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(From Scarf's Collection. Box 59.)

Headquarters, Morristown 9th April 1777.

Sir

Having heard that your State have appointed Lieut Col Geo Stricker to the command of a Battalion, I hold myself bound to inform you that the character he holds here as an officer will not justify such an appointment. Yesterday he obtained my leave to resign, complaining that his private affairs indispensably require his presence at home for several months. Had there been any other Field officer with the Battalion, I should have permitted him to leave it immediately; he waits only for the Colonel's arrival.

I beg you will consider this information as proceeding from my great regard for the good of the service, and from nothing else.

I have the honor to be

With great regard & esteem

Y^r Most Obedt Servt

Geo Washington.

Scharf Collection. Box No. 59.

Nathaniel Smith commanded Fort at Whetstone, August 23, 1777.

(From Scarf Collection. Box 59.)

Md. J. May 22, 1781.

A letter from North Hampton Co., Va.,
of May 9, 1781, says:

"The British General at Portsmouth is at this time making every necessary preparation to attack Baltimore, in order, as it is thought, to put an end to what little trade now remains to that port.

"A number of the enemy's barges having appeared in the neighborhood of Annapolis within a few days past, several armed vessels were immediately despatched from that Port in pursuit of them."

1813

In compliance with a resolution passed by the legislature, W^m B. Martin and Walter Dorsey Esq^{rs}. were deputed by the governor to wait on the President, to know what aid might be expected from the general government towards protecting the State against invasions of the enemy, and defraying the expenses necessary for the attainment of the object.

The President through his Secretary of War, Mr. John Armstrong, said that the government had taken it upon itself ~~the~~ protection of Virginia because her militia were placed under the command and control of a general officer of the United States, and thr situation of New York particularly demanded its attention and that "so far as expenditures have arisen, or shall arise, in consequence of militia calls made by the State of Maryland, without the participation of the United States no provisions is found to exist under the present laws."

He thus disregarded ~~the~~ the rights of the people and merited the contempt of every citizen of the State. It was clearly partiality shown to one State in preference to another, without the slightest of causes, and in violation of our national compact.

Since Maryland has been refused that assistance from the general government which she had every reason to expect, from its having been granted to other States, she has not other alternative left but to have recourse to her own resources, as far as they will extend to furnish means of defence against the incursions of the enemy.

Mr. Madison's advisers did not undertake to defend his conduct at this period to the State of Md. in regard to the protection demanded of him. In fact the citizens of Md, could not be reconciled to so flagrant a contempt of their rights after the frequent demand of the Governor for protection.

From Scarf Collection. Box 59.

The citizens of Balto. in April loaned the
government \$3,000,000 to carry on the war. (1813).

Captain Ringgold's letter to Capt. Symington.

Fort M'Henry Md.

June 5, 1841

Sir:

I have the honor herewith to enclose Duplicate Receipts for Ordnance and Ordnance Stores, received at this post from Washington Arsenal May 24th, 1841.

I am Sir

Very Respectfully

Your Obt. Servant

Sm Ringgold

Capt. 3d Art.

To:

Capt. John Symington

dg
Comm.

Washington Arsenal

Washington D. C.

Scharf Collection Box- 56

Captain Ringgold's Letter to Marcus C. Buck .

Fort McHenry Md.

June 23, 1842.

Sir:

I enclose herewith Pike & Ware's Bill for Trace rope and also F. A. Francisco's for making 24 Sheaths--- Be pleased to have the Bills made out in proper form and transmitted to me and I will obtain the Signatures so that they can be paid.

I am, Sir, very respectfully

Your Obt. Serv.^t

Samuel Ringgold

Capt. 3 d Artillery.

Marcus C. Buck Esqr.

Military Store Keeper

Washington D. C.

Scharf Collection Box- 56

Captain Ringgold's letter to Capt. Symington.

Fort M' Henry, Md.

June 23, 1842 .

Sir

I herewith enclose an Invoice of Rope this day turned over to the Quater Master for transportation to your arsenal, for the Purpose of having it fabricated into traces, as there are no facilities for having the work properly executed here.

When completed I will thank you to have them returned to this post.

I am Sir

Very Respectfully

Your Obt. Sv^t.

Samuel Ringgold.

Capt. 3d Art.

To

Capt. John Symington,
Comm.^{dg} Washington Arsenal

D. C.

Scharf Collection Box- 56

(From Scarf Collection. Box 59.)

