

Journal of Nathen Newsom
1812 Soldier

JOURNAL OF NATHEN NEWSOM

(original in Ohio State Museum Library)

transcribed by

James Ohde,

March, 1957.

the anthony wayne parkway board
ohio state museum,
columbus 10, ohio

PREFACE — THE JOURNAL OF NATHEN NEWSOM.

The "Journal of Nathen Newsom," a part of the large manuscript collection of the Ohio Historical Society, is one of the more interesting journals kept by War of 1812 soldiers in the Northwestern Army. This particular item of some fifty-three pages and covering the period August 9, 1812 to "February 31st, 1813," gives a clear account of the hardships, trials, and tribulations through which the frontier soldier suffered as a part of the frontier army.

For the most part, the text of the journal is clear and easily read. However, there are sections which are garbled, to say the least, there are repetitions, and there are obvious errors of composition. All of these defects may be attributed to the discomforts of the author at the time of composition or, as may be the case, to the carelessness of a copyist. This latter thought is injected because the text itself embodies a great deal of hindsight, not usually found in such journals, and some errors which cannot be considered as logical from the point of view of original authorship.

While the manuscript is titled a "journal," it might be more appropriately called "a series of observations." Entries are not kept in journalistic style, and, while the chronology, in general terms, is in correct sequence, the flash-backs included make it almost a report. Quite obviously, even at the time of its original authorship, it was written with a view to be read by posterity.

The transcription which follows was made from the notebook manuscript of the Ohio Historical Society by James Ohde, a student assistant of the Anthony Wayne Parkway Board.

Richard C. Knopf,
Historical Editor &
Research Historian,
March, 1957.

A short summary of a journey, taken by Volunteers from Gallia county; for the purpose of destroying Indians & the Invasion of Canada.

On the 9th of August 1812 we met at Gallipolis under marching orders. Two meetings had taken place previous to this to elect the officers and to make such regulations as we thought prudent for our organization. Two companies were made up at the same time and on the same ground; the one commanded by Captain Isaac Buttler, the other by Captain Calvin Shepard. I became the orderly Sgt. in the company of Calvin Shepard. We left Gallipolis on Monday the 10th of August, and encamped at Major Blaggs the first night, supposed to be about 10 miles from Gallipolis; — the 11th we marched 22 miles and encamped 3 miles from the Sciota Salt Licks; On the 12th we marched to the Sciota four miles from Chillicoghe; On the 13th day we marched to Chillicothe, Captain Jehiel Gregories' company met us 1/2 mile from Town to welcome us. The three companies then, Gregorys, Buttler and Shepards, marched into Chillicothe, in military order, attended by music, and a numerous concourse of spectators. We all encamped in the Court-house at Chillicothe. Here we were first embarrassed in the pecuniary way, and our officers borrowed money to a considerable amount at Chillicothe at an exorbitant interest. Various things were promised us, when we marched, by our officers, for our convenience which were never complied with. On Sunday the 16th of August between one and two o'clock we started from Chillicothe and marched about 10 miles; — we encamped on Dry run. On the 17th we marched 24 miles, to a place which we called Hazzlenut tavern, as hazzlenuts were plenty and every thing else scarce. On the 18th we marched 18 miles, the distance said to be between the hazzlenut tavern and New London. On the 19th we marched to Urbana: the distance is said to be 23 miles. The company from Athens, commanded by Captain Jehiel Gregory, marched with us from Chillicothe to Urbana. The three companies, two from Gallia, and one from Athens, contained about 150 men. The two companies from Gallia contained 110 men. We took our station in three different houses at Urbana, which were called barracks. We had been at Urbana only very few days until the ever disgraceful and memorable act of Hull the traitor happened. The scene was horrid and pitiful. Some men happened not to be convenient when Hull sold them, took their flight through the wilderness as they could, and passed by Urbana in small parties in the utmost despair. The company of Capt. Brush were from the neighbourhood of Chillicothe — they passed through Urbana to their homes in quite small parties for several successive days in the most abject appearance and lowness of spirit. Anger and indignation were apparent in the countenance of every man, at the infamous conduct of Hull, who had not only committed treason of the highest degree, but had put a blot on the fair character of the American people.

From the 20th of August to the 14th of September, nothing very extraordinary appeared — Urbana exhibited a scene of military preparation. Troops were coming and troops were going -- We were daily trained to military discipline.

On the 15th of September 217 men arrived from Gallia to be attached to the companies who had previously arrived from the place, commanded by Captain Buttler and Shepard.

On the 16th Tents were given to the troops from Gallia, and we all encamped on the commons.

On the 17th there was an Indian Council held here; — Many Chiefs appeared; So did governor Meigs and the principal officers, of the army. The discourses

of the Indian Chiefs were cool and deliberate. There was a reciprocal friendship expressed on both sides, and the council took leave from each other with shaking of hands and every emotion of friendship was expressed on each side. But on the 21st there were Seven Indians brought to this place and put into jail for stealing horses. It appeared that there were eight in the gang when taken, but one was almost killed by a fall from a horse. On the 23d there were 28 Indians came to Urbana. -- On the 25th there was an Indian Council held there. -- The Indians in prison were cleared, and on the same evening the Indians all left Urbana, being 34 in number, including the prisoners.

On the 20th, There was a company returned. The Captains, name was M Nemar. The Company had volunteered in the county of Ross -- They had for some time been under the commanding general Harrison. Many exploits appeared that they had done in harrassing the Indians and destroying their property, in consequence of which they received a furlow of 13 days, and the public thanks of the officers with the general approbation of the people that they had deserved well of their country. -- On the 27th the army 27th was marched to the meeting house, (it being about 11 o'clock on Sunday) where an appropriate and impressive discourse was delivered by the Reverend

On the same day and at the same place, a sermon was delivered by the Rev'd Hinkel, who had preached the Sunday previous to that on the commons to the army. His discourses were rather elaborate, and not very impressive. A soldier was buried on the same day. He was a drafted man. The whole army attended his funeral with arms reversed -- the drum beating a solemn dirge. The 27th, 28th, & 29th several expresses arrive at Urbana, with information respecting the situation of the different troops commanded by general Harrison which created a great desire in the troops to march.

