(1.)

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 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 & 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 probable 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 & 4 hundred strong and are called as fine recruits as ever marched through this section of the country.

Inclosed are sixteen dollars ~~[illegible]~~ from John Wentworth $3,60 to same from Ezra Hackell $5,20 from Nahum Walker to S. Pilsbee & Co. & $5. from do to Simeon Hamilton = 2,29 + 3,60 + 5,20 + 5 = $16,09

I also conclude to inclose eleven dollars more from Clement S. York to his Brother Nicholas York Jnt 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 Godwin & was sorry to learn thereby that Bradford was sick though I had the same time the satisfaction to know that he was

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on the recovery. I presume on this he is well. Permit me, Sir, to confess that I hold in grateful remembrance the numerous & innumerable kindnesses I have received from you & family & hope I shall never forget them. My affections 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

Rufus Martin

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Rupus Mc Intires
May 12th 1812

Sundy - May 12

4

John Holmes Esqr

Counsellor at Law

Alfred York Co

District Main

From the digital collections of the New York State Library.

Sackett's Harbor July 5th 1813

(2)

Dear Sir,

Inclosed is my deposition agreable 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 ~~except~~ than you see in the public papers. We are disciplining our troops as fast as possible - Gen'l. Lewis has lately arrived & now commands here. The rigging of the Gen. Pike goes on rapidly - she will soon be ready to sail, still 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 hazzards.

ight proved so dark they could not find the way

fore light and they therefore landed on a point of land

at the mouth of harbor called point peninsula about

12 ~~[illegible]~~ 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 Gen'l. 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 as I suppose 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 attack 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 [illegible] 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 & 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 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 leagues; this is true, but in all that time he did not get half a mile. The militia were stationed near [illegible] they landed and all fled as soon as the enemy were ashore [illegible] would except a few under Capt. M. Nitt. Gen. Brown says one hundred, but Genl. 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 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. 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 their 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 manned 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, then woods partly cleared, then 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 mark 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 order 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. Putnam

P.S. I & 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

From the digital collections of the New York State Library.

Rufus McIntire
July 5th 1813

S. Harbour July 6.

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John Holmes Esqre
Counsellor at Law
Alfred, York County
D. Maine

From the digital collections of the New York State Library.

(3)

Sackets Harbor Sept. 11th 1813

Dear Sir,

Your of the 26th August reached 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. Wilkerson as necessarily connected with the operations of the army tho' the particular movements of the army will probably ~~necessarily~~ 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. Genl Wilkerson has gone to the Niagara frontier - The Secretary of War is here - Genl 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. Wilkerson 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

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(3)

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 Adjt 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 piquated 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 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 diarhea 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 & the most of those 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 W. 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 Thos. Brogdon has sued Mr. Johnson - he did very wrong - it was my fault that the writ ~~was~~ not returned - I sent it by mail

From the digital collections of the New York State Library.

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 brothers & 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 of Bragdon I settled with you a charge you had against him you can by 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 Sackets Harbor & that Gen. Brown was promoted from a Brig. Genl in the militia to a Brigr Genl 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 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 P.M.) — I was interrupted when I had written the above The cannonading continued one hour & a half very heavy [illegible] 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 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. Haskels father & some others.

I have mentioned to I. Pinkwatt 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 Wm Holmes & children. I hope Mr Goodwin's family, Mr Hayward's family & all the neighbors are all. Yours most Respectfully
Reuben H. Gaston
John Holmes Esqr

If the enemy had been successful ~~we should have supposed that we~~ we should ere this have heard a Royal Salute from Kingston as on other like occasions. It is not improbable that our fleet would proceed up the lake after their success 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 McIlhe

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

Rufus McIlhe
11 Sept 1813

P.S. Sept 14th We have waited in vain for certain information from the fleet in the lake. It is reported believed here that our fleet has been seen passing up the lake since the action & were thirteen sail and among them three ships. If this be true we have captured a part of the enemy's Squadron. Reports from other sources says 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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(4)

Basin Harbor, Grenadier Island Actr. 23rd 1813

Dear Sir

I recd. yours last evening & having an opportunity of sending to the Sacket's Harbor I enclose you a chart 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 & Sacket's Harbor — a most beautiful spot by nature. Many of our boats are stove on the shore between here & Sacket's 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 Lt. — my first Lt. Farley on the hour of embarkation transferred to Capt Brooks who has pieces of Artt attached to his company — my 2nd Lt. Gray appointed Quarter Master — & my 3rd Lt. Lebbeus Curtis now with me — he (Curtis) says he is acquainted with Mr. Holmes having formerly lived with Mr. Kent. He has lately been

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

In great haste yours

Rufus McIntire

John Holmes Esq.

