



KENTUCKY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRIMARY SOURCE
EDUCATOR PACKET

AMERICA
250
★ KENTUCKY ★

WAR OF 1812



PRIMARY SOURCE PACKET





Kentucky Academic Standards for Social Studies

Eighth Grade

8.H.KH.1 Articulate Kentucky's role in early American history from the earliest colonial settlement to 1877.

8.H.KH.2 Examine patterns of collaboration and conflict between immigrants to Kentucky and those already in residence from 1775 to 1877.

8.C.KGO.1 Examine the role of Kentucky and Kentuckians within national politics between 1792-1877.

8.H.CE.1 Analyze how the political, geographic, social and economic choices of the Colonial Era impacted the Revolutionary Period and Early Republic Period.

High School

HS.WH.CO.2 Analyze examples of conflict created by global expansionist policies and actions between 1740-1945 across global regions.

HS.WH.KH.1 Describe the impact of world history on Kentuckians and how Kentucky impacted the world.



Brief Historical Overview

The War of 1812 was between the United States and Britain along with their Native American allies. There were numerous reasons why the war began, including trade restrictions by Britain on the United States, the forced recruitment of American sailors into the Royal Navy, and the military support Britain gave to Native Americans during the expansion period of the Northwest Territory. Kentucky played a crucial role in the War of 1812 not only because of the state's location at the center of the area of conflict, but Kentuckians formed volunteer companies in excess of what was asked by the government. Kentucky saw more casualties than any other state, accounting for 64% of all American casualties in the war.



Primary Source Reference Guide

Source 1: Letter from Buckner Thruston to Robert Alexander concerning the deterioration of US relations with England and France, February 18, 1808. Accession Number MSS93_Box5_FF1_001.

Source 2: This broadside describes the Battle of Tippecanoe and the Death of Colonel Joseph H. Daviess, a well known Kentucky politician and soldier, November 7, 1811. Accession Number 2008M04.B2.F3.#7(bs.2.46).

Source 3: This extra contains "A Copy of a Letter From General William Henry Harrison to General Isaac Shelby", describing the loss of "the greater part of" several Kentucky Regiments, February 4, 1813. Accession Number 2008M04.B1.F9.#2(bs.2.33).

Source 4: This is the manuscript of a poem entitled "A Night View of the Battle of Raisin, January 22nd, 1813," written by William O. Butler, then a major, after the battle in the War of 1812, January 22, 1813. Accession Number SC52_FF1_001.

Source 5: Letter from George Madison to Robert Alexander while Madison was a prisoner of war in Quebec, January 14, 1814. Accession Number MSS93_Box5_F6_1.

Dear Sir

Washington Feb. 18th 1808

I received yours of the 27th Ult^o by the last
mail, and will endeavor as far as I can to give you a detail
of the state of things here. The Embargo, a measure forced upon
us by the Belligerents, altho' greatly distressing to all descriptions of
Persons, is likely, as far as I can judge, to continue yet a considerable
time; indeed I can converse with no one who is able to form
any opinion as to its duration; and an additional motive has
occurred by very recent Intelligence from Amsterdam, that Na-
poleon is determined to enforce his Threat of no Neutral
By a late Decree dated "Milan Dec. 17." 1807. "Every Vessel
visited by an English Ship, or which has made a Voyage to
England or paid Duty to that Gov^y has become denationalized
forfeits the Rights of her Flag, and shall be considered as English
Property." All British Vessels are declared good & lawful Prize.
There are other equally unjust & arbitrary Provisions too long
to copy. Thus you see we have got within one Step of War
with this Nation. Each of the Belligerents having thus entirely
prohibited our Commerce with the other we have only to de-
termine to remain at Home shut up within our shells
or choose between two Evils of joining one of the Belligerents
against the other. This Decree comes at a very inauspicious
moment as we are told that the Disensions between Mr
Rose and our Government are drawing to a close, I fear that
the British Ministers here will rise in their Demand upon
us in consequence of this Decree. When I say the Disensions



are drawing towards a close, obtrudes that ^{it} Report only, (for not
a word escapes of an authoritative nature) and further that
this Report is that they are not likely to agree. What Effect
this Decree may have have on the Negotiation I know not.
It is evident now if any amicable Relations with England
are established, that War with France must ensue. On the
other hand, if we attempt to open our Commerce with
France, Britain will seize our Ships, which will lead to
War with that Nation. We have then if we repeal our
Embargo only to make Choice between these powerful
Governments. Such a Union with England as a War
between us and France must necessarily produce is
what every true American must sincerely deplore.
We have already so much English Influence in our
Country, as to embarrass & perplex even an Administration
which cannot be accused of Partiality to them, and a
Majority in our public Councils too strong it might be
supposed, to feel the Effects of British Intrigue &c. But
what Insults, Injuries, & Vexations have we not sustained
from this People for many years past, without hopes
even at this moment (big with perhaps her Existence)
of honorable atonement & just conduct towards us in
future. She might I believe have conciliated us, and Events
would have brought about, what she has been vainly hoping