OCTOBER 1ST. On the first day of October, about 10 o'clock a.m. we struck our tents, and after some concornical [?] paraded through the Streets of Urbana, in the presence of and under the command of governor Meigs, to which the private soldiers were apparently aversed. We left Urbana regularing our guard and order of march, the same, as we expected to do, when we arrived in the enemies country. The guard took their distance on each side about 50 or 10 miles [?] from the road; and the army in single file marched between the waggons and the guard -- The whole always taking care to regulate their movement to cover the ammunition and baggage waggons, in order to prevent any sudden attack from the enemy on them. We pitched our tents that evening on an eastern branch of Mad river, called Kings creek, between 3 and 4 miles from Urbana. The men generally composing this army are volunteers, drafted men, or substitutes. An idea was held out to the volunteers when they volunteered, that so soon that they entered into the service for 6 months, \$16 would be advanced to them for clothing; as also 2 months pay at \$5 per month. But nearly two months expired before any pay could be drawn, at which time they received only two months pay. Many of the men being not prepared with winter clothing -- they attributed it to this disappointment, and considerable cursing and discontent was manifested by the troops.

Urbana and the adjacent country is uncommon level, badly timbered, interspersed with prairies, tolerable productive of the necessaries of life; a fine country for beef and bees.

It exceeds, perhaps any country in the known world for hazzlenuts. All their running waters empty into Mad river, which is about 2 miles distant from Urbana. It is at least 40 miles distant from any standing navigable water. The merchants and mechanics at Urbana, exhibited a great thirst to take the advantage of the necessity of the soldiers in demanding at least double the value for such articles, as they thought the soldiers must have. We were

somewheres about 800 men strong when we left Urbana. Desertions were frequent, but with very little or no injury to the army, as none but the most trifling characters deserted. On the night of the 3d an express arrived stating that a large body of Indians were advancing, which created a great desire in the troops to meet them. All hands rose in the night and prepared to start early in the morning. And on the 4th, it being Sunday, we marched about 5 miles, crossed Mad river, and encamped on the bank. It being a fine situation, timber and water are plenty. We are about 9 1/2 miles from Urbana. Some of the most delightful farms are between here and that place. On Tuesday the 6th an elegant troop of Cavalry from the upper part of Pennsylvania arrived at our encampment. It was generally acknowledged by the army, that said company were better equipped, more dexterous in military tactics, of better and more graceful appearance than any company they had ever seen. Governor Meigs came with them from Urbana. The army was paraded to salute them, and a cannon discharged twice during the ceremony.

On the 7th October we struck our tents on the banks of Mad river and marched up the river some miles, then turned a north direction from it to M'Phersons' Blockhouse, where we encamped; It being 21 miles from Urbana. The country be this and Mad river is pretty level not so fertile as that on Mad river, but well timbered. Many Indian families arrived at M'Pherson's Block house on the same day we did, who had fled from the hostile Indians for protection to the army. Here is excellent water and abundance of timber. It is a suitable place for the encampment of an army. Many hundreds of Indians are now encamped in a circumference of less than 15 miles, who depend on protection from the army. Many of their warriors have turned out with our spies, and participate in our victories and in our defeats. They left their squaws and children here.

Most of our officers as well as the men, are as yet destitute of the qualifications requisite in military life. Tho' we had a capable adjutant, who left us on the banks of Mad river. The cause he left us is by some said to be, that he found his necessary expenditures nearly to amount to his income: and that he was dissatisfied with some of the officers. His name is Jacob Dunbaugh. As a disciplinarian he is exemplary, as a gentleman and officer highly respectable. Having merited the approbation and confidence of the soldiery, they viewed his departure with the utmost regret.

October 8th Many more Indian families are arriving from the wilderness and are encamping near the army for protection. From some information by express it is thought probable that a large body of Indians are advancing to attack us, 9th & 10th, More Indian families arrived from the wilderness. The squaws display some little industry and ingenuity in making money purses &c. with porcupine quills.

On the 11th General Tupper returned to our encampment from the troops stationed under the command of general Harrison and Winchester. He had left us when we were stationed at Urbana to take the command of some troops in that quarter. When General Tupper returned he appeared much dissatisfied with the conduct of General Winchester. His reasons are said to be, That General Winchester ordered him to undertake an expedition which appeared to be very hazardous, and would not allow the men no more than two loads of ammunition. Under these circumstances Tupper thought prudent to decline the command. Tupper accused Winchester of cowardice, bad management. &c. &c. The particulars of this affair is too lengthy for a work of this nature. Soon after the arrival of General Tupper, two men came after him and went on to Urbana, it is said to enter a complaint against Tupper with the governor.

On the 12th, we struck our tents at M'Phersons block house, and marched about 6 miles to Solomons' town, a place evacuated by the Indians. Between M'Phersons' block house and this place, the country is level, the soil apparently very fertile and well timbered. Black walnut and hickory grow very large; the water is of a good quality.

