

# MARYLAND GAZETTE, AND POLITICAL INTELLIGENCER.

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Copy of a despatch from Brig. Gen. Brown, to the Secretary of War.

Head-Quarters, Sackett's Harbour, June 1, 1813.

Sir—You will have received my despatch of the 29th ult. written from the field of battle, and stating generally, that this post had been attacked by Sir George Prevost, and that we had succeeded in repulsing him, principally owing to the gallantry of Col. Backus and the regular troops under his immediate command. Now I beg leave to offer to you the events of that day more in detail.

On the 25th ult. I received a letter from Gen. Dearborn, requesting me to repair to this post for the purpose of taking the command. Knowing that Lt. Col. Backus, an officer of the first regiment of dragoons and of experience was here, I hesitated, as I would do no act which might wound his feelings. In the night of the 27th, I received a note from this officer by Maj. Swann, desiring that I should repair to this post as requested already made by Maj. Gen. Dearborn. I could no longer hesitate, and accordingly arrived at this post early in the morning of the 28th. These circumstances will explain how I came to be in command upon this occasion. Knowing well the ground, my arrangements for defence, in the event of an attack, were soon made.

In the course of the morning of the 28th, Lt. Chauncey of the navy came in from the Lake firing guns of war. Those of the same character, intended to bring in the militia were fired from the posts. The enemy's fleet soon after appeared accompanied by a large number of boats. Believing that he would land on the Peninsula, commonly called Horse-Island, I determined to meet him at the water's edge with such militia as I could collect and the Albany volunteers, under the command of Lt. Col. Mills; Lt. Col. Backus, with the regulars, formed a second line; the care of Fort Tompkins was committed to the regular artillery and some volunteers, and that of Navy Point to Lt. Chauncey of the navy. If driven from my position, Lt. Col. Backus was ordered to advance and meet the head of the enemy's column, while rallying my corps. I was to fall on his flanks, unable here to resist the enemy's attack, Lt. Chauncey was in that case to destroy the stores, &c. and retire to the south shore of the bay, east of Fort Volunteer, while I proceeded to occupy that fort as our primary resource.

In the course of the 28th and during the nights of the 28th and 29th a considerable militia force came on, and were ordered to the water-side near Horse-Island, on which was Lt. Col. Mills and his volunteers. Our strength at this point was now 500 men—all anxious for battle as far as professions would go. The moment it was light enough to discover the approach of the enemy we found his ships in line between Horse-Island and Stoney Point, and a few minutes afterwards 33 large boats filled with troops came off to the larger Indian or Garden-Island, under cover of the fire of his gun-boats. My orders were, that the boats should lie close and reserve their fire till the enemy had approached so near that every shot might hit its object. It is, however, possible to execute such orders with raw troops unaccustomed to co-ordination. My orders were in case disobeyed. The whole line fled and not without effect—but in the moment while I was contemplating this, to my utter astonishment, the militia from their cover and fled. Mills fell gallantly in brave, but vain endeavours to stop his men. I was personally more fortunate, gathering together about 100 militia, under the immediate command of Captain M'Nitt of that corps, we threw ourselves on the rear of the enemy's left flank, and I trust, did the execution. It was during this

last movement that the regulars under Col. Backus first engaged the enemy—nor was it long before they defeated him.

Hurrying to this point of action, I found the battle still raging, but with obvious advantage on our side. The result of the action, so glorious for the officers and soldiers of the regular army, has already been communicated in my letter of the 29th. Had not Gen. Prevost retreated most rapidly under the guns of his vessels, he would never have returned to Kingston.

One thing in this business is to be seriously regretted. In the midst of the conflict, fire was ordered to be set to the navy barracks and stores. This was owing to the infamous conduct of those who bro't information to Lt. Chauncey, that the battle was lost, and that to prevent the stores from falling into the enemy's hands, they must be destroyed.

The enemy's force consisted of 1000 picked men, led by Sir Geo. Prevost in person. Their fleet consisted of the new ship Wolfe, the Royal George, the Prince Regent, Earl of Moira, two armed schr's. and their gun and other boats.

