

## THE SIEGE OF FORT MEIGS.

The manuscript copy of the following article was found at the time the Historical Society moved from the New Capitol to the Old State House.

It was in a box of papers which had been presented to the Society on its organization in 1880, by Mrs. Thomas L. Jones, of Newport, Ky., granddaughter of Gen. James Taylor, and a near relative of James Taylor Eubank, the narrator, whose mother, Lucy Taylor, was a sister of Gen. Taylor, and an emigrant with him and her husband, James Eubank, Sr., from Caroline county, Virginia, in 1792.

Soon after the breaking out of the second war with Great Britain, Gen. Taylor was commissioned Quartermaster General of the Army of the Northwest, and James Taylor Eubank, his young nephew, was made Deputy Quartermaster, and assigned to duty under General Harrison.

It will be seen from the letter of General Harrison, the original of which was inclosed in the diary, that young Eubank did not confine himself to his duties as Deputy Quartermaster.

He returned to Newport at the end of the campaign but died in the following year.

### LETTERS AND DIARY

Ft. Meigs, Miama Rapids,

March 29, 1813.

DR. SIR:—We have no forage at this post and consequently the horses and oxen that are daily waiting for the pub-

lic work are unable to perform the duty required and consequently must die if forage is not brought on shortly. I think you had better send on all the forage you can in boats from your post to this place. My dear sir use every exertion in your power to give us a supply as soon as possible.

I am dear Sir

Very respectfully

yours

JAMES T. EUBANK,

D. Q. M.

Mr. Jno. Biddle

A. D. Q. M.

Ft. Meigs, Miama Rapids,

April 3rd, 1813.

Since writing you by the pack horse-master to send on forage I am directed to have all the 18lb Cannon Shot at Upper Sandusky brought on here without the least possible delay. You will therefore have those Shot packed on the horses that are under Courtney & Chrysty and send on here immediately. You can put as many in bags as a horse can carry & tie the bags short, & by that means they can be brought on. As to the forage we can do without for some time as there are not many horses at present.

Courtney tells me his hands' time are out, and he will have to go on to Franklinton & try to get him & his hands to return as the Shot is much wanted.



GEN. WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON.

receipts of advances made to Porter, Green (or Greer) and Orr the sums stated by you in that letter but you will discover that neither Duncan nor Porter are charged with any advance as they are drivers for James Roberts, you will see that he has accounts for the \$6.79 & \$55.79 you have herunto enclosed an abstract of advances made these waggoners, together with triplicate Receipts which you say you will give Lt. Johnson information of. In writing the discharge of these teams I embraced in the body of that discharge the amount I advanced which I thought was better than a fourth part, as they could not obtain a settlement without they produced the discharge. I wrote you some time ago that before I read your instructions, how to proceed as to the discharge of the Private teams I paid a Waggon Master, Allen, six hundred dollars to bear the expense of twenty-one teams discharged to their different places of abode, which he is to have deducted from the pay of the different owners. I knew no better plan as many of the owners of teams were not on the ground to receive an advance, you will please write to Lt. Johnson respecting this also. I wrote him and enclosed one of Allen's Receipts, and a muster Roll of the teams discharged from which the deductions could be made.

I am &c.

JAMES T. EURANK,

Dy. Q. M.

Col. James Morrison,

Deputy Quarter Master Genl.

Franklinton, O.

Fort Meigs, Miami Rapids,  
April 15th, 1813.

Dear Cor.:—Your favors of the 23rd, 25th, 28th of March and two of the 4th Ins. I have just read. In answer to the first I have to mention that the two Brigades of Pack Horses got here safe and delivered their forage. The Hired teams were discharged before the horses arrived with the forage. In answer to the second, I must have an account taken of the property under my charge and forwarded to you as soon as possible. I only read the information of your wanting an invoice taken by this letter which only got here by this days mail.