From the digital collections of the New York State Library.

Prefers McIntire L

23 Oct 1813

Hurtar Oct 25

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Hon. John Holmes Esqr

Counsellor at Law

Alfred

York County D. Maine

From the digital collections of the New York State Library.

Camp, French Mills Decr 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 dominions 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 faild? Why was not Kingston & Prescott first reduced? Why did not Genl 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 ~~at~~ ~~a~~ 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 Genl Wilkerson. I believe the old maxim had better been adhered to (not to leave a strong fort in the rear unreduced). Bonaparte tis true disregards this maxim but Bonaparte moves with such rapidity that an enemy in the rear can do him no injury — we are not habituated to such movements. That of the failure of the expedition I think may fairly be attributed to the delay [illegible] into the St Lawrence [illegible] causes of what no [illegible]

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. & 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

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. One ball only touched us & that killed & wounded 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 Major Herkimer about as strong; a detachment of the 20th Regt. Infy and Richmond Volunteers under Col. Randolph about as strong: and five companies of the 3rd Regt of Artly about 250 or 300 strong under the brave Col. Scott of the 2d Regt 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 Canada shore about a mile above a battery which was situated on a 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 [illegible] (Nov. 9) our army came down & ferried over the Light [illegible] Light [illegible] (Nov. 10th) our piquets 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 & Genl. Porter's Brigade the whole under Genl. Brown were then ordered to march down towards Cornwall & we started off immediately. We that day reached the plain 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 Genl. 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 have cut off a few hundred of them — The front company however killed one indian & 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 horse back 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. Genls Boyd & Covington were ordered up with a part of their brigades to dislodge them from their fort — this they effected the enemy retreated & threw themselves into a ravine & there made a stand. The enemy then having the advantage [illegible] but the enemy done not follow them — [illegible] 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 to Montreal as the enemy in superior force to us was waiting for us at Coté de Lac while ~~we had~~ 2000 men were harrassing us in rear.

The appearance of this sheet warns me to finish — more hereafter — write me soon — yours sincerely

Rufus W. Intire

John Holmes Esqr.

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

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

Supm Mchmn
Dec 8. 1813

1 Dec

I should have written before but have been very busy in building huts &c.

John Hanson is here & in health — He is now ordered a very decent office. 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

(6)

Rome (Oneida Co. State of N. York) March 17th 1814

Dear Sir,

I wrote you from Sacketts 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 detachment six companies of the 3d Regt Artly - one of the 2nd Regt Artly & one of Light Artly averaging about eighty men to a company all in fine health & under the command of Lt Col Mitchell - a Battalion of the 11th Regt Infty under Lt Col Bedell marched hence yesterday on the same destination. Col Ripley with the 21st Regt Infty marches hence today & the 9th Regt Infty are expected here today & will follow ~~us~~ one day after us. Genl Brown left here yesterday & will command us. Col Scott (probably ~~on~~ this a Brig. Genl) 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 performs with ease. This 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 ~~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

Rufus McIntire

Hon. John Holmes

From the digital collections of the New York State Library.

Rufus McIntire's
17 March 1814

Rom
Month 18

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Hon.ble John Holmes

Counsellor at Law

Alfred (York Co. Dis. Main

From the digital collections of the New York State Library.

(7)

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 and 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 Regt Infy have marched towards Lewistown & the rest of the Infy that left Sacketts Harbor consisting of the 9th 21st & battalion of the 11th have gone to Williamsville. Williamsville is on the road home to Buffaloe & 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 done untill 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

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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 ~~it~~ the troops under him were selected by him at Sackett's Harbor. all yankee regiments except one which was raised in N. England & the middle states. Two companies of the 2nd Rgt Artly & one of the Light Artly are attached to ours. Genl. Brown who has been promoted over so many Brigadier Genls & who so must possess the confidence of the government feels the importance of doing something & he has great confidence in the troops under his command. Brigd. 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 expence in time, men, & money will in my opinion counterbalance any advantages resulting from the possession of it

In fact I see but little advantage the enemy have in ~~its~~ possession ~~of it~~ '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 dependant 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 out 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 the mouth of Genese river a few days ago — Many well informed people, however, say ~~that~~ it is impossible for them be out so early ~~etc~~

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. Quere, 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 Sacket's Harbor last fall in granting furloughs than five recruiting officers could do good in three months —

I wrote you before I left Sacket's Harbor & I presume you have recd. the letter ere this.