to do, by Oppression, Injustice and Menaces, and by alarm-
ing us with a Destruction of our commercial Interests; that is
an abandonment of our neutral Position. as these two
Nations have jostled us out of this safe honorable and
reasonable Position, we have to assume another. The
Embargo System is perhaps the safest we could chuse, but
is it honorable, & will our People submit to it? It may
be & I think is honorable & I believe wise to a certain
Extent, but it seems that to continue in this State for
more than a few Months, and after we shall have made
our Enemies feel the Effects of it, if it does not operate
a Revocation of their arbitrary Restraints upon our
Commerce, that we must resort to some more energetic
Measure. And what is that Measure. For my Part I should
extremely advise to this ultima Ratio, I see no Resolution
of the existing State of Things but in War; and
with whom. My Feelings, my Pride, & my Resentment
w^d say with England. But we must not act under
the Influence of such Motives. The Contest with England
would certainly be much more formidable during the
Conflict than with France. But we should gain by
its great Objects. This lurking detestious Remnant of
English Influence, which has infected our Country ever
since the Peace of 1783, and which has flourished at
one

Poison to an alarming Degree, and now fetters, and clogs
under a clear sighted & virtuous Administration the Councils
of the Nation. We should get rid of this Poison; of British
agents, Printers, Spies, Partizans & of the various Sources
of Corruption which are diffused in different Shapes thro
the Country. We should cut off from them for ever their
Colonies in America, which afford them great means
of Annoyance to us, and we should lose this expensive
and luxurious Habit, which we are acquiring, from
a long continued State of Peace & Prosperity. We
should turn our attention to the Art of War & intro-
duce the modern ^{improved} Tactics into our Country, with which
combined with the martial Spirit that would be
inspired by War, and the natural & political advan-
tages of our Country, we could presume to contend suc-
cessfully should England be overcome by Bonaparte
against the gigantic Power of the Conqueror. We have
measured Swords with England, even when hers was
much longer & ours much shorter than at present.
We cannot fear her. It is equally true that a War with
France would at present be but little felt, for I do not
see how she could reach ^{us}, but our Trade to the Continent
of Europe would be entirely at an End, and our Privateers
would reap a barren Harvest, whereas in a War with

England, our large merchant Ships would find it a profitable Business to arm & prevail against the British Trade. But what I should most dread in such a War, would be an amalgamation with English Politics, English Manners, and the gradual but dangerous Influence of English Principles. The Point is, we have a Gordian Knot to loose. I fear neither Skill nor Wisdom can effect & we must do it with the sword. Of Reports again, I just hear that George the III. is dead & that France has actually declared War against us. But look on this as a Report only.

You tell me I ought to write to my Friends. I know it; but have so long deferred it, that I am now ashamed; this necessity is the only Part of my Duties that are unknown to me; Writing on public Matters is also a dangerous Business; you are put in the Papers often, & if you have not well digested the Matter, you expose yourself to unpleasant Criticisms. I have but one Consolation, and that is, that my Intentions are honorable, and that I really feel every Consideration and every Degree of Gratitude for my Constituents & endeavour to serve them to the best of my Power. I must send a Circular I believe - however I think I will make a Point of writing a Letter every Day hereafter.

I regret much the Death of Faith in stripping poor old Master of his Pension; but entre nous it is not to be

wondered at from certain accounts you give me in your
Letter. Gallatin has not yet given us an Answer on
the Subject of Deposits. I am happy to hear, that your
Institution goes on well. Do the Emoluments compensate
you for your Loss of Time & your Troubles? I wrote James
Downing to invest some money for me in one of the Banks
and desired him to consult you thereon provided he secured
my money. My Object is to combine Security with
Profit. Observe that I write in the Senate Room - a
great Buz about my Ears. View my Writing with
grains of allowance - as to myself, my Prospects are
hidden in the secret Book of Destiny - I can say
Nothing - an old affair of which we have talked
remains in statu quo. My ardent Imagination ge-
nerates frequent Hopes - I am like a Pendulum
swinging from Hope to Despair - and resting for a
moment at all the intermediate Grades - Your Friend
Col. Williams is here on Wilkinson's C. Martial - He is
this moment nominated in Senate by the President
a full Colonel. Wilkinson keeps his Ground in public
opinion or rather gains - not in mine however.
God bless you - yours as long as it shall please
God to spare
y^r Friend B. Hunter.