On the 13th, In the afternoon, the army was drawn up in a suitable form; two prisoners were brought into the middle to hear their sentence read. They both had deserted while we were encamped at Urbana. Harris had deserted when on guard & Scott from the camp. The sentence was put into execution immediately after its reading. Harris underwent every part of the ceremony prescribed by military usage a man should, that had forfeited his life and sentenced to be shot; except he was not shot, but fined \$12. Scott was fined \$12, and marched in front of the lines with his hat off, regulated by a guard of four men. On the same evening, being the 13th, an Indian came into camp. He passed the guard by leave of the officer of the guard. He made some enquiry about the number of tents &c. which created some suspicion in the men. He was put under guard. The officers were obliged to put him under a strong guard, for fear the soldiers would raise a mob and kill him. On the 14th early in the morning, the officers sent for Captain Lewis, a notorious influential Indian, who had taken an active part in favor of the Americans, and it was supposed he had a knowledge of all friendly Indians in this part of the country. Lewis appeared, attended by several distinguished personages of the savage race, as also some of their squaws, who felt themselves interested attended on the occasion. Lewis, as well as the other Chiefs and squaws claimed the prisoner Indian as one of the friendly party; The officers of course let him go. This act exasperated some of the inferior officers as well as the soldiers; Because several soldiers in the army who had been at Detroit and along the British line not long previous to this circumstance, were willing to take their oath to the identity of the before stated prisoner Indian -- that they knew his person very well; -- and that they knew him to be a British Indian. Under these circumstances the commotions of the soldiers were such as really appeared dangerous to the army. On the 14th in the afternoon, the army was paraded in a suitable form. Col. Sutton appeared as commander in chief (the general being absent) he delivered a mild discourse stating his orders from his superiors, and exhorting and admonishing his brothers and fellow citizens to obey him, as he termed them. He dwelled a considerable time in explaining what would be the inevitable consequence of a disobedient insubordinate army, contrasted with the happy effects that would arise from union, subordination and passive obedience, the characteristic features of all armies who could promise themselves success and honor. This discourse somewhat pacified the discontent of many in the army. On the 15th two men were punished. They had to ride a rail in front of the line, carried by two men. Their crime was desertion.

On the 16th, two men were marched in front of the line, in conformity with their sentence. The one for complaining that the Indians were more respected and better treated by the commanding officers, than the soldiers. The other for getting drunk and sleeping on his post. About this time the Soldiers commenced killing chickens at Solomons' town, and in the same day after hogs. They skinned the hogs and brought them into camp for immediate consumption. The hogs were in very good order considering the time of the year. The most fell fast and there was an abundance of it. The hogs were fattening fast, but the daily slaughter committed among them by the army was great. The drawing of beef from the commissary by the soldiers was not attended to, as they preferred pork to beef. The soldiers in small parties penetrated the neighbourhood of

the army every direction, in quest of Indians, game, hogs, bees, &c. but the hog-hunters were the most plentifully remunerated for their services. There was within 2 or 3 days at this time somewhere about three hundred dollars worth of Indian property found in the neighbourhood of Solomon's town, where the army was encamped. Said property was found by three different small parties of soldiers, who were told by some of the principal officers that half the amount would be theirs, after the property would be converted into money. On account of these assertions, the property was brought and delivered into the custody of the officers. The property consisted of agricultural implements, some weapons of war, such as spears. -- Likewise kitchen furniture. Many neat small brass and cooper kettles were among the furniture. The said plunder was supposed to have been hid by Indians who resided in Solomon's town and the adjacent country about the time war commenced between the United States and Great Britain. It justified an opinion with some little proof, that those Indians who formerly owned this property, had fled to the British, and are taking an active part against the United States. The property had been carefully secreted in swamps. On the 17th in the fore-part of the day general Tupper arrived here from Urbana, to which place he had gone immediately after his return from the north. He had a parcel of handbills printed at Urbana in justification of his conduct of his late journey. They were probably intended as a refutation against any publications his enemies might attempt to circulate. On the same evening when the army was paraded, Col. Sutton again spoke -- thanked the army for their strict compliance with his command during the absence of the general, and exhorted them to be obedient and unanimous; as united they would stand and divided they would fall. He concluded with informing the army, that the general had again resumed the command. After which Major Nye read the Brigade orders. The principal features thereof were: that the next morning early, about 200 men (10 men were taken from each company) should start to an evacuated Indian Town, named Round head town, for the purpose of slaughtering all their hogs, cleaning and hanging them up, provided they could not be brought to our encampment conveniently by driving them, as well as to drive to our encampment their cattle, and to plunder and destroy all their property. This town, was 7 or 8 miles distant from Solomon town. The other part of the orders were principally confined to opening and repairing the road, and to throw a bridge across Sciota river.

On the 18th early in the morning, the men ordered the evening before marched very early. They were rejoiced at the opportunity of going. On the same day a party of Indians called the friendly sort arrived and appeared sorely vexed at the conduct of the army in making intrusions into their cornfields, and killing their hogs. They also claimed some of the Indian property found. General Tupper informed them; they should be paid for their corn and such property they could substantiate to be theirs; but cautioned them to be mindful of the orders, he had issued to the army, since his arrival: which were; that if any Indian or Indians were found within four miles of the camp, unless they had a white man with them as a guard, and were in the main road should be treated as enemies.

The running waters adjacent to Solomons town empty into the Miami. It is a pleasant fertile neighbourhood. A variety of timber grows here to great perfection. The Miami passed about two miles from this place. This country is interspersed with small prairies, which add to the ornament and convenience of the country, as they produce abundance of hay.

On the 20th and 21st October the 200 men who left the army on the 18th, returned again much fatigued. They killed many hogs and some cattle, plundered

some Indian property, burned and destroyed their habitations. Among other curiosities they found a small cabin, completely closed; an Indian sat therein with a very neat pipe, cut out of an uncommon kind of red stone. A looking glass and a ball of paint were fixed before him. The cabin appeared built and closed for the express purpose. It was the opinion of many, that said Indian was tied and confined in this position when alive, and so left to expire by his brother Indians. Nearly a mile from this cabin a grave yard appeared; the graves were not very old. Some men were inquisitive enough to dig some of the Indians out of their graves. They took the silver rings &c from them. Round head town is nearly a west course from Solomon town. Its running waters empty principally into the Sciota. The soil, timber and appearance of Round head and Solomon Town is very similar. There is one material objection formed by the generality of the people, against this country. Some of the land laying very low, nearly equal with the surface of the water courses, of course it is swampy and too wet for cultivation the greater part of the year. This stagnated water of course endangers the health of man very much. From the vapors and exhalations ascending almost perpetual the air is impregnated with such quantities of moisture that agues and intermittents are complaints which will probably annually visit those people who may become the settlers and cultivators of this fertile handsome soil. On the night of the 21st, there were several guns fired in success[sic.] by the sentinels. It being about 9 o'clock. No individual could easily believe otherways, but that it was the beginning of a formidable attack by the Indians. Every man (some excepted) took hold of his arms, and ran with joy, thinking an opportunity was now offering to avenge himself of the savage enemies of his country. In a few minutes time every line was arrayed in battle form, and rushed on to meet the enemy: But on right examination no enemies were found. However, two, or three sentinels asserted, that several men were seen by them outside of the line, and they did not answer when hailed; they fired on them conformable with their orders. On the 22d, the army was paraded a hollow[sic.] square. Major Nye read some orders from the general. Among other things the general thanked the army for their dexterous conduct in the alarm on the evening before, stating that he had every reason to place great confidence in the army.

