(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, Lr, 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. & Mrs. Holmes & Mrs. Brooks =

I am Lr. respectfully yours

Reuben Walker

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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.

Sackets 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 more 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 our shipping in the night at all hazzards. The night proved so dark they could not find the way by the light and they therefore landed on a point of land at the mouth of harbor called point Peninsula about 12 ~~miles~~ 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 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 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 [illegible] (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 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 hours; 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. I would except a few under Capt. McNitt. Gen. Brown says one hundred, but Genl. Brown belongs to the militia & his partiality has probably more than doubled the real numbe. 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 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 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 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 [illegible] 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 Putnam

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

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Rufus McIntire
July 5th 1813

S. Harbour July 6.

40

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,

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. Wilkerson 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 pardon the impropriety of my saying any thing that can be construed into a breach of the order. Gen. Wilkerson has gone to the Niagara frontier - The Secretary of War is here - Gen. 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. Wilkerson has inspired new spirit into the troops at this post. He inspires 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 general, 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

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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. Pentwatt 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 Mrs Holmes & children. I hope Mr Goodwin's family, Mr Hayward's family & all the neighbors are all. Yours most Respectfully
Reuben H. Hatch
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.

Sackets Harbor Oct 25th 1813

Hon. John Holmes Esqr

Counsellor at Law

Alfred

York County

Sackets Harbor
23 Oct 1813

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Camp[t] French Mills Dec[r] 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 6 block huts whilst are nearly done.

Why has the 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 questioning whilst 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] Wilkerson. I believe the old maxim had better be adhered to (not to leave a strong post in the rear unreduced). Bonaparte tho' often 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. Most of the failure of the expedition I think may fairly be attributed to the delay in getting into the St Lawrence [illegible] causes of which 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[r] 5 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

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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 leaving the boats, which were daily 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. On 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 Perkins 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 Artly 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 (Nov. 9) army came down & ferried over the light [illegible] (Nov. 10th) our piquets were attacked at reveille & 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. Browns Brigade the whole under Gen. Brown were then ordered to march down towards Cornwall & we started off immediately. We that day reached the place 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. 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 movements 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 horseback who was reconnoitering us — he fired at another officer (Campbell) & 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 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.l 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 [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 & presume many particular accounts of it. I was not there so cannot speak from my own knowledge. On the 12th the boats came down [illegible] 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

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 McIntire

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 Mchntire
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

(4)

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 detachment six companies of the 3rd Regt Artly - one of the 2nd Regt Artly - & one of Light Artillry 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. Bedel 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 one day after us. Genl Brown left here yesterday & will command us. Col. Scott - (probably ere 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 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~~ (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 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 Sayward's & 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

Russell Bissell

Hon. John Holmes

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Rufus McIntire's
17 March 1814

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Month 18

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Hon.ble John Holmes

Counsellor at Law

Alfred (York Co. Dis. Maine

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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 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 I and (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 Inft. have marched towards Lewistown the rest of the 2nd Inft that left Sackets Harbor consisting of the 9th 21st & 1 battalion of the 11th have gone to Williamsville. Williamsville is on the road home to Buffalo & 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 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 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 & the troops under him were selected by him at Sackets' Harbor. all yankee regiments except one which was raised in N. England & the middle states. Two companies of the 2d 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. 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 expence 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 ~~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

Batavia N.Y.
April 13th

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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 & 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, Romayne's, McIntire's, Pierce's [illegible] of Artly formerly the 3d Rft and Capt Melvin's Co of Light Artly [illegible] well [illegible] together amounting to 342 [illegible] arrived at the fort 30th [illegible] 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 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 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 cases 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 & 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 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 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 them & 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 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 front 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 stationed near the tents & in the woods [illegible] fort & 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 mark 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 rake every part of the fort & the plain & woods adjacent they commenced a most tremendous cannonade from every vessel armed 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 vessel was offended & they body possession of the rear of the fort. 24 degrees at 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 bank 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 this river a principal part of which was at the falls. Col. Mitchell therefore resolved not to shut himself in the fort but to oppose the enemy at landing - fight them as long as possible from the out works but if unable to repel them & make another stand. He was resolved to retreat to this plain & marched out two companies to the ditch & met them on the shore opposed to a tremendous shower of grape from the ships directed at his little band of about 400 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 & one of Sandusky Harbor & Ocean [illegible] of the bay on the opposite

