for us at Cote de
La while ~~we had~~ 2000 men ^{were} harassing us in rear.

The appearance of this sheet warns me to finish - more
hereafter - write me soon - yours &c

John Helmes Capt.

Rufus W. White

A. Crosby has deserted since I have been here
I hope he will be arrested if he goes to Sanford

John Helmes

Barnstable Mass

Alfred York Co

D. in Maine

Dec. 8. 1813

Rufus W. White

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I should have written before but have been very busy
in building huts &c
John Stearns is here in huts - He is sent
you
I will give you
of the rifle who knows - I left 3000
in Concord - when the boat started on the morning of
the 11th he had 2000 men but left 1000
& not heard from the men since I left him with
the boat

4
Rome [Oneida Co. State of N. York] March 17th 1814

Dear Sir,

I wrote you from Sackett's Harbor some time since. Since that time we have been ordered westward & arrived at this place yesterday - Tomorrow we proceed on towards the Niagara frontier - we have with our detachment six companies of the 5th Regt Art^y - one of the 2nd Regt Art^y - & one of Light Art^y averaging about eighty men to a company all in fine health & under the command of Lt Col. Mitchell - a Battalion of the 11th Regt Inf^y under Lt Col. Bedel marched hence yesterday to the same destination - Col. Ripley with the 21st Regt Inf^y marches hence today & the 9th Regt Inf^y are expected here today & will follow ~~us~~ one day after us. Gen^l Brown left here yesterday & will command us. Col. Scott (probably was this a Brig^{ade} Gen^l) is on his way from Albany to same place. Batavia, a Town about forty miles interior from Fort Niagara is the point to which we are all ordered at present. To what point on the frontier we shall from thence be ordered I know not. You can guess as well as any other Yankee.

Our march averages about twenty miles per day which our men perform with ease. Their health always improves on a march if good quarters are obtained at night. This we shall be able to obtain through the whole march as there

are villages ~~distributed~~ ^{scattered} all along from ten
to twenty five miles distant from each other
where six or seven hundred men can easily be
quartered. This is the reason for having the several
regiments follow each other a days march distant

The letter I wrote ^{you} at Sacket's Harbor I sent to
Portsmouth by Capt. Vose - it contained 50 dolls.
& some papers belonging in your neighborhood. The
letter I presume will go safe - but will not
probably arrive much sooner than this -

I am in haste & cannot write more at
present - I should be happy to receive a letter from
you - Please to direct it to me at Batavia &
I will make arrangements to get it -

Give my respects to all friends - Mr. Saywards & Mr.
Goodwin's families in particular - Your own family
will always retain my most grateful remembrance

I am Sir, with the highest
respect your most obedient
servant & affectionate friend

Reuben W. Loring

Gen. John Holmes

Rufus W. Tuttle
 17th March 1844

Henry P
 March 1844

Hon^{ble} John Holmes

Cornwall Ct Conn

Alfred York Co. Dist. Mass.

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7
Batavia, State of N. York, April 13th 1814

Dear Sir,

Our regiment arrived at this place on the 29th ult. in excellent health thro' somewhat fatigued by seventeen days marching five of the last of which was thro' the mud ankle deep. You have probably learned by the public papers that after we had performed a part of our march we retrograded to Salina - by that retrograde movement we (our regiment) lost nearly five days. This village is twenty nine miles from Williamsville or (eleven mile creek) where the militia have been stationed & whether a part of our regular force have gone. The 25th Regt Infy. have marched towards Lewisstown the rest of the Regt that left Sackett's Harbor consisting of the 9th - 21st & 2^d battalions of the 11th have gone to Williamsville. Williamsville is on the road hence to Buffalo & eleven miles this side that place. The militia have within two or three days all been discharged. Our regiment are waiting for tents which are expected hourly. We are in no great hurry as probably nothing will be done until our train of Artillery comes up. It left Canandaigua yesterday - Canandaigua is forty nine miles from this place and the roads are so excessively bad that it will not reach this place in less than four days. The road to Williamsville is still worse - the inhabitants say it never was so bad. The distance from Williamsville to Niagara is over thirty miles so that if operations are to be made against that Fort we cannot commence them in less than three or four weeks. If on the other hand we do not go against Fort Niagara but cross over

near Black Rock & march down against Fort George
(which I am of the opinion would be most advisable) we
cannot cross till we have built boats or until the
fleet comes down from Erie, and I do not think we
have here yet sufficient force to attempt to plant the
American standard on the enemy's shore, and on the
whole I do not think we lose any thing if we
remain here a fortnight longer. What will be the plan
of operations in this quarter is uncertain. Genl. Brown
commands ~~the~~ the troops under him were selected by him at
Sackett's Harbor. all Yankee regiments except ours which was
raised in N. England & the middle states. Two companies of the 2^d Regt
Artlry & one of the Light Artlry are attached to ours. Genl. Brown
who has been promoted over so many Brigadier Genls & who
so much possesses the confidence of the government feels
the importance of doing something & he has great confi-
dence in the troops under his command. Brig^d Genl.

Scott so distinguished ~~as~~ a fighting character (& in my opinion
the best officer in the whole army of any grade) has
joined us & is the only Brigadier present. If it be possible
to meet the enemy I know Scott will manage to meet
him if he can do it on any thing like equal ground.

He expresses the highest confidence in our regiment in particular
& assures us that as we shall not all be furnished with
pieces of artillery he is anxious to lead that part who
will act as Infantry to the charge. The troops under
Genl. Brown probably at present amount to about two
thousand. The enemy have about five hundred men in
Fort Niagara & have greatly improved the fort. We can
take it I think by laying a regular siege to it but the
expense in time, men, & money will in my opinion
counterbalance my advantages resulting from the possession of it

8

Volney, Oswego Falls (12 miles above the Fort) May 9th 1814

Dear Sir,

We have had an action with ^{the} enemy at Fort Oswego
The enemy after
destroying or taking away what they could find retired
early morning. The particulars I will endeavor to give you
so you can judge whether we did our duty or not.

Our force consisted of Capt. Boyles, Romayne's, Martin's, Piers
Batt^y formerly the 3rd Reg^t and Capt. Melvin's Co of light Art^y
together amounting to 342 men

after a march of more than 150 miles at the rate of more than 30 miles
per day and found the fort in a very defenceless situation
The fort was once an excellent one when in repair with its out works
was large enough to contain 2000 men & fight them to advantage. The
land of time had destroyed every picket & the escape could be easily made
in any part - in some places as easily as through the gate. We
found five pieces of artillery in it three 4 pounders - one six & one
nine - all very old - three without trunnions & all most
unusually mounted in iron such carriages as they had out of repair
Indeed they were all condemned pieces but had been mounted
in case of necessity & we were compelled to use them from
the same cause. We immediately set about repairing
them, fixing platforms & making cartridges &c. The
pieces were attached to Capt Boyles' Co - & three of them placed in
a battery in front of the fort & the other two in the bastions
of the fort for defence on the land side - all the other
companies acted as Infantry. Early in the morning of the 5th inst.

we discovered a fleet - soon made it out to be the enemy's
consisting of four ships, one brig & two hermaphrodite brigs with
gun boats & a bomb catel for throwing shells & rockets and a long
string of boats in tow. The wind being light they did not get
noon got up before the fort within a mile or mile & half where
they anchored - the boats being filled with troops rendered
along side the commodore's ship & rowed slowly for some
ceeded rapidly by their gun boats when they commenced a
raunonading from the boats & ships on our fort & little battery
which was spiritedly returned by Capt. Boyles' Co. The
the 9 pounder as the balls would not reach there & the
six under the direction of Lt. Legate after a few discharges
burst without doing any mischief. Capt. Boyles having several
times struck the boats they retired & the wind springing
up unfavorable to their operations their troops were taken into
their vessels & they ran down the lake with the loss of several
boats which were picked up by the citizens - one was taken up
by our soldiers sixty feet long & would carry 100 or 150 men

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4510

during the night the fleet frequently were seen making signals & one was in sight nearly all night. A deserter assures us that a boat from the village brought a letter & from several circumstances we have no doubt they had some communication from the shore. Col. Mitchell not wishing to divide his force by detaching any to the village side of the river & wishing to deceive the enemy concealed all his force in the fort except Capt Boyles co. at the battery and ordered the tents in store to be pitched in rear of the village & a small battery & breast work & by this deception the enemy were evidently embarrassed the first day. On the morning of the 5th we again discovered the fleet bearing up under easy sail & boats full of men in tow. About 200 militia had by this time come in & were shown near the tents in the woods

out in their view we continued secretly so as to be shown twice or thrice but they had now obtained too much information to be deceived. About 10 A.M. they took their position having before that time shown a disposition to land on the village side. We were marched out of the fort secretly into the woods & made an appearance at the ferry & crossed over one company. This appeared to them a reinforcement. When they had taken their position which was very judiciously made to take every part of the fort & the plain & woods adjacent they commenced a most tremendous cannonade from every vessel aimed at first entirely at our little battery of one 9 & one 11 pounder but were unable to silence it for more than three hours & not then till every cartridge was expended & they ^{had} possession of the rear of the fort. It lengthened the 4 pounder could not bring his piece to bear on the vessel ship from the battery & therefore took it out & was entirely exposed to their fire - one ship was cast near beyond musket shot. At length Col. Mitchell discovered by their movements that their intention was to land about one hundred rods north easterly of the fort on the shore of the lake & ordered us up from the berry basket of the fort into the ditch. This order was promptly obeyed though we had to cross the plain under a continual shower of round & grape shot & some shells. We ^{were} sent here not particularly to protect the fort & harbor but the public property on the river a principal part of which was at the falls. Col. Mitchell therefore resolved not to shut himself into the fort but to ~~defend~~ ^{oppose} the enemy's landing - fight ^{the} as long as possible from the out works but if unable to repel them was resolved to retreat to this plain & make another stand. As ^{the} enemy approached the shore Col. Mitchell marched out two companies ^{from} the ditch & met them on the shore exposed to a tremendous shower of grape from the ship & ^{boats} his little band of about 500 men. After firing six or seven rounds he retreated slowly into the ditch followed by the enemy - we poured in the fire so hotly that were checked & retired behind some bushes & a ravine where they were partially covered - they then attempted to flank our right which would cut off our retreat had they succeeded but we prevented it by extending our right. A column then advanced to our

Write to me at Parkville, Mo. & I can get it by an express

Left along the shore of the lake, got possession of the fort between
our left & the battery & we were then obliged to retreat after
sustaining the action 36 minutes at close musket shot.