Dear Sir Washington Feby. 18th 1808

I received yours of the 27th Ult. By the last Mail, and will endeavor as far I can to give you a detail of the State of Things here. The embargo a measure forced upon us by the Belligerents, altho' greatly distressing to all Descriptions of Persons, is likely, as far as I can judge to continue yet a considerable Time; indeed I can converse with no one who is able to form any opinions as to its Duration; and an additional Matter has occurred by very recent Intelligence from Amsterdam, that Bonaparte is determined to enforce his Threat of no Neutrals By a late Decreed dated "Milan Dec. 17." 1807. "Every Vessel visited by an English Ship, or which has made a Voyage to England or paid Duty to that govt. has become denationalize forfeits the Rights of her Flag, and shall be considered as English Property." All such vessels are declared good & lawful Prize. There are other equally unjust & arbitrary Provisions too long to copy. Thus you see we have got within one Step of Wars with this Nation. Each of the Belligerents having thus entirely prohibited our Commerce with the other we have only to determine to remain at Home shut up within our Shell or chuse between two Evils of joining one of the Belligerents against the other. This Decree comes at a very inauspicious Moment as we are told that the Discussions between Mr. Rose and our government are drawing to a close, I fear that the British Ministers here will rise in their Demands upon us in Consequence of this Decree. When I say the Discussions are drawing towards a close, observe that it is Report only, (for not a Word escapes of an authoritative Nature) and further that this Report is that they are not likely to agree. What Effect this Decree may have on the Negotiation I know not. It is evident now if any amicable Relations with England are established, that war with France must ensue. On the other Hand, if we attempt to open our Commerce with France, Britain will seize our ships, which will lead to war with that Nation. We have then if we repeal our Embargo only to make choice between these powerful governments- such a union with England as a War between us and France must necessarily produce is what every true american must sincerely deprecate. We have already so much English Influence in our Country, as to embarrass & perplex even an administration which cannot be accused of Partiality to them, and a majority in our public Councils too strong it might be supposed, to feel the Effects of British Intrigue. But what Insults, Injures, & Vexations have we not sustained from this People for many years past, without Hopes even as this moment (big with perhaps her Existence,) of honorable atonement & just conduct towards us in future. She might I believe have [illegible] us, and Events would have brought about, what she has been vainly hoping to do, by oppression, Injustice and Menaces, and by alarming us with a Destruction of our commercial Interests, that is an abandonment of our neutral Position. As these two Nations have jostled us out of this safe honorable and reasonable Position, we have to assume another. The Embargo System is perhaps the safest we could chuse,

but is it honorable, & will our People submit to is. O it may be & I think is honorable & I believe wise to a certain Extent, but it seems that to continue in this state for more than a few months, and after we shall have made our Enemies feel the Effects of it, if it does not operate a Revocation of their arbitrary Restorants upon our commerce that we must resort to some energetic measure. And what is that measure. For my Part altho' extremely adverse to this ultimatum, I see no Resolution of the existing State of Things but in War; and with whom. My feelings, my Pride, & my Resentment wd. Say with England- But we must not act under the Influence of such motives- The Contest with England would certainly be much more formidable during the Conflict than with France- But we should gain by it great objects- This [illegible] Remnant of English Influence, which has infected our Country ever since the Peace of 1783, and which has flourished at one Period to an alarming Degree, and now fetters, and clogs under a clearsighted & virtuous administration the Councils of the Nation. We should get rid of this Poison; of British agents, Printers, Spies, Partizans & of the various sources of Corruption which are diffused in different Shapes thro' the Country. We should cut off from them forever this Colonies in America, which afford them great Means of annoyance to us, and we should lose this [illegible] and luxurious Habit, which we are assuming, from a long continuous State of Peace and Prosperity- We should turn our attention to the art of War & introduce the modern [illegible] into our Country, with which combined with the martial Spirit that would be inspired by War, and the natural & Political advantages of our Country, we could prepare to contend successfully should England be overcome by Bonaparte against the gigantic Power of the Conquerors. We have measures swords with England, even when hers was much longer & ours much shorter than as present. We cannot fear her. It is equally true that a War with France would as present be but little felt, for I do not see how she could reach us; but our Trade to the Continent of Europe would be entirely at an End, and our Privateers would reap a barren Harvest, whereas in a war with England, our large merchant Ships would find it a profitable Business to own & privateer against the British Trade. But what I should most dread in such a War, would be an amalgamation with English Politics, English Manners and the gradual but dangerous Influence of English Principles- The Fact is we have a Gordion Knot to loosen I fear neither skill nor Wisdom can effect & we must do it with the Sword. Of Reports again. I just hear that George the III^d. Is dead & that France has actually declared War against us. But look on this as a Report only. You tell me I ought to write to my Friends I know it; but have so long deferred it, that I am now ashamed; this necessity is the only Part of my Duties that are unknown to me; Writing on public matters is also a dangerous Business; you are put in the Papers often, & if you have not well digested the Matter, you expose yourself to unpleasant Criticisms- I have but one Consolation, and that is, that my Intentions are honorable and that I really feel every Consideration and every Degree of Gratitude for my Constituents &