My respects to all enquiring friends — Mr. Holmes in particular. Yours most respectfully Prefuse Mr. Intire

Hen. J. Holmes

The election in N. Hampshire tho' probably not successfull has proved favorable beyond our expectation. Your speeches in the Massts. Senate are generally read in this part of the country & ~~[illegible]~~ much admired by every friend to his country. They are spoken of in the highest terms of approbation. We waiting anxiously to hear from the Massts. election.

From the digital collections of the New York State Library.

Rufus McIntire
April 13. 1814

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Batavia N.Y.
April 13th

Hon-ble John Holmes

Alfred, York Co
Dis. Maine

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(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 & have been compelled to retreat to this place. The enemy after destroying or taking away what they could find retired last morning. The particulars I will endeavor to give you that you can judge whether we did our duty or not.

Our force consisted of Capt Boyle's, Romayne's, McIntire's, Pierce's [illegible] (late) formerly the 3d Regt [illegible] Capt Malvin's Co of light Artly [illegible] well [illegible] at the fort on the 4th inst. together amounting to 342 [illegible] after a march of more than 150 miles at the rate of more than 30 miles per day and found the fort in our entire defenceless situation. The fort was once an excellent one when in repair with its outworks. It was large enough to contain 2000 men & fight them to advantage. The land of time had destroyed every picket & the escarp could be easily ascended at 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 lieu of necessity & we were compelled to use them for the same cause. We immediately set about repairing them & fixing fell forms & mounting cartridges &c &c. The pieces were attached to Capt Boyle's Co & three of them placed on 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 catch for throwing shells & rockets and a long string of boats in tow. The wind being light they did not fall until afternoon 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 preceeded rapidly by their gun boats when they commenced a cannonading from the boats & ships on our fort & little battery which was spiritly returned by Capt Boyle mostly from the 9 pounds as the fours would not reach there & the six under the direction of Lt Gate after a few discharges burst & thus ending our mischief. Capt Boyle having several times struck the boats they retreated & 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 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 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 [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the fort [illegible] marched out in their view & returned secretly so as to be shewn 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 one 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 & 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 in the 4 pounder could not bring his piece to bear on the nearest ship from the battery & therefore took it out & was entirely exposed to their fire — one 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 properly obeyed though we had to cross the plane 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 this river a principal part of which was at the falls. Col. Mitchell therefore resolved not to shut himself into the fort but to ~~defend the~~ oppose the enemy at landing — fight them as long as possible from the outworks 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 the ditch & met them on the shore exposed to a tremendous shower of grape from the ships 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 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 Sackets Harbor & I can get it by our expresses

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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 sustaining the action 36 minutes at close musket shot.

We were ~~not over~~ 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 Watervilla'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 in command & said to be a better officer than the 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 [illegible] & 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 fort. It is impossible to describe & do justice to the intrepidity of Col. Mitchell. He was cool & serene tho' constantly exposed from the comt. of the cannonading 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, ~~he said~~ a poor wounded soldier begged for assistance when he dismounted, put the soldier on his horse & walked cooly in near 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 plunding the village taking what they could find burnt our platform & 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 papers 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 cannon 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 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 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 ran off at the first fire from the ships ~~towards them~~ directed to the village side of the river. Capt. Romayne 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 Sacket H. or elsewhere.

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

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Our calculation 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, their had over that number. Two of their ships are new - they had all the naval force they will have this season - one of the new ships is a double decker & is called the Prince Regent that name being transferred from their 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 & will be ready as soon as we can get her guns & rigging through this claim a port having gone. She is called the Superior. The other two are nearly ready for sea called the Jefferson & the Jones nearly as large as the Madison

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Honble John Holmes
Counsellor at Law
Alfred York Co
Dr Maine

Sheriff
May 12th

Rufus McIntire
May 9, 1814

John Holmes Esqr.