I found the stores in a bad situation nor have I any account of what is on hand but have taken care that nothing has been destroyed since my arrival at this Post. The Stores are yet in a mixed state, and will have to be regulated before an invoice can be taken, which will take several days, as to transportation, there is but little here. I shall make the Statement required and forward you a copy as soon as possible. You tell me in your favor of the 28th March that you have not read my acknowledgement of the \$5,000, sent me by Neely (?). I read that Sum by him and gave him a receipt accountable to you for it which he put in his pocket Book to give you. Ask him for that receipt, if he has lost it I will give you another at any time. My cash holds out pretty well. I had about \$4,000 before the order came on for \$10,000 on Biddle. I will not want any more as I paid off all the Waggoners that drove public

Camp Meigs, Miami Rapids,  
(Not dated)

teams & all the artificers Boat Builders & have got my business pretty well arranged. I never read any information till now of your wish to have a copy of the accounts of purchases made by Lewis Dent. I have not the accounts here. They are amongst my vouchers left in your hands and in looking over them you can discover the acct. paid by him, by the handwriting as he writes much better than I do, and I believe all his accets. were written by himself. I have no documents with me here that I can give you any information respecting those accets. But am sure you can ascertain by examining the vouchers I left with you as the whole are in that file. I read the order mentioned on Biddle for \$10,000 this sum was lodged with Major Standard by Major Smith, & Genl. Harrison has given me an order for it. I expect to receive it but I expect I shall have to receipt so as to be accountable to Capt. Platt and the charge made by you to my account, will not stand good against me.

I have seen the late act regulating the Staff and I am anxious to quit the business, in fact we all are left out of the question unless reinstated which I do not wish & am sure you do not. I am in haste as the mail will be off in a short time. Excuse mistakes and bad writing.

Very Respectfully,

JAMES T. EURANK

Dy. Q. M.

Col. James Morrison,

Franklinton.

Sir:—I wrote you by a Lieut. of the Pennsylvania line & and from what Genl. Harrison tells me I expect you have not received it, and will again repeat that I am authorized by Major Hunkill to say, that you shall be paid for the time which you have Served as A. D. Q. Master, but that it was unnecessary to appoint a forage master and the person cannot be paid as such but may be paid as a laborer. If you will remain in charge of the Public Property you can be paid twenty-five dollars pr. month and two rations pr. day, but if you will not remain some other person must be appointed. For the expense of keeping the horses I could pay at this place if the accounts are made out and receipted and sent on to me.

I am Sir,  
&c. &c.

JAMES T. EURANK,

Dy. Q. Master

Judicial Burmaham

Ast. D. Quarter Master,

Lower Sandusky.

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Miami Rapids, April 24, 1813.

Mr. George Ermitage, W. Master

Sir:—By consent of Genl. Harrison you are continued in the U. S. Service during the pleasure of the Genl. You will take charge of the public horses and waggoners and any other articles relative to your dept. and you will discharge any private teams at Lower Sandusky Station that they have not received pay and



the 2nd May they kept up their Bombard but not very fast tho often enough to keep the men from sleep.

This morning they commenced a heavy fire from all their Batteries with Cannon and Bombs and our Camp completely Surrounded with Indians and British keeping up a heavy fire of musketry and rifles, they through at us this day about 300. 50 (?) shot a large proportion of them red hot. We had about four (?) seven wounded they continued to throw over their shells this evening.

Monday 3rd May. A morning gun was fired from Capt. Cushing's Battery at the break of day which went through their upper battery they began immediately to fire and continued all day we discovered a small Battery erecting on this side the river about three hundred yards on our right flank—the Indians had been for two days firing from that direction which annoyed the workmen in the transverse very much and kept us from noticing the enemy's battery they opened upon us from that battery one six pounder and one five and one half inch hoitz (Howitzer) which made a complete cross fire through our camp this day we received about as many Shot from the enemy as usual and lost about the Same number of men in killed and wounded.

Tuesday the 4th they Still kept up their usual fire with cold and hot shot and Bombs, killed but a few men wounded Some. This evening (May 4 ?) Mr. Oliver who was sent out to meet Gen. Clay\* with orders for him to land a boat,

\*Evidently Major Eubank was misinformed as to the name of this officer, as it was Colonel William Dudley who was in command of this detachment.—Editor.

700 men 2 miles above Camp on the other side of the river & proceed down to the enemy's Battery, Spike their cannon and retreat immediately back to the boats but to come down under the cover of Capt. Cushing Battery. They complied as far as to land the men and march them down to the enemy's Battery drove them from their guns, Spiked their Cannon took down their Colors, but did not retreat as ordered but pursued the Canadian French & Indians into the woods until about 200 or 300 of our men fell into the enemy's hands and 100 supposed to be killed the rest made their escape up to the Boats and arrived safe at Camp, at the time the Balance of the Brigade was floating to Camp from the place where the men landed the Indians and British keep a heavy fire on them from the woods the men left their boats made fight for them the Cavalry with Major Alexander's Battalion Sallied out into the woods and then reeated into the Garrison there was several killed & several wounded the Indians followed them within 150 yds. of the Garrison this Sallie was made from the left wing of the camp, another Sallie was made from the right wing by Col. Miller who drove the Indians & British from their little Battery, Spiked their guns and Hoitz took about 42 prisoners two which were officers. We had several killed & wounded after the Batteries ceased the British sent into our camp a flag of truce the bearer of it was Major Chambers. Genl. Harrison allowed the two British officers to return back to their camp, they gave us but two shots after the Battle was over.