Of the officers who distinguished themselves, I cannot but repeat the name of lieutenant-colonel Backus, who, praised be God! yet lives. Capt. M'Nitt's conduct was noble; he well deserves to be placed in the regular army—Major Swan, of the army, served as my adjt. gen. and was highly useful. Lt. Chauncey is a brave and honorable man. To him no blame can attach for what happened at Navy Point. He was deceived. Lieut. Col. Tuttle was in march for this post, but with every exertion was unable to reach it in time to take part in the action. This is felt by the colonel and every officer of his detachment, as a misfortune.

At the moment I am closing this communication, com. Chauncey has arrived with his squadron. This renders my longer stay here unnecessary. I shall therefore immediately return to my home.

I am, Sir, with the highest respect, &c.

JACOB BROWN.  
Brig. Gen. of the N. Y. Militia.  
The Hon. Gen. John Armstrong,  
Secretary at War, Washington.

OFFICIAL.

REPORT of the killed, wounded & missing in the action of the 29th May, 1813, at Sackett's Harbor.

KILLED—20 privates, regulars, and 1 volunteer.

WOUNDED—1 Lieut. Col. 3 2d Lieutenants, 1 ensign, 7 non-commissioned officers, 1 musician, and 68 privates, regulars, and 1 musician and 2 privates volunteers.

MISSING—2 non-commissioned officers, 7 privates regulars, 1 non-commissioned officer, 1 musician and 15 privates, volunteers.

Aggregate loss—110 regulars and 21 volunteers. Number not known but not to exceed 25 militia. Total 156.

WM. SWANN.  
Maj. 2d regt. inf. and act'g adj. gen. Sackett's Harbor, June 1, 1813.

N. B. About 400 of the regular troops sustained the heat of the action; these consisted chiefly of the 1st regt. light dragoons, some of the 9th, 21st and a few of the 23d infantry, 3d and light artillery.

REPORT of the enemy's loss in the action of the 29th May, 1813, at Sackett's Harbor.

Adj. Gen. Gray, col. Moody, Major Edwards, 1 captain and 25 rank and file found dead in the field.

Two captains and 20 rank and file found wounded in the field.

Two capt's, 1 ensign and 32 rank and file made prisoners.

In addition to the above many were killed and wounded in their boats by the militia and Albany volunteers while effecting a landing; a number were likewise carried off the field by the enemy, previous to the commencement of his retreat.

WM. SWANN.  
Maj. 2d inf. and act'g adj. gen. Sackett's Harbor, June 1, 1813

Copy of a letter from Gen. W. H. Harrison to his excellency Gov. Shelby, dated,

"HEAD-QUARTERS."

"FRANKLINTON, May 18th, 1813.

DEAR SIR—Before this reaches you, you will have heard that the siege of Fort Meigs was precipitately raised and the enemy had returned to Malden.

I have seen, by the papers, the steps taken by you to reinforce me for which I beg you to accept my thanks.

I intended to have given you a full account of the siege, but as I know that Major Hawkins and Gen. Clay have both written to you, and the hour for the mail to close has nearly arrived, I can only state a few circumstances in addition to those contained in the enclosed extra gazette of this place. In this you will find Gen. Clay's report to me of his proceedings on the morning of the 5th inst. by which you will perceive that my orders were clearly delivered to him, and I have no doubt were as well understood by col. Dudley, and nothing could be more easy of execution; I had no less than 4 18 pounders, a 12 and 6 pounder, so placed as effectually to cover their retreat for two thirds of the way to the boats. But it appears that no disposition was made for a retreat, and some of those who got off assert that neither of the majors understood the object or the manner in which it was to be executed. Nothing can prove more clearly, the ease with which the whole party might have retired to the boats, than the circumstances of 180 having effected it with the incumbrance of some wounded; they were pursued by some Indians, but the latter dared not enter the plain which skirted the river for some distance, and did our men little or no injury. Never was there an opportunity more favorable for striking a brilliant stroke, than was presented on this occasion, if the plan had been properly pursued, the enemy were completely surprised and distracted.