Rufus McIntire

Yours most respectfully

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

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(9)

Sackets 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 Tompkins schooners - the latter is to be used as a bomb ketch or something like that & is manned with Capt. Archer's Co. of Artillery. Capt Archer has the direction of the Tompkins. 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 mucl 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

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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 Real 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 had two balls in his thigh but remained on his horse till his army were quietly encamped. Genl Gaines on the rest of the news by express left this post for Browns army where he will command till the recovery of Genl Brown which will be shortly as the wound is flesh only. The battle was fought between Queenstown & Chippewa. I presume this & the battle at Chippewa 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 industrious officer but I consider Genl Scott as the life & soul of that army. Capt Jones of the Artly & assistant 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, Sackets 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 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 & Genl Drummond has

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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's. Sir James will no doubt remain snug in Kingston till this new ship is ready which will be in about two months & will carry 102 guns. A few days since a little bag from Kingston for England was intercepted on the St. 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.

The troops at this post are unusually healthy & I understand Genl. Browns 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 sea ports & shipping. It appears to me that the enemy are determined to pursue their course rather than to make peace & have our shipping rivals & their in commerce. A jealousy of us as rivals in commerce has no doubt been the cause of all this depredation & 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 ~~base~~ 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 interest 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 for

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for our country if our admirers 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 insensibly 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 Mrs Holmes and all friends

Yours respectfully
Rufus McIntire

Rufus McIntire
August 1. 1814

S. Harbor August 1st

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Hon.ble John Holmes
Counsellor at Law

Alfred (York Co.)
Dis. Maine

P.S. The information I gave respecting W. Parsons marriage was not correct — my informant mistook Dr Parsons for another Dr at the same post who was married there. Parsons is highly spoken of by officers who are acquainted with him.

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(10)

Fort Virginia, Sackets Harbor, Sept 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 [illegible] from the public prints are this re[illegible] you except perhaps what has transpired [illegible] this vicinity. Our fleet sailed this day having on board Genl Izard & army - destination probably the head of the lake or perhaps Genesse River to re-inforce Genl Brown. The light Artly marched yesterday by land for the Niagara frontier & the Dragoons (dismounted) this day for the same place. I know not the plan of operations, 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 result 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 Genl Izard 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

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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 this season of the year when the weather is so unsteady, they will not venture out ~~till~~ 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. Chauncey will engage the enemy ~~[illegible]~~ notwithstanding the [illegible] at disparity of force. Col. [illegible] Heard of the Militia has arrived this evening & will probably take command of the post. The regular force consists of the battalion of Artz - a battalion of the 13th Infy & small battalion of the 45th 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 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 ~~[illegible]~~ - were they more concentrated or indeed only one regular fort with the same number of guns & men ~~[illegible]~~ could be defended against twice the ~~number~~ force that it can at present. The mail which was lately intercepted between Kingston & Niagara contained an order from Sir G. Provost to Genl. Drummond to destroy this place, by siege if necessary, as soon as their fleet could get out or before

From the digital collections of the New York State Library.

if practicable. What alteration may take place in their plan of operations in consequence of Mr Donneaugh 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 [illegible]. This he effected [illegible] having destroyed all their batteries [illegible] magazines, killed & [illegible]nded 400 & took 400 prisoners among them [illegible]2 officers. His own loss great in officers but trifling in men. Genl. Ripley mortally wounded. Colr. 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 Baltimore. We rejoice to hear that Militia begin to do their duty & are sorry that those at Hamden [illegible] =graced the District of Maine - hope if [illegible] attempt Portland or Portsmouth that the Militia will retrieve their character.

How does Govr. 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 their is some danger near. The fate of Alexandria has I hope destroyed the delusive expectation that the British Army would discrimi=nate 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 [illegible] 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

enemy have adopted on the seaboard I hope will be of in-
-calculable 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 Govr. Strong's boasted bulwark of religion. The
Manner which the enemy make war on the shores of the Chesa-
-peake 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 m[illegible] too long prevailed. Yours &c
Rufus McIntire

Rufus McIntire
22 Sept 1814

Hon.ble John Holmes
Counsellor at Law
Alfred, York Co. D. Maine

Rec'd Oct 22

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Give my respect to neighbors & friends especially to Esqr
Laywards & McGoodwins families. Mrs Holmes is ever
entitled ~~to my~~ most respectfully to my recollection. Brad Fa
Dunphin is now almost a man & Charles with his fine
open countenance begins to look like a young dolder.
Sarah Ann must not be forgotten & I fear Hannah is not
so pretty as she was to be. I would make many
enquiries respecting many neighbors & should like to hear from
them all. I earnestly hope you will not fail to write
me. Yours most respectfully Rufus McIntire

Hon.ble John Holmes

From the digital collections of the New York State Library.

