

WAR OF 1812 DIARY OF WILLIAM B. NORTHCUTT EDITED BY G. GLENN CLIFT

William Brooks Northcutt during his ninety years was distiller, soldier, farmer, school teacher, Justice of the Peace, County Assessor, and father of thirteen children. As related in the opening remarks of his book, he was born in Fauquier County, Virginia, on January 19, 1790, and came to Kentucky with his father when seven years of age. He died June 26, 1880, at the Kenton County, Kentucky, home of his son, Ira Lucian Northcutt, and was buried in the old Cruise Creek Cemetery on Green Road. His wife had died eight years before and had been buried in the same cemetery.

Mr. Northcutt's recollections of his long life in Central Kentucky and in Campbell County are preserved in a small, 16 x 19 cm volume of 256 pages, given to the Society, May 9, 1957, by Mr. A. E. Northcutt, of Cincinnati, a great-great-grandson of the diarist. The record was written in one hand, very possibly in a short time, indicating a copying or re-writing from notes or an earlier diary.

The manuscript is in two parts, the first or original which will be published in *The Register*, and a second which the author labeled "Recapitulation of the First Work." There is no positive date of commencement or of completion of the first book. The second was ended with the date of October 5, 1869.

In the writing, the chronicler made no effort to break his story into paragraphs, used little punctuation, and broke his sentences in many instances only by page numbers, indicated in the published form by brackets. No changes have been made in the original spelling, wording or use of capitalization beyond occasional completion of words and additions made in brackets. Punctuation and paragraphs were added and sentences were completed in an effort to make the account more comprehensible.

The "River Raisin Force" with which this first installment is concerned, was made up almost entirely from militiamen and United States troops recruited in Central Kentucky. The army marched from Georgetown on August 19, 1812, charged with the very difficult task of relieving American troops at Detroit under the command of General William Hull. The writer of the pages following, as a member of Captain William Garrard's "Bourbon Blues," a company "composed of one hundred and six men and but two married men in it, and twenty of them own cousins," was with the force during the first three months of its slow progress into the north. His observations of men, events and the trials of the ill-fated army agree favorably with contemporary and present day accounts of the expedition.

The editor is indebted to Society member, Mrs. Mahlin C. Northcutt, South Fort Mitchell, for her help in securing the manuscript for the Society and for biographical data concerning William B. Northcutt.

Wm. B. Northcutt was the son of Benjamin Northcutt and Winnie Northcutt who was Winnie Brooks, Daughter of Thos. Brooks of Virginia. Wm. B. was born January 19, 1790, in Fauquier County, Va., and lived in Virginia until he was between seven and eight years of age when his father moved to Kentucky in the spring of 1797 and settled in Bourbon

County, Ky. From there he moved to Fayette County and from there to Harrison County, Ky., where in 1800 my mother Died by the bite of a spider and left behind her five small children, the oldest ten years old and the youngest 3 weeks, all under the care of my father's mother, quite an old lady to Raise the infant by hand. The old lady staid with us until father married again which was some time in Jan., 1801, to a Miss Rachel Leathers of Woodford County, Ky. Then began my earthly troubles for my step-mother paid very little attention to the Baby and my old grand mother left us and went to live with her [2] Daughter and the care of the child was put on me which was a sore trial for a boy of ten years of age.

While my mother lived I had never done much but go to school. She started me to school at four years old and Kept me going Every opportunity until she died which put an End to my schooling until I got free from my father. Before I was five years old I could Read any Chapter in the Bible which was a marvel to the neighbors that so small a boy should Read so well.

My father moved from Virginia on pack horses and I rode a pack horse all the way over the mountains to Redstone old fort now Brownsville and there father Bought a flat Bottomed Boat and put all on board and we landed at Limestone now Maysville, Ky. He then put us all on horseback again and Landed us in Bourbon County, Ky., in May, 1797. In the fall of 1808 my father Bought land in Campbell County, Ky., in the woods and built a house on it and in Jan., 1809, moved to it. He had six boys and I was the oldest [3] about nineteen year old.

He said that he was going to set all of his boys free at twenty years old, and told me that if I would make him a certain number of fence Rails that I might be free. Accordingly in the Spring of 1809 I set in to make the Rails and in the month of October finished my task and got my freedom, and in 1810 left Campbell County and went to Bourbon County, and set in with a gentleman by the name of Jas. Hutchinson in the distilling business, which I had learned from my father and was Complete master of. I averged him three gallons of whiskey to the Bushel of grain that he furnished me the first season, which pleased him so that he Enlarged his Distillery and I worked with him two or three Seasons until the War of 1812 with great Britain Came on.

In the spring of 1812 I had Entered to go to school for three months [4] To a young Man by the name of Harrison.¹ But before the three months was out we Both volenteered in the Army and the School broke up. He volenteered in Maurice Langhorn's Company of Rifle Men for six months, and I volenteered in Capt. Garrard's² troop of twelve months Light Dragoons, and was attached to Jas. V. Ball's Squadron of United States light Dragoons. On the 20th of August 1812 we Rendezvoused at

Georgetown, Scot[t] County, Ky., and took up our line of March for Malden, up[er] Canada. There were three Regiments of Infantry for six months, and our troop of horse for twelve months that left Georgetown together under the Command of Brigadier Genl. Pain,³ the whole Com-manded by General Wm. H. Harrison.

We started for the war with high Spirits but poor fellows but few if any of us antispated what awaited us for few of us knew what a Soldier's life was but [5] I guess before we got Back some of us found out what it was to be a Soldier. I often told my Mess that I was as good a patriot as any in the army for I had come into the Service with myself and all that I had I had Brought with me. When I left Campbell County for Bourbon I left it on foot and Carried all that I Possessed in a small checked handkerchief. The first year I bought me a Horse and Some clothes, and the next year I had Laid up a little money and it took it all to equip me in the troop of horse that I had joined. Our uniform was of the finest Blue broadcloth, trimmed with white lace and Red Scarlet vest with a jacked, Leather cap, Black Cockade, Black plume tip with Red and our horse accipage was very Expensive so that it took all that I had made to acquire me in the Service of my Country and I took [6] all that I had Except one Suit of Clothes with me into the Service of my Country.

Our Company was made up in May⁴ but we did not get marching orders until about the 10th of August and when the Sergeant came to give me notice I was on a wheat stack stacking wheat for Mr. Hutchinson. We left Georgetown on the 21st of August 1812⁵ and got as far as gouchs [Cough?] on the Dry Ridge Road and there made our first Encampment. The next night we got to Gaines and I left my Company at Gaines and went about three miles to my father's to take leave of them, and there I met a good many of the neighbors that had come in to see a young Soldier and tell him farewell. The next night I met my Company at Newport, Ky. There we had the promise of drawing our Cavalry arms but they were not there, and the Capt. gave us our choice [7] to draw muskets and go on, or go back home. We all agreed to draw the long knives and go on to Malden.

At Newport we formed our first camp guard by placing out a guard and when the officer of the guard came around, he played a prank on one [of] the Sentinels by asking him for his arms, getting them and then putting him under guard. Our Company was composed of the very Elite of the State, young men of the Best families in Kentucky, young merchants, Lawyers and Doctors. The Company was one Hundred & six men strong and but two Married men in it, our Captain himself Being an Old Bachelor and fifteen more the same Sort. The ballance were young men from 22

years down to 16 mere boys. But it was said to be the finest company that left old Kentucky in 1812 for the war. We stayed at Newport two days and Had our horses valued into the Service, which was done by two Kentuckians at [8] pretty high figures and those that Lost them without their Neglect got paid for them at their value. I lost mine at the Battle of the Missisnawa Rivers and Received one hundred and twenty dollars for it.

At Newport we drew our Muskets and Cartouch Boxes and carried them about three months when we gave them up and drew our cavalry arms and a Yauger or Short Rifle. About the 25th of August we crossed the Ohio River at Cincinnati, and took up our line of march for Malden. But there we received the unpleasant news of the Surrender of Detroit by Genl. Hull which news gave us a Damper to our getting to Malden. Soon we crossed the Ohio in a flat ferry boat and formed on the Bank of the River to wait for the foot men to cross.

Capt. George Crohan's⁷ Company of United States Regulars were the first to cross over and when they landed the Capt. with a [9] long Spontoon in his hand was the first man out. I observed to some of the Boys that the government had made a mistake in appointing a Boy to Command a Company of Regulars for he had the appearance of a mere Boy but it turned out that it was me that was mistaken that time and not the Board of War, for he proved to be a Lion instead of a Lamb for I never saw such generalship displayed no where in the war as was done by him at Lower Sandusky⁸ in the attack that the British made on that fort on the 2nd of August 1813. I was there before the dead British were taken out of the Ditch and I never saw such generalship displayed any where as was done in the defense of the fort by this boy Capt. And he done it all under Disobedience of orders, for Harrison had ordered him to Evacuate the fort and come to his headquarters at Camp Seneca nine miles above the fort on the Sandusky River. [10] The Ladys of Chillicothe presented him with an Ellegant Sword for his bravery and Genl. Harrison with a Red peticoat. The General Received a very nice little Box and when he opened it out jumped the present.

We marched through Cincinnati and went five miles out to Mill Creek at Hutchinson's tavern and there Encamped waiting for some orders. We stayed at this Encampment two days and while lying here, their came in a great many of the citizens to see the troops which was about 2000 strong and amongst the Rest an old Englishman that Hallowed Hurrah for King George and the Boys did not like such music very well and thought they would put a stop to it. So they caught the old chap and took him up to the tavern to the pump where there was a large watering trough and

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Laid him flat on his Back in it and held him there and pumped water on him until they cooled him off so that he hurayed no more for [11] King George the third.

While lying here one of our Company by the name of Brown beat their Ohio Champion Running a foot Race, winning several hundred dollars of their money. There came one of their citizens to where our Company were Encamped with a Wagon load of water mellons to sell, and the boys thought that he was asking too much for them and that they would get them a little cheaper and accordingly they made a plot to do so. Some four or five of them were to go up to the wagon and begin to pick and price the water mellons while as many more were to slip them out in[to] the high Ironwood weeds that stood by the Road Side. Presently the fellow that had them found out what they were after and started to move off but his wagon wheels had not more than turned once over until his wagon were captized and the mellons went galloping over the Road.

[12] About the first of Sept., 1812, the Indians laid seige to Fort Wayne, then in the Indiana Territory, and the Kentucky troops under the Command of Genl. Harrison started from their Camp at Mill Creek and went on a forced march to the Relief of the fort. We went on by way of Dayton, Ohio, and Pickway which was then the outside town in Ohio, and here we drew flints and Ammunition, and went from here by way of St. Mary's to Fort Wayne. When we came to the River St. Mary's the boys there found a Kentuckian of African descent living in a hut with a white woman. Some of the troops knew him and that he belonged to some man in Kentucky and had runaway some year or two before, and come here and located with the white woman for his wife. The hard hearted Kentuckians parted them right here and sent the boy home to his master and the woman [13] went into the camp as cook for some of Uncle Sam's Boys and they used to call her the negroe's mamy.

We had a good many false Alarms on the way out to Fort Wayne, and a good many killed by accident. It was against general orders to fire a gun in the Ranks, but one day as we were marching very Soberly through a thick peace of woods, there was a porcupine lying in the forks of a tree and one of the foot men up with his gun and fired, and hollered out Accident. But down came the porcupine when the officer of the day rode up to him and drew his sword over his head and swore he wanted no more such accidents. The night before we got to Fort Wayne we had a great time with false alarms. The Sentinels were firing and running in all night crying out the watch word which was Fight On. We did Expect Every Moment to be attacked by the Indians, and that night had thrown [14] up Considerable breast works and the boys called it Fort

Fighton. The Indians had out their spies and they were around us all night and nothing but our numbers kept us from being attacked by them. We had to cross a swamp the next morning where Old Anthony Wayne had a Battle with them in his Maumie Campaign in 93. As soon as we got through the swamp we came to an Indian Encampment, with their fires still burning. Our Spies had a Scrimish with their spies and wounded one of them and got his gun and Blanket but did not get him. We got to the fort about 3 o'clock on the Evening of Sept. the 9th, 1812, to the great joy of the garrison for the Indians had besieged it in for the last two weeks, but upon our appearance they cleared out and left it, after killing two of the sentinals in the fort, and some of the Citizens that lived around the fort, and destroyed all the publick stores out side of the fort and all the stock that belonged to and around the fort. They paid [15] us a visit that night and stole some of our horses, and fired into the Camp very near all night without killing anyone. There was a great many Bullets shot through our tents but no person was hit. They used a good deal of stratgey to get the fort to surrender. The Capt. of the garrison got alarmed and wanted to Surrender, but the Lieutenant would not agree to it.

The Indians made them a wooden cannon in order to scare them into a Surrender. The manner in which they made the cannon was this: there was a great many public wagons around the fort which they destroyed. They took the hub bands off the wheels of the Wagons and then cut a leg of wood about the size of a cannon and split it open and Hollowed it out with their tomahawks and burned it Black, and put the hub bands on it and mounted it on the hind wheels of a wagon that they had Reserved for the purpose, and Brought it up before the fort and demanded a Surrender or they would [16] Blow them to pieces. But the garrison would not comply with the demand, and they filled it with powder and cut loose and away went their artificial gun.

Before we dismiss the Fort Wayne subject I will Relate a little incident that occurred the day that we got there. The Indians had killed two of the sentinals in the fort in their Sentry Boxes and they had buried them inside of the fort, and when we got there they took them out of the fort to the grave yard and buried them with the honors of war. They were the first that I had ever seen shot by the Indians. I stood by the gate of the fort as they Marched out with them and I could not help shedding tears although they were perfect strangers to me, but before my twelve months were out I could have slept on a dead Soldier. This goes to prove that a Soldier loses his natural feelings and I suppose that it is all Right that he should, before he becomes fit for a Soldier, for the man that thinks

about dying in a Battle is not fit to be there and will do no good for his country or King.

