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Arundel County Court, April Term, 1814

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Wm. S. Green, Clk. A. A. County Court.

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Wm. S. Green, Clk. A. A. County Court.

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Copy of a letter from Brig. General Stricker to Maj. Gen. Smith, dated Head Quarters, 3d Brigade, Baltimore, Sept. 15, 1814.

Major Gen. S. Smith,

SiR—I have the honour to report to you, that in obedience to your orders, I marched from Baltimore on Sunday the 11th inst. with part of my brigade, as the advanced corps of the army under your command. My force consisted of 550 of the 5th regt. under lt. col Sterrett, 620 of the 6th under lt. col. M'Donald; 500 of the 27th under lt. col. Long; 450 of the 39th under lt. col. Fowler; 700 of the 51st under lt. col. Amey; 150 ridemen under capt. Dyer; 140 cavalry under lt. col. Biays; and the Union Ar-tillery of 75 men, with 6 4 pounders, under capt. Montgomery, making an aggregate of 3185 effective men. I moved towards North Point by the main road, and at 8 o'clock p. m. reached the meeting house near the head of Bear Creek, 7 miles from the city. Here the brigade halted, with the exception of the cavalry was were pushed forward to Gorsuch's farm, 3 miles in advance, & the ritlemen who took post near the blacksmith's shop, two miles in advance of our encampment. At 7 o'clock on the morning of the 12th, I received informition from the advanced videttes that the enemy were deharking troops from and under cover of their gun vessels which lay off the bluff of North Point within the mouth of the Patapsco river. Immediately ordered back my haggage under a strong guard, moved forward the 5th and 27th regts and my artillery, to the head of Long-Log-Lane, (so call. ed) resting the 5th with its right on the head of a branch of Bear creek, and its left on the main North Point road, while the 27th was posted on the other side of the road in line with the 5th, its leit extended towards a branch of Back river. The artillery I posted directly at the head of the lane in the interval etween the 5th and 27th. The 39th occipied a ground 300 yards in the rear of the 27th, and the 51st the same distruce in the rear of the 5th, extending each parallel to the front line. The 6th regt. was thrown back to a position a short distance this side of Cook's ta-vern, and a half a mile in the rear of the 2d line. My orders were, that the 5th and 27th should receive the enemy, and if necessary fall back thro' the 51st and 39th, and form on the right of the 6th or reserve regt. The riflemen were ordered to the skirts of a thick low pine wood beyond the blacksmith shop, with a large sedgewood in front, that as the cavalry were still in advance who would inform of the enemy's approach, they might take advantage of the covering of the wood and annoy his advance. soon learnt that the enemy's advance.
Party was moving rapidly up the main road, and the cavalry continually an-