endeavor to serve them to the best of my Power. I must send a circular I believe- however I think I will make a Point of writing a Letter every Day hereafter. I regret much the Bench of Faith in stripping poor old [illegible] of his Pension; but entre nous it is not to be wondered at from certain accounts you give me in your Letter. Gallatin has not yet given us an Answer on the subject of Deposits. I am happy to hear, that your Institution goes on well; Do the Enrolments compensate you for yr. Loss of Time & your Trouble? I wrote James January to vest some money for me in one of the Banks, and desired him to consult you thereon provided he received my money. My object is to combine Security with Profit. Observe that I write in the Senate Room a great Buzz about my Ears- View my writing with grains of Allowance- As to myself, my Prospects are hidden in the secret Book of Destiny- I can say Nothing- An old affair of which we have talked remains in Status Quo. My ardent Imagination generates frequent Hopes- I am like a Pendulum swinging from Hope to Despair- and resting for a moment at all the intermediate grades- Your Friend Col. Williams is here on Wilkinsons C. Martial- He is this Moment nominated in Senate by the President a full Colonel. Wilkinson keeps his ground in public opinion or rather gains- Not in mine however.

God bless you- yours as long as it shall please

God to spare.

yr. Friend

B Thruston.

WAR! WAR! WAR!

THE BLOW IS STRUCK.

WE HAVE just been favoured by Capt. Simpson of Shelbyville with an account of a BATTLE between the army of Gov. Harrison and the Indians, which exactly agrees with the following statement from the Louisville Courier of Friday last:

WE stop the press to announce the important intelligence brought by Dr. John M. Scott, who arrived this evening directly from Vincennes. This gentleman has politely favoured us with the following particulars of a BATTLE between the Troops under Gov. Harrison and the Indians. Capt. Dubois of Vincennes, arrived at that place express from the Governor—states, that on the 7th inst. the Prophet and his party consisting of about 700 Indians, after professing friendship on the sixth in the evening, that they would next morning come into the camp of Gov. Harrison with a white flag, and take him by the hand in friendship, made an attack on his army about 4 o'clock in the morning of the 7th, and continued the battle until 6, when they were put to flight. There were left dead on the ground fifty or sixty Indians, with some wounded. It is supposed they suffered considerably in their flight, but the number is not known as the Indians are in the habit of carrying the dead off, together with as many of their dead as possible.

The Governor sustained an injury as reports says, of about one hundred and twenty. Some say there were 160 or 70 killed and wounded.

The Governor in a letter to Doctor Scott states, that among the killed were Col. A. Owen of Shelby county Ky. aid to the Governor. Col. Joseph H. Daveiss of Lexington. Col. Isham White, formerly the U. S. agent of the Saline Salt-works, Capt. S. Spencer of Corydon (I. T.) and his two subalterns, Capt. Warrick, Thomas Randolph, Esq. and Mr. Mahon of Vincennes—That the Prophet's town was burnt on the morning of the 8th inst. the corn, amounting as was supposed to 5000 bushels, taken or destroyed—that he expected to commence his march on the 9th to Vincennes, but it would be slow on account of the wounded, and the precautions necessary to prevent annoyance from the enemy. Capt. Dubois reports, that Capt. Berry was also killed in the engagement; that the troops under the Governor's command behaved with great bravery. Too much cannot be said in favor of Col. Boyd's regiment of regulars, and Major Floyd's detachment, who sustained the heat of the action, and acquitted themselves like heroes. Indeed the whole army did wonders, considering the disadvantages under which they laboured; for an attack was not contemplated by the troops generally, after the professions made by the Indian Chiefs on the 6th. That Col. Daveiss lived nine hours after the action, and that Capt. Bane of the regular troops, was not dead, but expected to die every moment, from his wounds, that the gov. received a shot through his hat which scratched the skin on the side of his head, and his horse wounded, Judge Taylor, of Jeffersonville, by the side of the gov. had his horse killed, which fell on him, and he remained in that situation until relieved by a person pulling the horse off him.

It will be particularly noticed, that the troops under Gov. Harrison did not exceed the number of the Indians, at the time of the engagement, he having been obliged to leave troops at the different forts on his way up.

We have just had a sight of a letter received by mail, from a gentleman in the army; from which we make the following extracts: "Battle Ground, one half mile from the Prophet's town, Nov. 8th 1841.

Yesterday morning 4 o'clock, &c. (Stating the particulars above mentioned.) Mars and Somerville are killed, with many others. The number of wounded is very great. Gidiger and myself (Capt. Hunter) are slightly wounded. The most of our men from Kentucky, are safe or not badly wounded. The rebels have got all our best, and many of our horses. Such a battle has never been fought. We have killed many of their Warriors—the most that we have found are old men; they were all through our camp. An old woman was left in the town, who says, that we have killed many of them, and wounded many more. We are all in high spirits."

Another letter, received as above, states that the army was on the march—that they were momentarily expecting another attack, &c. From the situation and circumstances of the army, we think another attack by the Indians is very probable.—Will our government act? or, will they always sleep? Surely this is enough to arouse them from their lethargy. In our next we will be enabled to give our readers a more particular statement of the battle together with what may have happened subsequently.