Thursday 6th this day no fighting—a complete cessation of arms on both sides the flag passed to and fro from each camp the weather has been very bad for some time back which placed our camp in a very unpleasant Situation.

Friday 7th they Sent a flag from the old British Fort made arrangements to have their Prisoners exchanged & they have taken them to their camp this evening the prisoners that they took from us were to sent to Huron we have sent down boats to transport them with provisions—

Saturday 8th the Same still continued we have not received any shots this day, they appear to me making preparations to depart if the Indians have not troubled us today.

Sunday the 9th—Last night two men deserted from the British swam the river & came into our camp, that on being examined Stated that the enemy moved off the greatest part of their cannon the night before last and the rest last night they also state that the British and Indians have all cleared out further that news had arrived in their camp within 24 hours that little York had fallen into the hands of the Americans they still state that the Indians had got mad and would not stay any longer in Consequence of the British not letting them have a share of the plunder that was given up in the fort, for they supposed that we had surrendered as the white flag was passing. I was out on the Battleground today found several dead men the most of them tomahawked & scalped. Among the dead was one British Regular Scalped also and tomahawked.

The British took down their colors about 10 o'clock this morning went aboard their Boats and pushed (off ?) as we were sending a volley of cannon shot at them which made them hurry. When the British flag was lowered and struck we gave 3 cheers we also fired a salute at 12 o'clock three times around the fort. The site of the dead men has become no more terrifying.

Sewed between the leaves of the manuscript book from which the above was copied is the following letter:

Cincinnati, O.  
6th May, 1830.

DEAR SIR:—In answer to your questions in relation to the services performed by the late James T. Eubank in the Northwestern Army with great pleasure.

Upon my taking the command of the Army in August, 1812, he acted as paymaster and his indefatigable exertions in that capacity was of infinite public service. During the active part of the Autumn and Winter Campaign which followed he performed the duty of Assistant Quarter Master with equal zeal and talents.

He was at the head of that Department at Ft. Meigs during the Siege of that important Fortress and rendered the most important services not only in his particular Department but by volunteering his services for the performance of other duties. One instance of which deserves to be particularly mentioned. On the eventful 5th day of May the Squadron of Dragoons commanded

by Major Ball had been detached to cover the landing of a part of the Kentucky Militia from boats descending the Miami river. From the discovery of a meditated attack upon their rear by the enemy it became necessary to recall the Dragoons but the conveyance of the order for this purpose was a service of extreme danger as the person who should bear it would necessarily be exposed to the fire of a party of Indians who occupied a wood within point blank shot of the route which he would be obliged to pass. This circumstance was mentioned to the officers who were around me and a volunteer asked for to convey the order. Major Eubank immediately offered his

services, and performed the duty at the utmost danger, having been fired on by the Indians from their covered positions for a considerable part of the distance he had to pass.

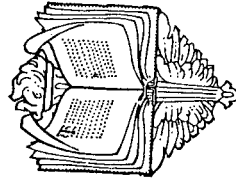
For his other services and particularly for the important one rendered on this occasion he obtained my entire confidence & approbation & I think that they gave him a strong claim upon his country.

I am Dear Sir,

With great regard Yr Hum. Sert.

W. H. HARRISON.

Genl. James Taylor,  
Newport,  
Kentucky.



## WOODFORD COUNTY

Fifth Installment—Wm. E. Railey.

Previous to the Revolution the Holmans were residents of Kent county, Maryland. It is more than probable that the name was originally spelled Wholeman, meaning a man of sterling worth, but now, and for many years, the various families as a rule have dropped the letter "e" and the prevailing custom is to spell it Holman.