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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 near~~ not much over 200 men in the field - all for Capt Royle's he was still in the battery & the guard was still in the fort. So we were opposed 600 of De Watervilles 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 Mc Leaster of the navy & second in command & said to be a better officer than the commodore - Capt Mc 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

[illegible] tea at a tavern in the [illegible] & there acknowledged a

Sir James acknowledged 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 of the officers 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 com[illegible] of the commanding to the last & to finish his character, while on the retreat mounted under a shower of shot of every description from the fleet & the musketry of the troops - & a poor wounded soldier begged for assistance when he was dismounted, put the soldier on his horse & walked coolly & near of his men. He has been plundered 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 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 one blockhouse & left the shore that night & the harbor the next morning. They took all their baggage public & private - we could have rescued it but were afraid of disheartening our men by removing it, & chose rather to sacrifice every thing than have our men prove cowards - my master brought off his small trunk containing my papers which is all I saved except what I had on. They left some 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 2 out of 10. I had 72 men - 2 of them being sick - 2 had 2 killed - 2 sergeants & two privates wounded, three taken prisoners & 2 three missing. Henry Hart son of Thomas Hart killed - All my brave fellows from your part of the country behaved - It is astonishing our loss was so small considering how much we were exposed. Lt Pearce of the navy with about 20 sailors was with us in the ship & advanced with Col. M. to the shore - they conducted well. The militia were of at the first fire from the ships turned their backs & dispersed to the village side of the river - Capt Pomayne in vain endeavored to keep to the light. We shall probably stay here or return to Toronto & remain there a few weeks till the public property be removed to Fort H. or elsewhere.

The death of Wm Brooks. Permit me to sympathize with you & your family for the loss of that amiable child & I shall expect remember her affection to us will ever be gratefully

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

Yours most respectfully

Rufus Mr Intire

John Holmes Esqr.

Rufus Mr Intire
May 9, 1814

S. Hector
May 12th

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

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Our calculation of this force when we saw them in this boats was nearly correct. We calculated that they had at least 1800 & from the best information, we can get this number. Two of this 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 the brig that formerly bore it - the other ship is called the Princess Charlotte or the Queen Charlotte 2 knows not which. Our large ship at the harbor is lanched & will be ready as soon as we can get her guns & rigging through this Sloan a fast having gone. She is called the Jefferson & the Jones nearly is large as the Madison ready for sea called the Jefferson & the Jones nearly is large as the Madison

(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 Tomkins 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 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

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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 tille his army were quietly encamped. Genl Gaines on the rect. 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 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 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

gone up the lake to oppose Genl Brown. Could our fleet take on board Genl Brown's 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 in Kingston till his new ship is ready which will be in about two months & will carry 102 guns. A few days since a little boy 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 & leave our shipping rivals to their commerce. A jealousy of us as rivals in commerce has no doubt been the cause of all their 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 base & dominear & 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 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

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

dis-
thing

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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

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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 [illegible] their battery [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. Colo. 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

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(11)

Sacketts Harbor Decr 14th 1814

Dear Sir,

Yours dated in Novr. 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 recd 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)

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 & 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 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. & 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

Dec 14, 14

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presence at that post of danger to be ne-
-cessary 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 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 commodore~~
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

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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

[redacted]

ned what additional force to build nor will they tell they consult Commodore Chauncey who left here about the 1st. Inst 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 [redacted] to issue [redacted] unless one party or the other gets strong enough to destroy the depot at Kingston or S. Ha. & 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 recommended exercise & the air inland from the lake. As 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 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

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days since partly frozen over but 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 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 &c the Mr Saywards & all other friends. Mrs 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 surprised 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
Counsellor at Law
Alfred, York Co
Dis. Maine

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P.S. I have transmitted to my Brother my account for pay & 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 the Pay Master at the Eastward pay in treasury notes only which are still lower in that market than N. York bills - I fear some delay in having those accounts converted into money ~~from~~ from L. R. M.

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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.

Chain of different Soundings.

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(13)

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 enjoyment 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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4510

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 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 ~~is this~~ has more keel than any ship ever launched! The frame of another is completely ready & would have been set as the same ways & launched in thirty days after the others. The ordnance, 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 Lieut. Gov. at Kingston has 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'd the last blow.