At the same time and on the same ground three prisoners were brought up who were substitutes for drafted men. Their crime was desertion. Their sentence was read to them and put into execution immediately after. They were stripped naked, their pantaloons excepted. Their backs were daubed with tar, to make a paper stick thereon, containing their crime in very large letters. Their hands and feet were tied together; and in this position they were hung by hand and feet to a rail and carried by the front of the lines; and afterwards their left eye-brows were shaved. They were afterwards ordered to be taken to the guard house, and there be kept handkuffed, and on half rations during four days, before liberated. On Friday the 23d of October All hands (The guard and sick excepted, fell to forming what they called a breast work. This mighty fortification was made out of brush, built square; — a road left open to each guard house. The guardhouses being four in number, and placed square. On the 21st as also the 25th, numbers of men were allowed to go into the woods with their rifles. They over run every part of the country adjacent to Solomon town in every direction a great distance. From the great similarity of the surface of the country two men were lost; one of them encamped out from the army one night; the other encamped two nights, had altogether lost himself. On the second day he accidentally met with a friendly Indian, named Joseph Lewis, about 18 or 20 miles from the army. The Indian displayed considerable friend-

ship towards him, and shewed him which way the army was, in fact. accompanied him, until they arrived near the army. The person so lost was ensign Nathan Burwell.

On the 26th, 7th, 8th and 9th of October nothing material happened. The drawing of beef from the commissary again commenced, altho pork was yet plenty, and many hogs were running at large in the neighbourhood of Solomon town.

On the 20th of October, about 8 o'clock in the morning, we struck our tents and marched for Solomon town, crossed several of the principal waters of the Miami, and encamped about 5 miles from where we started. Between these two places we passed no prairies. The timber is various, such as white oak, black walnut, ash, sugar, elm, hickory, beech, &c. All of this kind of timber, as well as different other kinds, not mentioned appear very numerous, of immense size both as to length and thickness, and of the most luxuriant growth. Abundance of spice bushes are seen here, and are now covered with red berries. The Soil is apparently of a good quality. One objection is general, considerable of the land lay rather low, and of course remains too moist the greater part of the year for cultivation.

October 31st. about 8 or 9 o'clock a.m. we struck our tents and marched about 10 miles to M'Arthurs' Blockhouse. Between said two places, the country lays sufficiently uneven to give the water the necessary draining, tho' the ascends and descends are not so steep, as to interfere the least with the convenience of cultivation. Sugar trees and Black walnut appear in abundance and of the most luxuriant growth. The soil is very black and mellow on the most elevated as well as on the lowest spots. The Sciota runs past said blockhouse. It is only a small stream here, but abounds with fish. There had been, previous to the whole, armys' movement, some companies marched to this Blockhouse, who conformable with their orders threw a bridge across the Sciota — built some other houses requisite to store necessaries for the use of the army. Many large beech-trees are in this neighbourhood. The quantity of most they produce will appear incredible to all those to whom it should be related, if they have not been eye-witnesses thereof.

November 1st, 2d, 3d, & 4th Teams were arriving every hour at M'Arthurs' Blockhouse, loaded with flour, whiskey, &c. for the use of the army. In this time we moved about a 1/2 mile from our first encampment at the bridge, and encamped higher up on the banks of the Sciota. Here we erected a Brest work with logs and brush. Up Sciota, about 10 or 12 miles distant from this place, different large ponds appear immediately adjoining the creek, which abound with fish, otter, muscrats, Geese, duck, &c. The immensity of beech and other leaves with which this creek is filled at this time, as the leaves have mostly fell, color the water to that degree, that the bottom could not be seen where the water was one foot deep. We desire to mention that a bad habit at this time actuates the guard. Guns are fired almost every night by the sentinels at some thing or other, supposed by them as they say, to be Indians spying out our situation. This conduct has a bad effect on the wakefulness of the army. November 5th Late in the afternoon the army was paraded. Philip Hoffman, a substitute in captain Courtwrights was brought up and received sentence. The charges substantiated against him were stealing two blankets and getting drunk. His sentence was that the half of his head should be shaved and his left eye-brow; that he would then be marched in front of the line, and receive four blows with a paddle on his backside — then be returned to the guardhouse, and the next day in the afternoon be drummed out of camp with the rogues march and to get a final dismissal from military duty. The sentence was executed so far until the blows with the paddle should have commenced. The general ordered,

that after he was shaved and marched in front of the lines that then immediately he should be drummed out of Camp with the rogues march, till some distance outside of the line of the rear guard. November 6th, 7th, & 8th the fall rains continued almost without an interval. The soil we encamp on is of a black color and a loose nature. By this continuation of rain every part of our encampment and even the surrounding country became a compleat mire or stagnated water. The water forced into the tents that no place of rest nor comfort was to be found. The men fixed puncheons into their tents to keep the floors dry, and four guard houses were erected for the safety and comfort of the guard. Agues and intermittents became more general, and the army increased to be more unhealthy during these long and almost steady rains.