[17] After staying a day or two at Fort Wayne our Company of horse and Col. Allen's⁹ Regiment of Rifle Men under the immediate command of Genl. Harrison, left for the Indian towns on the head warters of the Wabash River. The Second day we came to the first town which was Evacuated. They had left a Set of Blacksmiths tools in the town and a few Chickens, all of which we Captured. There was about a dozen of the boys took after a chicken to catch it. I stood and looked on until the boys and the chicken were Both pretty well run down. I then jumped in and picked up the chicken and run down to the river with it, dipped it in the water, wet it and picked it, and had it on the fire cooking in a very few minutes.

In this town there was found a fresh Indian grave made in a manner peculiar to themselves. It was Built of Small poles and daubed up tight with mortar made of mud, the pen was about three feet [18] High and four feet wide and Covered with poles and mortar or mud and in it was found an old Indian man Lying flat on his Back, wrapt up in a Blanket and on his Breast sat a tin pan with a great many silver Breaches in it with his gun lying by his side. The boys tore the top off [] to look in and while one of them was stooping down peeping in, one of my mess mates pushed him Right in with the old Indian, which occasioned a good deal of meriment with the boys.

We destroyed this town and went about 15 miles lower down the River to another town called the White Loon town. We found it also Evacuated. In this [town] there was a great deal of corn and vegetables of all kinds. We destroyed their corn and every thing Else with their town which we Burned. Encamped in the Edge of the town that night, [19] and the next morning started back for Fort Wayne. We arrived there about the 17th of Sept. and found a mutiny about to occur in Lewis's¹⁰ Regiment, in Regard of Genl. Winchester taking the command of the Kentucky volunteers.

He Being a Regular officer, the Volunteers Refused to be commanded by him, and fixed up to come home in a Body, but through the influence of Genl. Harrison, and some of his staff, they were persuaded to go under Winchester, who had Been sent out by the Board of War to supercede Harrison in command of the Kentucky volunteers. But the Boys did not like him: Harrison was their favorite and could do more with them than any other living man. The day before we got Back to Fort Wayne the detachment that went out to the St. Joseph towns, composed of Cols. Lewis and Scott¹¹ and some Regulars under the Command of Col. Wells¹², the

whole making about 12 hundred Men, Returned to the fort and we were all put under the [20] Command of Genl. Winchester and called the north western army. Harrison gave up the Command to Winchester, and Returned to Cincinnati to attend some military business there. The next thing that we hear from Harrison is that he is appointed Major Genl. over Winchester and sole Commander of the North Western Army which gave to the troops new life and vigor.

Winchester was ordered from Fort Wayne to Fort Defiance, an old vacated fort then occupied by the British. We left Fort Wayne about the 20th of Sept., 1812, with three Ridgements of Ky. Volunteers, Capt. Wm. Garrard's troop of Horse and some Regulars under Col. Wells. Crossed the river below the forks at the fort, and took the north side of the River Maume of the Lake. We were then put on half rations of Beef and no flour all the way down to Defiance which it took us ten days to get there. At that point we Expected to meet provisions but when we got there they had not [21] arrived. Col. Jennings¹³ that was Escorting the provisions got alarmed at the news of the British being at Defiance, and built a block House on the Aglaise River, and stored it up. We had a tedious march from Fort Wayne to Defiance, and the Indians clogged us Every Step of the way. We had to form the line of Battle frequently to fight them But they always backed out.

When we had got about half way down to Defiance a young officer in the Regular service, by the name of Liggett,¹⁴ from Woodford County, Ky., solisited the General for the privilege of choosing four of his neighbor boys, volunteers, and to let them go on ahead of the main army to Defiance to make Discoveries, and to see if the British were there. The Genl. granted him his Request, and he chose his four men his neighbor boys and accordingly they started to go to Defiance, but they had not gotten five miles from where they started until the whole of them [22] was shot, tomahawked, scalped and most inhumanly and Barbariously treated by the Indians. We supposed from appearances that they had Been decoyed to the spot where they were killed by the Indians Scattering plums along a Deer path that led down the river, for there was plums lying around where they were killed and not a plum tree near.

They left Camp soon in the morning and were not found until Evening of the same day. A young man by the name of Hannan,¹⁵ one of my old Harrison County play mates, found them. He belonged to Blan Ballards Spie Company.¹⁶ He came in and Reported, the worst Scared fellow that I had ever seen, but it was too late to go and Bury them that Evening, and early the next morning our troop of horse and Ballard's Company of Spies was ordered to go and Bury them. A party of Indians

by in wait watching them. Ballard's company were a little distance ahead of our troop [23] and got there a little first, when the Indians fired on them and wounded one of them. When our troop heard the firing they made a charge and raised the yell and scared the Indians into a Swamp. We Buried the poor fellows all in one grave and returned back to the army and took our position there, which was advance guard and Scouts. Some of our Baggage wagons Broke down and the army had to halt to mend them up. Our Company was at the time some half mile in the front. They Sent on orders for us to halt, and we halted Night on the Bank of the River Maumie of the lake when some of the boys saw great schools of fish in the River, and the conclusion was to make a Bush dragg and draw them out, and accordingly we went at it by placing out a guard and the rest went to work with our tomahawks, getting the Bushes, vines and bark and made a large dragg and now for the fish. One of our boys, [24] a Six footer by the name of Moses Richardson, took hold of one End of the vine and Says, Come on boys, now we will have them, and fetched a bounce into the River and went clean out of Sight. The water Being about 10 feet deep, we could see the fish so plain, the water being so clear, that we never thought of examining it, and so there was an End to the fishing spree. We went on and left the dragg there for the amusement of the Indians.

A few days after this, one of the footmen by the name of Hume¹⁷ was on the Bank of the River and saw a large fish in the water and thought that he must have him, and to make sure of him, poked his old Musket into the water and fired at the fish and the result was his gun burst and tore off one half of the fool's face.

We continued our March down the River until we came within five miles of the old fort of Defiance and there the [25] Main army halted and sent our Company across the river to make discoveries and as soon as we got over, upon reconnoitering the woods, we discovered some fresh wagon tracks and thought that they were Jennings's Escort with the much desired provisions Coming to meet us and reported Back accordingly, which occasioned a great Shout in the Camp for they were in a Starving Condition, living on half Rations of Beef and nothing Else for the last ten days. But the Shouting hardly ceased when we Discovered our mistake for instead of its Being the provision wagons, the tracks that we saw proved to be the tracks of the British cannon carriage tracks that had started from Defiance to go to Fort Wayne to assist the Indians in the Seige of that place. In reconnoitering the Woods we found an Indian Encampment with Camp fire Burning and their liberty pole Standing by with owl's feathers [26] and tobacco fastened on the top of it.

We cut down their pole with our tomahawks and found at their Camp their Conjuring apparatus consisting of Square pieces of Bark all marked in a singular manner. On scouring the woods I found a half Barrel of gun powder Concealed in Some Bushes and Reported it to my Commanding officer. The British had got item of us coming and turned Back in a hurry, and hid their ammunition and sunk their Canon in the River. In the evening of that day Winchester crossed the River at this point, and Encamped with the whole of his army five mile above Defiance, and the next day after crossing the River our troop of horse was Sent down to the old fort to make Discoveries, and another Company of Spies mounted on pack and wagon horses had gone on before us and got there before we did. And they not [27] knowing of our going nor we of theirs, when they saw us at a great distance took us to be British light horse, and we took them to be Indians mounted. They broke to run and we took after them and gave them a good chase before we found the mistake. It was diverting to see them whipping, spuring and looking back. In the evening we all got back to Camp and had a mery time over the race.

At this camp we had a good many curious incidents. They court mashaled one of Langhorne's Company by the name of Edwards's for going to Sleep on his post, when on guard. On his trial he observed to the officers that if he was not afraid to go to Sleep out on his post that they need not be afraid to Sleep in the Camp. It was the third time that he had been caught asleep on his post, and nothing But the influence of his Capt. saved him from being shot. His Sentence was to stand two [28] Hours on the Breast work and be Jeered at by the whole Army. Whilst we were on half Rations the boys became very peevish and fretful. One night after we had drew our Beef a couple of Mess Mates fell out about dividing it. One of them accused the other of having more than his Share. When he denied it and Said it was a lie they got to fighting, when one of our Corporals undertook to part them and caught one around the middle until the other struck him several times in the face when one of my Mess Mates said to the Corporal, that it was a Raskaly trick to hold one man until another struck him. The Corporal then drew a large claps knife and struck at him with it, the point of the knife Striking [29] the Button of his uniform Coat it glanced off and did not hurt him. It then took four of us to hold my Mess Mate, to keep him from killing the Corporal.

At another one of our Encampments one of my Mess Mates By the name of John Terrel¹⁹ was guilty of whipping a woman. We had marched hard all day and Eat nothing from soon in the morning until dark. We had drew our half Rations and divided them out, when he took his share and cut it in two pieces and had put them on a stick about four feet long,

a small piece in front of a large one so that it might cook first that he might be Eating of it while the other piece were getting done. There came along a woman by the name of Kate Staley that Belonged to the Regulars, and said to him for gods Sake give me some of that meat for I am almost starved. He turned around and held the stick out to her telling her to take of the small piece, but instead [30] of taking the small piece as directed She took both hands and cleaned his stick. He stood and looked at her until she had got three or four steps off when he raised the stick and took after her and gave her a lick for every Step for about twenty, but she held onto the meat and he poor fellow went without his Supper. The boys thought that he had Committed an outrage by whipping the woman and arrested him, and put him under guard, and formed a court and had a Jury summoned and tried him for the offence. We had two young lawyers in our company and one of them took Terrill's side and the other took the woman's, and after giving the case a full investigation found him guilty and Sentenced him to receive four Bumps against a Beech tree that stood hard by. But when he heard his Sentence he slipped away from the [31] guard and hid himself in amongst the Baggage wagons and we did not get him that night, but we gave the penalty to the guard for letting him get away, and he went without his Supper and did not hear the last of it while we staid together.

It was now about the middle of Octr. 1812 and Winchester fixed a permanent Camp where he crossed the river and fortified it with breast work. The next day after he got this fixed he started our troops, all of those that were able to do Duty, for there were a great many of the boys that were Sick and not able to do duty, but those that was able he started to Fort Jennings about forty miles up the Aglaize River to Escort the provision down to his Camp that Col. Jennings had Stored up there. We started from Camp on the 17th of Octr. 1812 about day light and travelled at a Brisk trot until dark when we Encampment by putting out a [32] Guard. It fell to my lot to be on guard. We had nothing to Cook and nothing to eat But the boys that was not on duty Kendlled up a fire, in order to Keep away the Musqotoes, when it appeared the whole woods was alive with wolves. When the old Capt. Bald out at the top of his voice to put out every d-n Spark of that fire, and they ceased their hallowing.

The next morning at day light we were again in the Saddle and about five miles from the Block house. I was sent on with two more of the boys as an advance guard when within about 2 miles of the Block house we met three men that Belonged to the Block house, going out deer hunting and we asked them for Something to eat, for we were almost

Starved. They had their dinner with them and they very liberly gave us what they had. It was Simply Bread and meat but I thought it the best Breakfast that I had ever eaten in my life.

[33] We went on to the Block house and there found plenty of provisions Stored up that we had been Suffering for the past two weeks.

We stayed there until the next morning and Early the next morning our troop of Horse and Daniel Garrard's⁵⁰ Company of foot men, he Daul being a brother of our Captain, from Clay County, Ky., and Belonged to Jennings Rgement, we loaded a great many pack horses with the provisions such as Bacon and flour &c and a little while after we started it began to rain and rained on us the during day as hard as it could pour. My Boots got full of water at least one dozen times in the course of the Day and when night came we Encamped and I had to go on guard and it continued on to rain until the next morning. I heard the Sentinel next to me snapping his old Musket and could not get it off. At last I heard him swear that if he could not shoot that he could stick, and I heard [34] the Brush cracking and away went an old pack horse with the Sentinel after him.

The next morning before we left Camp we were ordered to fire off our guns, and not a Single musket out of the two Companies fired, and we had to draw our loads. We got to Winchester's camp about dark the second day from Jennings, and found those boys that we left behind Sick, no Better, and in a few days we were ordered to leave Winchester's army and go on to Franklinton to join Ball's Squadron²¹ and fix for a winter Campaign. The Boys that was sick got in the Baggage Wagons and come in, all but one and he was one of my Mess, a particular friend by the name of James Hill. We could not prevail on him to come with us. We had to leave him Behind and we never Seen him anymore for he died and was buried there. We left him in the care of his Brother, Fountain Hill that belonged to Langhorn's Company in Allen's Rgement.

[35] I always had some misgivings about Winchester's Success with his Army, Knowing that he was not loved by his men, for they all despised him, and were continually playing some of their tricks off[] on him. At one Encampment, they killed a porcupine and skined it and stretched the Skin over a pole that he used for a particular purpose in the night, and he went and sat down on it, and it like to have ruined him. At another Encampment they sawed his pole that he had for the same purpose nearly in two, so that when he went to use it in the night it broke intoo and let his Generalship, Uniform and all fall Backwards in no very decent place, for I seen his Rgementals hanging high upon a pole the next day taking the fresh air.

I was with that army about three months out of the 12 that I was in the Service. There was a great many of my neighbors and acquaintances [96] with that command and a great many that I knew that never got home but was lost. At Winchester's Defeat at River Reason [Raisin], my school teacher Robert Harrison that I was going to school to when I volunteered for the service was there lost, on the 18th of January battle, and a great many more on the 22nd of the same month and there they took Winchester and Lewis¹⁰ prisoners and poor Allen⁹ and many other valuable men from Ky. they killed. Genl. Proctor,²² a British officer, had the Command of the British army and promised the Americans that if they would Quit fighting and Surrender to him that they should be protected from the Indians and have all the usages of Civilized Warfare. But he did not Comply with his promise for he took all of the boys that could march, and run them across the lake to Malden and left the poor Wounded Soldiers behind, in the huts in the town where they had the Battle and the Indians that was with Proctor [37] turned back to the town where the poor wounded boys lay helpless, and massacred them in a most shocking manner by tomahawking and Scalping of them, and then setting the huts that they were in on fire and burning them up.