We were not ~~over~~ ~~not~~ ~~more~~ ~~than~~ ~~200~~ men in the ditch in all
for Capt. Bayly's Co. was still at the battery & the guard was still in
the fort. To us was opposed 600 of De Water's corps - 600
marines & 250 sailors with two field pieces - 1450 in all who
landed in the first division under Lt. Genl. Donnell & Sir James
Yes - The sailors under the immediate command of Capt.
Maclean of the navy & second in command & said to be a better
officer than this Commodore. Capt. M. was shot in the
groin & is dead. They had in reserve in boats in a second
division at least eight hundred British troops. The officers
of the town & a tavern in the town & there acknowledged a

Sir James acknowledged a slight wound in the heel & a ball
through his cap. Our loss is 5 killed 28 wounded 3 men
dead about 24 prisoners & 11 missing - Lt. Blaney killed &
only one other officer slightly wounded. Our men fought most bravely
& we could with difficulty get them to retreat - let us give them
one more fire" said they, not knowing the enemy were in the
port. It is impossible to describe & do justice to the intrepidity
of Col. Mitchell. He was cool & serene tho' constantly exposed
from the front of the commanding to the last & to finish his heroic
character, while on the retreat, he mounted under a shower of shot
of every description from the ships & the musketry of the troops,
a poor wounded soldier begged for assistance when he
dismounted, put the soldier on his horse & walked coolly in rear
of his men. He has been pleased to express his entire approbation
of the conduct of all his officers. The enemy spoke in the highest
terms of him. The number of the enemy I have given is the
smallest number stated by their deserters as well as by the citizens
of the village who were present. The enemy after plundering the
village taking what they could find burnt our platform
& left the shore that night & the harbor the next morning. They
took all their baggage public & private - we could have saved it
but were afraid of disheartening our men by removing it, choos-
ing rather to sacrifice every thing than have our men prove
cowards - my winter brought off a small trunk containing my
papers which is all I saved except what I had on. They left our
pieces of cannon intended for our fort & they were sunk but they found
out of 10. I had 72 men in my Co. 2 of them being sick - I
had 2 killed - 2 sergeants & two privates wounded, three taken prisoner
& three missing. Henry Hart son of Master Hart killed - all my brave
fellows from your part of the country safe. It is astonishing our
loss was so small considering how much there were exposed.
Lt. Dixon of the navy with about 20 sailors was with us in the ditch
& advanced with Col. M. to the shore. they conducted well. The militia
ran off at the first fire from the ships towards the river & directed
to the village side of the river. Capt. Pamayre is now endeavoring
to keep to the light. We shall probably stay here or return to Penang
& remain there a few weeks till the public property be removed to
Sacko H. or elsewhere.

I very lately noticed in a paper the death of Mr. Brooks. Permit me
to express my sympathy with you & yours for the loss of that amiable
& I shall ever remember his attention to me with truly grateful

From the digital collections of the New York State Library.

From the digital collections of the New York State Library.

Give my respects to all friends - tell Mr. Wentworth that little
Schabad was in the action & did his duty like a brave man.

Yours most respectfully

Rufus W. Tuttle

John Holmes Esq^r

Rufus W. Tuttle
May 9, 1801
Boston

Ben^l John Holmes
Cannville at home

Alfred York Co
D. V. Maine

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Dear celebration of their home when we see how there is this
fact is very nearly correct. Mr. Schabad's that they had
at least 1800 + frames the last information they had
last number. Two of the ships are now - they had all
the vessel for they will have this season - one of the
our ships is a double decker - it is the Prince Regent that
some being transported from the King the former by her it -
the other ship is called the American Charlotte or the Queen Charlotte
I know not what our cargo ship at the harbor is another
he really is near as we can get the guns & rigging things for the
a last being given - she is called the Gibraltar - she is nearly
ready for her work - the Gibraltar is nearly ready for her work

9
Sackett's Harbor August 1st 1814

Dear Sir,

It is so long since I have heard from Alfred that I will now attempt by a scrawl to provoke you to write me. The newspapers inform of the public affairs at the eastward but I feel equally anxious to hear of the welfare of my friends & of their accidents which take place among them. The last letter I recd from you was written in April for which I am obliged to you but should be more so if it had been longer.

Our fleet sailed this morning with a light breeze - destination unknown. They have six weeks provision on board. It consists of the Superior, Mohawk Pike & Madison, ships; the Sylph, Jones, Jefferson & Onondaga brigs; and Lady of the Lake & the Tomkins schooners - the latter is to be used as a bomb vessel or something like that & is manned with Capt Archer's Co of Artillery. Capt Archer has the direction of the Tomkins. He is a singular man but has proved himself very brave & is a man of talents. He is a little too fond of new projects & speculations & will either do much or nothing. Commodore Chauncey has so far recovered his health as to go in the fleet tho' he is yet low. His ill health has probably delayed the sailing of the fleet some tho' I am not able to ascertain certainly why it has not sailed before - there seems to be some mystery about it & the officers of the navy have some of them spoken freely on the subject. I fear the enemy have been able to send such reinforcements to the head of the Lake that Genl Brown will be compelled to leave the Canada shore without effecting the object of his expedition. The delay

in the sailing of our fleet must disappoint Genl Brown & I think
destroy his calculations of success. We have got information of his
late battle wherein Genl Brown & Scott were both severely wounded &
you will no doubt get the particulars before this reaches you. The
British General Neal is our prisoner together with ~~about~~ twenty
other officers & nearly 300 prisoners, and the enemy's artillery. It
appears the battle lasted about six hours when the enemy were
driven at all points. It appears Genl Brown was retreating &
the enemy by a circuitous movement were attempting to get
in his rear but were disappointed & defeated with great loss. Genl
Brown recd two balls in his thigh but remained on his horse
till his evening were quietly encamped. Genl Guines on the
recd of the news by express left this post for Brown's army where
he will command till the recovery of Genl Brown which will
be shortly as the wound is flesh one only. The battle was
fought between Queenstown & Chippeway. I presume this & the
battle at Chippeway were the most regular & best fought battles
we have had this war & has furnished a fine specimen of
of great improvements this season. Genl Brown is a very in-
dustrious officer but I consider Genl Scott as the life &
soul of that army. Capt Jones of the Artillery & assistd Adjutant
Genl to that wing of the army I presume has contributed much
to their police, discipline &c. Genl Brown knows how to profit
by the services of these intelligent men who know how to fight.

Should the fleet sail to the head of the lake which is probable,
Sackett Harbor will be much exposed - We have but few regular
troops here having nearly all gone to Niagara & Plattsburgh.
About 12 or 1500 Militia are ordered in & have partly arrived.
Genl Martin commands them & the post. Col. Mitchell commands
the regulars consisting of his battalions of Artillery & some dismount
Dragoons. Our batteries, redoubts &c are however in good order
& if properly supported by Infantry will ^{be} able to resist a very
large force. If the Militia fight (which will be the first time in
this quarter) we can repel any force the enemy can bring against
us at present. Kingston is drained of troops & Genl Drummond has

gone up the lake to oppose Genl. Brown. Could our
fleet take on board Genl. Brown & army & transport
it to Kingston that important post would inevitably
fall together with the fleet. but I fear the fleet will
be too late. There is no probability of our fleet's
meeting the enemy - Sir James will no doubt re-
main long in Kingston till this new ship is ready
which will be in about two months & will carry
102 guns. A few days since a letter from Kingston
for England was intercepted on the St. Lawrence which
gave us very particular information of every thing
there. The Officers & Corporals in their letters & their friends
deprecate the service in Canada & complain much of sickness
& poor living &c.

The troops at this post are unusually healthy & I
understand Genl. Brown's army are so also. The season
has been very fine for health &c. - rather cool & dry
and but little fluctuation in the temperature.

I observe by the paper that Eastport is taken & ~~the~~ whole
east threatened by a predatory war. I think that the
enemy will not attempt ^{to} penetrate the country with
18 or even 30 thousand men but will endeavor to destroy
the sea ports & shipping. It appears to me that the enemy
are determined to pursue this course rather ^{than} to make peace
& have our shipping rivalled ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ commerce. A jealousy
of us as rivals in commerce has no doubt been the cause of
all this depredations & claims upon us & the same jealousy
I fear will prevent their making peace at this favorable
crisis of their affairs in Europe & yet our peace party
are rejoicing at that very crisis!! I hope these ~~great~~
admirers & faithful servants of the magnificent crowned
heads of Europe will share the fate of the Cortes of Spain
who have ^{been} exhausting the treasure & spilling the blood of Spain -
not for their liberties but for the interests of this loving
Master Ferdinand who is now severely chastising them
for this fidelity. A wholesome lesson to their servile lovers
of contemptible tyrants. It would be a happy circumstance
for

for our country of our admiring of royal pageantry & rightful
sovereigns can be ~~made~~ convinced that magnanimous princes
 can be ungrateful as well as Republics - excuse these crude
 ideas - I was irresistibly led to put them on this sheet. Please to write
 me & give me your opinion of the prospect of peace as well of the affairs
 about you. Give my respects to Mr. Holmes and all friends

Yours respectfully
 Rufus W. Johnson

Rufus W. Johnson

August 1. 1814

Dr. Boston August 1st

R. W.

Gen^l John Holmes

Cornwall Ct Conn

West York Ct

Dr. Maria

P.S. The information I gave relating Mr. Johnson's message
 was not correct - my informant mistook Dr. Johnson for another
 Dr. at the same post the war married them. Dr. Johnson
 is highly spoken of by others who are acquainted with him.

Fort Virginia, Sackett Harbor, Sept 31st 1814

Dear Sir,

Having long deferred writing to you in hopes of first receiving a line from you but now despairing of that I will endeavor to extort something from you in your leisure moments. You will have heard all

4510

prints are this week you except passing what has transpired this vicinity. Our fleet sailed this day passing on board Genl Stoddard & army - destination probably the head of the lake or perhaps Genesee River to re-inforce Genl Brown. The light batty marched yesterday by land for the Niagara frontier & the Dragoons (dismounted) this day for the same place. I know not the plans of operations, whether simply to join G. Brown or to attack them if enemy is near between Fort George & Burlington I think the former because they are not provided with artillery to act alone. The bad weather delayed the movement two or three days & it still continues to rain. We have had an incessant rain & storm for a week past which has made the roads extremely bad & I fear will delay & injure the final result of the campaign. The enemy are said to be drawing their troops from Little York & down to Livingston. Whether this be precautionary in anticipation of an attack from Genl Stoddard or with intent to attack this post is uncertain - probably both. Most of the officers here ~~are~~ strongly expect an attack & we are preparing as tho we were certain of it. Whether they will defer an attack till their

10

dis-
they

4510

new ship, (which will mount over one hundred guns),
be ready or whether they will come as soon as they
hear of the absence of our fleet is uncertain. I am
of opinion that, at this season of the year when the
weather is so unsteady, they will not venture out
~~the~~ without their line of battle ship especially as she
will be ready by the first of October or by the 4th or
5th at farthest. Our fleet will soon return &
we are not certain but Com. Chaney will engage the
enemy ~~the~~ ^{notwithstanding} the great disparity of forces. Col.

Heard of the militia ~~has~~ arrived this evening I will
probably take command of the post. The regular
force consists of the ~~the~~ battalion of Artillery - a battalion
of the 13th Regt of Infy & small battalions of the 45th Regt of Infy,
in the whole probably about 10 or 1200. The number
of militia I do not know but suppose about as
many more - some ^{are} volunteers & some the detached
militia. We have been constantly on fatigue this
summer in throwing up a chain of redoubts
around this plan & have dignified them with the
names of forts. We shall commence tomorrow to entrench
the ~~space~~ between these works & in a few days the
whole plan will be completely surrounded with,
at least, some show of defence. I do not know what
dependence can be placed on the militia but believe
they can be made to fight when hemmed in &
covered behind pickets &c. At any rate let the
enemy come in what force he may he will certainly
pay dear for what he gets here. I have not however
much confidence in our works & think them
radically defective, they being too scattered for
the force we have ~~here~~ - were ^{they} more concentrated
or indeed only one regular fort with the same
number of guns & men ~~that~~ ~~could~~ ~~be~~ ~~defended~~
against twice the number of force that it can at present.
The mail which was lately intercepted between Kingston
& Niagara contained an order from Sir G. Prevost ~~to~~
Genl. Drummond to destroy this plan, by siege if
necessary, or soon as their fleet could get out or before

if practicable. What alteration may take place
in their plan of operations in consequence of
M^r Donners' victory & the defeat of their
army before Plattsburgh is uncertain. They
have met with another check before Erie which
we have just heard of. Genl. Brown writes that
the enemy had two batteries near him & troubled
him much with their shells so much that
he was out of patience & was determined to
sally out & destroy ~~them~~. This he effected
having destroyed

the two batteries, ~~magazines~~, killed &
magazines, killed & ~~indeed 400 & took 400~~
prisoners among them. 2 officers. His own
loss great in officers but trifling in men.
Genl. Ripley mortally wounded. Col. Gibson &
Wood killed - valuable officers. Genl. Brown
has 3000 militia who have crossed over to Erie -
a part of them were in the late sally & did
well. Genl. Porter was wounded. We have also
heard of the repulse of the enemy near Brotherton.
We rejoice to hear that militia begin to do their
duty & are sorry that those at Hamden
graced the District of Maine - hope if
attempt Portland or Portsmouth that the militia
will retrieve their character.