On the 9th of November our spies arrived with a British prisoner of some distinction known by the name of Captain Clarke. He was taken near a fort on the rapids of the Maumee river, which was held by the British and Indians at that place corroborated with what our spies asserted; They were circumstances which moved general Tupper to apply to the army in general for Volunteers to go with him, surprise them, either by night or day, whatever time might be found the most suitable and to get possession. Six hundred and ninety-odd men immediately volunteered exclusive of the staff officers. In fact, the very flower of the army immediately, notwithstanding the fatigue and great danger inevitable attending this expedition was fully stated to them. Every man made ready as fast as possible & the next day being the 11th of November, between 10 and 11 o'clock they paraded, formed themselves into marching order and started in high spirits amidst acclamation and shouting. There was such a prevalent certainty among some of the troops of being victorious at the rapids and thereby get in possession of provision, that one of the Captains only drew three days rations for their men to march 80 miles, supposed to be the distance from M'Arthurs' (where our encampment now is) Blockhouse to the Rapids of the Maumee river. The 10th we marched about fifteen miles to a black-house, known by the name of Fort necessity or Mud fort. We took a cannon along with 6 horses hitched to the carriage on which it was mounted, but found it impossible on account of the miry road to take it along farther than the neighbourhood of this blockhouse. The cannon and the other requisites belonging thereto were hid, but the horses were taken along. The land we seen this day is very similar to that in the neighbourhood of M'Arthur's Block house. Considerable of it lays low and marshy. The waters here wind very curious, some take their course into the Sciota, others to the lakes within a small circumference. On the 11th, we marched about 25 miles to where Findley's Block house had formerly been, but the Indians had burned it down. In this days march we crossed several branches, being waters which empty into the lakes. The timber here is of a luxuriant growth. Black walnut and sugar trees are seen here of an uncommon size. The spot where Findley's Blockhouse formerly stood is an elevated spot of ground, immediately on the bank of a beautiful water course, a fork of the Oglaze. It is a handsome situation. A good spring issues out of the bank, considerable above the surface of the river. The soil appears of the first quality. On the 12th we marched to Carron river, a distance of 24 miles. The soil and timber being very similar to that we passed through the day preceding. The weather began to get excessive cold, particularly after night, Carron river at this place is only a small water course, very much resembling a pond of stagnated water

On the 13th in the morning, being then on Carron river, 16 miles from the Rapids of the Maumee: -- The army was paraded in a suitable form, General Tupper appeared, delivered a short, but impressive speech, The following is

nearly a summary: -- We were now among the enemy, that our safety and the completing of our object depended on our profound silence, our perseverance, our fortitude, courage and valor. The discourse had the desired effect. Notwithstanding there were upwards of seven hundred men, including officers, the most profound silence was observed. It was seldom you heard any human voice at all, louder than the breathe. After we had marched about 10 miles, we halted some time and kindled fire in every line to warm ourselves, but did not break our marching position. In the course of two hours, more or less, we marched again. The reason we halted was: -- we would have arrived sooner at the fording of the rapids, than was thought prudent. We arrived on the banks of the river somewhere about 9 o'clock in the night. Some distance from the river we passed through a prairie about one mile and a half broad. The water therein was generally ankle and at some places half knee deep. About 8 or 10 miles from the Maumee to the very banks of it, the face of the country has a very different appearance. Large prairies appear in abundance. The soil of the elevated ground is of an inferior quality; white oak and some hickory are the principal growth. Strawberry stocks appear by thousands in spots on elevated ground in the woods. Free stone are seen in abundance. About 9 o'clock p.m. we arrived at the river about one mile above the place where we intended to ford it, but thinking it too soon to cross the army closed up, some layed down on the top of other, or made every shift to keep warm. The wind blew hard and the weather grew excessive cold. We remained in this situation some hours in the most profound silence, and then marched to the fording cross. The wind continued hard, the cold was excessive and penetrating, the river appeared full and furious. General Tupper was one of the first men that waded into and crossed the river. This conduct had the desired effect; it animated the troops to that degree, that they marched into the river as fast as possible with an intention to cross. Some few reached the opposite shore safe, some wetted their guns and ammunition; others were swept down the river by the violent force of the stream, lost their guns, and with some difficulty their lives were saved. Under these circumstances orders were given to return, and many assisted with horses to aid them, to return again to the shore from which they came. However, some men stayed on the Indian side of the river that night without kindling any fire, for fear the Indians would discover them. On the next morning early, they were assisted with horses to cross the river, when they joined the army again. It being now Saturday the 14th November, in the morning the army put itself into a suitable position, and marched down the river to get opposite the British and Indian fort, with an intention to aggravate them to give us battle. Some of our men carelessly left the lines and went in quest of Indian hogs, potatoes &c. A party of Indians mounted on horses, killed and scalped four, others escaped with their lives to the army very narrowly. So soon as the Indians rightly discovered us, their horrid yells were shortly after heard almost every direction. Many of them, both on horses and on foot crossed the river at different places, and immediate preparation was made to give us battle. Their horrid yells, firing of guns, and advancing towards us, induced us to believe that a battle would immediately take place. We formed ourselves in suitable lines, gave them the war whoop, ran forward to meet them, but they stood us no fight. We dispersed them the whole day every direction, wherever they appeared to be the most formidable. We killed and wounded many more Indians than they did of our men. In the afternoon, our flanking lines met many Indians who were crossing the river; but so soon as the Indians discovered their situation, they returned with confusion. Our men fired on them with effect as they were crossing the river,