I was pretty certain that Winchester would never do any Good with that Army although it was Composed of Some of the best men in Kentucky, for it is intirely nassary to insure Success to an Army, that they should Respect as well as Obey their Commander, which to my Knowledge was not the case with him. He was an old Revelutinary officer that had served under Washington and might have been useful in his day, but that day had gone by, for he must have been at least Seventy years of age,²³ and very infirm at that, and had to have assistance in Mounting and dismounting his horse, and got so afraid of the boys that he kept a Body guard around his quarters day and night.

[38] We will now take leave of Winchester and his unfortunate Expedition, for they are all gone into the lion's claws and will figure no more in the war of 1812 & 13. Our Company was ordered by Genl. Harrison to leave that part of the Army about the last of October, 1812, and Repair to Franklinton, Franklin County, Ohio, a small town oppisite the forks of the Sciotoe River, and join Col. James V. Ball's Squadron of United States light Dragoons and recruit our losses, and prepare for a Winter Campaign against the north western Indians.

Second installment, July issue of *The Register*: The campaign against the Indians to the north and the Battle of Missisnewa.

NOTES

¹Robert Harrison, Private in Captain Maurice Langhorne's Company. He was killed in action January 18, 1813, at the first battle of the River Raisin. C. Glenn Clift, "The Battles and Massacre of the River Raisin," 250. (Manuscript).

²Captain William Carrard (April 20, 1771—December 30, 1838), eldest son of Governor James Garrard. He was for many years Clerk of the Bourbon County Court and served in the Kentucky Legislature in 1793, 1796-1800, 1822. He lived in Paris until 1826 when he removed to his farm adjoining his father's residence, "Mount Lebanon." Anna Russell Des Cognets, *Governor Carrard of Kentucky, His Descendants and Relatives* (Lexington, Ky.: James M. Byrnes, 1898), 16.

³General John Payne served in the Kentucky militia from its organization, being elected captain of the 12th Regiment (Scott County) August 9, 1792; Major, 1st Battalion of the same unit, December 9, 1796; Colonel, December 17, 1799, and Brigadier General of the 6th Brigade on January 25, 1811. He married June 23, 1787, Betsey Johnson, sister of Colonel Richard M. Johnson. General Payne owned the land on the right hand side of the Frankfort Pike about two miles from Georgetown and built the stone house still standing there. He died September 9, 1837, and was buried in the family cemetery in the field near the house. He died at the age of 73 years and 7 months. Payne Family, genealogical files, Kentucky Historical Society; C. Glenn Clift, *The "Carm Stalk" Militia of Kentucky 1792-1811* (Frankfort, Ky.: Kentucky Historical Society, 1957), 13, 25, 142, 156, 192.

⁴First called the Bourbon County Company of Mounted Rangers, the unit was advertised to be formed May 1, 1812. Under a heading "TWO CHANCES! Volunteer, or be Drafted!" those inclined to offer their services were informed that "they are offered by their country one dollar per day, and Rashions found them; they find their own horse and equipments, which are to consist of a Rifle, Tomahawk, and Scalping Knife.—Dress to be a Hunting-Shirt and Pantaloons of linen, dyed black, and are to hold themselves in readiness to march at a moment's notice. Their wages will commence as soon as they are rendezvoused." A month later the company had been organized as the Volunteer Troop of Bourbon County Cavalry, with Will Carrard, Jr., Captain, and had been presented a stand of colors with motto by the young ladies of Paris. The Troop marched from Paris for Georgetown on Thursday, August 20, after parading on the public square and receiving the cheers and good wishes of the citizenry. All were in complete uniform and mounted on excellent horses. *The* (Paris, Ky.) *Western Citizen*, May 2, June 27, August 22, 1812.

⁵The main "Army of Canada" struck its tents at Georgetown at twelve o'clock noon on Wednesday, August 19, and proceeded on the march to Detroit. Presumably the mounted troops left two days later. See (Lexington, Ky.) *Reporter*, August 22, 1812.

⁶The Battle of Missisnewa, December 17, 1812.

⁷George Croghan was captain of the 17th Infantry March 12, 1812; Major, March 30, 1813, later Lieutenant Colonel, 2nd Rifle, etc. He was breveted Lieutenant Colonel August 2, 1813, for distinguished conduct in the defense of Fort Stephenson, Ohio. He died January 8, 1849. Francis B. Heitman, *Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army*... 2 vols. (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1903), 339.

⁸Now Fremont, Ohio. Captain Croghan with about 160 men and one cannon withstood the assaults of some 1200 British and Indians, losing only one killed and seven wounded.

⁹Colonel John Allen, born December 30, 1771, in Rockbridge County, Virginia, was lawyer, member of the Kentucky Legislature and was serving as member of that body, from Shelby County, at the time of his death during the second battle of the River Raisin, January 22, 1813. As a lawyer he was associated with Henry Clay in the defense of Aaron Burr. When the War of 1812 was declared, Allen raised one of the first regiments in the Commonwealth. His commission as Lieutenant Colonel, 1st Rifle Regiment, was dated June 5, 1812. Allen County, Kentucky, was named in his honor. "The Battles and Massacre of River Raisin," *op. cit.*, 119-122.

¹⁰Colonel William Lewis was born in Virginia in 1767 and lived for many years in Jessamine County, Kentucky. He saw service at St. Clair's defeat and was active in the Kentucky militia from the time the Commonwealth was admitted into the Union. He was captured at the battle fought on the River Raisin and held prisoner in Quebec until 1814. Removing later with his family to Arkansas, he died there January 17, 1825. *Ibid.*, 122-124.

¹¹Colonel John Mitchell Scott, of Frankfort, Kentucky, was born in 1764, studied medicine and served early in the Regular Service as Surgeon. He was personal physician to his friend General William H. Harrison who named one of his sons for Dr. Scott. He became ill in the field and could not continue beyond Fort Defiance. From here he was sent back to Frankfort in a litter and died there during the night of September 30, 1812. *Ibid.*, 124-126.

¹²Colonel Samuel Wells of the 17th United States Infantry was born in Virginia in 1754 and died November 20, 1835, probably in St. Louis, Missouri. He identified himself with the Kentucky scene early in the history of the Commonwealth, was a Justice of the Peace for his county of Jefferson and served from the county in the House of Representatives in 1795-1796 and again in 1799. His military service began early against the Indians. He was appointed Colonel of the 17th Infantry March 12, 1812, and helped recruit for the organization. *Ibid.*, 117-119.

¹³Colonel William Jennings, native of Garrard County and early member of the Kentucky militia, held various civil offices in that county and first appears in the records of the militia as Ensign, 6th Regiment (Lincoln County) on August 9, 1792. When Garrard County was created from parts of Lincoln he became identified with the Garrard County regiment, the 26th, rising from Lieutenant in 1795 to Lieutenant Colonel in 1804. *The "Corn Stalk" Militia of Kentucky, op. cit.*, 7, 21, 36, 93.

¹⁴James Liggitt, Ensign, 17th Infantry, appointed March 12, 1812. Killed September 25, 1812, in action with Indians while acting as scout. "The Battles and Massacre of the River Raisin," *op. cit.*, 203.

¹⁵Not identified. Probably a Regular soldier, rosters for which have not been discovered by the editor.

¹⁶Captain Bland Williams Ballard, born in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, October 16, 1759, and died at his home in Shelby County, Kentucky, September 5, 1853. Indian fighter and many times member of the Kentucky House of Representatives, he served under General George Rogers Clark and was in the active militia from Statehood through the War of 1812. Ballard County, Kentucky, was named for him. *Ibid.*, 148-153.

¹⁷Not identified.

¹⁸Two of this name appear on the muster roll of the company: Sgt. Major Benjamin W. Edwards and Gustavus Edwards, Private.

¹⁹Private in Captain Garrard's Troop of Horse.

²⁰Daniel Garrard, born in Stafford County, Virginia, November 10, 1780, died at his home in Clay County, Kentucky, September 20, 1866. He served also in the Battle of the Thames. He was a member of the State Senate in 1813, 1817, 1825, 1829, and served in the House of Representatives in 1822. Anna Russell Des Cagnez, *Governor Garrard, of Kentucky . . . op. cit.*, 60.

²¹Captain James Vincent Ball, of Virginia, was captain, Light Dragoons, April 28, 1812, and served through the war. On December 18, 1812, he was breveted Lieutenant Colonel for gallant conduct at the battle on the Mississequa River, Indiana. He died February 24, 1818. Francis B. Heitman, *Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army . . . op. cit.*, 187.

²²Henry A. Proctor was sent to Canada at the outbreak of the war of 1812 as Colonel of the 42nd Regiment. He opened the campaign by defeating General Winchester at Frenchtown, for which service he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General. He was repelled at Fort Meigs by General Harrison, in May, 1813, from Fort Stephenson (Lower Sandusky, Ohio) by Major Croghan on August 2 and was totally defeated by Harrison at the Battle of the Thames, October 5, 1813. For his conduct in America, especially at the River Raisin, he was afterward court-martialed and sentenced to be suspended from rank and pay for six months. Later he was reinstated, commanded again during the war and rose to the rank of Lieutenant-General. He died in Liverpool, England, in 1859. "The Battles and Massacre of the River Raisin," *op. cit.*, 179.

²³General James Winchester was born February 6, 1752. After his capture at Frenchtown, he was imprisoned in Canada for more than a year before he was exchanged.

WAR OF 1812 DIARY OF WILLIAM B. NORTHCUTT, PART II

Edited by G. GLENN CLIFT

Some four months after the departure from Georgetown of the Kentucky troops ordered to the relief of Detroit, units of the force were detached to march against the hostile Indians in northern Indiana. Of particular moment to General Harrison's battle plans were the Indian villages along the Mississinewa River, situated as they were along the supply route to General Winchester's army. In late November General Harrison designated Lieutenant Colonel John B. Campbell, of the United States Nineteenth Infantry, with Major James V. Ball second in command, to lead the expedition against these Miami villages.

Captain William Garrard's company of "Bourbon Blues" was one of the units assigned to the expeditionary force. The company's participation in the movement is described in this second installment of Private Northcutt's reminiscences.

We got there (Franklinton, now Columbus, Ohio) about the 5th of Nov. and was stationed in the court house for the want of tents which we had left Behind us for the want of Bagege Wagons, and here we were about three weeks fixing for the Miami Expedition on the Mississinawa River. Here we gave up our Muskets and cartouch boxes that we drew at Newport in August 1812 and drew a Sword, one pistol and a [39] Yauger or Short Rifle for the Miami Expedition.

The citizens of the town had begun to picket in the Court house from the fear that the Indians would attack them, for it was then a frontier town with but few inhabitants. We kept a guard there Every night in order to watch our horses which we kept picketed to stakes, around the Court house. The house was a very large one with two fire places in it, which accommodated us very conveniently and of nights those that were not on duty had a great deal of sport by dancing what they were pleased to call a Stag dance.

While lying here my mare that I first Rode out got away from me by Breaking her Halter and getting out of the line of Sentinals when she took a Bee line for Old Kentucky. I Borrowed a horse from one of my messmates and got Another one of them to go with me and we put of (t) in pursuit of her and [40] Followed her two days down the river to a few miles below Circelsville, and there a fellow had stoped her and jumped on her and in Company with the governor of the State of Ohio, had Started to the town of Franklinton. We heard in the neighborhood before we got there that he had taken her up, and when we got to his house he was gone with her. He

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was Sheriff of the County he lived in and thought himself Big Enough to ride with Governor Meigs. Well we put off after them but they having Several Hours Start of us we did not over take them until very late in the night. We came to a tavern and Enquired for them and they told us that they the governor and Sheriff were both there and in Bed so we Stood guard over them until daylight and then beat the Revelie and waked them up.

[41] When they made thier appearance in the Hall I asked for an introduction to the gentleman Sheriff and got it from the Land Lord, when I then asked him if he had rode a nag that was not his own, he answered in the affirmative. I then asked him if he Sheriff Remnix did not know that he had violated the Law of the Land by persuing the Course that he had done with that Animal he Knowing it to be a Stray. Well he said he supposed that he had but it was a Case of imergency that made him do so and begged to be Excused. I told the gentleman that the mare was mine and that I was a Soldier and had not the time to attend to his Case, and that if he would pay our bill he might go free. He agreed to do it and I proved my mare to be mine by the man that was with me, and we took her away from him and left him afootback and Started to Franklinton to Join the Company there again and make the necessary preparations for the march [42] to the Mississinawa towns?

In a few Days Ball's Squadron Came along, Composed of Regulars and twelve months volenteers, two companies of Volenteers and one of Regulars. The Volenteers were Commanded as follows — one Company by Capt. Marcle⁵ and the other by McClellan⁴ and the Regulars by Samuel Hopkins of Kentucky. The Volenteers, both companys, were from pensylvaine and when our Company Joined them it made a pretty Respectable little army of Horsemen.

Our old Col. Ball was a virginian and had served in the Horse under Wayne and was Cornet in Campbell's⁶ troop of horse at the battle of Maumie Rappids where Campbell got Killed by the Indians, and his Lieutenant Wm. H. Harrison took the Command of the Company.

[43] About the 20th of November 1812 Our little army Marched out of Franklinton and for the first time Encamped all together, about one Mile from the town, and from there we went to Zenie [Xenia], and Encamped and here we drew our first Soldiers pay. We drew three months back pay at the Rate of five dollars per Month for our own Services, and twelve dollars for our Horses. We staid at this Encampment about three days and while lying here, we had considerable Sport by riding a fellow on Genl Winchester's English filly (i e) a rail. This Chap stole a Brace of pistols from Capt. Marcle from pensylvaina and was Sentensed by the Court Marshal

that tried him, to be rode around the Encampment on a fence Rail carried by two of the stoutest men in Camp, with the Rouges March playing after him, and then drummed out of Camp.