In 1774 Henry and Edward Holeman, accompanied by their nephew, George Holeman, and his friend, Richard LaRue (the two latter taken by the two former as orphans to rear), left their home in Kent county, Md., and moved to Pennsylvania, but in the early spring of 1776 they descended the Ohio river and pitched tents at the mouth of the Kentucky river when that country was a dense wilderness (so stated by George Holeman in his military history). Here they planted a small clearing in corn, that had been prepared by another, at no distant date, but abandoned for good and sufficient reasons that soon dawned upon these new adventurers who likewise departed without waiting, even for the crop to mature, their surroundings becoming more threatening as the days rolled by, the war clouds looming up rather than rolling by. They moved cautiously up the Kentucky river until reaching Clemens Station, near the present site of Georgetown, where they remained for a short period, then removed to the station at Harrodstown (now

Harrodsburg), where they were in the spring of 1777 when a party of Indians attacked a sugar camp at Shawnee Springs, four miles from Harrods Station, killing William Ray and capturing Thomas Shores. General James Ray escaped and apprised the Garrison at once of their danger. The fort was besieged the following day and an intense battle was staged which lasted for some hours. The garrison hastily banded a company in readiness under the command of Genl. George Rogers Clark, with Captain Harrod, Lieutenant Levi Todd, Ensign Francis McConnell and First Sergeant Edward Holeman filling the other stations, and they defended the fort with great credit and skill. Quite a number were wounded, among them Col. Hugh McGary, who owned the camp at Shawnee Springs, and John Guess (see George Holeman's Military History). During that summer another engagement took place in which George Holeman rendered service and Ensign Francis McConnell was killed. Quite a number were wounded. Though Major George Rogers Clark commanded the troops, the organization was known as 'Harrod's company.' About the spring of 1779 the Indians ceased their hostilities, and on Feb. 11, 1781, a wagoner by the name of Evan Hinton was sent from the Block House at Louisville to Boone's old station for provisions, who also had a lot of empty barrels to be used for salt-

if Capt. Burnham will not act any longer you are hereby authorized to take charge of any public property he may have in his possession, and take charge of the same.

Yours, &c.

JAMES T. EUBANK,

Dy. Q. M. U. S. Army.

Camp Meigs, Miami Rapids,

April 25th, 1813.

To the Commanding Officer or  
Quarter Master at

Fort Findlay

Sir:—I am instructed by Genl. Harrison to request that you send by the first boats that start from Fort Findlay all the iron that may be there to this place, but if any should be wanted for that post, you can keep a small quantity.

I am Sir,

&c. &c.

JAMES T. EUBANK,

Dy. Q. M.

Camp Meigs, Miami Rapids.

Dear Col.:—Your favour of the 20th Ins. is recd. I will forward my abstract of Stores by the next mail. I am unable to send you my receipts of advances on account of having most of my papers at Sandusky, and amongst them my account of advances. I have recd. an appointment of Assistant Deputy Quarter Master General but think I shall not accept. I am anxious to settle my accounts & will meet you at any convenient place you mention.

I expect there will be another Quarter Master sent on here shortly, and so soon as I can leave this place I will call on you immediately and have a settlement. Please let me know where I can find you. I am told you are going to Lexington and return back to Franklinton to settle your accounts. Be so good as to let me know.

I am dear Colonel,

Yours, &c.

JAMES T. EUBANK,

Dy. Q. M.

Col. James Morrison,

Dy. Q. M. General.

Battery, and one in woods. About 23 or 24 British came opposite to our camp or a little below & shew themselves & told some of our men that were at the river that they would dine with us next day unless we were very strong. They did not stay more than 3 (?) in sight before they took to the woods.

Tuesday, 27th. This day repairing the little Battery and placing —? in front of the grand Battery. About one o'clock this day 14 Indians and British came on to the same ground that they had viewed (?) before but were on foot, crept down a small gully that hid them from our fort as number of our men were fishing on this side. The first thing we saw of them from the garrison they were firing on our men who were fishing nearly opposite. We fired an 18lb at them and a second cannon was fired from the wood battery. There were 14 seen at first but only 12 were seen going off.

Wednesday, the 28th. Last night we had a very heavy rain & hard thunder. This morning we had the pleasure of seeing about 2 or 3 hundred down the river, and a number of Indians and British came opposite our Fort, fired at our men that were on the river bottom. One shot was fired with 18lb, which made them leave their stations. Capt. Hamilton was sent down the river by land on this side this morning. He reported that the British had landed on the other side about 1500 or 2000. We expect a hard fight this night.