How does Gov. Strong like to be relieved from
the burden of governing a part of his territories?
I am glad to find that some of his constitutional
scruples are worn away & that he really
believes there is some danger near. The fate
of Alexandria has I hope destroyed the delusive
expectation that the British Army would discriminate
between their friends & foes among our
citizens. Whatever inveterate the enemy may
show towards any political party in this country
they are too well versed in the knowledge of
human nature to place any confidence in or
show any favors to men or parties of men who
they cannot ~~consider~~ consider any better
than traitors to their own country - Traitors
who have resolution sufficiently only to declare their
wishes & purposes of their hearts but dare not
attempt to put them in execution. The incendiary
mode of warfare which our pious, honorable & magnanimous

enemy have adopted on the seaboard I hope will be of incalculable benefit to the nation. It will teach our admirers of the forbearing, humane, generous British that their fatal delusion has cost their country dear and that it is not only as patriotic but quite as correct to believe our own rulers, the men of our choice, have as much honesty, humanity & good faith as God. Strong's boasted bulwark of religion. The manner which the enemy make war on the shores of the Chesapeake would almost justify us on our part to make it a war of extermination - to sacrifice every man who dares put his feet on our soil - But let it suffice that it will create a national hatred or at least destroy a too great national partiality which has unhappily too long prevailed. Yours &c
Purport M. M. M.

22 Sept 1814
Com. to John Holmes
Counselor at Law
Wheat, (York Co.) D. Maine

have my neck & neighbors' friends necessarily & ever
dangers & Mr. Holmes' friends. Mr. Holmes is ever
intended to my most respectful to my recollection. (over)
I suppose it is not almost a week & I shall write him here
open communication began to look like a young soldier.
dark storm must not be forgotten & I fear I shall not
do justice to the man to be. I shall make many
enquiries respecting many aspects & shall like to hear from
them all - I earnestly hope you will not fail to write
me - Yours most respectfully
Purport M. M. M.



Sackett's Harbor Dec^r 14th 1814

Dear Sir,

4510
Your letter dated in Nov^r came to hand the 2^d instant - and ~~very~~ grateful for your friendly letter - I feared I was forgotten by my old friends as I had not rec^d any communication from them for a long time - perhaps my own negligence in writing accounts for the long silence of my friends.

Dec 14/14
Some public papers give us a general sketch of the state of affairs in Mass. but I feel extremely anxious to know a thousand particulars of "men & things" which I cannot at this distance of place. I feel much inclined to visit home this winter to learn these particulars as well as to see my connections and friends. Is it possible that the leaders of a certain party in N. England will cap the climax of their folly by open resistance to the Gov^t of the U. States? Or will they attempt the more peaceable but not less wicked measure to negotiate a neutrality or separate peace with the enemy? After what they have done I should not be surprised at any piece of folly or villainy they may attempt. I believe they have done all the mischief they possible could in their blustering but peaceful course and have the disposition to do much more if they dare. Gentlemen who live out of N. England are sometimes apprehensive of domestic difficulties from the strange proceeding of the two last legislatures of Mass. I express much indignation at their conduct. They consider your exertions to have greatly checked the violence of those proceedings. Indeed many with whom I have conversed consider your continued presence

presence at that post of danger to be ne-
cessary to the public tranquillity and however
they may wish for the benefit of your talents in
Congress yet they think that the power of your
eloquence is more usefully & effectually employed
in opposing & suppressing treason in the Mass.
legislature. Think not, Sir, that I am attempting
to flatter you - there is no need of it and
there was, my inclination is less than ever to
flatter any body, and you know I was never
much inclined to be a sycophant.

The season is so far advanced, that the
idea of an attack on this post has for sometime
entirely subsided. The enemy may come when
the ice bridges over the St Lawrence but
it is not at all probable as they will not
be able in the winter to lay siege to the place
if an assault fails which would be almost
certain. It is understood to be the determination
of the enemy to attack & if necessary, besiege
the place early next spring. If he persists
in his purpose of carrying on offensive operations
the next campaign will probably commence
here - we shall be prepared to meet them
with the heroes of Chippeway, Bridgewater & Erie
& some other as good troops as any in the
service. A British Lieutenant of the navy has
 lately deserted & is now here on board the fleet
& solicits employ in our service. He commanded
the Schooner which our Squadron drove on shore
last summer at the head of the lake. He says
that for that act of destroying the Schooner he
was unjustly reprimanded by ~~the commander~~
Sir James Yeo which his English spirit could
not brook. If he is not a spy (& it is not
probable that he is) it is more likely that he
has been cashiered for that or some other conduct.

Nothing for certainty is yet known respecting
an increase of our naval force on this lake. The

The only fact that has transpired worthy of notice is that the Agent of the contractor for building public ships here has for ten days past been extremely active in making contracts for very large quantities of ship-timber to be delivered as soon as possible. This gives rise to numerous reports & conjectures as to the kind of ships to be built but nothing else is known & you can draw no correct conclusions as any other person at present. I don't

need what additional force to build nor will they till they consult Commodore Chauncey who left here about the 1st. I am suddenly & in haste for N. York or elsewhere — this is conjecture of my own. My opinion is against this war of ship-building on this lake for it is now certain that the enemy will not meet us without an undoubted superiority, & will remain secure in port when equal or inferior. We cannot therefore ever bring the thing to issue ~~unless~~ unless one party or the other gets strong enough to destroy the depot at Kingston or S. Y. & thus destroy the fleet or drive them out.

I should have answered your letter before but have been absent about ten days in the country for the benefit of my health which has been thereby fully restored. I had been unwell for several weeks & the physicians ~~expressly~~ recommended exercise & the pure air inland from the lake. An inland could not take much exercise at the Harbor for the most rainy season ever known, a day sail & constant passing made the whole village & vicinity a continued mine almost impassable for the horse. The cold has now made it hard & a few inches of snow has made the ways tolerably smooth. The bay was a few days

Cantonment, Plattsburgh N.Y.

half past twelve on Sunday morning, Jan 11, 1815.

This is to inform you that I have the honor to receive from you a note of the 10th inst. containing a sketch of our Cantonment, which is annexed to some official document. I am not sure that it is very correct in some particulars. I know it to be very incorrect in others. The Cantonment is perfectly correct so far as it omits many buildings in the rear. The forms of the fortifications are not correctly drawn, and the position of the fort is not correctly located. The fort is situated on the west side of the river, so as to command the open space between the barracks and the river. The fort is surrounded by deep ditches and pickets within the ditch. The bastions at the angles are powerful commands of the Ditch which is protected by this and like obstructions. To carry the works by escalade wire ladders of twenty feet in length, and should the attempt be made they must suffer an irreparable loss. Improvements might have been added to the fortification, but all in all, it will answer good purposes. The General Hospital, and Artificers shops should have been within the chain of pickets, being sub-ground for those purposes inappropriate. A large quantity of wood is ordered to be supplied, lest the enemy, finding us, should prefer rather than starve us to death. With a few more troops, which are soon to be sent to man our chain of pickets we may be able to hold our ground. It is said Gen. M'Cook has come well of the river and is now at the head of the river. He is said to be well and is now at the head of the river. He is said to be well and is now at the head of the river.



Sackett's Harbor March 4th 1815

Dear Sir,

Peace, with all her smiling train, having
once more taken her abode in the land of
Freedom, & my Country seeming no longer
to require my feeble services in the tented
field, I fondly anticipate the pleasure of soon
visiting my connexioned friends - participating
with them in all the enjoyments of social life.
The time has arrived when I can again indulge
~~myself~~ in seeking a provision for myself. At
this critical moment of commencing a new race,
I feel a pleasure in having a Friend whose advice
I am free to ask & who is so able & I flatter my-
self, willing to advise me. The army will
probably in a month or two be disposed of
when I shall be at liberty to look out for a
stand & at my age you know it will be
necessary to do it immediately - but the great
question is, where? - I have it in contemplation
to visit the western country as far as the Indiana
or Illinois Territories & satisfy myself of the
prospects there before I return to Maine. What
think

think you of such a project? Is the prospect in
the D. Maine sufficiently encouraging as ought to
destroy all thoughts in me of migrating into the
western woods? Please to favor me with your ideas
advice on this subject. I have an idea that, at present, law
business in Maine must be small & lawyers plenty
in general, tho' perhaps some particular openings
may offer where a beginner might with advantage
commence. Do you know of any such? I do
not know what charges may ^{here} ^{place} ~~take~~ in the County
of York but suppose no prospect in any place there.
I know of no place nearer than Ferrisburgh where
there can be much prospect & not there except
in new Towns that in course of time may afford
business.

Nothing new here except what comes in the public
papers of which you are first informed. The ship
building here will not be finished - The carpenters
are mostly gone home. The ships are planked
up to the ports of the upper deck & calked nearly to
the lower ports - They would have been ready to launch
before April - One of them ~~is~~ has more keel
than any ship ever launched! The frame of another
is completely ready & would have been set on
the same way & launched in thirty days after the
others. The ordnance, stores & rigging would all have been

here by the 1st of April. The enemy were also making great exertions but I think we should have had the superiority by far next had the war continued.

The Comd. Officer at Kingston has not yet recd. official information from his own government of the peace and consequently would not admit our flag officers into the Town when they carried the treaty &c. In strictness of military etiquette this was correct tho' perhaps the occasion might have justified a little more liberality had they felt much cordiality on the event. Their officers who wth the flag treated us with extreme politeness tho' they were evidently chagrined at the termination of their famous N. Orleans expedition. They made but few enquiries respecting the affair, seemed sore on the subject, and the treaty coming immediately after, looked like their recd^d the last blow.

Soldiers enlisted ^{to know} during war will be soon discharged but not till they are paid - Those on this station can then return home with nearly 100 doll. in their pockets.

How do the Hartford conventionists feel now? At a distance they look rather foolish.

Give my respects to Mr. Holmes & neighbors & friends are not forgotten - Where is Mr. Goodwin? I remember all the children as they were particularly my little favorite Hannah. Two years have nearly passed since we had such attentions in their appearance. Yours respectfully Rufus W. Moore

Rufus W. White
15
4th March 1874

A. Huber Brook

Hon.

John Adams
Cornwall, Ct.

W. Pratt
York Co. D. Maine

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Transcriptions

Transcription notes:

- Text in square brackets, e.g. [Jr?], indicates that the transcriber and reviewer could not be sure of the word(s).
- Sections in square brackets and highlighted in yellow, e.g., [illegible], indicate illegible or missing text (edges of some letters were damaged by fire or folding), or text provided based on an early transcription, which came with the letters when they were purchased by the New York State Library in 1919, but which cannot now be verified because of the condition of the letters.
- Sections in square brackets and italics are not part of the letter, but provide information about the format of the letter, e.g., [Page 2] or [Addressed to:].

Letter of May 11th 1813

Schenectady May 11th 1813

Dear Sir,

You will see by the date that I am now on the banks of the Mohawk. I left Greenbush yesterday afternoon and owing to some difficulty with our baggage waggons [*sic*] we can get no further today. Our destination is to Oswego by the way of Utica but shall I presume eventually go to Sackets Harbour.