(COMMUNICATION.)

We have lost! how shall I express it without rending the heart, unable to support the shock—the excellent, the brave, I may say the great Col. Daveiss is no more! The late engagement of Governor Harrison has proved fatal to many, who accompanied this great inestimable man.—Surrounded by a howling wilderness, at a dead hour of the night, when many were sleeping with confidence security, in the fallacious and friendly protestations of the foe, were surprised, and the first intelligence of the enemy was, then to have officer and soldier engage his men. Col. Daveiss with more than mortal power, resisted the shock and encouraged by his unparalleled courage and presence of mind to form his troops. With comparatively few chosen heroes, he charged the thick array of savage numbers. But courage and conduct in this pre-eminent SON of Kentucky, could not avail while the darkness of the night shrouded the twiny sons of the wood and a forest of savage tomshawks and rifles were dealing death around. This unexampled warrior in discharging his fire arms which proved fatal to the savage arm just raised to shoot his blood, received in his breast three fatal balls, and when he was told an hour after, the enemy had been beaten he said "I have done my duty, I am satisfied, my country is victorious"—and a few hours after expired.

"Dropped from his heaveless grasp the spear,
"Closed his bright eye and checked his bright career,
"Hope for a season bid the troops farewell,
And freedom shrieked when Col. Daveiss fell!

He died in his duty and more than American patriotism.

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Another letter, received as above, states that the army was on the march—that they were momentarily expecting another attack, &c. From the situation and circumstances of the army, we think another attack by the indians is very probable.-- [page torn] our government act; or, will they always sleep? Surely this is enough to arouse them from their lethargy In our next [page torn] will be enabled to give our readers a more paticular statement of the battle together with what may have happened subsequently.

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And freedom shrieked when Col. Daviess Fell!
He died in his duty and more than American patriotism.

CITIZEN...EXTRA

PARIS, KENTUCKY;

THURSDAY MORNING,

FEBRUARY 4th, 1813.

A COPY OF A LETTER FROM GEN. HARRISON TO
Gov. SHELBY, dated,
Head-Quarters, Carrying river, 15 miles from
the Miami Rapids, 25th Jan. 1813.

MY DEAR SIR,

I send Col. Wells to communicate, to you, the particulars, as far as we are acquainted with them, of an event that will overwhelm your mind with grief, and fill your whole state, with mourning. The greater part of Colonel Wells's Regiment of U. S. infantry, the 1st, & 5th Regiments of Kentucky infantry, & col. Allen's Rifle Regiment, under the immediate command of Gen. Winchester, have been cut to pieces, by the enemy, or taken prisoners. Great as the calamity is, I still hope, that, as far as it relates to the object of the Campaign, it is not irreparable. As soon as I was informed of the attack, upon Gen. Winchester, (about 12 o'clock on the 22d inst.) I set out to overtake a detachment of Kentucky troops, which I had sent that morning to reinforce him, and directed the only regiment I had with me, to follow. I overtook Maj. Rob's detachment, at the distance of six miles, but before the troops, in the rear could get up, certain information of Winchester's defeat reached us.

A council of war was called, and it was the opinion of Generals, Payne and Perkins, and of all the field officers, that there was no motive which could authorise our advance, but that of attacking the enemy, and that success was not to be expected, after a forced march of 40 miles, against an enemy of superior numbers, and well provided with artillery.—Strong detachments, of the most active men were sent forward, on all the roads.—The whole number that reached our camp, does not exceed thirty, amongst whom were Maj. McClanahan and Capt. Graves.—Having a large train of artillery and stores coming on the road from Upper Sandusky, under the escort of 4 companies, it was thought advisable to fall back, to this place, for the purpose of securing them. A part arrived last night, and the rest is within 30 miles.—As soon as it and a reinforcement of 3 regiments, from the Virginia and Pennsylvania Brigades arrive, I shall, again advance and once more, give the enemy an opportunity of measuring their strength with that of ours.

Col. Wells will communicate some circumstances, which, while they afflict and surprise, will convince you, that Kentucky has lost none of her reputation for valor, for which she is famed.

The detachment, to the river Raisin, was made, without my knowledge, or consent, and in direct opposition to my plans.—Having been made, I did every thing in my power to reinforce it—and a force exceeding 300 men—that which Gen. Winchester deemed necessary was on its way to join him, and a fine Battalion, within 14 miles of its destination. After the success of col. Lewis, I was in great hopes, that post could be maintained.

Col. Wells will communicate to you, my future views, much better than I can, in writing at this time.

Kentucky Historical Society



CITIZEN....EXTRA

PARIS, KENTUCKY;

THURSDAY MORNING,

FEBRUARY 4TH, 1813.

A COPY OF A LETTER FROM GEN. HARRISON TO GOV. SHELBY, dated,

Head-Quarters, Carrying river, 15 miles from the Miami Rapids, 25th Jan. 1813.

