

the poor little ones—I was one of them, eighteen months of age. My mother kept me hidden in a barrel, up in the garret of the old house, and had the stairs taken down to keep them from going up. When I attained the age of ten years, I remember how they came to bury their dead, and took possession of the house. We gave them food, beds, etc.; we had to do it—it was the agreement.

In June, 1812, began the war with Great Britain, a war into which our country was forced by injuries, and aggressions which had exhausted forbearance; a war in which American skill and valor upon land, were more than equal to British prowess, and which upon the ocean, broke the charm of British invincibility; a war in which the American character attained a proud eminence, from which it is hoped and trusted, it may never descend. Major Brevoort was a man of the most dauntless courage; it was attested at the battle of Lake Erie, where he fought desperately, and was honorably mentioned by Commodore Perry in his dispatches. He fought hard and bravely, coming out of the engagement covered with blood, and begrimed with powder. I often heard my father relate that while fighting on the Niagara, a tall man stood behind him and dodged the shots, but just as he looked once too often, the shot took his head off. Father was almost blinded with the brains of the unfortunate man. He was an intimate, bosom friend of Commodore J. D. Elliott, who was also in the engagement on Lake Erie; in fact, it was by his good management that the fleet was rescued from destruction, and the capture of the British effected—in other words, the victory of Lake Erie secured.

My father received a medal from Congress for his services in the action, which is in the possession of the family, and they will hand it down to posterity from generation to generation. In this naval engagement on Lake Erie, Major Brevoort conducted himself with distinguished gallantry,* as the herein mentioned medal,

* Gen. Ellis adds these reminiscences of Major Brevoort's military services: "It was said—and we gave it full credit at Green Bay—that he distinguished himself in Perry's naval victory on Lake Erie; that at the reduction of the army after the War of 1812-15, only those were retained who had in some way distinguished themselves in the service; and, as such, he was early appointed to the Indian agency at Green Bay, and was, I believe, continued in government employment till his death."