Our men have been very much troubled with bad colds which have generally affected the stomach very much. In fact it is an attack - in most cases slight - of the prevailing typhus fever. Our men are on the recovery though they are weak. The measles and mumps also made their appearance to afflict us but their course was limited. The measles are very mild though we thought it prudent to leave several on the road before we arrived at Greenbush sick with them.

You will probably hear all the particulars as far as they are known here of the taking of Little York before you receive this. I shall therefore only observe that is here thought a place of considerable consequence as a deposit of military & indian stores.

Our detachment of our Regt is between 3 and 4 hundred strong and are called as fine recruits as ever marched through this section of the country.

Inclosed [*sic*] are sixteen dollars 2,29 for John [Saywood?] [Jr?]
from John Wentworth - \$3,60 to same from Ezra Haskell
\$5,20 from [?] Wolke [to S. ? & Co.?] & \$5 from [?]
to Simeon Hamilton = 2,29+3,60 +5,20 +5 = \$16,09.
I also conclude to in close [*sic*] eleven dollars more from Clement S.
York to his Brother Nicholas York [Jun?] of Shepleigh & one
more for change, all amounting to twenty eight dollars.
Your attention to these matters will no doubt oblige the
persons above named.

I recd. a letter from Mr Goodwin & was sorry to learn
thusly that Bradford was sick though I had the
same time the satisfaction to know that he was now

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on the recovery. I presume ere this he is
well. Permit me, Sir, to confess that I hold in
grateful remembrance the numerous and innumera-
ble kindnesses I have received from you & family
& hope I shall never forget them. My affection
to all the children & Hannah, I suppose, will think
she is wronged if she is not particularly mentioned.

My best regards to Mrs. Holmes & Mrs. Brooks.

I am, Sir, respectfully yours

Rufus McIntire

Letter of July 5th 1813

Sacket's Harbor July 5th 1813

Dear Sir,

Inclosed [*sic*] is my deposition agreeable to your
request. I have there stated the substance of what
I could recollect relative to the affair. Perhaps
it is less particular than you expect but I believe
I have stated intelligibly whatever is important in
the action within my knowledge.

I can give you but little information of

the proceedings here [more?] than you see in the public papers. We are disciplining our troops as fast as possible - Genl Lewis has lately arrived & now commands here. The rigging of the Genl Pike goes on rapidly - she will soon be ready to sail, till then we shall not venture out on the lake. Last wednesday Sir James Yeo with about eight hundred men principally sailors started from Kingston in boats with a determination to enter our harbor & destroy [illegible] of our shipping in the night at all hazards. [illegible] night proved so dark they could not find the way [illegible] before light and they therefore landed on a point of land at the mouth of harbor called point peninsula about 12 miles from our shipping. They hauled their boats ashore, & covered them with brush & lay concealed on Thursday with a determination to put their plan in execution that night. but so many of their men deserted, Sir James thinking, it is presumed, that we had got information, & fearing to trust any longer to the fidelity of his men, returned to Kingston. One of the deserters got to camp just before night on Thursday which put us on the alert & early next morning our fleet went out to intercept him, but he had made his escape. Fifteen deserters from him have already reported themselves at this post & say that nearly fifty left him who have probably scattered into the country. We are constantly prepared for some desperate attack from the enemy on our fleet; for we know their great object is to destroy a part of it before the Genl. Pike is ready. This is a very important object. I consider that on our superiority on the lake depends the success of the campaign in a great measure. We are particularly on the alert tonight as it is reported that the

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enemy have four thousand troops embarked at Kingston to attack this place & the wind is very favorable. I do not believe the report because they have not shipping enough to convey half that number in addition to the ships' crews. They may however make an effort thinking to take us by surprise. If they do attack us, I am confident they will repent of their rashness. If the enemy with their whole fleet & one thousand troops were obliged retreat when our whole fleet were absent & we had not more than eight hundred [men?] (except militia) & not more than six hundred in [action?] they cannot expect any better success now even if they bring four thousand troops. In regard to the late attack I would observe that I have been very much surprised that with his force the enemy did not succeed, but much of that surprise has ceased since we know for a certainty that his loss was at least two hundred & eighty. They left upwards of fifty

killed, wounded & prisoners & we have correct information that two hundred & thirty wounded were carried into their hospital in Kingston. They probably had many wounded who were not carried in. Some estimate the whole at near four hundred. Among their killed and wounded was a full proportion of officers.

Some of our recruits, it is true, did not fight with the regularity of old soldiers, but skulking by companies behind whatever would screen them they kept up a most destructive fire. This mode of fighting, though it does no great credit to our discipline, completely foiled the enemy: his orders were to fire one or two rounds on our line & then to charge bayonet, but he found that when he attempted to charge one company they retreated & were covered & protected by others in the rear. The enemy boasts that he drove us several hours; this is true, but in all that time he did not get half a mile. The militia were stationed near [where?] they landed and all fled as soon as the enemy were ashore [?] would except a few under Capt McNitt. Gen. Brown says one hundred, but Genl. Brown belongs to the militia and his partiality has probably more than doubled the real number. Gen. Brown is no doubt a brave man but not a consummate General. The volunteers I believe fought well. I know very nearly the number in each corps & am satisfied that we had not more than seven hundred engaged at one time including the volunteers and I may perhaps add Capt. McNitt 's militia. The enemy had at least nine hundred

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in the engagement after abducting their probable loss in landing. Add to this the assistance they received from their shipping which was considerable. Col. Mills was killed by a grape shot from one of their gun boats & a considerable proportion of our killed or wounded recd. their wounds from the same quarter. 'Tis true we had some field pieces but I do consider that they rendered us so much service as the shipping did them & besides I reckon the men that manned them among the numbers engaged on our side. I cannot determine in my own mind which had the advantage of ground. Where the enemy landed they had a cleared spot, then woods partly cleared, then a few large trees with underbrush & finally the ground they retreated from perfectly clear. Part of the time they had the disadvantage of being fair marks in the cleared ground while our troops were in the woods & part of the time we labored under the same disadvantage. The enemy, in his official orders, asserts that our troops threw themselves into block houses which obliged him to retreat.

This is not true: He probably meant a few miserable huts built of round sticks which had been occupied as barracks but which were so open that I doubt whether they were any benefit to us except they gave our men some confidence & scared the enemy. In fact several of our men were shot in there. In the above sketch you have I believe very nearly a correct account of the relative force & advantage of both parties & can judge of American bravery when compared with british bravery aided by skill & discipline.

I am sorry to learn from your letter & one I recd from Mr. Goodwin of the continued sickness of Bradford and sincerely hope he is restored to health. I have been quite unwell but am perfectly restored to health.

My best wishes attend you and your worthy family & that you may all enjoy health, peace & happiness is the earnest prayer of your friend and humble servant

Rufus McIntire

P.S. [!?] & J. Wentworth have enjoyed good health & make good soldiers. Ezra Haskell died in June of an inflammatory fever – he was a very faithful & excellent soldier & made a good non-commissioned officer.

Letter of September 11th 1813

Sacket's Harbor Sept 11th 1813

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 26th August ult came to hand yesterday & am much obliged to you for the same. Your speculations in regard to the invasion of Canada & best mode of conducting the war on the frontiers are in my opinion very correct, and are what I hope to see soon realized. The command of Lake Ontario is still doubtful – Both squadrons are out & a few days will decide the superiority. The command of this Lake is not considered by Gen. Wilkinson as necessarily connected with the operations of the army tho' the particular movements of the army will

probably depend on it. We expect to leave this place soon but cannot conjecture in what direction. We are ordered not to write to our friends any thing relative to the movements of the army till the close of the campaign. You will therefore perceive the impropriety of my saying any thing that can be construed into a breach of the order. Gen^l Wilkinson has gone to the Niagara frontier – The Secretary of War is here. Gen^l Lewis has gone eastward – tis said to the springs for his health – may the waters prove salutary to - the army of the U. States. Gen. Wilkinson has infused new spirit into the troops at this post. He inspired a degree of confidence in every officer & soldier that I never saw equalled. Under him I am confident the army will not shew a want of courage or conduct. He throws a mystery **[over our army over our manoeuvres & future intentions?]** that are impenetrable & are highly necessary when so near the enemy & where every thing that can be known is immediately communicated to the enemy

Col. Walbach, one of the Adjutants generals, is here & is as popular as Adj^t. Genl. as he was as Captain & commander of Fort Constitution. We have many other officers that would do honor to any army. You speak of the army under Boyd as the most experienced troops – they are so no doubt and have

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been harrassed and piqueted into a degree of watchfulness & discipline that makes them useful; but I dare engage that the troops now here, should they ever be engaged with the enemy, will do as much honor to the American name as any troops that ever fought under Gen. Boyd. There are five companies of our Regiment here and are allowed to equal, both in appearance & discipline, any troops in the service. Our Reg^t have not distinguished themselves yet in consequence of their having been kept by the commanding General as a corps de reserve, the highest compliment that could be paid them. You mention the reports of a fatal sickness said to prevail here. Tis true we have had many sick principally of the diarrhea or camp disorder

but not more than is common with all new armies till the men get habituated to a camp life. The health of the camp is greatly improved – not one half so many on the sick report as there were in the first of August & most of these sick are convalescent & will soon be fit for active service.

I have frequently heard of John Hanson – he was at the taking of York & I understood was not hurt he went to the taking of Fort George where he is [now. I have not heard from N. Parsons tho I have] enquired. His manner of writing to his friends is not only indecorous & ungrateful but is directly against orders. Could he be convicted of it before a Court martial he would be cashiered or was the Secretary of war to know the fact he would be struck from the rolls of the army.

I am sorry to know that Th^{os}. Bragdon has sued M^r. Johnson. he did very wrong – it was my fault that the writ was not returned. I sent it by mail

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but it did not arrive as soon as usual by a few hours. I told Bragdon I would pay him & agreed to offset a debt he owed my brother & I supposed the matter settled. Bragdon commenced another action & he & Libbey settled all affairs and, as I supposed, would content themselves with taking a bill of cost, unnecessarily swelled, from me. I shall write to York at this time & stop the business I believe by agreement If Bragdon settles with you a charge you had against him You [? turning?] to your [books? ?] whether that be the case.

I should write often, but have nothing to write except the affairs of the army and of them we are forbidden to write or rather it is difficult to distinguish what is proper & what is not. You very justly remark that there are many things about an army that never reach you through the papers I believe the truth is never more than half told & that the most important is kept back. I know that to be the case at the attack on Sacket's Harbor

and that Gen. Brown was promoted from a Brig Gen^l. in the militia to a Brig^r. Gen^l. in the regular service – I will not say in consequence thereof [Text Missing] but I will say that had the enemy done what they might with ease (burnt the new ship) Gen. Brown would have been more censured than Smyth or any other. ----- A heavy cannonading is now heard on the Lake – the fleets are undoubtedly engaged -- they are so near that I feel the barrack jar very sensibly every discharge (4 O'clock PM) – I was interrupted when I written the above The cannonading continued one hour & a half very heavy [Text Missing] of an hour before [sunset?] & continued to till [sunset?] most tremendously – almost a continual roar of cannon – since that not a gun has been heard. (10 o'clock evening). The command of the lake is no doubt now decided. The force of each nearly equal -- very doubtful which has gained the victory. A few guns like signal guns or those in chase were heard all day – I will not close this till I know the result. The mail is stopped between this & Utica & we are obliged to depend on the expresses. I do not consider it safe to send money or I would inclose you 50 or 100 dollars which I wish you had – I would also send a few dollars to E. Harkels father & some others.

[At 90 degrees to previous]

I have mentioned to G. [Wentworth?] to send home his money & he says He will. I could not get Jellison to say whether he would send any to his wife or not. He may have sent some by E. Clark who has gone home on furlough.

Give my best respects to M^{rs}. Holms & children. I hope M^r. Goodwin's family, M^r. Hayward's family & all my neighbors are well.