When col. Dudley made the attack on the north west side of the river, ten boats loaded with troops were crossed a mile and a half below, but those never got to the scene of action till after it was over. Had col. Dudley retreated after having taken the batteries, or had he made a disposition to retreat in case of a defeat, all would have been well; he could have crossed the river, and supposing that he had lost one or two hundred men, he would have brought a reinforcement of 600 which would have enabled me to have taken the whole British force on this side the river; the Indians would then have abandoned gen. Proctor: the wind blew up the river, and he could not have gotten off, and the whole of his regulars and militia would have been captured. That these are not chimerical ideas are proved from the following circumstances:—Three hundred and twenty or thirty of our men took the batteries on this side of the river, put the whole of the enemy to flight, and took two officers and forty privates of the British grenadiers and light infantry. I could have spared a reinforcement of 250 men only, the British regulars and militia would all have been taken before they could have crossed the river; but I had not a single company to show.

At the suggestion of Gen. Clay, I had sent off under his command, all that part of his brigade that had reached the fort, and all the dragoons that I could mount, to assist Col. Dudley's men in recrossing the river; and I was thus deprived of their services at a most critical moment. With them I should have been enabled to drive off the Indians that annoyed, from a swamp into which they had hid themselves, the right flank of the detachment in its pursuit of the British troops. As it was, I was forced to recall our men when they were in full pursuit of the enemy, and every moment making prisoners. That the Indians would have abandoned the British that very night, if they had not succeeded against Colonel Dudley, is evident from numbers having left them with that circumstance in their favour.

I can say with confidence that the plan of the attack was approved by every officer that witnessed the scene. Even the British officers have acknowledged that they were completely surprised, and that they had not the least idea of our intentions until it burst upon them by the commencement of the firing on this side, after they had weakened themselves by making detachments to the other, that they were of no use, for they never reached the scene of action. I believe that every candid man in both armies will admit an unlucky blunder saved the enemy from destruction.

On the 10th and 11th instant, I caused the battle ground on the north side of the river to be well examined, and the bodies of our countrymen to be buried. Forty-five were all that could be found.

I shall set out for Cincinnati the day after to-morrow, and I shall do myself the honour of writing to you from thence.

With the greatest regard and esteem, I am, dear sir, your humble servant,

WM. H. HARRISON.  
His Excel. Gov. Shelby.

Copy of a letter from Maj. General Dearborn to the Secretary of War, dated

HEAD-QUARTERS,  
Fort George, June 6, 1813.

SIR—I have received an express from the head of the Lake this evening, with intelligence that our troops commanded by Brig. Gen. Chandler, were attacked at 2 o'clock this morning by the whole of the British and Indian forces, and by some strange fatality, though our loss was small (not exceeding 30) and the enemy completely routed and driven from the field, both Brig. Gens. Chandler and Winder were taken prisoners. They had advanced to ascertain the situation of a company of artillery when the attack commenced. Gen. Vincent is reported to be among the killed of the enemy; Colonel Clark was mortally wounded and fell into our hands, with 60 prisoners of the 49th British reg. The whole loss of the enemy is 250. They sent in a flag with a request to bury their dead. Gen. Lewis, accompanied by Brig. Gen. Boyd, goes on to take the command of the advanced troops.

I have the honour to be sir, &c.  
H. DEARBORN.  
Hon. Gen. John Armstrong,  
Secretary at War.

P. S. June 8—The enemy's fleet has passed this place—two ships and 4 schooners.

[Nat. Intelligencer.]

Extra'd from a private letter, dated Fort George 8th of June, to the Secretary of War.

"The enemy considering himself pursued, took post at the road of the Lake, waiting the arrival of Proctor (who has left Malden) and taking the chance of other succours from below.