(11)

Sacketts Harbor Dec. 14th 1814

Dear Sir,

Your dated in Nov. came to hand the 2d 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.

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(11)

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 connexions and friends. Is it possible that the leaders of a certain party in N. England will cap the climax of their folly by open resistence to the Govt. 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 their bluster 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. & 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

Dec 14 1814

or.

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your 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 far advanced, [illegible] 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 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 as correct conclusions as any other person at present. I don't

[illegible]

need what additional force to build nor will they tell they consult Commodore Chauncey Who left here about the 1st Dec 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 ~~[illegible]~~ unless one party or the other gets strong enough to destroy the depot at Kingston or S. Ch. & 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 ~~[illegible]~~ 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

days since partly frozen over but it is again open.

I rec^d. a letter sometime since from Mr Goodwin & neglected to answer it so long that I did not know where to ~~direct it~~ direct one as he then expected to go home ere this. If at home tell him to let me know & I will write him. Give my respects to Mrs Goodwin & the Mr Saywards & all other friends. Mrs Holmes is ever entitled to my gratefull 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

Rufus McIntire
December 14. 1814

Honble John Holmes
Counseller at Law
Alfred, York Co.
Dis. Maine

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P. S. 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 knew that N. York bills in which I could have been paid here were at a great discount in Mass. & I have since ~~learned~~ learned the Pay Master 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 accounts converted into money ~~of your~~ Yours &c R. M^c

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Cantonment, Plattsburgh N. York,
half past twelve on Sunday morning, Jany 1, 1815.

Holmes,

The revolving wheels of Time having rolled us on to
year, I thus early bid you and your family an
May it be fraught with health, peace
and a full fruition of all earthly enjoyments.
a short note penned to you on Christmas day, I
ed a sketch of our Cantonment, which is annexed. Ow-
some official duties I have not been able more early to
and owing to the hurry I know it to be very incorrect in
ars. The Cantonment is perfectly correct so far as it
wing omitted many buildings in the rear. The forms
correct but fort Moreau is not rightly located;
the west, so as to command the open
between the barracks. The forts are surrounded by deep
and pickets within the ditch. The bastions at the Angles,
powerful command of the Ditch which is protected
tus and like obstructions. To carry the works by escalade
uire ladders of twenty feet in length; and should the
attempt it they must suffer an irrepairable loss.
improvements might have been made to the
ment, but all in all, it will answer good purposes.
e Houses, the General Hospital, and Artificers' Shops
to have been within the chain of pickets; being suf-
ground for those purposes unappropriated. A large
of wood is ordered to be supplied, lest the enemy,
eging us, should freeze, rather than starve us to
der. With a few more Troops, which are soon
so as to man our chain of Pickets — we may
defy John Bull. It is said Genl. Macomb will
absent, as suggested in my other scrawl, lest of
he expects.

