Dear Uncle:

Charles County, Cherry Grove
August 3rd 1814.

I had the pleasure yesterday of hearing from you by your boy saying that you are all well. which gave me a deal of satisfaction; equally satisfactory can I announce to you the salubrity of my little family, as well your relations.

Never did times exhibit so gloomy an aspect as they now do the enemy daily appearing, and disappearing in our most adjacent waters, the Potomac, Patuxent, Wecomico, and also creeks Charles, my native spot, and place of Residence bears marks of the effects of this cruel, ... ton impolitic, I say further, Napolitan war Calvert still more injured, but of all, St Marys very where presents to view the shadow of a desolated county, robed of its black inhabitants, plundered of Tobacco, & stock, with annihilation of Capital buildings, this latter circumstantially, with a never failing attention to the former. Report says there are two spanish ship loading with negroes in our waters, since that has been known

Magpiey & Calib are well and in camp where
they have been 15 days this is the second tour
they have taken — Some intelligent gentle
among us are of opinion that the city Washing
is their objects it may be, but not immediately
and with the force [illegible] to [illegible]
my opinion is this founded upon their condu
towards us — they in their first visit were few
in number barely to blockade our waters and
make trivial plunder — discovered Barney's
flotilla they reinforced to take him. but for
St Leonards they were disappointed — at last
he made his escape higher up the patuxent
there seemed to [illegible] the enemy in waters perhaps
they never would [illegible] with [illegible]
made secure this tremendous British force
now remains to plunder the adjacent coun
in their attempt meeting with but feeble oppo
and valuable plunder they state [illegible] in it
with contentment — wherever they go the first
question is where are your negroes & stock?
if they be removed the houses are sacrifi
this is the worse effects of war save colonization
not contented with waging war against Britain
behold the democrats carrying it to unsuspected
peaceable places. is not this toryism of the blackest
hue, cursed be the man they they [illegible] — my love to
aunt & all enquiring friends — accept the best wishes of
an affectionate nephew. adieu Stanislaus [illegible]

G871

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the blacks by the british, it appears they have declined
meeting them — generally they seem to show every
disposition to keep out of their way. Col: Plater
is ruin.d to the extreme his loss in negroes amoun
(from good information) to 40 in number with
stock I cant say what quantity, our ware houses
but a few days ago crouded with tobacco is now
empty, and some of them changed to ashes, what
a dreadful spectacle to behold amongst us once
happy or quiet & prosperous people: the last com-
-mitted to flames was cedar point. in the face of
our Melitia all gallant boys ready and willing
to discharge that duty, whereby the enemy might
beawed to silence, and any further attempt check;
ber: alas! our two 6 pounders, properly in the place
of 18.lbs held out a combat of nearly one hour
~~32~~ 2.d against 32.lbs pounders rockets & bombs, what a striking
disparity of size of balls, and convenience of
warfare — this attack as well as that of Benedicts
against superior force is to be accounted for
upon the principles of patriotic spirit in our
commander — at each of those cannonadings
we received not the smallest injury — although
they discharged their famous destructive rockets
two of which have since been picked up, exploded
I was astonished to see a fifteen foot pool attached

to them a little chased I suppose by the explosion
of the rocket; we have them in camp, with some
32 pounders. the cedar point attack I did not witness
but Benedict I did. where I must confess the whist-
ling of the balls was a new thing to me, the large
balls I dont mind but canister, and grape take
care, they are to be dreaded from occupying
each the room and danger of a large ball
with 20 times the number — The latest news
of the situation of the enemys were between
cedar point & Yates where building they threaten.
they have ravaged chaptico which is not above
12 miles distant from my neighbourhood; the
Port-Tobacciony are still in great apprehensions
of a visit from them but their goods remain
in town. stock have been drove off inhab-
-itants looking out for securer places of residence
our small number of militia I am afraid cannot
impede there coming, but rest assured if they
attempt it, warm will be their reception, though
they have been pleased to say our balls are too cold
thus far we have done more injury with small
cold balls, than they have with their large
warm balls, rockets &c &c They have acknow-
ledged both attacks to have received considera-
-ble damage ——— General Stewart is
now encamped at Major Yates 10 miles from the
enemy. I left there Friday last on furlough

COPY

Letter from Stanislaus Coomes to his Uncle.

War of 1812 - 14.

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Found among Land Office Files

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rockets, two of which have since been picked up, exploded, I was astonished to see a fifteen foot pool attached to them a little chared I suppose by the explosion of the rocket; we have them in camp, with some 32 pounders, the cedar point attack I did not witness but Benedict I did, where I must confess the whistling of the balls was a new thing to me, the large balls I dont mind but canister, and grape take care, they are to be dreaded from occupying each the room and danger of a larger ball with 20 times the number. The latest news of the situation of the enemy were between cedar point and Yates whose building they threatened, they have ravaged Chaptico which is not above 12 miles distant from my neighborhood; the Port Tobaccions are still in great apprehension of a visit from them, but few goods remain in town, stock have been driven off inhabitants looking out for securer places of residence, our small number of Militia I am afraid cannot impede their coming, but rest assured if they attempt it, warm will be their reception, though they have been pleased to say our balls are too cold thus far we have done more injury with small cold balls than they have with their large warm balls, rockets &c., they have acknowledged both attacks to have received considerable damage. General Stewart is now encamped at Major Yates 10 miles from the enemy, I left there Friday last on furlough, Aloysius and Caleb are well and in camp where they have been 15 days, this is the second tour they have taken. Some intelligent gentlemen among us are of opinion that the City Washington is their object it may be, but not immediately and .... my opinion is thus founded upon their conduct toward us, they in their first visit were few in number barely to blockade our waters, and make trivial plunder, discovered Barney's Flotilla, they reinforced to take him but for St. Leonard they were disappointed, at last he made his escape higher up the Patuxent this served to Pilot the enemy in waters perhaps they never would have ....Barney being made secure this tremendous British force now remaining to plunder the adjacent County's in their attempt meeting with but feeble opposition and valuable plunder they still persist in it with contentment, wherever they go the first

question is where are your negroes and stock? if they be removed the houses are sacrificed this is the worse effects of war save colonization, not contented with waging war against Britain behold the democrats carrying it to unsuspected peaceable places, is not this toryism of the blackest hue, cursed be the war thus they disposed. My love to Aunt and all enquiring friends, accept the best wishes of an affectionate Nephew, Adieu,

Stanislaus Coomes.