The abbetus (?) were completed this evening in front of the grand battery, the whole army was at work this day, one third at a time throwing up a trans-

verse from one end of the camp to the other. A party of Dragoons rode out to look round a short distance from camp this evening. One of them was shot thro the arm by Indians who had surrounded our camp.

Thursday the 29th. This day we were well employed in finishing the Transverse and making ready for Battle as we had been surrounded by British and Indians for two days. We left loose our Cannon on them yesterday & have kept it up by spells all this day at the enemy battery erecting on the opposite side of the Miami.

Friday 30th. We have been all day employed in throwing up transverses thro the camp & playing on their Battery with our 18lb & throwing shot & canister shot at the Indians who were in our rear & flank.

We have had one man killed and 6 or 7 wounded this day (Saturday May 1st, 1813). Last night about 9 o'clock the enemy left loose from a gun boat at our fort & continued all night but done no damage, as she lay too far down the river Say one mile.

At 8 o'clock this day the enemy hoisted their red flag at their lower Battery & commenced firing with their 24lb 12.20 (?) Pds. & 8 inch mortars they fired at us this day 240 shot & Bomb Shells done very little damage. They continued firing shells through the night but not very often. Just enough to keep our camp from rest we kept up a heavy fire on them all day from different parts of our camp the Indians were very thick on our flanks we had not more than 2 killed and 4 wounded today Sunday

Ft. Meigs, Miami Rapids,  
April 26th, 1813.

Mr. Herrington,

Q. Master at Ft. Findlay,

Sir:—Both of the Pack horses masters who leave this city today will go on to Ft. (crossed out) Minary (?), and there leave the worst of the horses and load the best back to your post with forage, which you will please send down in the Boats Building by Sprage to this place as early as possible.

JAMES T. EUBANK,

Dy. Q. Master.

An Account of the Battle & Siege of  
Ft. Meigs.

Sunday, the 25th April, 1813.

40 of Maj. Ball's Squad went down the river to reconnoiter. They saw several tents pitched on the opposite side, opposite Presque Isle & saw several Indians on this side. A brigade of pack horses arrived with the 18lb Shot. Monday the 26, we placed 1 18lb Cannon in Chran—

After the 18lb Shot are forwarded you will send the 12lb Shot next.

I am

Sir

Yours sincerely,

JAMES T. EUBANK,

Dy. Q. M.

John McClelland Esq.

A. D. Q. M.

Ft. Meigs, Miami Rapids,  
April 10, 1813.

SIR:—Mr. Biddle in his letter to me of the 4th Ins. says he is about to quit the Service and leave you in charge of the business at Cleveland. I regret the ice being yet in the lake—on account of preventing forage being sent on to this Post.

This will be handed you by Mr. Stoddard, whom I have employed to have two public Boats now in Huron River, fitted out for bringing on forage So soon as the lake will admit you will be good enough to give Mr. Stoddard all the assistance you can. I would be glad you could make contracts with any persons who have Boats to bring on say from two to three Thousand bushels, as soon as possible. You can make the contract and write me what you do & I can pay whoever you contract with on their delivering the grain here. I wish you to take every Care of the Public Property left in your charge by Mr. Biddle.

Major Balls Squadron of Light Dragoons is now here and no forage for their horses. Major Hukill (?) requested me to tell you, to inform those men whose teams were discharged by him at

Sandusky would be paid off shortly, as Genl. Harrison will be here in a day or two, & make arrangements for that purpose. Write by the first opportunity whether you wish to continue in business as you are now situated or not do have the Boats loaded with forage & started as soon as possible.

Yours &c.

JAMES T. EUBANK.

Major Richard Smith (Cleveland).

Ft. Meigs, Miami Rapids,  
April 10th, 1813.

SIR:—Being informed that two public Boats are now laying in Huron River, and by a little repair will be fit for service—I therefore wish you to proceed on with all possible expedition and hire men to repair Boats and also wish you to engage as many men as will man the two Boats and go on to Cleveland for Forage, and load Both the Boats & to return to this place as soon as possible. I must rely on your good judgment as to the wages you will have to give those hands—and for the expense in repairing the Boats, which I will pay on your return or sooner if necessary.

I am Sir

&c. &c.

JAMES T. EUBANK,

Dy. Q. M.

Mr. Asa Stoddard,

Miami Rapids.

Fort Meigs, Miami Rapids,  
April 11th, 1813.

DEAR COL:—Your favor of the 19th Ultimo is now before me and agreeable to your wish have included in the