would soon proclaim by a galling fire their still nearer approach. Imagine my chagrin when I perceived the whole rifle corps falling back upon my main position, having too credulously listened to the groundless information that the enemy were landing on Back river to cut them off. My hopes of early annoyance to the enemy being thus frustrated, threw the riflemen on the right flank of my front line, thereby with the addition of a few cavalry very well secured that flank. My videttes soon bro't, information that the enemy in large force was enjoying himself at Gorsuch's farm. Insulted at the idea of a small marauding party thus daringly provoking chastisement, several of my officers volunteered their corps to dislodge it. Capts. Levering's and Howard's companies from the 5th, about 150 in number, under major Heath of that regt. capt. Aisquith's and a few other riflemen in all about 70; one 4 pounder and ten men under lt. Stiles, and the cavalry, were immediately pushed forward to punish the insolence of the enemy's advance, or, if his main body appeared, to give evidence of my wish for a general engagement. The latter purpose was soon answered; this small volunteer corps had proceeded scarcely half a mile before the main body of the enemy shewed itself, which was immediately attacked. The infantry and riflemen maintained a fire of some minutes, and retired with some loss in killed and wounded; the cavalry and artillery owing to the disadvantageous grounds not being able to support them. In this skirmish maj. Heath's horse was killed under him. At half past 2 o'clock the enemy commenced throwing rockets a-cross my left flank, which seemed harm-less, and had no other effect than to prepare my line for the sound of artillery, which was soon commenced by us on the enemy's right column then pushing across towards my left, and returned by their 6 pounders and a howitzer upon my left and centre. The cannonade was brisk for some minutes, when I ordered my fire to cease until the enemy should get within close range of canister; seeing that my left flank was the main object of the enemy, I bro't. up the 39th into a line on the left of the 27th, and detached two pieces of artillery to the left of the 39th; still more securely to protect my flank, col. Amey of the 51st was ordered to form his re-giment at right angles with my line, resting his right near the left of the 39th.
This order he badly executed created for a moment some confusion in that quarter, but was soon rectified by the efforts of my aid de-camp and brigade majors, who corrected the error of col. Amey, and posted the 51st in its ordered position. The enemy's right column displayed and advanced upon the 39th and 27th. The 51st, unmindful of my object to use its fire in protection of my left flank in case an attempt should be made to turn it, totally forgetful of the honour of the brigade, and regardless of its own reputation, delivered one random fire and retreated precipitately, and in such confusion, as to render every effort of mine to rally them ineffec-tive. Some disorder was occasioned in the second battalion of the 39th by the

to right; my artillery in the centre poured forth an incessant volley of canister upon the enemy's left column, who were endeavouring to gain the cover of a small log-house, about 50 yds. in front of the 5th—which, however, precaution had been taken to fire, so soon as capt. Sadler's Yagers from the 5th, who were originally posted there-in, should be compelled to leave it. The enemy's line advanced about 10 minutes before 3 o'clock, with a severe fire, which was well returned by the artillery, the whole 27th the 5th except the three companies of captains Levering, Howard and Sadlers, which were much exhausted by the advanced skirmish of the two former—and the ordered retreat of the latter to resume their positions in line; and from the first battalion of the 39th, who maintained its ground in despite of the disgraceful example set by the intended support on the left The fire was incessant till about 15 minutes before 4 o'clock, when finding that my line now 1400 strong was insufficient to withstand the superior numbers of the enemy, and my left flank being exposed by the desertion of the 51st, I was constrained to order a movement back to the reserve regiment under col. M'Donald, which was well posted to receive the retired line, which mostly rallied well. On forming with the 6th, the fatigued state of the regiments and corps which had retired, and the probability that my right flank might be turned by a quick movement of the enemy in that direction, induced me, after proper deliberation, to fall back to Worthington's mill; which I was the more persuaded to, by my desire to have the 6th regt whose officers and men were eager to share the dangers of their brother soldiers perfect & and in good order to receive the enemy on his nearer approach to the city. All retired as I could wish, and were ready to act as circumstances might require. In this situation you found the Brigade on the morning of the 13th, somewhat fatigued, but with increased confidence in ourselves, and renewing our preparation for the annoyance of the enemy alone, if deemed proper, or in conjunction with any other force.

I have thought it due to the merits of my brigade, to detail thus fully their whole movement, and I feel a pride in the belief that the stand made on Monday, in no small degree tended to check the temerity of a fee, daring to invade a country like ours, and designing the destruction of our city, in whose defence some of the best blood of the country has already been spilt, and for whose safety and protection the citizen soldiers of the 3d brigade are ready to suffer every privation, and meet every danger. Should report be true (and I doubt not the fact) that the enemy's commanding officer, Major Gen. Ross, was killed in this action, and that the enemy suffered in proportion to his superior numbers, I shall feel s

the valuable consequences of our fight. The conduct of many company officers and privates was such as I calculated on—that of most of my field officers also merits my particular notice. Major R. K. Heath of the 5th, who led on the advanced party to bring on the action, behaved as became an officer; nounced their progress, I flattered my-flight of the 51st, and a few gave way action, behaved as became an officer; self with the hope that the riflemen The fire now became general from left the facts of his first horse being killed

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