We left this place and Marched to a town [44] on the Big Miami called Dayton and Encamped there for a day or two making the nessary preparations for a forced March on the Miami Indians on the Missisnawa river, in the territory of Indiana. Here at Dayton we left our baggage and baggage wagons and only took the clothes that were on our Backs. I left my Boots here and my valsee with all the clothes I had, with a private Citezen of the town, and Bought me a pair of shoes lined with leather and a pair of Cloth Wrappers which was the means of saving my feet from getting frost Bitten, as the weather by this time had become very cold with Considerable Snow on the ground.

About the tenth of December 1812 we Crossed the Big Miami River at Dayton which took us one whole day. We had to ferry over our horses in a small flat Boat with about 10 horses at a trip. After getting all over we Encamped on the Bank of the River [45] and the next Morning our Colonel made us a Speech, and told us where we were going and what we were going for. Says he, Boys we are going to have a fight with the Indians Certain, and if any of you think that you cannot Stand it, you may go back to Dayton and stay there with the Brave Sick that we have left there. But there was no Backing out in this Case. The boys said that if he could stand it that they could and we all pushed on to a place called new Lexington (New Lebanon?) about thirty miles from Dayton, and joined more troops under the Command of Col. John B. Campbell a Regular Officer who Harrison had put as Chief Commander of the Expedition. The detachment were Composed of the following three Companies of Infantry mounted on pack horses and pack saddles for the Expedition (to wit) Capt. Elliot's⁸ Company of Regulars, Capt. Butler's⁹ Company of twelve months Volunteers and called the pitsburg Blues, and Capt. McClelland's [46] Company of twelve months Volunteers Rifle men from Pennsylvania, Col. Simeral's¹⁰ Regiment of six months mounted Rifles from Kentucky and Ball's Squadron of Regulars and twelve months Volunteers.

At this place new Lexington we were all formed into one army and amounted to about six hundred and fifty men, to go on one of the most Hazardous Expeditions performed in the War of 1812, in the depth of winter with the Snow half leg deep, and to penetrate an unknown Indian wilderness over one hundred miles, against a Wiley foe with thier numbers to us unknown. We went on from Lexington to fort Greenville the outside post and there drew three days Rations, and was gone ten days on them

three days Rations for our horses and ourselves. We obtained a man that had been out to the Indian towns on the Summer before trading with them, and as he came in from there to fort Greenville, [47] he Broke Bushes and let them hang by Strips of the bark with the leaves on them, and that was all the guide that we had to thier towns.

The second night out from Greenville and Accident happened to one of our company by the name of West,¹¹ He was summoned on guard and in Kandleing up a fire he unstopt his powder horn, to pour some of the powder on the fire when it flashed up and Caught in his powder horn, and bursted it, making a great Report and puting the fellow's eyes out. It raised a great alarm in the Camp and the orders was to Arms when I heard him hollow, and told the boys it was West for I knew his voice and that the Report that we heard was his powder horn had bursted and so it turned out to be, for directly they came leading him in stone blind. As soon as he got to where the Captain was he Bawled out Captain I did not do it a purpose. D--n you Says the Captain, who Said that you had done it a purpose. [48] The next Morning the Captain Sent him Back to the fort and we saw no more of West for some time.

It took us three days Hard marching to get to the Indian towns. We marched through an unbroken and wild wilderness country where the foot of white man had but seldom trod. We saw a great deal of wild game of almost all descriptions. We marched in collums of about 20 men deep and about the length of our collum apart, and one day there was an old Buck ran in between two of our collums and was so badly Scared that he dropped Both of his horns before he got out, when I told the boys that we had Scared the horns of (f) a deer. I suppose that he was about to shed them and he jumped so high and so hard that they fell off. And the same day there was a gang of wild turkeys got in between our collums and there was one of them that did not Raise to fly when the [49] boys got to cutting at it with thier swords sitting on thier horses. But one of them having more sence than the rest, jumped of (f) his horse and took after it on foot, and soon cut his head off. I told him that it was a sick turkey and not to Eat it But he would not mind me but took it along and had a fine Supper out of it.

On the night of the 16th of Decbr. 1812 we marched all night in order to get to the Indian town about daylight and take it by surprise, but our guide lost his Bushes a little before daylight and the Col. ordered a halt until the guide found his way again, and this detained us so that we did not get there until about one hour of the sun on the morning of the 17th.

In this night's march a great many of the boys got frost bitten, by getting off thier horses and walking, in order to warm themselves. The

fatigue of walking would put them in a perspiration and mounting again would chill off, and frost bite in a very little time. I stuck to my horse and never got off the whole night which was a very trying thing to do, some times being so numbed with cold that I would drop to sleep in spite of all that I could do and the first thing that I would know would be a limb of brush across my face and eyes making the fire roll, leaving me in no very good humor for I thought that if the Indian that I had to fight the next day had been there that I could have given it to him good.

The guide found his way as soon as the day light made its appearance and we resumed our march. We were then about 2 miles as near as we could guess, from the first town. We had marched about one mile when our spies let the Commander know that we were discovered. They were a little ways ahead of the Army when they saw three Indians in the act of catching their horses. The spies and Indians discovered each other about the [51] same time. The Indians caught and mounted their horses, and took for the town to give the Alarm and the Spies came back to report to the Commander.

He ordered a line of battle to be formed when we were within about a mile of the town, he then ordered a charge on the town. We then started on the charge through a tremendous thick peace of woods. We had to pack an Ax to each mess and we took time about carrying of it, and it fell to my lot that morning to carry the Ax. Our Squadron was on the right of the line and Simmerals on the left and the Infantry on pack horses in the center. They raised the yell on the left, and it extended to the right and put our horses in such a fret that I could not carry the Ax and my gun, and manage my mare and I concluded that the gun would be of more use to me than the Ax so I threw the Ax away marking the place where I threw it so that if I wanted it that I might know where to find it again.

[52] When our line of battle was formed it extended for more than one half mile in length, and our Squadron being on the extreme right, missed the town [and] struck the river a little below the town, and Simmeral's Regiment which was on the left struck the town and took it before we could wheel to the left and get up there they had taken it, and killed eight of the Indians and one big negro, took forty two prisoners and pursued the Ballance over the river. We dashed over the river after them, but only killed one or two of them and took some prisoners. One young man took a Squaw on the other side of the river and put her in a Canoe to bring her back to the town, and when he started with her the Canoe turned down stream and he could not get it straight for the other side with his paddle, when the Squaw put out her hand and at a few ylls with her hand

she straitened it and brought it right over to the Great Merriment of the Boys that was looking on at them.

[53] When we had taken this town and burned all of the Huttts and Wigwams in it, Except one of the largest Cabins that was Reserved for the accomodation of the prisoners, we went to forming an Encampment in one Edge of the town. Some of the boys says to me, Bill where is that Ax that belongs to the mess? I said that I had thrown it away in the charge on the town. They said that I had to get it. Well Says I if I must I suppose I must. So I mounted my mare and put back to the place where I had thrown it away, as I threw it I marked the place. It was where two old trees had fell one across the other, and as I went by the place I pitched it under right where they crossed. So I found the Ax, got down and picked it up and started back with it. I had not gone fifty yards from the place where I picked up the Ax, when I met two men that were going back after something that they had lost, and I had not got one Hundred [54] Yards further until I heard a gun fire and they came running back and just after they passed me one of them fell dead from his horse, he being shot through with a Bullitt. There was a company of men went back to where he was shot but could find no Indian nor no Sign of one so it Remained a mystery how the man got shot. He was all the man on our side that was Killed on the 17th.

After fixing up a fire and getting something to eat of which we had very little for our three days Rashion that we drew at fort Greenville was about gone, Ball's Squadron were ordered to march three miles lower down the river to another town to destroy it. When we got to the town it was evacuated by the Indians.¹² There were a great number of dogs and Horses in the town left there by the Indians. We burned the town, Killed their dogs [55] and caught about forty of their horses. The horses they were very wild and we had to use strargey to catch them. They were principally in an old field and we surrounded them with the whole Squadron and kept closing in on them until we got them into a Huddle. We then formed a solid line of horsemen around them and some 15 or 20 of the Boys went in to catching of them, Haltering them and bringing them out. I was one of the guard that stood around them and I saw three of them Kick one man at the same time. We brought them up to the first town, and tied them in lines with our own horses, and that night a great many of them got Killed.

In the second Battle which was fought in the morning before day of the 18th of December 1812 our Squadron got back to the first town about an hour by Sun in the Evening and went into Camp in our usual [56] posi-

tion which was always the Right of the army. We had Killed some of the Indians cattle that day which I thought was the best beef that I had ever tasted. We cooked some of it with some dried Roasting years that I had got out of an old gum¹³ in one of thier Huts before we Burned it down. I got my Cap full of it and divided it with my mess and my mare, for our forage were gone as well as our provisions. With the Indian beef and tosamona nona (?) we had a pretty good supper that night and it was the last for some days.

The orderly Seargent Came along and says he, Northcutt on guard tonight. Says I, recon that there is a Mistake in the matter. Sir, no mistake whatever says he and if you don't go I will Report you to the Captain. Report away says I for it is not my turn and I am not a going. With that he went to the [57] Captain and made his report, when the old Captain came Bustling along and said Billy what is the matter with you and Mack? Says I, Captain I never refuse to do my duty Sir when it is my time. He says how is it? Why Sir I was on guard last night by being in advance guard all day, and when the orders came to march all night the guard was Called in and I claim that for a tour. You are Right Sir, Seargent Summon a new guard. I happened to stand at the head of the Seargent's old list and before he would write another he was a going to Summon the old one and make it serve, but my refusing to go cleared all the rest of the Boys.

That night about two hours before day on the morning of the 18th we had a false alarm and we were Roused and paraded for battle and that false alarm saved our Bacon for we did not lie down anymore But Roused up our fires and went to preparing something [58] to eat. We had a few sea Bisket and a little coffe and some of the Indian beef. One of my mesmates and one of the other mess, that always built a fire with us so that one fire might do both our Cooking, had been down to the river and got a tin Bucket of water and sot on the fire to make our coffe when about one half Hour before day the Indians made thier attack on our Camp at the right angle of the Encampment which was as usual in a hollow square with our horses tied to stakes 20 paces in our Rear. One of my mess mates was on guard where the attack was made and said he saw them coming up in Indian file for some time and Kept snapping his gun at them until another sentinal hailed them when the foremost one of them halted and fired his gun as a Signal, when they raised the yell and formed thier line of battle and made right up to where he was standing [59] and he fell in with them and they run together until they got to within about sixty yards of our line, and they stopped and he ran on into our lines and got shot twice after he came in.

By this time the Indians had formed thier lines and Commenced thier

attack on us with a terrible yell. They took possion of a Redout at the guard fire, dispersed the guard and Killed Pierce¹⁴ the captain of the guard with a war Hawk. The guard all ran in and left him behind. We were ordered to form in the rear of our fires and put them out which we did, and stood one fire from them in this position, when the officers discovered that they had the advantage of us they being in a thick clump of Woods, and we in an open place in the Edge of thier town with here and there a tree, and we were ordered to retreat and form behind our horses which was tied to stakes twenty paces in our rear.

When we left our first formation to get behind our horses the Indians made a Charge on us and some [60] of them were Killed at our fires that we had left. They fought with desperation yelling all the time like so many fiends. Our watch word was FIGHT ON and we repeated it all the time, when a hoarse voice from thier side Bawled out FIGHT ON and be dam to you. Our Company had to stand the Brunt of the fight.¹⁵ We had two killed dead and a great many wounded. My right hand man was shot through the head and fell flat on his back with his gun cocked across his breast, and my left hand man had his right arm broken close to his right shoulder, and I had four mess mates badly wounded and how I escaped is a Mystery to me, and always will be for I was right in the thickest of the fight and never got a Scratch.

We had a great many of our horses Killed and wounded so bad that we had to Kill them. Our ranks got so Badly thined that we had to be reinforced by Captain Butler's Company from the center of the Encampment. [61] His was an Infantry company and fired by platoons. We opened to the right and left and they formed in our lines, and formed in Sexions of Sixteen men in a Sexion, and from the time that they commenced thier firing the note of the Indian yell began to change, for in a very Short time thier fire became very Scattering, and the smoke of the powder had settled on us so that we could not see them only by the flash of thier guns. When the sun was about one half hour high we oppened our Ranks again and let Trotter's¹⁶ troop of horses from Simmerel's Regiment out to make a charge on them, they haveing begun to retreat. Trotter went out and formed his line in order to make one fire on them. Before he made his Charge on them and while he was doing that the party of Indians that stayed back to cover thier Retreat, fired on his men. They being on thier horses and the Indians behind trees they cut his Company all to pieces, and rendered his charge of no avail.

[62] But the Indians soon cleared out and we were not in a fix to follow them for we were pretty badly crippled, and they left forty of their dead

behind them but none of them wounded. We took no prisoners in this fight. We had Eight Killed dead on the spot and four died of their wounds, two coming in and two at Dayton and sixty five wounded. Our Squadron had to bear the Brunt of this fight the other part of the army not being engaged in any part of it. While the fight were going on the prisoners that we had taken the day before Kept up a continual hollowing and gabbering in the Hut that they were Confined in under guard.

When the battle was over we turned our attention to our own dead and wounded. Tom Webster the man that was on guard when the Indians made their attack on our Camp got shot in the Shoulder. He fell and recovered. Said I to him, Tom are you badly hurt. Says he, d—n them that have Broke my Shoulder. I had just before that taken another [63] one of my messmates that had got shot in the thigh, and put him on a Blanket behind a large tree, immediately in the Rear. I said to him, you can walk, you go where I have Just put Henry Wilson, and Keep out of our way and your own too, showing him the place. He went off and I saw no more of him until the Battle was over. When I went to hunt up my pets Said he to me, Bill they gave it to me again. Said I, how Come it? Why says he, you all Kept such a Hell of a fuss out there, and I Kept peeping around to see what you were after and they have shot me again in the side. But it happened to be a glancing shot and was not Very dangerous. But his Shoulder was Broke all to pieces, and we had to bring him in a horse litter with five more of our Company, but he got well and joined us again before our time was out, the only one of the Wounded boys that did so.