MY DEAR SIR,

I send Col. Wells to communicate, to you, the particulars, as far as we are acquainted with them, of an event that you will overwhelm your mind with grief, and fill your whole state, with mourning. The greater part of Colonel Wells's Regiment of U.S. infantry, the 1st, & 5th Regiments of Kentucky infantry, & col. Allen's Rifle Regiment, under the immediate command of Gen. Winchester, have been cut to pieces, by the enemy, or taken prisoners. Great as the calamity is, I still hope, that, as far as it relates to the object of the Campaign, it is not irreparable. As soon as I was informed of the attack, upon Gen. Winchester, (about 12 o'clock on the 22d inst.) I set out to overtake a detachment of Kentucky troops, which I had sent that morning to reinforce him, and directed the only regiment I had with me, to follow. I overtook Maj. Rob's detachment, at the distance of six miles, but before the troops, in the rear could get up, certain information of Winchester's defeat reached us.

A council of war was called, and it was the opinion of Generals, Payne and Perkins, and of all the field officers, that there was no motive which could authorize our advance, but that of attacking the enemy, and that success was not to be expected, after a forced march of 40 miles, against an enemy of superior numbers, and well provided with artillery.-- Strong detachments, of the most active men were sent forward, on all the roads.-- The whole number that reached our camp, does not exceed thirty, amongst whom were Maj. McClanahan and Capt. Graves.-- Having a large train of artillery and stores coming on the road from Upper Sandusky, under the escort of 4 companies, it was though advisable to fall back, to this place, for the purpose of securing them. A part arrived last night, and the rest is within 30 miles.-- As soon as it and a reinforcement of 3 regiments, from the Virginia and Pennsylvania Brigades arrive, I shall, again advance and once more, give the enemy an opportunity of measuring their strength with that of ours.

Col. Wells will communicate some circumstances, which, while they afflict and surprise, will convince you, that Kentucky has lost none of her reputation for valor, for which she is famed.

The detachment, to the river Raisin, was made, without my knowledge, or consent, and in direct opposition to my plans.-- Having been made, I did every thing in my power to reinforce it—and a force exceeding 300 men—that which Gen. Winchester deemed necessary was on its way to join him, and a fine Battalion, within 14 miles of its destination. After success of col. Lewis, I was in great hopes, that post could be maintained.

Col. Wells will communicate to you, my future views, much better than I can, in writing at this time.

A Night view of the Battle of Ransom, Jan'y 22nd 1813.

The Battle's o'er, the din is past!
Night's mantle on the field is cast
The moon with sad and pensive beam
Hangs sorrowing o'er the bloody stream
The Indian yell is heard no more
And silent broods on Erie's shore
O! What an hour is this to tread,
The field in which our warriors bled.
To raise the wounded chieftains crest
Or warm with tears his icy breast
To treasure up his last command
And bear it to his native land
It may one ray of Joy impart
To the fond Mother's bleeding heart
Or for a moment, it may dry
The tear-drop on the widow's eye!
Vain hope away! the widow weeps
Her Warriors dying wish shall hear
The Zephyr bears no feeble sigh
No strayling chieftain meets the eye
Sounded his sleep on Erie's wave
Or Ransom's waters are his grave.
Then muffle the cold funeral string
And give the stamp to sorrow's hand
For dead, the Charge the muse must sing
Shall in our flowers of the land
How many hopes he buried here?
The Father's joy, the Mother's pride

The Country's boast the Poet's fear
In wildernesses have side by side
Of all the young and blooming train
Who to the combat rush'd again
How few shall now in fight remain?
How many strew this fatal plain?
O! gentle Moon one ray of light
Throw on the dusky face of night!
And give to view each gallant form
That sunk beneath the morning storm
The misty cloud has parted away?
The moon beams on the waters play:
Upon their bank a soldier lay
His eye was dim, his visage pale
And like a stranded vessel's sail
His red locks mantled in the gale.
It was the gay, the gallant, Mead!
In peace, mild as the setting beam
That guides at eve the milder'd stream
In now the fiery battle steed -
The foe no more shall shun his arm
He smelt no more the car shall charm
Yet o'er his low and silent grave
The Laurel fresh and green shall wave.