many Indians as well as some of the horses were seen floating down the river, either killed or wounded. Near sun down, all firing and yelling ceased, and the Indians had retreated out of sight and out of hearing; — we were entirely out of provision: it was thought best to march homeward. We commenced our march with some regularity so soon night began, and returned to Carron river that night, a distance of 15 miles from the rapids of the Maumee, and there encamped till day. The ground was covered with snow which had fell during the time we were at the rapids. The weather continued excessive cold. Many were sick and could scarcely get along. Hunger and fatigue gave the army a ghostly appearance. Before we step over to Sunday the 15th something painful remains to record. On Saturday morning when we left the banks to proceed down the river; three of our men were sick — two of them were so low, apparently helpless; The third was not so low, but what he might have done something towards his security, Two horses were left with them, but some unmerciful officer in the army, whether with or without authority from the general, we do not know, returned and took the horses, and left these three sick men entirely alone, exposed to the Tommahawk and scalping knife of the savages. In the evening when we commenced our march we happened to be some distance from the three sick men where we had left them in the morning, of course they were left. All the army marched without a knowledge what had become of them. The subject shall be mentioned hereafter if any discovery should be made what has become of them. On Sunday morning the 15th of November we started from Carron river, and on the evening we arrived at Findley's Blockhouse. Very little regularity was observed in this day's march. There is no doubt but the army was occasionally strung along the road a distance of 5 or 6 miles, notwithstanding the principal officers frequently rode in front and commanded a halt until the rear closed up. At Findley's Blockhouse we found some flour which was brought to meet us on our return, but no other provision. On Monday the 16th some of the troops marched clear to our encampment at M'Arthurs' Blockhouse, supposed to be a distance of forty miles, other only reached fort necessity. Those much fatigued, sick or lame, remained at the Blockhouse the 16th, left it in the morning of the 17th and arrived at Fort necessity that evening. On the 18th, all hands, sound, lame, or sick were in the encampment again. Here closed this expedition or hunger, fatigue, cold (Many of the men were nearly naked) and human calamity. When we started, some companies drew five days — others 6, and some seven days ration in advance, except the Company of Calvin Shepard could only receive three days rations, of course had not some men in the other companies been generous enough to divide with them, their offerings would have been much greater than they actually were. On the return of the army all the companies drew their back rations, except the company of said Calvin Shepard could not get their back rations. Whether this neglect or defraud lays mostly in the commissary, or in the officers of said company we shall delay asserting, until we view the subject some longer. On the return of General Tupper to the army at the encampment, he was arrested by Col. Sutton at the suit of general Winchester, respecting his conduct on an occasion mentioned in the forepart of this work. On our return we found the army in a far worse state of health than we had left it. Two men were buried in our absence, and some waggon loads of sick conveyed to the hospital at Urbana, notwithstanding great numbers remained sick in the encampment. Three more died in a few days after our return. From our return to the 27th of November nothing very material happened, except the army grew daily more unhealthy. General Tupper started within said time, attended by some of the officers. It was asserted by some, that he went to meet his trial at Franklinton. Before his departure

he had the army paraded; and delivered a discourse. In substance it was no more than his real thanks to the troops for their orderly, obedient, and brave conduct in the expedition to the Maumee, and his affectionate leave in case the command of them should be taken from him.

November the 28th Altho' many things daily escape, which with propriety might not only be noticed, but largely commented on; yet we cannot avoid at this time to touch a little on the present situation of the army. The situation of the army at this time far more presents an object of charity and every species of human misery, than to imitate the grandeur, dread and reverence which must necessarily attend an invading army which can reasonably expect to meet with success and honor. Nearly one half of this army is reported sick, nearly the other half is known to be almost naked, notwithstanding winter is now among us with all its attendant horrors. The cold forces itself into the skin in spite of every effort; -- hundreds of young mens' constitutions are about getting ruined for life. Some of the sick lay in the last pangs of death with one bad little blanket -- the amount total of all their bedding, notwithstanding many of the officers' markees are filled with blankets. What cause keeps the army together under such circumstances, under such preparations, is hard to be accounted for; unless we attribute it to the exorbitant wages, which many of our officers receive. Their number appears entirely too great in proportion to the quantity of privates, if even the privates were well and clothed. Whether government will continue to be duped and imposed upon by such conduct, time only can develope. But it is ardently wished by every sick man in camp, who is not yet bereft of every sensation, to be at a place where he could be kept warm and attended to. And it is ardently wished by every naked man in camp that something could arrived wherewith he might cover his nakedness, keep his body warm and his feet dry; so that he would be able to do his duty as a soldier. Or if this cannot be done, in justice can demand a discharge which will allow him to go to a home, which is dear to him, and where he may be clothed and comforted to his satisfaction. On the night of the 28th, a volunteer soldier in the company of Captain Calvin Shepard died. He was an inoffensive innocent young man. He had caught a cold preceding the commencement of a severe spell of weather, which laid him up. His clothes were intended for summers' wear and altogether unsuitable for the inclemency of this kind of weather. One little old blanket was the amount total of all his bedding. On this situation he remained many days, in the most excruciating agony without the requisite aid, and at last expired. His name was John Smith. On the 29th in the evening he was buried.

November the 30th, For several days, General Tupper's return was hourly expected, and anxiously looked for. Healthy men as well as the sick appeared in a state of suspense, as the army daily increased to be more unhealthy. Several desertions happened. General Tupper, as the inferior officers asserted, vested Col. Miller with authority to command the army during this (Tupper's) absence. A new encamping ground was fixed on some days ago, by the officers, a distance of about 300 yards from the former one; -- It was supposed to be more dry and healthy. This day all hands fell to work in erecting themselves encampments. December first. On the night of first James Jourdan died. He was a soldier who had volunteered in the Company of Captain Isaac Buttler from Gallia. As Captain Buttler was a most humane gentleman, said Jourdan received every attendance and aid of which his situation would admit. He was a sergeant in said company and apparently a friendly good-hearted man. It is said he left a widow and eight children in Gallia, who sustained an irreparable loss by his death. December 3d, On the 3d. the army mostly moved to their new encamp-