In hunting up the Wounded [64] I came across a man by the name of Scot¹⁷ that was Shot through his Breast, the ball going in just above the left nipple and coming out under his right Shoulder Blade. When I found him said I to him, are you badly hurt? Says he yes I am mortally wounded. I went off and got a Blanket and three of the boys to go with me to the place that I had left him. I spread out the Blanket and took hold of him to lay him on it when he looked up in my face and says Billy, you go and do something for them that there is some hopes of for as for me there is none. Said I to him where there is life there is hopes and we are going to take you to the doctor's fire. And we four boys took hold of a limb a peace and laid him on the Blanket, and took him to the Doctors, when they drew a silk handkerchief through him and Contrary to his own and Everybody's opinion he got Well, and wrote on to the board of war for a Leut. Commission, got it and went into the [65] Regular Service and Stayed there during the war.

We gathered up the poor wounded boys and took them all to the Doctors quarters, and then we gathered up our dead and buried them all in

one grave. We dug it in the floor of the hut that we had left for the prisoners to stay in. We levelled it of(f) even with the other part of the floor, and set it on fire in order to keep the Indians from finding it or finding out how many of us they had Killed. There was one poor fellow that was shot through the head but could not Die, and the Doctors had to give him something to finish him so that we could bury him with the rest of the poor fellows. After dispensing with the Dead we then turned our attention to the poor Wounded boys how we were to Bring them away with us, for we had no Carriages of any Sort. So we made horse litters to Bring them in in manner following — We cut poles about twelve feet long and took Canvas and sewed it around two of them and put them on horses [66] one before and the other behind and put the wounded in between them, and it took two men to Each litter to manage the horses.

The Indians had Killed so many of our horses and it took so many to bring in the wounded that we were pretty near all a foot. We fixed up and left the Battle ground about two o'clock on the Evening of the 18th and marched about two miles and Encamped by making of Breast work, for we Expected another attack hourly until we arrived at Fort Greenville, [and] we were pretty near out of ammunition. An accident happened to our ammunition a few days before we arrived at the Indian towns. We had two Boxes of Catrises on a pack horse, when he took fright and broke away from the man that was leading him, the package turned under his belly and he Kicked the Boxes to peices, and Scattered the Catrises for one quarter of a mile in the Snow and destroyed them.

[67] We are now on our March back to Greenville, more than the half of us a foot and we had a great many sick and frostbitten. The morning Report this morning the 19th of Dcember was three Hundred and ten fit for duty, the rest being Either wounded sick or frostbitten. We had the prisoners with us the most of them wemen and children. The Commander Ordered the Indian ponies that we had caught on the 17th in the lower town be given up for the Squaws and paposes to ride, which occasioned some hard swearing amongst the Boys that Claimed them as Captured property. There were some of them fine animals, one mare and yearling colt in particular. The man that had the colt refused to give him up and took him home with him to Lexington. He belonged to Trotter's Company from Lexington of six months men and his time was out and he took the colt home with him, but it was a mere streak of good luck for him that he did so, for we were on the point of Starvation and if provisions had not [68] met us as Soon as they did his Colt would have Been Butchered and eaten by the troops, but that saved him and he took the Colt home with him. I lost my mare and had to walk into Dayton and pack my gun and sword. I got a

were our boys and told them to cryout the watch word, which was Greenville, when one of them Bawled out Greenfield, Greenfield, for god's Sake don't Shoot. They all Scaled the Breast work and run to the fire, where there was an old Frenchman that belonged to (Captain James R.) Butler's Company from Pittsburg. Says he to one of them, what you run for? Says the fellow I saw Eleven Indians. Says the Frenchman, how you know there was Eleven Indians? Because I counted them says the fellow. Says the old Frenchman you say you saw Eleven Indians and stop to count Eleven Indians and no shoot yet, to hell with such a Soldier. And they kept up such Sport as that all night and there were no Sleep for any of us that night. The Sentinals was paraded and sent back but just as often they would [73] Break and run in.

One of our boys by the name of Jim Clark was on guard that night when they kept running in so that he told the Captain of the guard that he would fight at the guard fire until he died, but he was d-d if he could go Back to his post anymore that night. The next night it fell to my lot to go on guard, and when I started out to go to the guard fire I told my mess mates to go to bed and go to sleep for there should be no false alarms that night when I was on post. My time to go on duty was the Second Relief and the sentinal that I had to relieve was fast a sleep and I took his place knowing that he had been asleep which made me look out with all the Eyes that I had.

I had not stood there long before I saw in the head of a hollow Right before me Something moving to wards me. I Sprung the triggers of my gun to be ready to shoot if an Enemy approached and when I set my triggers I heard two more Sentinals one to my right and the other to my left set thiers. The main Spring of our locks were so Strong that they could be heard to set a good ways off. Well when I heard thier locks set thinks I there is two of you not asleep anyhow, and when we came in off the guard we three had the Same tale to tell. I kept watching the object thinking about what I had told the boys in Camp about false alarms when I heard an Owl hollow Right opposite me and a nother one answer it right back of the Encampment. Then I remembered hearing old Indian fighters talking about them hollowing like owls. I then had it all fixed up that they were surrounding of the Camp and giving one another the Signal by the owl's hollow, and the object before me [74] was one of thier Spies.

It Kept coming gradually to wards me and I should certainly have fired had it not been for the promise made to the boys. I was determined to let it get close enough to me before I shot to make a sure shoot, and when that occured it turned out to be an old horse that had got out of the Camp, and was Boosing (browsing?) his way back.

soldier that rode a pack horse out to bring in my Saddle and Holsters to Dayton for me.

Our Captain lost both of his horses. There was three horses tied to one sapling and all three of them Killed, the Captain's his waiter boys and Lieutenant [David M.] Hickman's. The second day from the Battleground I overtook the old Captain waddling along through the snow. He looked up and saw who I was and says he, Billy these are d-n tough times. Says I to him, Captain this is the fate of War and we will have to bear with them, when he swore that he would have a horse the next day. That night Captain [Samuel G.] Hopkins dismounted one of his men and let the Captain have his Horse, and some time in the day Some of the litters broke down and we had to halt to mend [69] them up and when we went to start on again the Captain led the dr(a)agoon's horse up by the side of a log to get on him, got on the log and looked all around him and Bawled out at the top of his Voice, Bourbon Blues mount, when there was not a single Bourbon Blue there to mount but the old Captain himself, which occasioned some meriment for the boys that heard the order.

Today one of our wounded boys died in his litter, and we buried him in the woods by the side of an old log. We had about twenty wounded to bring into Dayton in these litters, and in a great many places the little ponds of water was frozen over so that they would make the horses slip and jolt the poor fellows so that they would Scream so that we would have to take the litters of(f) the horses and carry them over the ice on our Shoulders. We had a very Severe time getting back to Dayton. We had to make Breast Work Every night [70] until we got to Greenville and stand guard every other night which was Enough to try the spunk of the Very Best of us. There was three days and nights that I did not get one hours sleep during the night. It would take us until late in the night to Erect the Breast work, which was done by falling large trees on top of one a nother all around the Encampment and raising them about Breast high. The third night we had to be up all night occasioned by false alarms by the sentinals firing and running into camp. The Commander ordered the Company to be divided and one half of them to stand one half Hour at the Breast work while the other half stood by the fire and warmed themselves.

I belonged to our First Lieutenant Dr. E[dmund] Bayse and when our squad was at the Breast work looking out we saw a gun flash and the line of Sentinals broke to run in. I was by the Leut. when he hollowed out to me Shoot Northcutt by g-d they are Coming. Says I, they are our [71] Boys. He ordered me again to Shoot swearing that they were Indians. By this time they had got so Close to the Breast work that he saw himself that they

Some of the boys had put her up to it, for about day light She Came along the lines Saying Clisamas gift, Clisamas gift which produced considerable mirth with the boys. Some would give her money and Some of them gave her Some Curses. We staid here all Christmas day and rested, a thing that we greatly needed, and here the Commander dispensed with the prisoners by giving [78] Them up to the Indian Agent, and saw no more of them.

It took us five days to get from here to Dayton where we had left our Baggage, and here we left our poor wounded boys in a Hospital under the Doctors, and here two more of them died which made four that died of their wounds after we left the battle ground which made twelve Killed in all and Sixty five wounded. There was but one of the wounded boys that Ever joined us again and that was Thomas Webster. All of the rest went home and Stayed there, all but little Billy Scot¹⁷ and he got well and joined the Regular Army, and stayed there during the War, came home and Killed himself Drinking whiskey, and so there was an end to little Billy Scot. He never was married and if Ever I knew a woman hater he was one of them.

We got back to Dayton new years Eve, crossed the river at the Same place [79] that we crossed at when going out, marched through the town and Encamped in the woods close by the town, and stayed at this Encampment two days, and here our Company was furloughed for forty days in order to come home and recruit ourselves and get fresh horses.

There was a great many of us that had lost thier horses and those that had horses they were worn out completely with fateauge. I drew a pack horse at Dayton and about the third day of Jan. 1813 we started for Old Kentucky, by way of Cincinnati.

I rode the pack horse to Cincinnati and there gave him up to the quarter master and took his receipt for it. When we came to the river the ice had broken up, and was running at such a rate that we could not get over, for the Boats could not cross on account of the ice running so thick. The next morning after we had got there I went down to the river and there was a yawl just about to Start out with two men in it for Newport.

[80] I asked them to let me get in with them when they refused. At length by hard persuading and a round half dollar they agreed to let me get in the yawl with them. It took us a long time to make the trip we had so much dodging of the Big Cakes of ice to do, but we landed safe on the Newport Side. We all jumped out of the yawl and caught hold of it, and jerked it out of the water when instantly two large peices of ice struck each other, which if they had caught us would have smashed us to peices.

When I got up on the Bank in Newport the first man that I met was

The sentinal that was found asleep was Reported to his Captain by the Seargent of the guard and the next morning was punished for it by being tied across the Breast work and given fifteen licks well laid on, with a paddle made for the purpose.

That morning when the guard was Called in I was detailed as one of the Road cutters for the litters to pass along. About 10 oclock some of the litters Broke down and we were ordered to halt until they were mended up again. When we halted I pulled a peice of bark [75] off an old dead hickry tree and the last thing that I Remembered was throwing it down at the foot of the tree. They mended up the litters and had all gone on, Road cutters and all, and left me sitting there fast asleep, when one of my mess mates that was in the rear guard caught me by the top of the head and asked me what I was doing there. I told him that I was Sleeping and by that time my company of Road cutters was a half mile Ahead, so I fell in with the rear guard and there marched the ballance of the day and when the Army halted for the night, I Slipt up and answered to my name so there was nothing more Said about it. I had got so worn out for want of Sleep that I was more like a dead man than a living one. A man can do about as well without [76] Eating as he can without Sleeping.

We had forty two prisoners with us the most of them women and children and when Encamped at night the Squaws would have the wood to cut to make thier fires, the men standing by looking on. I saw six Squaws cutting down a tree not more than a foot and a half over. They had what they called Squaw axes and they commenced chopping on the tree and Kept going Backwards one afeter the other all around the tree until it fell, and they all jumped on to it and Commenced cutting it up to make thier fire with.

Today another one of our poor wounded boys died in his litter and we had to bury him like we did the other by the side of a log in the wild woods. Today some provisions met us from the fort but it was so little it hardly gave us all a taste. It took us six or seven days to get from the battle ground to the fort. We left it on the 18th and got to the fort [77] on the 24th of December, it being Christmas Eve. We had a hard time of it getting in for we had to build a Breast work Every night clear until we got to the fort, but when we got to the fort we had a Jubile for there we found a plenty to Eat and drink, and we had a merry Christmas of it.

We Encamped at one Edge of the fort without putting out a regular guard and had a real old fashioned Christmas frolick. We had One old Squaw with us that Could Speak a little Broken English and I supposed that

my father. He said that he was looking over the river when he saw the little craft start out but never expected to see it land and it was a miracle that it did so. My feelings when I met my father so unexpectedly can be easier felt than by me described. He had heard that we were coming in and had had [81] a battle and that I was killed in it, and had come down to see about it, and had stayed the night before at Kenady's in Covington, and crossed the Licking River that morning on the ice and come over to Newport, on the search of news from me, hoping to find somebody there that could tell him something about me, which he did by finding the boy himself.

I had left my Saddle and Arms at a tavern and was a foot without any incumbrance whatever. My father had brought a led (lead) horse with him so I at once mounted that horse and went home with him, when he lent me a horse. I went to old Bourbon the place that I claimed for my home, and where I had left some very dear friends that I had not seen from the 20th August 1812, the day that I first set out on the Campaign. I got home and visited some of my friends and bought me another horse and was Enjoying myself as I thought first Rate [82] When lo and behold there came an Express after us to go back to the Camp, and instead of a forty days furrough it turned out to be but five. But in this short time we had recruited thirty new recruits for the ballance of our time which was six months. Some of the best young men in the neighborhood joined our fortunes, and with a heavy heart some of us started back again to face the foe of our country.

Third installment, October issue of *The Register*: Further service in the Army of the Northwest, under General Harrison, from the defense of Fort Stephenson by Major George Croghan to mustering out, August 20, 1813.

NOTES

¹Return J. Meigs was Governor of Ohio 1810-1814.

²In the present Grant County, Indiana.