And who is that so pale and low
Stretched on the bed of bloody snow
Beside the waters silent flow?
The fire of his eye is gone
The muddy glow his cheek has flown

Yet sweet in death his corpse appears
Smooth is his brow and few his years -
For thee sweet youth the sigh shall start
From a fond mother's anxious breast
For thee some Virgins cheek shall feel
At mid night hour the tear drop steal
And playmates of your childhoods hour
Pour o'er your grave your generous shower
O! could modest merit save
Its dear possessor from the grave
Thy corpse, O! I wish never had lain
Upon this wild and halcyon plain
But what more modest merit here
Oh what were Friendship's pleading tear
The friend that laid that flower low
Smiled as he kissed the fatal dart
And saw with pride the life blood flow
That warm'd a young and generous heart
Here sleep sweet youth: tho' far away
From home, and friends, thy relics lay
Yet oft on Fancy's pinions borne
Friendship shall seek thy lowly urn
Spring shall thine icy sheet untwine
And shroud thee with the roseate vine:
Here shall the streamlet gently flow
Here shall the zephyrs softly blow
Here shall the wild flower love to bloom
And shed its fragrance round thy tomb
Here, shall the meadow-maid her nest

A Night view of the Battle of Raisin, Jany 22nd 1813

The Battles o'er, the din is past!
Nights mantle on the field is east
The moon with Sad and pensive beam
Hangs sorrowing over the bloody Stream
The Indian yell is heard no more
And Silence broods on Eries Shore
O! What an hour is this to tread,
The field on which our warriors bled.
To raise the wounded chieftans crest
Or warm with tears his icy breast
To treasure up his last command
And bear it to his native land
It may one ray of Joy impart,
To the fond Mothers bleeding heart
Or for a moment, it may dry
The tear drop in the widows eye!
Vain hope away! The meadow ne'er
Her Warriors dying wish shall hear
The zephyr bears no feble sigh
No stragling chieftan meets the eye
Sound is his sleep on Eries wave
Or Raisin's waters are his grave.
Then muffle the cold fun [?] string
And give the Harp to sorrows hand
For sads the Dirge the muse must sing
Fall'n are the Flowers of the land
How many Hopes he burried here?
The Fathers joy, the Mothers pride



The country's boast, the Foremans fear
In wildend havoc side by side
Off all the young and blooming train
Who to the combat rush'd amain
How few shall mine in fight again?
How many Strew this fatal plain?
O! Gentle moon one ray of light
Throw on the dusky face of Night! And give to
view each gallant form
That such be beneath the morning storm
The murky cloud has [?] away!
The moon beams on the waters play:
Upon their break a soldier lay
His eye was dim, his visage pale
And like a stranded [?] sail
His read locks wanton'd in the gale
It was the gay, thee gallant Mead! In peace,
mild as the sitting beam
That guides at Eve the melder'd Stream
In war the fiery battle Steed.
The foe no more shall shun his arm
His mouth no more the ear shall hear
Yet o'er his low and silent grave
The Laurel fresh and green shall wave.
And who is that so pale and low
Stretched on his Bier of Bloody snow
Beside the waters silent flow?
The fire of his eye is gone
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Yet Sweet in death his corpse appears
Smooth in his brow and few his years –
For the sweet youth the sigh shall start
From a fond mothers anxious heart
For thee some Virgins cheek shall feel
At mid night hour the tear drop Steal
And play mates of your childhoods hour
Pour o'er your grave youths generous shower
O! could modest merit save
Its dear pope for from the grave
Thy corpse Montgomery ne'er had lain
Upon this wild unhaloed plain
But what were modest merit heare
Or what were Friendships pleading tear
The friend that laid that flower low
Smiled as he hurl'd the fatal dart
And saw with pride the life blood flow
That warmed a young and generous heart
Here sleep sweet youth! tho far away
From home, and friends, thy relic has lay
Yet oft on Fancy's pinions borne
Friendship shall seek thy lowly urn
Spring shall thine icy Sheet untwine
And shroud thee with the roseate vine:
Here shall the Stream let gently flow Here
Shall the zephyrs softly blow
Here shall the mild Flower, love to bloom
And shall its fragrance round thy tomb
Here shall the wearied wild bird rest

Here shall the ring dove build her nest;
And win from evry paper by
With notes of sadest melody
A Tear for young Montgomery
Close by his side young McIvain
Lay stretched along the bloody plain
Upon his visage smooth and mild
Death calmly sat and sweetly smiled:
Tis thus an Infant smiles to rest
In quiet on its mothers breast
When no rude thought its mind employ
To damp its present or its future Joy:
Yet seem'd his eye of tender blue
Still met with pitty's pearly dew!
Yes Pitty was his better part
Pitty and Friendship from his heart
And when was heard so good and kind
Accompanied by such noble mind;
No more the sentry from his post
While all the camp in sleep is lost
Shall see him by the sick mans side
Nursing lifes feebly ebbing Tide
No more the Soldiers latest breath
Shall bless him on his bead of death
Yet shall his cold and tuneless Bier
Be mourn'd by many a veteran's tear
"Oh! Pittying Moon! Withdraw thy light
And leave the world in murkiest night!