ment, the encampments being mostly completed. The whole of the day continued cloudy, and on the night of the 3d it rained excessively the whole night, so that the water penetrated almost into every encampment. On the said 3d day adjutant Rodgers cut a tree down, which accidentally fell on the general and doctors markees: -- It broke and nearly ruined all their medicinal and provisional stores. The loss was said to be very great. Two expresses arrived this day, the contents were said to be, that general Harrison had ordered Winchester and Perkins, to march to the Rapids of the Maumee river, and attempt to take possession of that place. Ever since the commencement of the fall rains until the present day, there has been almost continual rain and of late snow. On the 4th and 5th nothing of much account happened. The army continued very sickly. The coldness of the weather increased, and continued intense for some days. On the 6th, being Sunday about 8 o'clock in the evening the arrival of General Tupper was announced by the discharge of a cannon three times, which fairly shook the earth throughout the encampment. It is somewhat remarkable, that in this part of the country the fall of every large tree apparently shakes the earth with a large circumference. From the 7th of this month until the 10th the weather continued cold and generally cloudy. It snowed more or less almost every day. The cold was so penetrating that the whiskey which was drawn by the soldiers from the commissary and not immediately drunk, but preserved during night in canteens, froze hard, and could not be used the next day, without the aid of fire. No Thermometer is in the army by which we can ascertain the degrees of coldness in this climate. However, we will leave it to the reader to decide, what causes this whiskey to freeze. If it is the intense coldness of this climate, or whether the commissaries are committing fraud in issuing whiskey to the soldiers of an inferior quality and almost destitute of spirits. As we believe that fraud is intended by the commissary against the soldiers, and has been ever since this army is gathered together; and as we are not certain whether the officers are conniving at this fraud or not, we shall delay this subject to a future day. The rations are seldom drawn in full. Whiskey, candles, or some part is wanting almost every day. How these things are accounted for, time will develop; and we shall in the conclusion of this work fully point out the defrauder, if any one be found, and hold him up to public execration and contempt. From the 10th of December to the 16th, as well as some time previous to this droves of hogs came here very fast until many hundreds and thousands had arrived. A certain quantity of fatigue men were daily called out from among the army, whose business it was to herd them, as there was an abundance of most. In the night they were turned within the breastwork of our former encamping ground; but from various causes many of these hogs became more and more scattered every day; -- and we now view it to be impracticable, if not impossible to collect them all together again within any reasonable time. Within a few days two men died belonging to the army. The one was a drummer, remarkable for corpulency or bodily size. The other was a soldier who had been wounded at the Rapids and was on his way to be taken to the hospital at Urbana; but death overtook him at Solomon's town where the scene was closed. On the 16th of December, Lewis Whitton, a soldier in the company of Captain Buttler died, and on the 17th, John Gibson a sergeant of the company of Captain Calvin Shepard died, and on the evening of the 18th their remains were entered at the burying ground of our former encampment, with as much decency as the situation of the army would admit. They were young men of good behaviour and pure morals, of course their deaths caused some regret. On the 18th a quantity of shoes were issued by the Captains of companies, which had arrived at this place one or two days before. It was a happy circumstance

for the men, as many of them had been without shoes for some time. These were the first clothes the men received from government. Those who were the most shoeless are now shod; but there are many clothes wanted or needed yet by the men to keep the cold from interfering with their healths. 19th & 20th John Homes of the company of Captain Buttler died. Within a few days a number of sick have been conveyed to the hospital at Urbana. Prospects are still held out by the principal officers to the men of the arrival of clothing, but they are not believed by many. Impatience and discontent are manifested and visible in every part of the encampment. Every day you may hear the men calculating how many days remain yet until their time of servitude in the army expires. They look forward to that day as a day of deliverance from bondage. Particularly those who have lost all confidence and respect for their officers, and believe them from their conduct to possess neither integrity nor competency to discharge the duties attached to their offices. In this state of affairs, when honesty and competency of superiors are apparently called into question, No Brigade orders are read, no parades are seen except the ordinary guards, no cleaning or inspecting of arms is ordered, nor attended to without orders by the men. Military Discipline and the keeping of guns in order to meet the enemy makes no part of the conversation or duty of the soldiers at this time. We are stationed here, as presumed by most to take an active part with the different armies, now stationed at various places all under the command of general Harrison, destined for the purpose of destroying Indians and the Invasion of Upper Canada. It is asserted that Harrison prefers a winter Campaign to effect this object; Notwithstanding the men with whom he intends to make these noble conquests have been mostly bred in more southern regions, and never have visited an equally cold climate in the middle of winter. No animadversions will now be made, as time alone can, and will shortly explain the propriety or practicability of this subject.

Notwithstanding we have been stationed on this ground, or near it, some months, remote from any settlement of white people, yet it is not in our power to describe with any correctness, the native animals or vegetables which are found here. Black squirrels are very plenty, of a common size, and a fine coat of short hair, similar to fur. Small red, as well as grey squirrels are seen. Rabbits are scarce; wolves and foxes are plenty. The Hedgehog or Porcupine is a native. The soldiers have brought them into camp alive, and kept them as pets. They appear a great natural curiosity to those who have never before seen them. A variety of vegetables appear, the names of which we are unacquainted with. No doubt some of them are notorious for their medicinal qualities or virtues. Some wet prairies produce a red berry in abundance, known by the name of Crampberries, They are sour, but contain a delicious healthy flavour, and were used by some of the sick to advantage, before they became covered with the snow or ice. From the 20th to the 25th of December, nothing worthy of remark occurred. On the night of the 25th Johnson Walkins, a young man in Captain Calvin Shepard's company died. He laid in the most excruciating agonies some weeks before he expired. On the 28th some blankets and socks were issued by the Captains of companies, which had arrived in camp some days before. The socks are made out of baize or coarse flannel, and are a little more than shoe high. The quantity of blankets which have arrived and are issued to the men are said to be 200. Before we started to the expedition to the Rapids, orders were given to each company, to make three large sleds. The dimensions were given. It was said they were intended to facilitate our movement after the ground became covered with snow. On account of the scarcity of tools and perhaps other reasons, these sleds were not all completed till