³Captain Abraham Markle was born in Ulster Co., N. Y., in 1769 and died Mar. 26, 1826. He moved to Upper Canada from New York and was prosperous when the War of 1812 broke out. He joined the troops of the United States and lost his property. Later he received from Congress a grant of land on the Wabash and became one of the founders of Terre Haute, Indiana. Logan Esarey, Ed., *Governors Messages and Letters: Messages and Letters of William Henry Harrison* (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Commission, 1922. Indiana Historical Collections, IX), II: 257. Hereinafter cited as *Esarey, Governors Messages*.

⁴Captain Joseph C. McClelland. *Ibid.*, II: 257, 259.

⁵Samuel Hopkins was a native of Albemarle Co., Va., a soldier in the American Revolution and surrendered with Lincoln at Charleston, May 20, 1780. He came to Kentucky in 1797, locating at the Red Banks, now Henderson. He served in Congress 1813-1815 and died in October, 1819. *Ibid.*, I: 612.

⁶Robert M. Campbell, S. C. He was Lieutenant, Light Dragoons, Mar. 14, 1792;

Captain, Oct. 7, 1792. He was killed Aug. 20, 1794, in the battle on the Maumees, Ohio. Francis B. Heitman, *Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army* . . . (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1903), I: 279. Herein after cited as *Heitman, Historical Register*.

⁷Col. John B. Campbell was a native of Virginia. He joined the army as Lieut. Col. in 1812, was made a Colonel after the Missisniewa expedition and killed at Chippewa, July 5, 1813. Esarey, *Governors Messages*, II: 179.

⁸Capt. Wilson Elliott, Ohio. Captain, 19th Infantry, Mar. 12, 1812; honorably discharged May 12, 1814. Heitman, *Historical Register*, II: 402.

⁹Captain James R. Butler, Pa. Captain of the "Pittsburgh Blues" from August 14, 1812, to October, 1814. He died April 29, 1842. *Ibid.*, II: 269.

¹⁰Col. James Simrall was born Mar. 18, 1781, at West Chester, Pa., removed first to Virginia and with his parents at Shelbyville, Ky., in 1792. He commanded two regiments during the War of 1812, serving conspicuously at the battle of the Thames where he took charge of the British prisoners. He died Sept. 9, 1823, while at the lead mines of Galena, Ill., on business. Esarey, *Governors Messages*, II: 145.

¹¹Roger P. West, Pvt., Capt. William Garrard's Company.

¹²This was Silver Heel's town, which Col. Campbell's men thought they had taken December 17.

¹³Southern U. S., a hive, trough, etc., made of a hollowed log from a gum tree.

¹⁴Captain Bennoni Pierce, six months Ohio V. L. D. *Ibid.*, II: 264.

¹⁵"Capt. Garrard's Troops sustained the action at that point where it raged with greater violence for some time after its commencement . . . with the firmness of veterans while the officers were unceasingly employed in stimulating and encouraging their men." Lieut. Col. John B. Campbell to Gen. William H. Harrison, Fort Greenville, Dec. 25, 1812. In Esarey, *Governors Messages*, II: 259.

¹⁶Captain George Trotter, well known native and citizen of Lexington, Ky., was several times a member of the Legislature from Fayette County, served with distinction on the Missisniewa campaign and was acting Brigadier-General at the battle of the Thames. He died October 13, 1815, age thirty-seven years. George W. Ranck, *History of Lexington, Kentucky* . . . (Cincinnati: Robert Clarke & Co., 1872), 280.

¹⁷William Scott, Pvt., Captain William Garrard's Company. He arrived back in Paris, Kentucky, Feb. 9, 1813, his wound nearly healed and his health restored. *The [Paris, Ky.] Western Citizen*, Feb. 13, 1813. He was commissioned 2nd Lieut., 2nd Rifle, March 17, 1814 and honorably discharged June 15, 1815. Heitman, *Historical Register*, II: 870.

Edited by G. GLENN CLIFT

The role of "The Bourbon Blues" in the campaign of the spring and summer of 1813, concerned mainly with guard duty and an occasional skirmish with the Indians, is treated by the diarist in this final installment of his reminiscences.

In the chapters not considered suitable for publication, Mr. Northcutt wrote of his life after the war as school teacher, Justice of the Peace, and Assessor, set forth his views on the issues of his day, and told of personal family history and problems.

One of his descendants was the late Dr. Joseph Donaphin Northcutt, a great grandson, in whose honor a memorial marker was dedicated and unveiled in Devou Park, Covington, September 21. Another descendant was Judge Johnst Northcutt, also of Covington.

The diary is available for study in the Society's manuscript collection. Numbers in brackets indicate pages of the original manuscript.

We were ordered to meet the Squadron at Lebanon, Warren County, Ohio, as soon as we could get there, for another Expedition. I went on by my fathers in order to tell them again farewell and then went on and joined my Company at Lebanon and here we found the Squadron Encamped waiting for us. We joined them and drew ammunition to go on Expedition, but from some Cause it failed to go. We stayed here at this Encampment for several weeks and shot our ammunition that we had drawn away.

[83] I made a business when not on duty to go Squirrel hunting in the neighboring woods, which was alive with them which we considered Excellent past time. There was four of us boys went out one day and got a good many Squirrels up one tree. We all four of us surrounded the tree and commenced firing on them, when at the first fire that we made down came a Squirrel and all four of us claimed it. I halloed out there comes my Squirrel. Another one of the boys Cries out it is mine and another it is mine until the whole of us had Claimed it, and upon examining of it we found that all four of us had hit it, and the thing was not worth picking up. I shot away all of my powder and lead that I had drawn and pretty much all that my mess mates had, for the most of them were to lazy to go out after the Squirrels and had rather Spend thier time in Some other pursuits.

[84] Lebanon was only about thirty miles from Cincinnati and my father lived only twenty miles the other side of that town, so I concluded one day that I would get a furlough and go and see my dady, and went to

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my Captain to get it when he says Billy you can have it and I want to go to Cincinnati and we will go together that far. So the next day we put off together and got to Cincinnati in one day, where we put up at a tavern and when I got there my father was in the bed Sick with the mumps. I stayed with him one day and caught the mumps from him, came back to Camp and in about ten days broke out with mumps and annoekalated the Squadron with them.

From this Camp sometime in the month of February I with about thirty of our Company one Sabbath morning concluded that we wanted to go [85] to Meeting, and accordingly fixed up for church. We were about four miles from the Shakers Quakers town called the Union Village. They did not like our appearance very much, however we tried to behave ourselves as well as we could under the circumstances that surrounded us. We got there before thier Worship began. Thier Meeting house was a very large one fenced in to itself from the other Buildings. There was two gates to the fence and two doors to the Meeting house, the women had one gate and door to go in at and the men the other, and went in thier Respective gate and doors. They had seats fixed for Spectators but none for thier own members, for as they came in they sot flat down on the floor in Solid Collunns, the men at one End of the room and the women at the other, and left a space between them of about ten feet vacant. Thier preacher occupied this vacancy and gave us a [86] pretty long sermon on matters and things in General, and when he had finished his discourse he told the congration to prepare for duty, when they all, both men and women, arose to thier feet from where they had been siting, formed again in Rows, and Commenced Singing and dancing, the singers standing with thier backs to the wall facing the dancers.

I counted Seventy Eight men and ninity women all dancing at the same time, each person occupying the Same position that they took when they first formed, and the tune that they sung was what we boys used to call the bell cow yonder is the bell cow &c. They kept the tune to a persision, and whenever the tune turned they would turn with it. There was some of the most complete dancers on that floor that I ever saw anywhere in my life. They sung and danced for two hours with out intermission until some of them [87] Fairly gave out and sot flat down on the floor. It was a very Cold day with snow on the ground and they danced until thier perspiration Raised a Complete fogg in the house, and wound it up by some of the most unearthly Screeches and Screams that I Ever heard the Indians Yell not Excepted, and So ended the Biggest frolick that I was Ever at. So the

meeting came to an End and we went back to our Camp Wondering if that was Religion.

About the time that I broke out with mumps we Received Marching orders to go to fort Meigs at the Maumie Rappids. We broke up Camp and started for fort Meigs on a forced march without our tents or Camp Equipage, and about the time that we Started it began to rain and rained on us two days in succession and almost without intermission, and between Springfield and Urbanna I thought that Die I should with misery. [SS] I had to lie down on my horse and hold to my pistol Holsters, and when we got to Urbanna I told my captain that I could go no further, and he gave me a furlough and put me under a doctor, where I lay about ten days in great pain and agony. There was about six of the Squadron left here sick. In about two weeks we all got so that we thought we could do Camp duty again but our companies that we belonged to had gone on to fort Meigs, and we could not get to them, so we chose one of our company by the name of John Layson to be our leader and we formed our little Squad and went to a Block house, about twenty miles from Urbanna that they called Menaries Block house, where there was considerable forage and provisions Stored up in order to guard them.

We got there and formed our camp. There was several camps of friendly indians in the neighborhood that made frequent visits [S9] to our camp and about the third day that we had been there, they Stole three of our Horses, and took them to a place that was surrounded with quick sand Except one place that they took them in at, and hopped them there. They done it in order to get paid for bringing them in to us. We hunted three days for them and could not find them. At length we hired one of the indians that had no hand in the plot to help us hunt them and found them all three and brought them in and disappointed the rascals that had stolen them.

We bought Some Sugar and Cranburys from an old Squaw and I thought that we would have some old fashioned preserves out of the Cranburys, and I put them into a camp Kettle and went to cooking them, but lo and Behold they were so cankered that we could not eat them and had to throw them away.

After being here several days there came along a detachment of the Ohio militia going on to fort Meigs [90] and we Broke up our Camp and fell in with them in order to Join the Squadron which was at that time at fort Meigs in the first Seige of that place. We went with them to fort McCarthur¹ and at that point we met the Express, with orders from our commander to meet him at Franklinton, that the Seige was Raised and the

Squadron was going from fort Meigs to that point and accordingly we left the Ohio militia there and started to meet our Squadron according to orders. We came on back by the way that we had went out until we got back to Urbanna, and there we took the Road for Franklinton, and there met our Squadron again, Joined it about the first of May. The Squadron went from here to the pickaway plains about thirty miles below Franklinton and there Encamped on the Bank of the Siothe river, in order to recruit our horses by grasping them on Some Excellent pasture that was in the neighborhood.

[91] We lay Encamped here at this point three or four weeks and drilled and recruited our horses, and here we lost one of our brave boys by the name of Saml. Henderson. He died with tiphooid fever and we buried him here, with the honors of War, and here they put one of us messmates under guard by the name of Shy.² There was three of us messmates went down to the river to Swim and had A Canoe in with us. The canoe was there for the use of the troops to cross the river in. After being in the river some time me and Woodyard,³ my other messmate, came out and left Shy in the river with the Canoe, when there came one of the regular Soldiers down and called to Shy to bring him the canoe as he wanted to cross over the river in it. Shy told him that he would do so when he got ready. The answer made the regular mad and [he] turned in to cursing Shy which made him mad also, but when Shy saw his own [92] time he brought the canoe up to the End of a large willow log, and as the soldier thought for him to get in. As soon as he went to Step in the canoe Shy Jerked it back and in went the regular, heels over head Right into ten feet water. He scrambled out and by this time Shy had come out and put on his clothes and the regular made right at him, as he said to give him a whipping, but that was no go for it took me and Woodyard Both to Keep Shy from Killing of him. He the regular went up to the Camp and Reported Shy to the Commander who had him arrested, Court marshalled and sentenced to be put under guard for three days. One day when I went to the guard house to Carry him his dinner I asked him how he liked being under guard, when he swore that he had as soon be under guard as on guard, and appeared to take his punishment very Easy.

Here at this camp I saw the most severe punishment inflicted [93] on a poor fellow that I ever saw anywhere. It was what they called picketting. They drove a peg into the ground and sharpened the upper end of the peg as sharp as it could be made, and then fixed a Spring poll and tied the fellows two thumbs up to the End of the poll, and then took and placed his bare foot on the End of the peg and held him there until he fainted. I thought then and I think so yet that I would prefer to have been Shot. His offence was disobedience of orders.

While we lay here there came an Express from general Harrison from Franklinton for an Escort of men to guard him to fort Meigs, as the road from there to the fort were lined with hostile Indians. Accordingly there was a detail of twenty five men made out of the Squadron and placed under the Command of our second Lieutenant David Hickman. I happened to be one of the detail and Early the next morning we left our [94] Camp and started for Franklinton, but before we got there Harrison had got an Escort from the 26th United States Infantry, and gone on the day before. Hickman said that his orders were to Escort the general to fort Meigs and he must Obey them, so we took Right after him, he having one day start of us, but we being horsemen and them Infantry the Leut. thought that we could Soon overtake them. So we put off after them in a long trot, but we did not overtake them until the Second day in the morn(n)g. when we overtook them at the mouth of Carrion river, before they left thier Encampment. Here the genl ordered the Leut. with his command to lower Sandusky, there to wait for the Squadron which he said he had ordered to Cleveland By way of Sandusky, so we turned back and went to the fort as our orders Directed us.

We got there at night [95] and went into Camp in the fort, and was here several days before the Squadron Came on. While we lay here one morning about one hour by Sun the Indians run in between the fort and a pasture where we had our horses a grazing, and cut off a house where there was a fishery Kept. Either the sight or Scent of the Indians scared our horses so that they Broke out of the pasture and Came runing up to the fort, all of them But two. One of them belonged to the Leuts. waiter, a free Molatto by the name of bill Meeker, and the other to a pensylvanian by the name of Hare. Some of the boys says to Bill here comes all of our horses runing up to the fort but yours and Hares. Bill Says, Come Hare let us go and See where our horses are. They started and by the time that they got to where thier horses were the Indians fired on them and Killed Hare and his horse, [96] close together. They Killed Bills horse in the pasture but they Killed him in the river. There was two of the Soldiers that belonged to the fort down at the fishery, when the Indians made thier attack on it. One of them and Bill attempted to swim the river just above the house. Thier idea was to swim the river here and run up on the opposite Side and cross it again opposite to the fort, and so get into the fort again. The soldier that was with Bill made the trip and Come in with a bullet hole through the top of his hat, gust above his head but they shot Bill through the head in the river. The soldier said that he heard two guns fire and looked back and saw Bill was Sinking. The Indians Killed the man that owned the fishery, his wife and two children with the soldier that was

there at the house when they made thier attack. They made no attack on the fort at this time.