For I have seen too much of Death,
Too much this dark fatal heath
Here Graves and Allen meet the eye
And Simpsons giant form is nigh
And Edmiston a warrior old
And Hart the blodest of the bold
"These are their brave compatriot laud
Are the sedate Historians hand
Mine, only Shows the fading Flower
That Memory culls from Friendships bower
But this, shall twice the Deathles Boys
That farmer Grows through future days Orlando
Lines on the Battle at Raisin
By WmOButler



Quebec January 14th 1814

Friends

Under the most distressing Calamities —
there is some consolation to be derived; The cheerfulness
with which you complied with my request (at the time
of my leaving home) relative to my family has
afforded me great relief, and made lasting impressions
on my mind — In the event of my not returning, it
is certainly one of the most pleasing sensations to have
my children & their interest in the care of those of my
friends in whom I so fully confide.

My detention as a prisoner of
War has so far exceeded my expectation, and being
at present under close confinement as an Hostage, I can
make no calculation as to the period of my liberation;
Therefore from their unforeseen state of things, ~~it~~
may be necessary to dispose of some part of my estate
to pay my debts, (in case my Nephew John Madison
should fail in making some collections) should you
find it necessary and can dispose of ^{my} Frankfurt —

property for its Value, it would be the most agreeable to me, for your Authority and indemnification I left an Instrument of writing with Mr. Trigg to be recorded. I have lately written to my Nephew on this subject I requested him to advise with you, I have not received a decr from Col. Greenup. I have his bond among my papers, he will convey the property when ^{to whom} required. The loss of my much esteemed friend Col. Allin I am afraid, will be of serious consequence to me, he was my Att. in a suit in the Franklin Circuit Court Mr. Swearingen vs. myself and others, I have written to Mr. John Smith some time ^{ago} on this subject requesting him to attend to it, also to my Nephew, but have not received the scrape of a pen from either. It would give me very great pleasure to receive a letter from you or either of you. Mr. Trigg has ^{me} joined the Regular Army probably he may not be in the State. I must in that case ~~help the favor of~~ you or Mr. Brown to write to me.

I have nothing of a political nature to write you, I am in tolerable

health, Our accomodations, ^{the treatment} are as good as
Swiss, every attention paid us that we can or have
a right to expect, ~~more~~ we are in want of nothing
but our liberty. Gen^l Winchester, Chandler
Winder, Col^l Lewis & myself are parol
confined to a house & garden, are not sup-
communicate with any person unless
with those authorised by the Comm^{and}
ficer. It is unnecessary for me to state
my extreme anxiety to return to my Cou-
you know my disposition and inducements,
therefore when I tell you, that the disposition of my
-self so far as relates to my return has not been
within my control you will be satisfied that
the past as well as the ^{present} state of ~~aff~~ duress is not
very pleasant. I must conclude with asking you
to give my love & respects to my friends.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant
W. Robert Alexander }
J. Brown, & Wm Trigg } Geo. Madison

Quebec January 14th 1814

Friends

Under the most distressing calamities – there is some consolation to be derived. The cheerfulness with which you complied with my request (at the time of my leaving home) relative to my family has afforded me great relief and made lasting impressions on my mind. In the event of my not returning it is certainly one of the most pleasing sensations to have my children & their interests in the care of those of my friends in whom I so fully confide.

My detention as a prisoner of war has so far exceeded my expectation, and being at present under close confinement as an Hostage I can make no calculation as to the period of my liberation. Therefore from then (sic) unforeseen state of things it may be necessary to dispose of some part of my estate to pay my debts, (in case my nephew John Madison shall fail in making some collections) should you find it necessary and can dispose of my Frankfort property for its value, it would be the most agreeable to me, for your Authority and indemnification I left an instrument of writing with Maj. Trigg to be recorded. I have lately written to my nephew on this subject and requested him to advise with you, I had not received a deed from Col. Greenup. I have his bond among my papers, he will convey the property when and to whom required. The loss of my much esteemed friend, Col. Allin I am afraid, will be of serious consequence to me, he was my att. in a suit in the Franklin Circuit Court Mr. Swearingen vs. myself and others. I have written to Mr. John Smith some time ago on this subject requesting him to attend to it, also to my nephew, but have not received the scrape of a pen from either. It would give me very great pleasure to receive a letter from you or either of you. Mr. Trigg having joined the Regular Army probably he may not be in the state. I must in that case beg the favor of you or Mr. Brown to write to me.

I have nothing of a political nature to write you. I am in tolerable health. Our accommodations and treatment are as good as I wish, every attention paid us that we can or have a right to expect, we are in want of nothing but our liberty. Genls. Winchester, Chandler, Winder, Col. Lewis & myself are parol[ed and] confined to a house & Garden, are not su[pposed to] communicate with any person unless [it be] with those authorized by the Comman[ding Of]ficer. It is unnecessary for me to state my extreme anxiety to return to my Cou[ntry.] You know my disposition and inducements – therefore when I tell you, that the disposition of myself so far as relates to my return has not been within my control you will be satisfied that the past as well as the future state of duress is not very pleasant. I must conclude with asking you to give my love & respect to my friends.

[Closing illegible because of crease in paper]

Esteem

Mr. Robert Alexander,

J. Brown & Wm. Trigg

Geo. Madison