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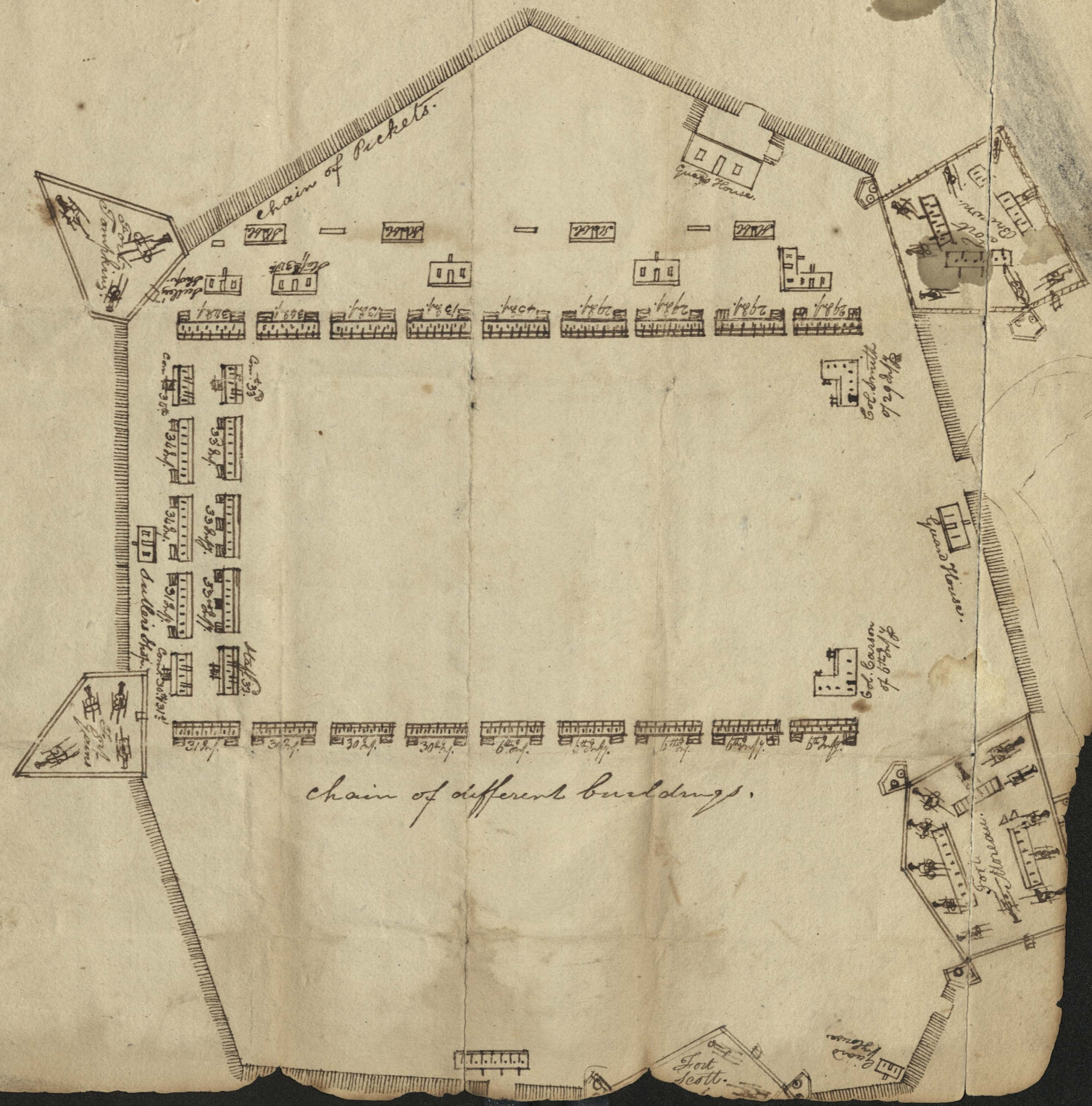