Old Col. [Samuel] Wells had the Command of the fort [97] at that time and would not let any of us go after them. He Expected an attack on the fort and Commenced making preparations for it by having all of the Stock around the fort driven in. There was one of the Soldiers in the fort that got So badly Scared that he caught one of our horses that had got out of the pasture and Started to run in to the Settlement. About three miles above the fort he met three wagons coming down to the fort and told them that the fort was all mascered and he alone was Escaped. The wagons got so alarmed that they took a horse a peice from their wagons, and Started to go to the fort, and Wells had started a Sergeant with a file of men up the Road to Reconoiter. I was detailed as one of them. When we got out of the fort the Sergeant told me that I had to go about one hundred yards in front, to make discoveries and report to him, when I saw three men a coming down the Road with red flanel [98] Shirts on and thier heads tied up with handkerchiefs, thinks I here comes the red coats and I halted until the Sargent came up and Reported. Says he what are we to do. Says I hold on I saw but three and if there is no more of them we will give them a fight, and by this time the wagons got so close up that we could tell who they were, and we went back with them and guarded them into the fort. But the fellow that stole Jim Balls horse, Kept on and away. Above upper Sandusky he met the Squadron and told them the same tale that he had told the waggoners, but the boys did not believe him and asked how he came by that horse, and took the horse away from him and brought the horse back to the owner. We searched all that Evening with hooks in the river for Bill Meeker but could not find him and E(arly) the next morning there was four of us in a canoe hunting for him when I saw the top of his head, [99] About one foot below the surface of the water, and told the boys that I had found him. They Stopt the canoe and I reached down in the water and caught hold of the top of his head and pulled him up to the top of the water, and the boys helped me in with him into the Canoe. He was standing perpendicular in ten foot water. He had when shot sunk to the bottom and Swelled so that he had started to Come up to the top. When we found him we took him and seven more that the Indians had Killed and buried them all in one grave.

Hare the pensylvanian that was Killed in the pasture with his horse had Every pocket that he had turned wrong side out Hunting for his money, and when we had him lying on the bank of the grave Just ready to put him in, one of his company that was a long Said that he Knew that Hare had

money, and in his watch fob [100] we found Seventy five dollars in Bank notes, which Lieutenant Hickman took charge of it to send home to his friends.

The next day after we had buried them the Squadron got there on thier way to Cleveland, and we joined them and all camped together above the fort on the Sandusky River Bottom, and the next day being the first day of July 1813 we started on for Cleveland, to watch for the British Ship and guard the Boats that Harrison had built there, and sunk in the mouth of the Cuyahoga River. We struck the Lake at the mouth of the Huron River, and kept all the way down the lake to Cleveland, crossing of four Rivers and Swimming three of them with our horses. I stood guard on the night of the fourth of July at the mouth of Black river. I had twenty paces to walk and had on a full Cloth great coat with double Cape and I like to Froze.

[101] It was sometime in the month of March just before we left Lebanon for fort Meigs that we drew our other pistol and gave up our Yaegers and from that time on we acted as cavalry altogether. Our Colonel was a great desciplanarian and used to drill us in the cavalry Exercise until we had become to understand the Exercise perfect. He was very particular in learning us to mount and dismount. He had us one day drilling us in the Sword Exercise when one of the boys went to cut St. george in the rear and let the point of his Sword fall too low and cut his horses ham string in two, and the horse and his Rider Both came down together.

When we got to Cleveland we Encamped on a high bluff on the Bank of the lake, just below the mouth of the Cuyahoga river where it Emptys into the Lake Erie. We went there [102] Without our tents, the Squadron having left them behind and when we got here we had to Build us tents out of Chestnut Bark, which grew here in great abundance. We lay here three weeks and commenced here to build a fort, and it was one day on fateauge and the next day on guard watching for Queen Sharlot' the British Vesel, that Harrison was Expecting to come and destroy his Boats that were sunk in the mouth of the river. To Keep the British from finding them, we made us half faced tents out of the Chestnut tree Bark that answered a very good purpose.

About the last of July 1813 Harrison sent an Express after us to come to him at his head quarters on the Sandusky river about nine miles above fort Stephenson [Stephenson] on lower Sandusky. We got there by a forced march about the last day (of) July and here he had one soldier shot for Deserting and Another tried and [103] Condemned to be Shot for Charging baynet on his Lieutenant on thier march into Camp. The Soldier was sick and could not keep up with his Company, when the officer Drew his Sword and put at him with it to make him keep up, when the Soldier Charged

baynet on him and made him Back out. But they court marshalled him and condemned him to (be) shot, and had him marched out into an old field for that purpose. But after all the menuvering had been gone through with Except the word fire, Harrison Reprived him to the Joy of the Whole army and poor Culprit in particular, for it did appear to me that he was as good as dead until the gens. Aid rode up and read his Reprive and then he appeared to revive and live again, and the' troops that were formed in A hollow square Wheeled [104] Out into line and marched back to camp in quite a different maner to that in which they marched out, for they went out with Reversed arms and the Dead march with muffled musick.

When our squadron arrived at Harrisons head quarters there was not any forage there for our horses, and he ordered them to take thier forage bags and go down to lower Sandusky and get them full of oats for our horses and to Bring back with us to his Camp George Chron [Captain George Croghan] the commander at lower Sandusky to answer to him for disobedience of orders, for he had ordered him Col. Chrogran to Evacuate that post and he and his Command to come to him and Chrogran had not done it according to orders. We started to the fort with our forage Sacks after the .oats, and when within two miles of the fort as we were marching along very Soberly, our advance guard being about [105] One Hundred yards in advance of the Squadron, and composed of six men, there was lying concealed in the high grass by the road side, thirteen Indians who rose up out of thier ambush and fired simultaneously on the six men, that formed the guard and Killed three of thier horses, and wounded two men. As it happened the wounded mens horses were not hurt and they all wheeled and run back to the Squadron, with the Indians close after them and the first thing that the Indians new of the Squadron they were right under our Broad Swords and we made thier heads Rattle like old gourds. They caught thier guns in both hands and held them over thier heads and gabbered Some-thing - Something I suppose about quarters, but we were Kentuckians and did not under Stand one word about the Indian language, and we gobled them right up on the spot.

[106] I happened to be in front of the Squadron when the thing ocured, and saw the whole of the Sport. The Indians appeared panic Stricken for there was but one of them that attempted to run. I had cut one fellow down with my Sword and took after the one that broke to run. There was one of the boys by the name of Wilson's that started with me after the Indian that broke to run. I was before Wilson and had raised in my Strups several times to cut him down, but Every time he was a little too far off. At length we came to an old log that had fallen and the Indian Loped it. My horse made a stop to gather himself up for the lope, and Wilsons horse

cleared it at the Charge, and he got in before me and the moment that he did so he drew his pistol and shot the Indian and he fell dead. [107] I was so anxious to cut him with my sword that I had never thought of my pistols until I saw Wilson draw his and then it was too late. When the Indian fell Wilson turned around to me and says Bill, shall I Scalp him? Says I no John don't do that for if you want his Scalp for a witness that you have Killed him I am a living one.

After the fracas was over we went on to the fort and left the Indians a lying there. We drew our forage and took Chrogon the commander of the fort and Brought him up to Harrison, and as we came Back our Commander ordered a line to be formed and we made a rake over the ground that we had had the Skirmish on, in order to see how many of the Indians we had killed, and we found thirteen of them laying stretched out on thier cooling boards. But we had not time to bury them, but the next day some of our pet Indians that Harrison had with him went down and Buried them and came back and [108] Reported that one of the Hostile Indians had Got Away Wounded. In Making the Rake over the Battle ground I found one of thier hopperses. It was a new Mackanaw Blanket, Roled up with part of a dried deer Skin in it and with about one pound of the best double of glazied powder in it and two pair of mocasons cut out but not made, a Bladder of paint and another of Indian medicine. When we got back to the Camp I oppened the Blanket, and there was one of the pet Indians Standing by, and I asked him what the medicine was. Says he good for sick Indian. I asked him if he wanted it when he said that he did so I gave the medicine to him but kept the Ballanc of the prise and Brought it home with me.

The night after we got back from lower Sandusky there was a Lieutenant and fourteen white boys and four of our pet Indians detailed to go on a Scouting party and I was one [109] of them. We went about six miles from the Camp and watched the road that Lead from fort Meigs to lower Sandusky. The Indians that was with us was a foot, and the rest of us was mounted. We tied our Horses in a kind of low pence of ground and went and Scattered a long the road for several hundred yards, and watched all night, but saw no Enemy. The next morning we all started helter scelter to go to our horses, when I asked the Lieutenant if he did not apprehend some danger in going up to our horses in that manner, for I thought that if there were any Indians in that woods they were a watching our horses, when he called a halt, formed us in line, and we marched up to our horses in order, and when I got on Old Charley I thought that I was snfe, at least I thought that there was no Indians in them woods. We saw a good deal of Indian Sign but none of them when we had gone about [110] two miles toward the camp. The pets being just before us, I saw them stop and all four of them

raise thier guns and fire. Thinks I, now we are going to have it but it turned out to be a deer that they had shot at instead of the Enemy. We came on into the camp and reported and that evening the British attacked Lower Sandusky. Harrison had taken Chrogans Sword from him for disobedience of orders and sent him back to the fort with orders to Evacuate the fort, and bring his forces up to Camp Sinaca⁶ to him. But while Chrogon was holding a counsil with his men about it, the British fired on the fort and instead of runing he had to go to fighting, and fight he did.

Harrison was laying nine miles above him with fifteen hundred men but instead of going to help George he turned in to fortyfying his own Encampment [111] expecting that the British would whip Chrogon, and then come and attack him. The morning after the British had attacked the fort I was placed out on pickett guard about one half mile below our camp towards Sandusky. There was thirty men Commanded by a Lieutenant. We were divided in three Relieves, ten of us out on duty and twenty at a place designated as guard fire, and Every time during the day that I was not out on duty the guard would fire and run in. One fellow swore that he saw two Indians and was so Close to them as to see thier Blankets Rolled up and Hopperessed on thier backs. I heard Every canon that was fired on the fort during the day and did think it an Extreme hard case, that Chrogon should be cooped up with a hand full of men to be massereced by the British while Harrison was lying in hearing of him with fifteen hundred men, and would [112] not go and help him.

I did think then and I think so yet, that Harrison might have taken Malden at lower Sandusky on the second day of August 1813 instead of the river Thames in upper Canada on the 5th of October following, for he could certainly have destroyed the British army at that point and at that time, for Chrogon with one hundred and sixty men drove them away from the fort, with Consedeable loss on thier side, and but one Killed and one Wounded on our side.

The two boys that got wounded in the little skirmish that we had with the Indians when we were going down after our forage, we had left them in the fort at the time and they were there in the Engement and fought bravely in that Battle, but one of the poor fellows died soon after of his wound that he received in the Skirmish but the other one got well and Joined his company again before the war was over.

[113] Harrison was fortifying his Encampment here with the Expectation that Chrogon would be Defeated by the British, and that he would have to fight them here. On the morning of the third of August, I was detailed out on fatuague and was in the Ditch at work with a spade throwing

up an Entrenchment, when I heard the trumpet that belonged to our Squadron, Sound Boots and Saddles, and I threw the spade as far as I could throw it, and Jumped out of the Ditch and went to see what was the matter and the matter was that Chroghan had whipped the British and had sent an Express up to Harrison that the Enemy had Retreated and left the fort that morning about daylight. Harrison then ordered Balls Squadron of Horse and one Regiment of foot men to Repair immediately to the fort and follow them to where they took thier Shipping, which was about three miles Below the fort.

[114] We mounted our horses and started off(f) in a long trot, and got there before the dead British were taken out of the Ditch. They had taken out the wounded and administered to thier wants, but the dead were still in the Ditch. The British had fired on the fort about thirty six hours with thier canon, with but little Success when they undertook to storm it by Scaling the walls of the fort. They made a desperate charge on the walls of the fort, and when the Ditch in front of the fort got full of red coats, Chroghan with his little six pounder loaded with cannister shot and slugs of lead opened on them with great Havock. I saw them lying there in heaps one upon a nother as they fell Dead. We persued on to where they took thier Shipping about three miles below the fort at the head of the Sandusky Bay.

Being satisfied that they had [115] cleared out and left the neighborhood we returned Back to the fort and Examined the manner in which Chroghan had made his defence. The fort was built in a four square with a Block house at each corner and a wide deep Ditch all a round it and picketed in with split logs about twelve inches thick and fifteen feet high and sharpened to a point at the top, and on one side of the fort they had bored auger holes and drove in long pins of wood and on those pins they had placed round logs sufficient in Sise to crush twenty men; and on the two other sides of the fort they had placed baynetts through the tops of the picketts, and let the point slanting downwards, so that it was impossible to have scaled them, on Either of the three sides and on the fourth Side in a corner Block house were fixed his little six pounder [116] and from this point he filled his Ditch with dead British.

There was one of those dead British the most daring looking fellow that I Ever Saw even as a Corps. He had a flask of Brandy fastened to his belt to drink King George the thirds health, when he got into the fort. His name was Colonel Short and George Chroghan made short work with him.