Soldiers enlisted during the 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 considerable alterations in their appearance. Yours respectfully Rufus Mather

From the digital collections of the New York State Library.

Rufus M. Pitts
4th March 1814
15

s. Harbor Mark

37

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

From the digital collections of the New York State Library.

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

[Page 2]
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 hazzards.
[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 them
-selves 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

[Page 2]
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 consu-
mate 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

[Page 3]
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. [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.

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 <u>particular</u> 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 per-
ceive the impropriety of my saying any thing that
can be construed into a breach of the order. Genl
Wilkinson 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. 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 manoeuvers & 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

[Page 2]
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 con-
sequence 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

[Page 3]
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
Genl. in the militia to a Brig^{r}. Genl. in the regular
service – I will not say in consequence therof [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

[Page 4 -bottom]
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.

[Page 4 – top]
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.
Counseller 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 Esqr
Counseller at Law
Alfred
York County
Dis Maine

Basin Harbor, Grenadier Island Octr. 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 Capt 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

[Page 2]
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 McIntire

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
coeperate 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 unsub-
dued). 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 im-
mediately 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

[Page 2]

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 Ogdens-
burgh 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 Rgt Infy and Richmond Volunteers under Col. Randolph about as strong: and five companies of the 3rd Rgt of Arty about 250 or 300 strong under the brave Col. Scott of the 2nd Rgt 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 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 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 Rgt Arty one of the
2nd Rgt Arty and one of Light Artilly averaging about
eighty men to a company all in fine health
& under the command of Lt Col. Mitchell –
a Battalion of the 11th Rgt Infy under Lt Col. [Bedel?]
marched hence yesterday on the same destination.
Col. Ripley with the 21st Rgt Infy marches hence
today & the 9th Rgt Infy are expected here today
& will follow one day after us. Genl
Brown left here yesterday & will command us.
Col. Scott (probably ere 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 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

[Page 2]

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 Capt 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 ancle 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 Williams-
ville. 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 - Canan-
daigua 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 posseses the confidence of the government feels
the importance of doing something & he has great confi-
dence 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.

[Page 3]
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 de-
tachment 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, Romayne'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 po(ssible) 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 can-
nonade 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

[N0TE: 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 then 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 cooly 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 citzens
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 choos
ing 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. 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
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 <u>little
Ichabod</u> 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 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 & 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 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

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in the sailing of our fleet must disappoint Genl. Brown and 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 rec'd two balls in his thigh but remained on his horse till his army were quietly encamped. Genl. 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 Genl. 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 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 Art^{y}. & assistant Adjutant Genl. to that wing of the army I presume has contributed much to their [police?], discipline &c. Genl. Brown knows how to fight by the services of those intelligent men who know <u>how</u> 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. 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 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 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 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?]*

Honble. 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, 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 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 Genl. Izard & army – destination probably the head of the lake or perhaps Genesee River to re-inforce Genl. Brown. The light Artv 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 Genl. 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 Artᵞ – a battalion
of the 13th Infᵞ. & small battalions of the 45th Infᵞ.
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 <u>forts</u>. 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
Genˡ. 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
McDonneaugh 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 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.
Genl. Ripley mortally wounded. Col^{s}. 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 the militia begin to do their
duty and are sorry that those at Hamden dis-
graced the District of Maine – hope if they
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
expectations that the British Army would discrim-
inate 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 in-
calculable 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 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 [much &] too long prevailed. Yours &c
Rufus McIntire

Honble. 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' & Mr Goodwin's families. Mrs 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

Honble. John Holmes

Letter of December 14th 1814

Sackett's Harbor, Decr 14th 1814

Dear Sir,

Yours dated in Novr. 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 sep-
arate 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 blus-
tering 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 exer-
tions 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 ne-
cessary 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 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 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 Decr 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 Mr 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 Mrs Goodwin &
the M^{r}. Haywards & all other friends. Mrs Holmes is
ever entitled to my grateful remembrance & respect. Tell all
the children & Hannah in particular that I still remember
them as they <u>were</u> when I left Alfred & expect to be sur-
prized 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]

Honble. 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 Jany 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 irrepairable 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?]eging 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 Genl. 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 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

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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^{g} 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^{g}. the <u>last blow</u>.

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