John Hawkins Esq.

Yours most respectfully
Rufus McIntire

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PS Sept 14th. We have waited in vain for certain information from the fleets in the Lake. It is reported & believed here that our fleet has been seen passing up the Lake since the action and were thirteen sail and among them three ships. If this is true we have captured a part of the enemy's squadron. Reports

from other sources say that the Wolf only
escaped & that all the others were captured or destroyed
and that the Pike is a complete wreck. I do not
know what credit to give these reports.

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If the enemy had been successful
we should ere this have heard
Royal Salute from Kingston as on other
like occasions. It is not improbable that our
fleet would proceed up the Lake after their
services to report to the commanding General
We are extremely anxious to hear the certainty
of these things. There is a mail going again. I must close.
Rufus McInt.

[At 90 degrees to the above, addressed to:]

John Holmes Esq.
Counsellor at Law
Alfred York Co.
District of Maine

[At 90 degrees to the above]

Rufus McIntire
11 Sept, 1813

Letter of October 23rd 1813

[Letter addressed to:]

Hon. John Holmes Esq^r
Counsellor at Law
Alfred
York County
Dis Maine

Basin Harbor, Grenadier Island Oct^r. 23rd. 1813

Dear Sir

I rec^d. yours last evening & having an opportunity of sending to the Sackets' Harbor I enclose you a chart of part of the shore of Ontario & S^t. Lawrence which you may rely on as correct – You will hardly expect at this day a letter from me here but the weather has been bad in the extreme & this is the general rendezvous of our troops from Niagara & Sackets' Harbor, a most beautiful spot by nature. Many of our boats are stove on the shore between here and Sackets' Harbor but no lives lost – they are arriving daily – about 1000 men now [back?] & will be all in in two days if the weather will permit. I saw John Hanson here but he has gone on to gravelly point. He is very well & has command of a company of 125 men. We shall move as soon as possible. I sent a letter to you the day I left S. Harbor containing thirty dollars & hope you will receive it before you get this. I am in good health tho' I have been much exposed having been in [Chemont?] Bay two nights on my way here not being able to get round Point Peninsula. I have sixty nine effective men with me in my company and but one L^t. – my first L^t. Farley on the hour of embarkation transferred to Cap^t Brooks who has pieces of Art^y attached to his company – my 2nd. L^t. Gray appointed Quarter Master & my 3rd. L^t. [Libbens?] Curtis now with me – he (Curtis) says he is acquainted with M^{rs}. Holmes having formerly lived with M^r. [Kent?] . He has lately been

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promoted from Sergeant Major - Give my respects to all friends & love to the children. Tell M^{rs}. Holmes I am much obliged to her for her information.
In great haste yours
Rufus M^cIntire

John Holmes Esqr

December 3rd 1813

Camp, French Mills Dec^r. 8th 1813

Dear Sir

I wrote you from Grenadier Island at the commencement of our late expedition & then provided

something more when the campaign ended. I was then in high hopes of being able to write you from Montreal or some other part of his Majesty's dominion but the campaign has ended without having these hopes realized – we have nothing to do but make ourselves comfortable this winter & try again in the spring. To make ourselves comfortable we had to build huts which are nearly done.

Why has this expedition failed? Why was not Kingston & Prescott first reduced? Why did not Gen.^l Hampton cooperate with the Commander in Chief? I can easily conceive that these & a thousand similar questions are every day asked by the good citizens who have been anxiously waiting to see these events and are questions which I am as unable to answer as you who are remote from the scene. It is however understood here that the plan of the expedition was laid by the Secretary of War & tis said contrary to the opinion of Gen.^l Wilkinson. I believe the old maxim had better been adhered to (not to leave a strong fort in the rear unsubdued). Bounaparte tis true disregards this maxim but Bounaparte moves with such rapidity that an enemy in the rear can do him no injury - we are not habituated to such movements. Much of the failure of the expedition I think may fairly be attributed to the delay getting into the St. Lawrence the causes of which no **[man had in his control.?)**

As I cannot give you any information on the more important points I will endeavor give you a faithful account of the expedition itself & in doing this I shall be more particular in the circumstances which fell immediately under my observation. The last division of the army left Grenadier Island Nov.^r & the same day arrived at French Creek - we found that the first division that had arrived at that place had been attacked by a part of the B. fleet and beaten them off by getting on shore a couple of 18 pounders. Two of the enemies schooners
suffered

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suffered considerably. On the 5th we were again embarked & the next morning proceeded down the river to Morristown about 5 or 6 miles above Ogdensburgh & Prescott. Here we lay the next day till evening when a part of the troops landed & marched down through Ogdensburgh by land leading the boats which were doubly manned at the oars to proceed down by the Fort in the after part of the night. As we passed through Ogdensburgh village the enemy kept up a continual cannonading. Many of their balls & shell were very well directed but did us no damage.

When the boats passed in the morning they again kept up a very heavy cannonading to but little effect – only one ball touched us & that killed & wound three men. In the forenoon of the 8th the boats came ashore at Lisbon at seven miles below Prescott & took on board the troops that marched down. I believe I mentioned before that Col. Macomb had command of the Corps de reserve. This corps was afterwards new organized and called the Corps d'Elite. It was composed of the Rifle corps of about 150 or 200 under Major Forsythe; The Albany Volunteers under a Major Herkimer about as strong; a detachment of the 20th Rg^t Inf^y and Richmond Volunteers under Col. Randolph about as strong: and five companies of the 3rd Rg^t of Art^y about 250 or 300 strong under the brave Col. Scott of the 2nd Rg^t Art who joined us here as a volunteer & obtained this command – the whole commanded by Col. Macomb. This corps instead of a reserve was now to be in advance - a kind of standing van guard & were to take the lead in every thing that looked like difficulty or danger – an arduous, dangerous but glorious service had the campaign continued any length of time. The Elite were now ordered to proceed down in advance about 10 or 12 miles & land on the Canadian shore about a mile above a battery which was situated on the narrow part of the River – to march down & take the battery. This we accomplished without loss though we were fired on by about two hundred militia previous to our landing . The battery was abandoned by the enemy on our approach. The [next day?] (Nov.^r 9) our army came down & ferried over the Light [Dragoons?] & Light [Artillery?] [Text Missing] (Nov.^r 10th) our picquets were attacked at revellie & the Elite were ordered out to support them & on our approach the enemy fled up the River. The Elite, Light Dragoons, one company of Light Artillery & Gen.^l Browns* Brigade the whole under Gen.^l Brown were then ordered to march down towards Cornwall & we started off immediately. We that day reached the plan* which was the scene of action of the 11th & there found the remainder of the Army that had proceeded down in boats & there encamped. On the morning of the 11th Gen.^l Brown's command

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took up their line of march early & proceeded on till about noon unmolested. At this time we found a bridge broken down & Major Forsythe with his corps were examining the bridge & attempting to repair it when they were fired on from behind a little rising ground on the other side. The Riflemen kept up a scattering fire as they could see an object – Col. Scott with his command immediately proceeded up the creek in quest of the enemy & a fording place. The bushes were thick & retarded our march but we at length found a fording place

& crossed - it was a few minutes too late for the enemy just slipt us – had we been ten or fifteen minutes sooner we should cut off a few hundred of them. The front company however killed one indian and took two or three canadians prisoners. The Riflemen killed & wounded several. Ensign James of the Rifle corps alone pursued a party of six or eight of the enemy, killed one & took one prisoner. He took one prisoner the night we first landed – an officer on horseback who was reconnoitering us – he (James) fired at another officer, wounded him but he rode off – we have since heard that he died of his wounds. -- The enemy made another stand about a mile below in force from 8 to 12 hundred militia & about 30 indians but a shot from the Riflemen dispersed them into the woods – we then proceeded to within four miles of Cornwall & encamped - The next day marched two miles further & waited for the boats. After we left the army on the morning of the 11th the enemy made their appearance above in gun boats & they came down & commenced a fire on a part of the army that lay higher up than the rest. Gen.^{ls} Boyd & Covington were ordered up with a part of their brigades to dislodge them from their post – this they effected. The enemy retreated & threw themselves into a ravine & there made a stand. The enemy then having the advantage [Text Missing] but the enemy dare not follow them [Text Missing] boats & came down. This I believe to be the substance of that affair. You will see in print I presume many particular accounts of it. I was not there so cannot speak from my own knowledge. On the 12th the boats came down to where we (the advance) were encamped & on the 13th we embarked and arrived at this place.

It was no doubt proper to leave Canada at the time we did – without the cooperation of Gen.^l Hampton

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we could not expect to get to Montreal as the enemy in superior force was waiting for us at Cote du Lac while 2000 men were harassing us and near. The appearance of this sheet warns me to finish – more hereafter – write soon – Yours [sincerely?]

Rufus McIntire

John Holmes Esq.^r

A. Crosby has deserted since I have been here. I hope he will be arrested if he goes to Sanford

I should have written before but have been very busy
In building huts &c
John Hanson is here & in health – He is con-
sidered a very decent officer. I will give you some idea
of the Rifle Corps hereafter – I lost Isaac Hanson
in Canada – when the boat started on the morning of
the 11th he had straggled on shore & was left behind
& not heard from – he was unwell & I left him with
the boat –

Rufus McIntire

[then at 90 degrees]

Hon. John Holmes
Counsellor at Law
Alfred (York Co D. Maine)

Letter of March 17th 1814

Rome/Oneida Co State of N York/ March 17th 1814

Dear Sir

I wrote you from Sackets Harbor some
time since. Since that time we have been
ordered westward & arrived at this place
yesterday. Tomorrow we proceed on towards
the Niagara frontier – we have in our detach-
ment six companies of the 3rd Rg^t Art^y one of the
2nd Rg^t Art^y and one of Light Artill^y averaging about
eighty men to a company all in fine health
& under the command of L^t Col. Mitchell –
a Battalion of the 11th Rg^t Inf^y under L^t Col. [Bedel?]
marched hence yesterday on the same destination.
Col. Ripley with the 21st Rg^t Inf^y marches hence
today & the 9th Rg^t Inf^y are expected here today
& will follow one day after us. Gen^l
Brown left here yesterday & will command us.
Col. Scott (probably ere this a Brig Gen^l) is on his
way from Albany to same place. Batavia, a
town about forty miles interior from Fort
Niagara is the point to which we are all orderd
at present. To what point on the frontier we shall

from thence be ordered I know not. You can
guess as well as any other Yankee.

Our march averages about twenty miles per
day which our men perform with ease. Their
health always improves on a march if good
quarters are obtained at night. This we shall be
able to obtain through the whole march as there

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are villages scattered all along from ten
to twenty five miles distant from each other
where six or seven hundred men can easily be
quartered. This is the reason for having the several
regiments follow each other a days march distant.

The letter I wrote you at Sackets' harbor I sent to
Portsmouth by Cap^t Vose - it contained fifty dolls.
& some papers belonging in your neighborhood. The
letter I presume will go safe – but will not
probably arrive much sooner than this.

I am in haste & cannot write more at
present. I should be happy to receive a letter from
you. Please to direct it to me at Batavia &
I will make arrangements to get it.

Give my respects to all friends – M^r. Saywards & M^r.
Goodwins' families in particular. Your own family
will always retain my most grateful remembrance.