After resting awhile at the fort we started for our Camp, got there about one hour by sun and we had not been long in Camp before we heard the

cannon cut loose again at the fort. One of our company by the name of Thomas began to swear, cursing the red coats at a most terrible Rate. Says I to him, Bob what is the matter? Don't you hear that? Hear what, says I. What do you hear? [117] Why says he them d-n British has come back to lower Sandusky and attacked it again, and we shall have to go back there and fight them and says he if they had killed me when I first came out here I would not have minded it, but says he I have been here almost twelve months and want to go home. Says I to Bob don't you know that you are a fool, for them cannot be British Cannon that is freing down there, for do you not know that we have just come from there, and it would be impossible for them to have got back there and fixed up thier Cannon, and Commenced firing in this time. Well says he, Bill what in the devil is it then. Why says I, it is Chroghan burying them dead British with the Honors of War and so it turned out to be, for he had taken them out of the ditch [118] and gave them a decent Burial and this goes to Show that the Brave are generous, for a more brave man we had not in the army of the northwest. The Ladies of Chillicothe presented him with an Elegant Sword and the general with a nice red petticoat.

We staid at camp Simeca, Harrisons head quarters, the ballance of our time, which was but a few days and here I was taken sick and remained so until we were Discharged from the Service. There was about three hundred friendly Indians here with Harrison. They were Encamped outside of our Encampment in a body to themselves and had verry little correspondance with us, or we with them. Some of the prisoners that we took at the Battle of the Missisnawa were with them. They had a Recollection of our troop of horse for one day [119] while the Squadron was out on parade in the old field, that was close to thier Camp, there was a Squad of them came out to look at us parade, and one of them pointed to our trumpeter and put his hands up to his mouth and says toot at toot away down Missisnawa. So by that I new that he must have been there.

Harrisons Kitchen, a place where they done his Cooking, was just in the rear of our tent and we had to go right by it to go to the river after water. One day while I was sick, I started to go after a Bucket of water and when I got oppisite to Harrisons Cooking there was sitting by the fire what we used to call a hoe Cake of beautiful yellow Cornbread toasting for his dinner. We had been living on sour flower and Cornbread was Such a raritie to me that I thought that I must have some of it anyhow. So I sot down my Bucket and made two or three steps [120] towards the fire. I looked for the Cook and he was absent but I thought that I would have it at all hazards, when my Conscience Smote me and told me that it was the genls Bread and if I took it I would be caught and punished for it, so I just left in a hurry, picked my

Bucket and went on to the river, and got the water to cook our dinner with. I had been in the service then near twelve months and had never took one pins worth of anything that was not my own and was glad that I had left the generals hoe cake Alone, although I did want it very Bad.

In a few days after this our time of service was about out. The general ordered our Colonel to Discharge Carrards troop and let them go home, which order he obeyed and gave us an honorable Discharge from the north western army [121] on the 13th of August 1813. Our time of Service lacked seven days of being out but we were allowed that time to get home in and on the 14th day in the morning we left the turmoils of the Camp, and took the road for home. The troop went on by the way of Franklington and crossed the Ohio at Maysville, but I wanted to come by my fathers in Campbell County in order to see them and to get the Horse that I had left there in the winter, when we came in on furlough. So I and two of my mess mates Came on together to Cincinnati and crossed the Ohio where we had crossed in August 1812, as we first went out. On our way to Cincinnati about one mile from a little town called Xenia [Xenia] we discovered a flock of wild turkeys Just making thier way out of a grain field, when I says to one of [122] my mess mates by the name of Webster, Tom I am going to Kill one of them turkeys. Says he you look like it don't you. Well I put the Spur to my horse and Raised the gollop and Just as the turkeys got to the fence and Huddled up to fly over I fired at the flock with my pistol, and Broke one of thier necks. Well says he, you are fool Enough to kill it, and I says to him, now do you be fool Enough to go and get it, for I was so Sick that I hardly could set my horse. I left Camp sick and Continued so for some time after I got home. He went and got the turkey which proved to be a very fine goblar, so we took it along to the town and Sold it to the tavern Keeper for our Breakfast.

We came on to Cincinnati and there I left Tom Webster for that was his home and there he joined our Company in August 1812, and that was the last I ever saw of poor Tom Webster.

[123] We stayed all night in Cincinnati and Early the next morning we left, me and my other mess mate whose name was Reading,^a for my fathers in Campbell County, Ky. We staid one night with him for our time was limited, as we had to meet on the twentieth of August in Paris Ky in Order to be mustered out of the Service, and get our Discharges.

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[128] Now this the 20th August the long looked for day to come has come at last when we are to parade and hear the roll called for the last time,

and I can say with propriety that my name was Never called during the twelve months service, but what I was there to answer Here. At 10 o'clock we met in Paris the place where our Company was made up and where more than twenty of our troop of Horse lived and made it thier home. We were very fortunate in the Service for we only Lost Six men during the twelve months Campaigne. Four died with Sickness and two were Killed by the Indians but there was several wounded so bad that they never Joined us again in the Service. Our old Captain William Garrard paraded us through the Streets of Paris several times, faced us to the Right About and Says Discharged.

[129] And now the trying hour has arrived when we came to tell our officers and fellow soldiers a long farewell. We had been so long associated together that the attachment that we had for one a nother was very Strong, and it is only the man that has Been in the Service that Can appreciate our feelings. There was men in my Company that felt nearer to me than some of my own Blood relations. The officers made out the necessary papers and we drew our last pay, and parted to meet no more as Soldiers, but it seemed more like a dream to me than a reality that I was out of the Service for I imagined for a long time after I left the Camp that in the morning I could hear the Revelee and the Roll Called, and many a time I was just ready to holler out Here in my sleep.

[130] Now we have told the Army farewell and have asumed Citezenship. I came home from the Army in a very bad state of health and it appeared that I could not get well again. I tried the Doctors and they done me no good, and Sometime in September in the fall of 1813, I concluded to go to the Harrods Burg Springs and try what virtue there was in the Medical Water there. Accordingly I got a young man that had been a messmate of mine in the Army^a to go with me, his health being bad also. We started about the 20th of September and went on by Lexington and the Shawnee village of Shaking Quakers. When we got to the villige it was a little after dark and they were just winding up thier frolick. We heard them [131] dancing Sometime before we got there but just as we got there they quit thier dancing and Singing. We rode up into the yard and hollered, and out Came an Old Man to know what we wanted. We told him that we wanted to stay all night with him, when he says I will let thee know presently, and turned and went into the house to Consult the head of the family on the Subject. He presently came out and Says yea, thee can Stay. Well we dismounted and went in and the Old head of the Banjor treated us very cordially. He had a good supper prepared for us to ourselves and then a bed prepared for us in a room to ourselves, and next morning a very good Breakfast and then a very pretty little bill of fare, and then we went on but we

never saw the face of a female in the place but I have no Doubt that they were there.

[132] We went on from here to Harrodsburg and went to the Springs, and engaged Board at a Boarding house, and went in for the Benefit of the water, but it was no go for the water made me worse, the more I drank of it the worse I got. So after staying there for a few days and getting no better fast, we concluded to leave and when we were fixing to Leave the Landlady says to me young man, I don't think that You were very Sick when you came here, but I think that you are going away pretty Sick, which was a fact for the water sot me to vomiting and I puked until we Reached the Kentucky river. I told Bennar the man that was with me that if we met anybody that they would be sure to think I was drunk. We came to a farm house just Before we got to the river and there we put up and Staid until the next day. [133] We then crossed the Kentucky river at the Shaker ferry at the mouth of Shawnee Creek, and came on to Lexington and put up at a tavern, and Staid there and rested, got our dinners and then came on home, not much the better for the Harrodsburg trip. I continued sick and not able to work all the fall. I was not Confined to my bed nor to the house but was able to be up and about pretty much all the time, and I Employed myself most of my time riding about, seeing the people.

I attended several meetings that were held in the neighborhood to raise Men for the Army by draft. The Wirey Edge for volenteering had worm off, and there came a call for more men and they had to be raised by draft. I attended several of thier meetings and had my own Sport over it. When the poor fellows would go up to put thier hands in the hat [134] in order to draw the prise or the copperhead as they called it, thier hands would Shake like Some old man with the palsey, and I Could not help being diverted at them and had a good deal of Sport over the matter.

Some few weeks after I got home from the Army there was a Call for three months or Sixty days men to join Harrison's Army in order to cross the lake and take uper Cannada. They were mounted infantry. There was one company raised in my neighborhood and if I had been Able I should have joined them and went back to see my old master Wm. H. Harrison once again but I was not able to go. The troops were Raised and put under the command of our old Warhorse governor Shelby, the then governor of Kentucky and he marched them on and Joined Harrison's army at lower Sandusky [135] and went on with him in the Vessels that Perry took from the British on lake Eirie in the month of September previous. Harrison Crossed the Volenteers in Ships and the regulars he crossed in the Boats that he had Built at Cleveland for the purpose. They all landed at Malden upper Can-

nada and took it without firing a gun, for the British Commander took to his heels on the appearance of the Americans, and left the fort to the mercy of our troops. Proctor¹⁰ had one days start of Harrison, but he pursued him and the third day overtook him on the river Thames and there the last Battle was fought and the whole British army Captured on October the 5th 1813. There Tecumseh the Indian chief was Killed by Richard M. Johnson that Commanded a Rigement of Mounted riflemen from Scott(t) County, Kentucky, but the [136] Indians that were not Killed fled and there was no Indian prisoners taken in that Battle. Proctor the British Commander got away by Cutting a horse loose from his Cariage, and fleeing to the woods and leaving his Cariage and its Contents to the Mercy of the Americans. Harrison then retreated Back with his British prisoners and sent them to the Newport garrison for safe Keeping and they were Kept under guard until the War was Over.

Kentucky suffered more in that War in the loss of men than any other state in the Union. Some of the very best men of the State offered up thier lives on the alter of thier country, such as Allen, Mead, Whitley, Hart¹¹ and many others of Eequal noteriaty. Kentucky has always stood ready with the blood of her sons to defend her Rights in the Union, and I hope that she as a State may so Remain.

Muster Roll of Capt. Wm. Garrards Co. 12 months.

Volenteer Light Dragoons Bourbon Blues

Officers	
Capt. William Carrard	1
Third Leut. Thos. McClanahan	4
First Leut. Edmund Baisey	2
Wounded	5
Second Leut. David M. Hickman	3

Non Commissioned Officers

Quarter Master Strawder J.	14
Hawkins	15
Serjant Major Béojn. W. Edwards	16
Quarter Master Serjant John Finch	17
First Serjant Charles M. Clarkson	18
Second Serjant Wm. Barton	19
Third Serjant Edward Mcguire	20
fourth Serjant James Benson	21
first Corporal Wm. Walton	22
	23

Privates

Stephen Barton	24	Able Pepper	62
Henry O. Brown	25	Price Prewitt	63
John Baisman	26	James Y. Reading	64
James Brown	27	Moses Richardson	Wounded
Jesse Bolding	28	Daniel Roland	65
John Brest	29	John M. Robinson	66
John E. Boswell	30	Died in the Service	67
Killed in Decbr.		Samuel Henderson	Ditto
Stephen Bedford	31	James Hill	Ditto
Thos. Barton	32	John Clark	Ditto
Jas. Clark	33	Alexander Scott	70
Jacob Counts	34	Wm. Scott	Wounded Badly
Samuel I. (?) Calwell	35	Jacob Shy	Badly frostbitten
Jonathin Clinkinbeard	36	John Snody	74
Wm. Davis	37	John Shropshire	75
Lewis Duncan	38	Charles Smith	76
Thos. Eastin	39	Jesse Todd	77
Gustavis Edwards	40	Jacob Thomas	78
Silas Field	41	Robert Thomas	79
John Funston	42	John Terrel	Whipped a woman
James Finch	43	Henry Toles	Wounded
Thos. Hickman	44	Richard Timberlake	81
James Hunt	45	John Wilson	82
Garrard Jones	46	Wm. Wilson	83
Lewis Jones	47	Henry Wilson	Wounded
Jas. Johnston	48	Thos. Webster	Wounded twice
Wm. Jones	49	Edward Waller	86
Thos. Kerchivill	50	John Winn	87
Jas. Kendrick	51	Roger F. West	88
Fredic Loring	52	Walter Woodyard	89
man		Daniel Smedly	Wounded
David Langhorn	53	Wm. P. Neal	90
John Logson	54	Garrard Robinson	91
Wm. Mountjoy	55	James Webb	92
Horatia Moore	56	George Shamblin	93
Charles Metcalf	57	John Ball	94
George Moore	58	Beverly Roy	95
Wm. B. Northcutt	59	Beverly Brown	Killed in Battle
Stepen Owens	60	Talifona Prichard	96
Wiatt Owens	61	Thos. Marshal	97
			98
			99
			100

Wm. Scott	101	Thos. Bedford	Killed in Battle
Wm. Jones	102	Isaac Sanders	Wounded
Wm. Baylor	103	Colvin Shelton	104
			105
			106

This Company is Composed of one hundred and Six men and but two Married Men in it and twenty of them were own Cousins.

Uniform of the Company. Deep Blue Broad Cloth Coatee and panilions trimed with White Lace. Red Velvet Vest trimed with the Same. Jacked Leather Cap with Bear Skin over the top. Black Cockade with a Silver Eagle in the Center. Black plume tipped with Red, Boots, and Spurs, &c.

War of 1812 Diary of William B. Northcutt, Part III

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NOTES

¹Fort McArthur on the Scioto River, near Kenton, county seat of Hardin County, Ohio.

²Jacob Shy of "The Bourbon Blues."

³Walter Woodyard (Woodward?), also of the company.

⁴The "Queen Charlotte," a 17-gun warship of 400 tons. Various schemes and attempts to destroy her failed and she was saved to be captured at the Battle of Lake Erie.

⁵John Wilson of Captain Carrard's company.

⁶Camp Seneca, Seneca County, Ohio, on the Sandusky River.

⁷Brevet Lieutenant Colonel William Charles Short who came to Canada with the 41st Regiment.

⁸James Y. Reading of "The Bourbon Blues."

⁹William Benear, Gunsmith of the company.

¹⁰Colonel Henry A. Proctor. See page 180.

¹¹Colonel John Allen, Captain James Meade and Captain Nathaniel G. T. Hart, killed at the Battle on the River Raisin; Colonel William Whitley, killed while leading the charge of "The Forlorn Hope" at the Battle of the Thames.