within a few years. On the 29th December, a man buried belonging to the first battallion. On the same day information arrived in camp of the death of Captain Isaac Buttler. He died at the house of a relative of his on Mad river, named Dougherty, He died on the night of the 29th December. He had left the encampment some short time before, sick, with the idea that his health would be restored sooner in the settlement, than at the camp. The character of Captain Buttler is too well established within the limits of his acquaintances to be diminished with pen or pencil. He possessed a strong mind which appeared in all his actions. The shafts of slander or ridicule could never please where Captain Buttler was known. He was brave, he was generous, he was humane, Aware of the insults offered to his country, he volunteered his services for its defence, and was elected Captain by a large respectable company volunteers from Gallia county. He well deserves, if any man can deserve it, the perpetual gratitude of his fellow citizens. In him were united the honest useful citizen and the brave soldier. By his death, a disconsolate widow, a number of acquaintances and relatives, as well as the public in general, have sustained an irreparable loss. "Blessed are the righteous for their works will follow them." January 1st, 1813. Two men were buried on this day belonging to the army. The army continues very sickly. More or less sick continue to be moved nearly every week to the hospital at Urbana. For some days previous to New year, the weather was uncommon fair and warm, by which the ground became completely thawed. On the evening of New year it commenced snowing and continued without intermission upwards of 48 hours. On Monday morning, the sky appeared again very cold. The snow was between two and three feet deep. On the 7th, two men or more from each company, being about 50 men exclusive of the spies started to Findley's Blockhouse. The two companies of spies went with them. It is said the intention is to build another blockhouse; the Indians burned one, and to erect such other buildings requisite to store necessaries for the use of the army during the next campaign. We have omitted to mention in its proper place, that on New year as well as Christmas morning, two rounds were fired in succession all round the lines, preceded by a discharge from a cannon. The report equalled thunder. On the 9th an express arrived from General Winchester, stating that he had marched with the flour of the army consisting, consisting of about twelve hundred men to the Rapids of the Maumee river, and taken possession there without opposition. No Briton nor Indian was found, It appears they immediately evacuated the place after we had the skirmishes with them on the 11th November. Nearly ten thousand bushels of corn were found in the fields. Signs were seen that the enemies had attempted to burn & destroy it, but with very little effect. The principal object of this express from Winchester to Tupper was to get provision immediately. The express brought information that they had only two days rations when they arrived at the Rapids. On account of this, 50 men are now called out of the army on fatigue, to make lighter sleds than those made before, with an intention to hitch only two horses to one of them, and with great speed deliver provision to the rapids of the Maumee. On the 10th two men or more out of each company, amounting to about 50 men in all started to Findley's Blockhouse in company with some of the spies, to erect a Blockhouse, (the Indians burned the former one) and to erect other buildings requisite to store provisions for the use of the army. They took with them two sleds, to each of which were hitched three yoke of oxen. On the sleds were loaded the provision, and such artificery tools, as they needed. On the 11th, 30 men started with about nine hundred head of hogs to Findley's Blockhouse. Said Blockhouse is about 40 miles distant from this place, on the road leading to the Rapids of the Maumee river. From the 7th to the 10th, it snowed

almost continual, the weather continued excessive cold. On the 11th and 12th many hundred hogs were started to the Rapids of the Maumee for the use of the army. On the 14th; about one hundred packhorses arrived at M'Arthurs' Blockhouse with store-goods and provision. They were principally from Kentucky. These horses were mostly taken and hitched to about 38 sleds made by the artificers in a very bungling shackling way. Three barrels of flour were put on a sled, and each man who undertook to drive one of the sleds received six bushels of corn as forage to feed the two horses eleven days, which drew the sled. On the 15th these sleds all started. The most of the men were taken from the lines who drove these sleds. The remainder were Kentuckians, who had brought the packhorses. The orders were to proceed as fast as possible to the Rapids of the Maumee, to the place where it was supposed the different armies under Harrison were to be concentrated as quick as possible. But before these sleds had proceeded as far as Carron river, expresses met them to the different armies of the defeat of general Winchester at the river Raisin. This affair, we believe from information to be as follows. General Winchester, conformable with his orders marched to the Rapids of the Maumee, and stationed himself there. He received information that the British and Indians were about forcibly to move the wheat and flour of the citizens who lived on the River Raisin. General Winchester immediately marched with about one thousand and fifty men, and on the 18th of January in the afternoon they attacked the British and Indians, defeated them, killed 18 Indians and took on prisoner and obtained possession of the above mentioned wheat and flour. The British and Indians reinforced, and on the 22d November before day, at a time when they were altogether unsuspected. The attack was made and Winchester killed and all the men killed and taken, except about 50 men who some how made their escape. The number actually killed are now supposed to be about seven hundred and fifty. General Harrison happened to be at the Rapids at the same time when the attack on the troops at the river Raisin was suspected to take place in a short time, and sent on reinforcements, but the reinforcements did not get far until some met them who had been in the battle, and escaped very narrow with their lives. On this information the reinforcements returned to the Rapids, and a council was held whether or not it was prudent to go on with the force then there, which was decided in the negative. The troops then stationed at the Maumee, who were the remnant of the left wing, that is, the Brigade commanded by General Winchester, then retreated to Carron river, a distance of about 15 miles from the Maumee. The Blockhouse and store-house erected there, were burned. The goods there, were free for every one to carry off as many thereof as he could get with him. The remainder was burned. The flour and pork stored there, was burned. And the army started at two o'clock in the night to Carron river. Winchester's army, or that part thereof remaining, consisted of about 1500 men. There were breastworks erected immediately after. So soon as this defeat took place, it appeared that immediately after Harrison gave orders to the different commanders of Brigades to approach Carron River with all their forces, and with all the speed in their power. The different roads leading, the spot where the concentration of the armies was contemplated to take place, were almost continually filled with men marching with sleds hauling provision, packhorses by hundreds were seen moving towards the army with provision. Tupper's Brigade marched on the 31st of January from M'Arthurs' Blockhouse. None stayed there, except some sick and invalids, who were ordered some to Urbana, and others to guard the Blockhouse. Captain Bacchus was left to be their commander. He had been stationed at the Blockhouse for some time before. February 31st. at this time the extreme left wing of the army is cut off, being the one thousand and

fifty men mentioned that were cut off. All the other troops will perhaps arrive before, or perhaps at the same time, or after Tupper's Brigade, at Carron river. Some decisive battle is at this time generally conjectured to take place shortly.

[The End]