I am Sir, with the highest
respect, your most obedient
servant & affectionate friend
Rufus McIntire

Hon John Holmes

[Address page]

Rufus McIntire
17 March 1814

[then at 90 degrees]

Hon^{bl}. John Holmes
Counsellor at Law
Alfred (York C^o. Dis. Maine)

Letter of April 13th 1814

Batavia, State of N. York, April 13th 1814

Dear Sir,

Our regiment arrived at this place on the 29th ult in excellent health tho somewhat fatigued by seventeen days marching five of the last of which was thro' the mud ankle deep. You have probably learned by the public papers that after we had performed a part of our march, we retrograded to Salina - by that retrograde movement we (our regiment) lost nearly five days. This village is twenty nine miles from Williamsville or (eleven mile creek) where the militia have been stationed & whither a part of our regular force have gone. The 25th Rgt Infy have marched towards Lewistown & the rest of the Infy that left Sacket's Harbor consisting of the 9th, 21st & [a?] battalion of the 11th have gone to Williamsville. Williamsville is on the road hence to Buffaloe & eleven miles this side that place. The militia have within two or three days all been discharged. Our regiment is waiting for tents which are expected hourly. We are in no great hurry as probably nothing will done until our train of Artillery comes up. It left Canandaigua yesterday - Canandaigua is forty nine miles from this place and the roads are so excessively bad that it will not reach this place in less than four days. The road to Williamsville is still worse - the inhabitants say it never was so bad. The distance from Williamsville to Ft. Niagara is over thirty miles so that if operations are to be made against that Fort we cannot commence them in less than three or four weeks. If on the other hand we do not go against Fort Niagara but cross over

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near Black Rock & march down against Fort George (which I am of the opinion would be most advisable) we cannot cross till we have built boats or until the fleet comes down from Erie, and I do not think we have here yet sufficient force to attempt to plant the American standard on the enemy's shore, and on the whole I do not think we lose any thing if we remain here a fortnight longer. What will be the plan of operations in this quarter is uncertain. Genl. Brown commands & troops under him were selected by him at

Sacket's Harbor, all Yankee regiments except ours which was raised in N. England & the middle states. Two companies of the 2nd Rgt. Arty & one of the Light Arty are attached to ours. Genl Brown who has been promoted over so many Brigadier Genls & who so much possesses the confidence of the government feels the importance of doing something & he has great confidence in the troops under his command. Brigr. Genl. Scott so distinguished as a fighting character (& in my opinion the best officer in the whole army of any grade) has joined us & is the only Brigadier present. If it be possible to meet the enemy I know Scott will manage to meet him if he can do it on any thing like equal ground. He expresses the highest confidence in our regiment in particular & assures us that as we shall not all be furnished with pieces of artillery he is anxious to lead that part who will act as Infantry to the charge. The troops under Genl. Brown probably at present amount to about two thousand. The enemy have about five hundred men in Fort Niagara & have greatly improved the fort. We can take it I think by laying a regular siege to it but the expense in time, men, & money will in my opinion counterbalance any advantages resulting from the possession of it.

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In fact I see but little advantage the enemy have in its possession. 'Tis true it is wounding to the national pride for the enemy to keep it - otherwise it is of but little importance. The enemy command nothing but the bare site of the fort & a mile of [plane?] about it & are dependent for supplies of every kind from the other side. If our army be sufficiently strong to cross & occupy Fort George & Newark the garrison must capitulate in one fortnight or be starved. Their men desert every opportunity. About ten days ago fourteen deserted from a small detachment they sent about a mile to destroy a battery up the river. These deserters say that one half their regiment will desert the first opportunity. It is the 100th Regt. & have been considered the most loyal of any, & in fact were lately sent into the fort on that account to relieve some troops that appeared less loyal.

There is a report here that the enemy's fleet is out. Three of their vessels were said to be seen from mouth of Genesee river a few days ago. Many well informed people, however say that it is impossible for them to be out so early.

I have heard from Dr. M. Parsons since I arrived here
- am informed he is at Erie & is married.

E. Clark has frequently written to me & Col. Macomb & in his last complains of being still unwell. [Query?], where is he? I wish him to join me on this frontier as well as some others of my company who obtained furloughs. Col. Dennis did more mischief at Sackets Harbor last fall in granting furloughs than five recruiting officers could do good in three months.

I wrote you before I left Sackets Harbor & I presume you have recd. the letter ere this.

My respects to all enquiring friends – Mrs. Holmes in particular.

Yours most respectfully Rufus McIntire

[At 90 degrees to the above]

The election in N. Hampshire tho' probably not successfull has proved favorable beyond our expectations. Your speeches in the Mass^{ts} senate are generally read in this part of the country & much admired by every friend to his country. They are spoken of in the highest terms of approbation. We wait anxiously to hear from Mass^{ts} Election.

Rufus McIntire.

Letter of May 9th 1814

Volney, Oswego Falls (12 miles above the Fort) May 9th 1814

Dear Sir,

We have had an action with the enemy at Fort Oswego & been compelled to retreat to this place. The enemy after destroying or taking away what they could find retired next morning. The particulars I will endeavor to give you & you can judge whether we did our duty or not.

Our force consisted of Capt. Boyle's, Romaine's, McIntire's, Pierce's [Text Missing] Arty formerly the 3rd Rgt and Capt. Melvin's 68 of Light Arty

altogether amounting to 342 [men?] well who arrived at the fort 30th Apl after a march of more than 150 miles at the rate of more than 30 miles per day and found the fort in an entire defenseless situation. The fort was once an excellent one & when in repair with its out work was large enough to contain 2000 men & fight [them?] to advantage. The hand of time had destroyed every picket + the escarp could be easily ascended on any part – in some places as easily as through the gate. We found five pieces of artillery in it - three 4 pounders – one six & one nine all very old – three without trunnions & all most miserably mounted & even such carriages as they had [out of repair.?] [Indeed they were all condemned pieces but had been mounted in case of necessity & we- were compelled to use them from the same cause. We immediately set about repairing them, fixing platforms & making cartridges & c & c. The] pieces were attached to Capt Boyle's Co. + three of them placed on a battery in front of the fort and the other two in the bastions of the fort for defence on the land side – all the other companies acted as Infantry. Early in the morning of the 5th [?] we discovered a fleet – soon made it out to be the enemy's consisting of four ships, one brig & two hermaphrodite brigs with gun boats, a bomb catch for throwing shells & rockets and a long string of boats in tow. The wind being light they did not till after noon get up before the fort within a mile or mile & a half where they anchored & the boats being filled with troops rendezvoused along side the commodore's ship & rowed slowly for shore pre-ceeded rapidly by their gun boats when they commenced a cannonading from the boats & ships on our fort and little battery which was shortly returned by Capt Boyle partly from the 9 pounder as the fours would not reach there & the six under the direction of Lt. Legate after a few discharges burst without doing any mischief. Capt. Boyle having several times struck the boats they retired & the wind springing up unfavorable to their operations their troops were taken into their vessels & they ran down the lake with the loss of several boats which were picked up by the citizens - one was taken up by our soldiers sixty feet long rowed 36 oars would carry 100 or 150 men.

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During the night the fleet frequently were seen making signals & one was in sight nearly all night. A deserter assures us that a boat from the village brought a letter & from several circumstances we have no doubt they had some communication from the shore. Col Mitchell not wishing to divide his forces by detaching any to the village side of the river and wishing to deceive the enemy concealed all his force in the fort except Capt Boyle's Co. at the battery and ordered the tents in store to be pitched in rear of the village & a small battery & breast work & by this deception the enemy were evidently embarrassed the first day. On the morning of the

6th we again discovered the fleet bearing up under easy sail & boats full of men in tow. About 200 militia had by this time come in & were shewn near the tents & in the wood [(so as to appear) as numerous as possible] and our troops in the fort were?] marched out in their view & returned secretly so as to be shown twice or thrice but they had now obtained too much information to be deceived. About 10 A.M. they took their position having before that time shown a disposition to land on the village side. We were march out of the fort secretly into the woods & made our appearance at the ferry & crossed over our company. This appeared to them a reinforcement. When they had taken their position which was very judiciously made to rake every part of the fort & the plane & woods adjacent they commenced a most tremendous cannonade from every vessel aimed at first entirely at our little battery of one 9 and one 4 pounder, but were unable to silence it for more than three hours & not then till every cartridge was expended & they had possession of the rear of the fort. Lt. Legate at the 4 pounder would not bring his piece to bear on the nearest ship from the battery & therefore took it out & entirely exposed to their fire – our ship was not much beyond musket shot. At length Col. Mitchell discovered by their movements that their intention was to land about one hundred rods north easterly of the fort on the shore of the lake & ordered us up from the ferry back of the fort into the ditch. This order was promptly obeyed though we had to cross the plane under a continual shower of round 2 grape shot & some shells. We were sent here not particularly to protect the fort & harbor but the public property on this river a principal part of which was at the falls. Col. Mitchell therefore resolved not to shut himself into the fort but to oppose the enemy at landing & fight them as long as possible from the out work but if unable to repel them was resolved to retreat to this place & make another stand. As the enemy approached the shore Col. M. marched out two companies from this ditch & met them on the shore exposed to a tremendous shower of grape from the ship directed at his little band of about 100 men. After firing six or seven rounds he retreated slowly into the ditch followed by the enemy – we poured in the fire so briskly were checked & retired behind some bushes & a ravine where they were partially covered – they then attempted to flank our right which would cut off our retreat had they succeeded but we prevented it by extending our right. A column then advanced to our

[NOTE: at right side of page 2 is the following –]

Write to me at Sacketts Harbor & I can get it by an express

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left along the shore of the lake & got possession of the fort between our left & the battery & we are then obliged to retreat after returning the action 36 minutes at close musket shot.

We were not much over 200 men in the ditch in all for Capt. Boyle's Co. was still at the battery & the guard was still in the fort. To us was opposed 60 of De Wateville's corps 600 marines & 250 sailors with two field pieces - 1450 in all who landed in the first division under Lt Genl Drummond & Sir James Yeo & the sailors under the immediate command of Capt Mulcaster of the navy & second command & said to be a better officer than this commodore. Capt M was shot in the groin & is dead. They had in reserve in boats in a second division at least eight hundred british troops. The officers took tea at a tavern in the village & there acknowledged a [shot while trying to tear down the American Flag over the fort. Two others tried it before him and were instantly shot.] Sir James acknowledged a slight wound in the heel and a ball through his cap. Our loss is 5 killed 28 wounded 3 since dead about 24 prisoners & 11 missing - Lt. Blaney killed & only one other officer slightly wounded. Our men fought most bravely & we could with difficulty get them to retreat & "let us give them one more fire" said they not knowing the enemy were in the fort. It is impossible to describe & do justice to the intrepidity of Col. Mitchell. He was cool and serene tho constantly exposed from the com^t of the commanding to the last & to finish his heroic character, while on the retreat mounted under a shower of shot of every description from the ships the musketry of the troops a poor wounded soldier begged for assistance when he dismounted, put the soldier on his horse & walked coolly in rear of his men. He has been pleased to express his entire approbation of the conduct of all his officers. The enemy spoke in the highest terms of him. The numbers of the enemy I have given is the smallest number stated by their deserters as well as by the citizens of the village who were present. The enemy often plundering the village taking what they could find burnt our platform &c & left the shore that night & the harbor the next morning. They took all our baggage public & private - we could have saved it but were afraid of disheartening our men by removing it choosing rather to sacrifice every thing than have our men prove cowards - my waiter brought off a small trunk containing my paper which is all I saved except what I had on. They left our wounded - all the public property of any value they got was eight pieces of canon intended for our fleet & they were sunk but they found 8 out of 10. I had 72 men in my co. 2 of them being sick - I had 2 killed - 2 sergeants & two privates wounded, three taken prisoners & three missing. Henry Hart son of [Martin?] Hart killed - all my brave fellows from your part of the country safe. It is astonishing our loss was so small considering how much we were exposed. Lt Pierce of the navy with about 20 sailors was with us in the ditch & advanced with Col. M. to the shore & they conducted well. The militia run of at the first fire from the ships diverted

to the village side of the river. Capt. Romaine in vain endeavored to keep to the fight. We shall probably stay here or return to Oswego & remain there a few weeks till the public property be removed to Sacketts H. or elsewhere.