"Winder was detached on the 1st inst. to dislodge him. He carried with him his own brigade and one regiment from Boyd's brigade. On Thursday Chandler (for whom the command was intended) followed with the remainder of Boyd's brigade. The British Gen. (Vincent) anticipated the blow and attacked our troops at 2 o'clock in the morning of the 6th. Chandler and Winder, and the deputy quarter-master General Vandeventer, were made prisoners early in the action. The command devolved upon Colonel Burn of the dragoons. The enemy were beaten and routed, leaving 250 behind him—but according to our northern tactics we disdained to press a beaten enemy. We gave him time to collect and fight once more. Lewis and Boyd are under marching orders for the command of the advance. Our loss does not exceed 30. [Ibid.]

DISASTROUS INTELLIGENCE.

NEW-YORK, Wednesday, June 16, four o'clock.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT.

By the Steam-boat, which arrived at three o'clock this afternoon, we have received additional information respecting our army under Generals Winder and Chandler. The first of

the articles below, is a letter from our attentive correspondent at Canandaigua. The other articles are copied from the Albany Gazette.

We regret to add to the intelligence below, that just before the Steam-boat sailed, an express arrived at Albany, announcing, that soon after our troops had rallied from their surprise, and put the enemy to flight, a British reinforcement arrived upon the field: that the whole of our army of 2000 men who survived the contest were compelled to surrender as prisoners of war. This disastrous intelligence we have received from the captain of the steam-boat and several respectable passengers.

(From our Correspondent.)

CANANDAIGUA, June 10th.

A letter by this evening's western mail, states a report, which is believed, that there has been a battle at 40 mile creek, (nearly the head of Lake Ontario) where the defeated British had concentrated their forces—that our army of 2000 men, under Generals Winder and Chandler, who had pursued them, were attacked in open day. Before our line could be formed, to receive the attack, the enemy sallying forth, cut off about 80 of them, among them Winder and Chandler, and retreated.

We have another report of a battle on the Lake, off Oswego. But this cannot be true, as the British naval force appeared off Niagara 2 days ago. I believe they have the command on the Lake. Their new frigate is out.

N. B. It is said that Proctor, from Malden has formed a junction with the British at Forty Mile Creek.

P. S. 10 o'clock P. M.—A gentleman just arrived from Buffalo says, on Monday there was a very heavy cannonade at the mouth of the river Niagara—a person crossed over to Erie to enquire if the cause of it was known there—while there, an express came to Col. Preston to march for Newark, with all his force. It is expected the enemy had landed a force at that place, and that Fort George is their object to regain. Should they be formidable all we have gained will be lost, perhaps, and with it our army in Canada! We are full of anxiety to hear the result. We fear the worst.

From the Albany Gazette.

Tidings from our army in Upper Canada.

An officer from Buffalo states, that on Monday last a very heavy and incessant firing had been heard at that place, in the direction of the Forty Mile Creek, where the retreating British army was supposed to have made a stand, and where it was conjectured, they had been come up with and attacked by the American troops under Generals Winder and Chandler.

Col. Preston had been ordered from Fort Erie, with the troops at that post, to join Generals Winder and Chandler by forced marches—The next Buffalo mail will probably bring important tidings. The British fleet were said to be on the Lake, and it was believed they had troops on board, probably intended for Little York. The report of Gen. Lewis having landed with a body of men at the latter place is contradicted.

Since the above was in type, we have been favoured with the following additional articles from the west.

Communicated by the Editor of the Geneva Gazette.

GENEVA, JUNE 11.

By a letter we are informed that an express reached Niagara 5th inst. informing that the night before the British made a forced march of 15 miles, surprised our pickets whom they killed and took and marched into camp, and had it not been for the undaunted bravery of the 5th regiment would have succeeded; that this regiment made a bold stand, kept the British at bay, until our army formed when the attack became general. We succeeded in driving the enemy back to their entrenchments with considerable loss. The British Gen. Vincent was killed; our dragoons gave them hot chase, and took 80 prisoners. The loss of killed on both sides not yet ascertained. Gens. Winder and