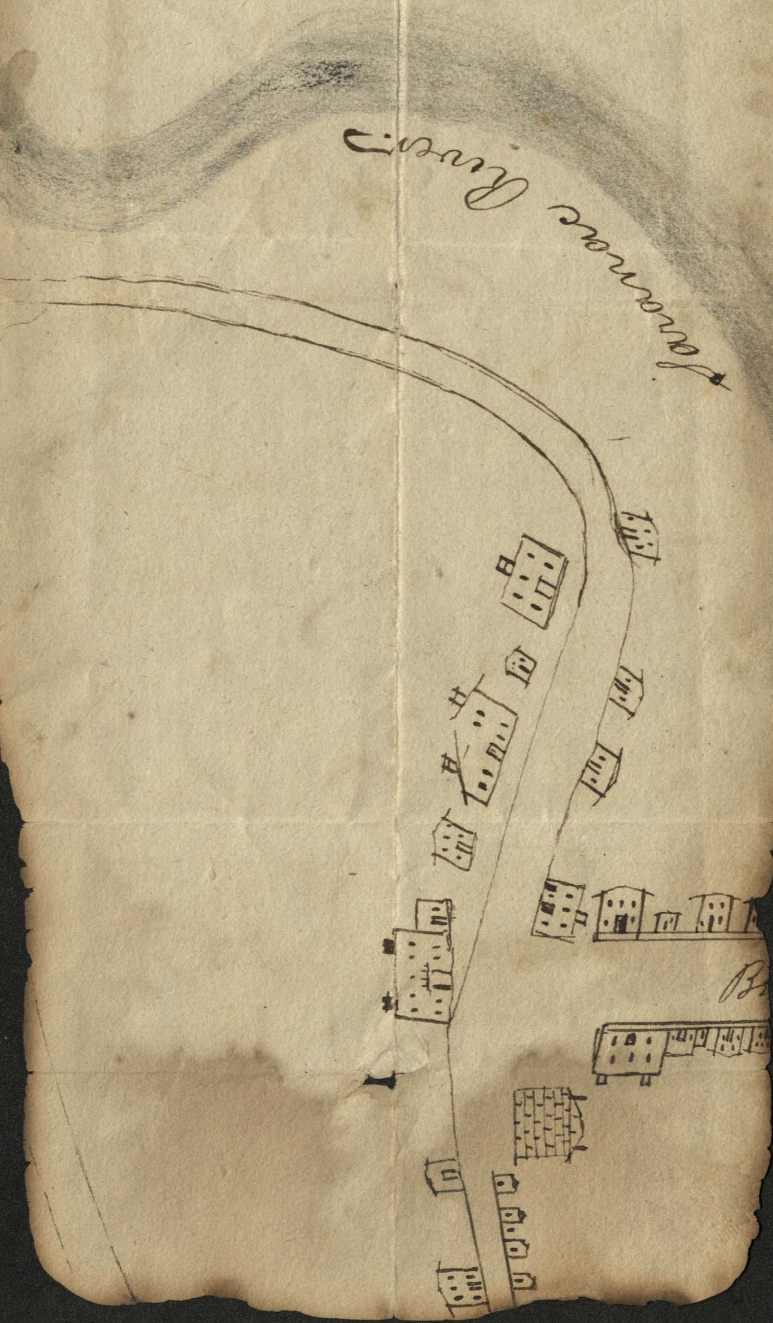

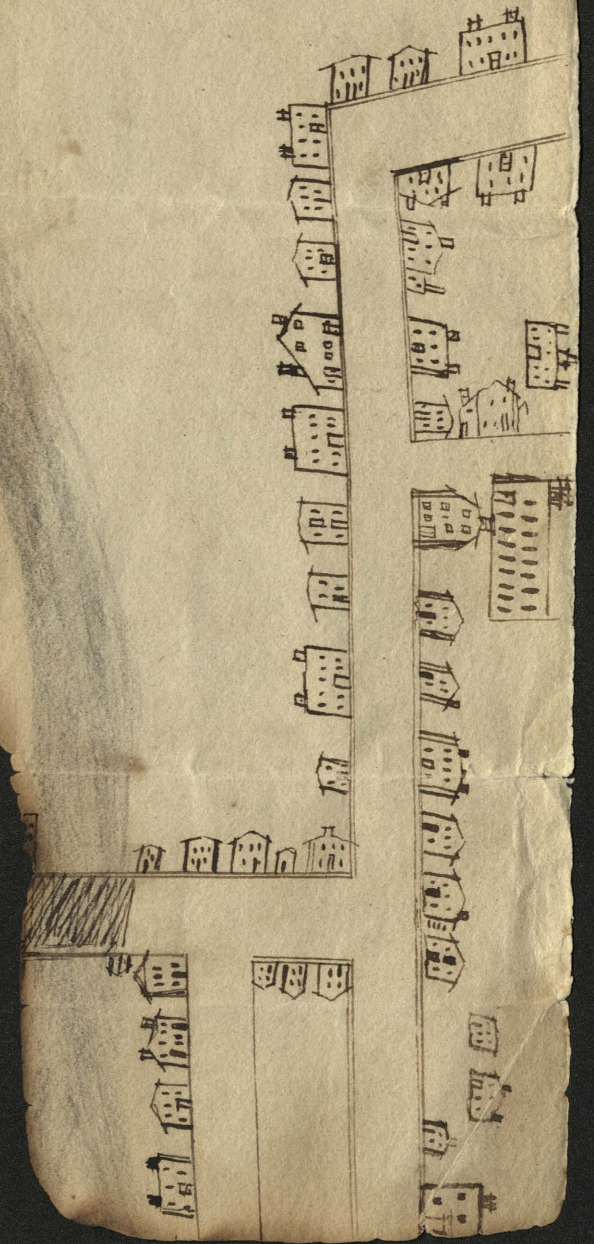

(15)

Sacketts 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 ~~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 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 think

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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 Kennebec 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 the~~ 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 other. 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 June next had the war continued.

The Camd. Office 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 recd. 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. 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. 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 alterations in their appearance - Yours respectfully Rufus W. Intire

Rufus M. Fritz
4th March 1814
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s. Harbor Mark

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Hon. John Holmes
Counsellor at law
Alfred,
York Co. D. Maine

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