I very lately noticed in a paper the death of Mrs. Brooks. Permit me to sympathize with you & your family for the loss of that amiable Lady. I shall ever remember her attention to me with lively gratitude.

[Envelope on left side of flap]

Give my respects to all friends – tell Mrs. Wentworth that little Ichabod was in the action & did his duty like a brave man.

Yours most respectfully,
Rufus McIntire

John Holmes Esq

[Envelope information and address]

Rufus McIntire
May 9, 1814

S Harbor
May 12th

Hon John Holmes
Counsellor at Law
Alfred York Co
Dis Maine

[Envelope right side of flap]

Our evaluation of their force when we saw them in their boats was nearly correct. We calculated that they had at least 1800 & from the best information we can get they had over that number. Two of their ships are new – they had all the navel force they will have this season – one of their new ships is a double decker & is called the Prince Regent that name being transferred from the brig that formerly bore it – The other ship is called the Princess Charlotte or the Queen Charlotte I know not which. Our large ship at the harbor is launched or will be ready as soon as we can get her guns & rigging through this place [?] a part having [gone?]. She is called the Superior The other two are nearly ready for sea called the Jefferson and the Jones nearly as large as the Madison.

Letter of August 1st 1814

Sacket's Harbor August 1st 1814

Dear Sir,

It is so long since I have heard from Alfred that I will now attempt by a scrawl to provoke you to write me. The Newspapers inform of the public affairs at the eastward but I feel equally anxious to hear of the welfare of my friends & of the incidents which take place among them. The last letter I rec^d from you was written in April for which I am obliged to you but should be more so if it had been longer.

Our fleet sailed this morning with a light breeze – destination unknown. They have six weeks provision on board. It consists of the Superior, Mohawk Pike & Madison, ships; the Sylph, Jones, Jefferson & Oneida brigs; and Lady of the Lake & the Tomkins schooners - the latter is to be used as a bomb ketch or something like that & is manned with Cap^t. Archer's C^o. of Artillery. Cap^t Archer has the direction of the Tomkins. He is a singular man but has proved himself very brave & is a man of talents. He is a little too fond of new projects & speculations & will either do much or nothing. Commodore Chauncey has so far recovered his health as to go in the fleet tho' he is yet low. His ill health has probably delayed the sailing of the fleet some tho' I am not able to ascertain certainly why it has not sailed before – there seems to be some mystery about it & the officers of the navy have some of them spoken freely on the subject. I fear the enemy have been able to send such reinforcements to the head of the lake that Gen^l. Brown will be compelled to leave the Canada shore without effecting the object of his expedition. The delay

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in the sailing of our fleet must disappoint Gen^l. Brown and I think destroy his calculations of success. We have got information of his late battle wherein Gen^l. Brown & Scott were both severely wounded & you will no doubt get the particulars before this reaches you. The British General Neal is our prisoner together with about twenty other officers & nearly 300 prisoners and the enemy's artillery. It appears the battle lasted about six hours when the enemy were driven at all points. It appears Gen^l. Brown was retreating & the enemy by a circuitous movement were attempting to get

in his rear but were disappointed & defeated with great loss. Gen^l. Brown rec'd two balls in his thigh but remained on his horse till his army were quietly encamped. Gen^l. Gaines on the rec^t. of the news by express left this post for Brown's army where he will command till the recovery of Gen^l. Brown which will be shortly as the wound a flesh one only. The battle was fought between Queenstown & Chippeway – I presume this & the battle at Chipeway were the most regular & best fought battles we have had this war & has furnished a fine specimen of great improvements this season. Gen^l. Brown is a very industrious officer but I consider Gen^l. Scott as the life & soul of that army Cap^t. Jones of the Art^y. & assistant Adjutant Gen^l. to that wing of the army I presume has contributed much to their [police?], discipline &c. Gen^l. Brown knows how to profit by the services of those intelligent men who know how to fight. Should the fleet sail to the head of the lake which is probable, Sacket's Harbor will be much exposed – We have but few regular troops here having nearly all gone to Niagara & Plattsburgh. About 12 or 1500 militia are ordered in & have partly arrived. Gen^l. Martin commands them & the post. Col. Mitchell commands the regulars consisting of his battalion of Artillery & some dismounted Dragoons. Our batteries, redoubts &c. are however in good order & if properly supported by Infantry will be able to resist a very large force. If the Militia fight (which will be the first time in this quarter) we can repel any force the enemy can bring against us at present. Kingston is drained of troops & Gen^l. Drummond has

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gone up the lake to oppose Gen^l. Brown. Could our fleet take on board Gen^l. Brown & army & transport it to Kingston that important post would inevitably fall together with the fleet but I fear the fleet will be too late. There is no probability of our fleet's meeting the enemy's. Sir James will no doubt remain snug in Kingston till his new ship is ready which will be in about two months & will carry 102 guns. A few days since a letter bag from Kingston for England was intercepted on the S^t. Lawrence which gave us very particular information of every thing there. The Officers & [Carpenters?] in their letters to their friends deprecate the service in Canada & complain much of sickness & poor living &c &c.

The troops at this post are unusually healthy & I understand Gen^l. Brown's army are so also. The season has been very fine for health &c - rather cool & dry and but little fluctuation in the temperature.

I observe by the papers that Eastport is taken & our whole coast threatened by a predatory war. I think that the

enemy will not attempt to penetrate the country with 18 or even 30 thousand men but will endeavor to destroy the seaports & shipping. It appears to me that the enemy are determined to pursue this course rather than to make peace & have our shipping rival theirs in commerce. A jealousy of us as rivals in commerce has no doubt been the cause of all this depredations & claims upon us & the same jealousy I fear will prevent their making peace at this favorable crisis of their affairs in Europe & yet our peace party are rejoicing at that very crisis!! I hope these admirers & faithful servants of the magnanimous crowned heads of Europe will share the fate of the Cortes of Spain who have been exhausting the treasure & spilling the blood of Spain- not for their liberties but for the interests of their loving master Ferdinand who is now severely chastising them for their fidelity. A wholesome lesson to these servile lovers of contemptible tyrants. It would be a happy circumstance

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for our country if our admirers of royal pageantry & rightful Sovereigns can be convinced that magnanimous princes can be ungrateful as well as Republics – Excuse these crude ideas – I was insensibly led to put them on this sheet. Please to write me & give me your opinion of the prospects of peace as well of the affairs about you. Give my respects to M^{rs}. Holmes and all friends.

Yours respectfully
Rufus McIntire

[At 90 degrees to above text]

Rufus McIntire
August 1st 1814
S Harbor August 1st *[different hand?]*

Hon^{ble}. John Holmes
Counsellor at Law
Alfred (York Co.)
Dis. Maine

[At 90 degrees to above address]

PS. The information I gave reporting Mr. Parsons marriage was not correct – my informant mistook D^r. Parsons for another Dr. at the same post who was married there. Parsons is highly spoken of by officers who are acquainted with him.

Letter of September 21st 1814

Fort Virginia, Sacket's Harbor, Sep^t 21st 1814

Dear Sir ,

Having long deferred writing to you in hopes of first receiving a line from you but now despairing of that I will endeavor to extort something from you in your leisure moments. You will have heard all the news in [this quarter] from the public prints ere this re[aches?] you except perhaps what has transpired in this vicinity. Our fleet sails this day having on board Gen^l. Izard & army – destination probably the head of the lake or perhaps Genesee River to re-inforce Gen^l. Brown. The light Art^y marched yesterday by land for the Niagara frontier & the Dragoons (dismounted) this day for the same place. I know no the plan of operation, whether simply to join G. Brown or to attack the enemy in rear between Fort George & Burlington. I think the former because they are not provided with Artillery to act alone. The bad weather delayed the movement two or three days & it still continues to rain. We have had an incessant rain & storm for a week past which has made the roads extremely bad & I fear will delay & injure the final results of the campaign. The enemy are said to be drawing their troops from Little York &c. down to Kingston. Whether this be precautionary in anticipation of an attack from Gen^l. Izard or with intent to attack this post is uncertain – probably both. Most of the officers here strongly expect an attack & we are preparing as tho' we were certain of it. Whether they will defer an attack till their

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new ship (which will mount over one hundred guns) be ready or whether they will come as soon as they hear of the absence of our fleet is uncertain. I am of opinion that, at the season of the year when the

weather is so unsteady, they will not venture out without their line of battle ship especially as she will be ready by the first of October or by the 4 or 5th at farthest. Our fleet will soon return I am not certain but Com. Chancey will engage the enemy notwithstanding the [great?] disparity of force. Col. Mitchell [] forces []

Heard of the Militia has arrived this evening & will probably take command of the post. The regular force consists of the a battalion of Art^y – a battalion of the 13th Inf^y. & small battalions of the 45th Inf^y. in the whole probably about 10 or 1200. The number of militia I do not know but suppose about as many more – some are volunteers & some the detached militia. We have been constantly on fatigue this summer in throwing up a chain of redoubts around this place & have dignified them with the name of forts. We shall commence tomorrow to entrench the spaces between these works & in a few days the whole place will be completely surrounded with, at least, some show of defence. I do not know what dependence can be placed on the militia but believe they can be made to fight when hemmed in & covered behind pickets &c. At any rate let the enemy come in what force he may he will certainly pay dear for what he gets here. I have not however much confidence in our works & think them radically defective, they being too scattered for the force we have – were they more concentrated or indeed only one regular fort with the same number of guns & men it could be defended against twice the force that it can at present. The mail which was lately intercepted between Kingston & Niagara contained an order of Sir G. Provost to Gen^l. Drummond to destroy this place, by siege if necessary, as soon as their fleet could get out or before

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if practicable. What alteration may take place in their plan of operations in consequence of McDonneagh victory & the defeat of their army before Plattsburgh is uncertain. They have met with another check before Erie which we have just heard of. Gen^l. Brown writes that the enemy had two batteries near him & troubled him much with their shells as much that he was out of patience & was determined to sally out & destroy [them?]. This he effected

[?] to his [?] having destroyed all their batterys [blown up all their?] magazines, killed & [wounded?] 400 & took 400 prisoners among them [?]2 officers. His own loss great in officers but trifling in men. Gen^l. Ripley mortally wounded. Col^s. Gibson & Wood killed - valuable officers. Gen^l. Brown has 3000 militia who have crossed over to Erie – a part of them were in the late sally & did well. Gen^l. Porter was wounded. We have also heard of the repulse of the enemy near Baltimore. We rejoice to hear that the militia begin to do their duty and are sorry that those at Hamden disgraced the District of Maine – hope if they attempt Portland or Portsmouth that the militia will retrieve their character.

How does Gov^r. Strong like to be relieved from the burden of governing a part of his territories? I am glad to find that some of his constitutional scruples are worn away & that he really believes there is some danger near. The fate of Alexandria has I hope destroyed the delusive expectations that the British Army would discriminate between their friends & foes among our citizens. Whatever inveteracy the enemy may show towards any political party in this country they are too well versed in the knowledge of human nature to place any confidence in or shew any favors to men or parties of men who they cannot consider any better than traitors to their own country – Traitors who have resolution sufficiently only to declare the wishes & purposes of their hearts but dare not attempt to put them in execution. The incendiary mode of warfare which our pious, honorable & magnanimous

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enemy have adopted on the sea board I hope will be of incalculable benefit to the nation. It will touch our admirers of the forbearing, humane, generous British that their fatal delusion has cost this country dear and that it is not only as patriotic but quite as correct to believe our own rulers, the men of our choice, have as much honesty, humanity & good faith as Gov^r. Strong's boasted bulwark of religion. The manner which the enemy make war on the shores of the Chesapeake would almost justify us on our part to make it a war of extermination – to sacrifice every man who dares put his foot on our soil. But let it suffice that it will create a national

hatred or at least destroy a too great national partiality which
has unhappily too [much &] too long prevailed. Yours &c
Rufus McIntire

Hon^{ble}. John Holmes
Counsellor at Law
Alfred (York Co.)/ Dis. Maine

[At 90 degrees to above address]

Give my respects to neighbors & friends especially to Esqr
Laywards' & M^r Goodwin's families. M^{rs} Holmes is ever
entitled most respectfully to my recollection. Bradford
I suppose is now almost a man & Charles with his fine
open countenance begins to look like a young soldier.
Sarah Ann must not be forgotten & I fear Hannah is not
so pretty as she used to be. I could make many
enquiries respecting many neighbors & should like to hear from
them all. I earnestly hope that you will not fail to write
me. Yours most respectfully Rufus McIntire

Hon^{ble}. John Holmes

Letter of December 14th 1814

Sackett's Harbor, Dec^r 14th 1814

Dear Sir,

Yours dated in Nov^r. came to hand the 2nd instant – am very grateful for your friendly
letter – I feared I was forgotten by my old
friends as I had not rec^d any communication
from them for a long time – perhaps my
own negligence in writing accounts for
the long silence of my friends.

The public papers give us a general sketch
of the state of affairs in Mass. but I feel
extremely anxious to know a thousand particulars
of "men and things" which I cannot at this
distance of place. I feel much inclined
to visit home this winter to learn these par-
ticulars as well as to see my connexions and
friends. Is it possible that the leaders of a
certain party in N. England will cap the cli-
max of their folly by open resistance to the
Gov^t. of the U. States? Or will they attempt

the more peaceable but not less wicked measure to negotiate a neutrality or separate peace with the enemy? After what they have done I should not be surprized at any piece of folly or villany they may attempt. I believe they have done all the mischief they possible could in this blustering but peaceful course and have the disposition to do much more if they dare. Gentlemen who live out of N. England are sometimes apprehensive of domestic difficulties from the strange proceedings of the two last legislatures of Mass. & express much indignation at their conduct. They consider Your exertions to have greatly checked the violence of those proceedings. Indeed many with whom I have conversed consider your continual presence

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presence at that post of danger to be necessary to the public tranquility and however they may wish for the benefit of your talents in Congress yet they think that the power of your eloquence is more usefully & effectually employed in opposing & suppressing treason in the Mass. legislature. Think not, sir, that I am attempting to flatter you - there is no need of it and if there was, my inclination is less than ever to flatter any-body and you know I was never much inclined to be a sycophant.

The season is so far advanced [that all?] idea of an attack on this post has for sometime entirely subsided. The enemy may come when the ice bridges over the S^t Lawrence but it is not at all probable as they will not be able in the winter to lay siege to the place if an assault fails which would be almost certain. It is understood to be the determination of the enemy to attack & if necessary besiege the place early next spring. If he persists in his purpose of carrying on offensive operations the next campaign will probably commence here - We shall be prepared to meet them with the heroes of Chippeway, Bridgewater & Erie & some other as good troops as any in the service. A British Lieutenant of the navy has lately deserted & is now here on board the fleet & solicits employ in our service. He commanded

the Schooner which our squadron drove on shore last summer at the head of the lake. He says that for that act of destroying the Schooner he was unjustly reprimanded by Sir James Yeo which his "English spirit could not brook". If he is not a spy (& it not probable that he is) it is more likely that he has been cashiered for that or some other conduct.

Nothing for certainty is yet known respecting an increase of our naval force on this Lake. The

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The only fact that has transpired worthy of notice is that the Agent of the Contractor for building public ships here has for ten days past been extremely active in making contracts for very large quantities of ship-timber to be delivered as soon as possible. This gives rise to numerous reports & conjectures as to the kind of ships to be built but nothing else is known & you can draw as correct conclusions as any other person at present. I don't

[Text Missing]

[?] what additional force to build nor will they till they consult Commodore Chauncey who left here about the 1st Dec^r suddenly & in haste for N. York or elsewhere – this is conjecture of my own. My opinion is against this war of ship-building on this lake for it is now certain that the enemy will not meet us without an undoubted superiority & will remain secure in port when equal or inferior. We cannot therefore ever bring the thing to issue unless one party or the other gets strong enough to destroy the depot at Kingston or S.H. & thus destroy the fleet or drive them out.

I should have answered your letter before but have been absent about ten days in the country for the benefit of my health which has been thereby fully restored. I have been unwell for several weeks & the physicians recommended exercise & the air inland from the lake. An invalid could not take much exercise at the Harbor for the most rainy season ever known, a

clay soil & constant passing made the whole village & vicinity a continued mire almost impassable for a horse. The cold has now made it hard & a few inches of snow has made the ways tolerably smooth. The bay was a few days

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days since partly frozen but is again open.

I rec^d a letter sometime since from M^r Goodwin & neglected to answer it so long that I did not know where to direct one as he then expected to go home ere this. If at home tell him to let me know & I will write to him. Give my respects to M^{rs} Goodwin & the M^r. Haywards & all other friends. M^{rs} Holmes is ever entitled to my grateful remembrance & respect. Tell all the children & Hannah in particular that I still remember them as they were when I left Alfred & expect to be surprized at their alteration in size when I next see them. I need not assure you of a continuance of my gratefull esteem & respect

Rufus McIntire

Hon. J. Holmes

[at 90 degrees to above]

Hon^{ble}. John Holmes
Counsellor at Law
Alfred, York C^o.
Dis. Maine

[at 90 degrees to above address]

PS I have transmitted to my Brother my accounts for pay to the amount of about 200 dolls & directed him if he could get them paid in money acceptable to you to pay you over at least 100 dolls. I sent my accounts because I know that N. York bills in which I could have been paid here were at a great discount in Mass. & I have since learned that the Pay Masters at the Eastward pay in treasury notes only which are still lower in the market than N. York bills – I fear some delay in having those amounts converted into money. Yours. R.M.

Letter of January 1st 1815

Cantonment, Plattsburgh N. York
halfpast twelve on Sunday morning Jan^y 1, 1815

[Dear Mister?]Holmes

The revolving wheels of Time having rolled us on to [another?] year – I thus early bid you and your family an [Text Missing] May it be fraught with health, peace and a full fruition of all earthly enjoyments. In a short note penned to you on Christmas day, I [promis?]ed a sketch of our Cantonment which is annexed – ow- [ing to?] some official duties. I have not been able more early to [comply?] and owing to the hurry I know it to be very incorrect in [some particu?]lars. The Cantonment is perfectly correct so far as it [goes, hav?]ing omitted many buildings in the rear. The forms [Text Missing] but fort Moreau is not rightly located, [Text Missing] to the west , so as to command the open [space?] between the barracks. The forts are surrounded by deep [ditches?] and pickets – within the ditch. The bastions at the angles, [give a?] powerful command of the Ditch which is protected [by aba?][ttis?] and like obstructions. To carry the works by escalade [it would?] [req?]uire ladders of twenty feet in length, and should the [enemy?] attempt it they must suffer an irreparable loss. [Ma?]ny improvements might have been made to the [Canton?]ment, but all in all, it will answer good purposes. [The?] Houses , the General Hospital, and Artificers' shops [ought?] to have been within the chains of pickets; being suf- [ficient?] ground for those purposes unappropriated. A large [quantity?] of wood is ordered to be supplied , lest the enemy [besi?]ging us, should freeze, rather than starve us to [surren?]der. With a few more Troops, which are soon [to arrive?] so as to man our chains of Pickets – we may [d?]efy Johny Bull. It is said Gen^l. Macomb will [be?] absent, as suggested in my other scrawl, lest of [Text Missing] he expects.

[Written at 90 degrees to the above]

This exhibits an imperfect idea of the River Bay, and Village, some houses on this side of the River near Platt's Point were burnt, lying in range from our Forts to the British batteries; and the Court House, Jail and some of the nicest houses on the other side of the river were also burnt, behind which the enemy threw up batteries. Should the enemy attempt to shelter themselves in the village we can soon foil them, as most every building is within range of red hot Shot from our forts. I have given the range of our fleet, though not posted sufficiently near the western shore. It was judiciously posted within Cumberland Head so far from the main

Channel between that Head and Grand Isle on the east, as to be out of range of the enemies' long Guns. This arrangement compelled the Enemy to come within the Head to begin the conflict, which gave equal effect to our carronades with long Guns. Crab Island is half a mile to the South of our line. McDonough knew the enemy must have a north wind to come [up?] the La[ke?] and if they were disposed to fight him on equal footing they must haul [to in the?] wind [after?] clearing Cumberland [He?]ad, and range up in line with him. This was [done?] This posi[tion?] offered the enemy the temptation to cut off the right of our line, which if [at-] tempted Macdonough was [prepared?] to take a new alignment and thereby place hi[mself?] to the [west?]ward which would h[ave?] enabled him to choose his own distance to fight the[m?][Text Missing]

March 4th 1815

Sackett's Harbor March 4th, 1815

Dear Sir,

Peace with all her smiling train, having once more taken her abode in the land of freedom, & my Country seeming no longer to require my feeble services in the tented field, I fondly anticipate the pleasure of soon visiting my connexions & friends & participating with them in all the enjoyments of social life. The time has arrived when I can again indulge in seeking a provision for myself. At this critical moment of commencing a new race, I feel a pleasure in having a Friend whose advice I am free to ask & who is so able &, I flatter myself, willing to advise me. The army will probably in a month or two be disposed of when I shall be at liberty to look out for a stand & at my age you know it will be necessary to do it immediately - but the great question is where? -- I have it in contemplation to visit the western country as far as the Indiana or Illinois Territories & satisfy myself of the prospects there before I return to Maine. What

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think you of such a project? Is the prospect in the D. Maine sufficiently encouraging as ought to destroy all thoughts in me of migrating into the western woods? Please to favor me with your ideas &

advice on this subject. I have an idea that, at present, law business in Maine must be small & lawyers plenty in general, tho' perhaps some particular openings may offer where a beginner might with advantage commence. Do you know of any such? I do not know what changes may have taken place in the County of York but suppose no prospect in any place there. I know of no place nearer than Kennebunk where there can be much prospect & not there except in new Towns that in course of time may afford business.

Nothing new here except what comes in the public papers of which you are first informed. The ships building here will not be finished - the carpenters are mostly gone home. The ships are planked up to the ports of the upper deck & calked nearly to the lower ports - They would have been ready to launch before April - One of them has more keel than any ship ever launched! The frame of another is completely ready & would have been set on the same ways & launched in thirty days after the others. The ordinance, stores & rigging would all have been

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here by the 1st of April. The enemy were also making great exertions but I think we should have had the superiority by June next had the war continued.

The Comd^e Officer at Kingston had not yet rec^d official information from his own government of the peace and consequently would not admit our flag officers into the Town when they carried the treaty &c. In strictness of military etiquette this was correct tho' perhaps the occasion might have justified a little more liberality had they felt much cordiality on the event. Their officers who rec^d. the flag treated us with extreme politeness tho' they were evidently chagrined at the termination of their famous N. Orleans expedition. They made but few enquiries respecting the affair, seemed sore on the subject, and the treaty coming immediately after, looked like their rec^e. the last blow.

Soldiers enlisted to [serve?] during war will be soon discharged but not till they are paid - Those

on this station can then return home with nearly 100 dolls. (dollars) in their pockets.

How do the Hartford conventionalists feel now? At a distance they look rather foolish.

Give my respects to Mrs. Holmes -- neighbors & friends are not forgotten. Where is Mr. Goodwin? I remember all the children as they were particularly my little favorite Hannah. Two years, however, may have effected much alteration in their appearance.

Yours respectfully Rufus McIntire