(In Sun, Sep. 13/1844) The twelfth of September in Balto.---A little after 9 oclk, the train of cars from York, by the Susquehanna Railroad was seen approaching bearing the honored remnant of the defenders from York, with their escort. When the cars arrived the military consisting of the Washington Artillery, Captain Bruce; the Susquehanna Rifle, Captain Duck; the York Rifle Lieut. Hillinger, commanding, and the York Blues, Capt. Alexander Hay, were formed in line under command of Maj. George Hay.

Tracer Bond

MADE IN U.S.A.

(From Scarf Collection. Box 59.)

(In Sun May 14, 1846) Movements of the Baltimore Volunteers---

On the receipt on Saturday evening last (May 9) of the intelligence from the army on the Rio Grande, Col. Watson of that spirited corps the Independent Blues attached to the 5th Regiment immediately determined on offering the services of the corps; the Government to take charge of Fort McHenry in the absence of the regular troops. The offer was made in due form on Sunday morning (May 10) by a despatch to the Secretary of War without consultation of the members of the corps but upon the fact being announced to them by their Commander the responsibility assumed was seconded with enthusiasm. This offer was followed but without concerted action, by a similar tender from that efficient corps the Eagle Artillery and subsequently as has been already stated by the entitled 53^d regiment C.J.C. Davies commanding who we understand accompanied by Maj. J.O. Law proceeded to Washington Yesterday (May 13) to make a tender of service in person. A meeting was also held on Tuesday evening (May 12) by the officers of the 5th regiment Col. N. Hickman commanding at which it was resolved that the service of the companies composing the regiment be tendered to the government to garrison the Fort whenever required. To the offers thus made a reply has been received from the Secretary of War in which after thanking the volunteers for their offers, he states that for the present Fort McHenry will be garrisoned by a company of regular troops, but if a necessity occurs for accepting the services of the volunteers, the commanding officers will be duly notified through the proper channel. We may add that since the news of Saturday (May 9) the meetings of the volunteer associations have been unusually full and enthusiastic. Baltimore goes for our country always, but right or wrong "our country."

(In Sun, Oct. 31, 1846)

"From the Baltimore Republica"-----

Messrs. Editors---

You no doubt were at the Battle Ground on the 12th of September, instant, and listened to General Howard's address to the assembled military, old soldiers, and citizens present; you no doubt also heard among the elaborate historical remarks of the General, refuting the report that was current ever since the battle that a boy or boys killed Gen. Ross from a tree. The idea is so absurd, it is the more astonishing that this report was not many years ago properly refuted. It actually crept among the two-penny (?) of that day, and was swallowed kindly even by those who knew, or ought to have known better. The writer of this had also the pleasure to listen attentively to the very learned address of the General, by which he successively detailed the events of that memorable day, and the just refutation in regard to the absurd story, and also that Genl. Ross was killed in a general firing. Since the General had the honor to command a company in the advance, he certainly knew what company was ahead of him. It is presumable he forgot that circumstance or else he would certainly have rendered justice to the living, as well as he very justly praised the dead; and would have mentioned the corps and captain that preceded his company, the first platoon of which was on the rising ground the General was pleased to describe. As this was omitted (no doubt, unintentionally) the writer as one of the advance will relate as far as his recollection will serve him the facts of the event: The originator of that daring step was Captain Levering. The Captain was at Gen. Stricker's headquarters on Monday morning (the day of battle) about 7 oclk while various confused reports were brought to the General in regard to the landing, advance & position of the enemy. One of these reports was that a party of the British were feasting and frying

at Gorsuch's farm, about three miles from our position---Captain Levering confiding in the stability of his company offered his services to Gen. Stricker to go with his company and look after the British at the said farm and bring him a correct report; but as the General from the various contradictory reports received from time to time, had probably reason to doubt the correctness of the report, he did not think proper at that period to accept Levering's noble and daring offer.

Towards meridian when matters became more doubtful, gloomy and vexing and it became necessary to take a firmer step and look for the enemy who appeared hesitating to open the battle, Gen. Stricker determined to send a party forward (a forlorn hope) and dispatched his aide-de-camp to Captain Levering, informing him that the General had accepted his offer adding that Capt. Howard's company the Sharpshooters under Aisquith, and a piece of artillery under Lieut Stiles,---the whole under command of Maj. Heath. The Blues went forward followed by the troops, mentioned, the Sharpshooters on the flanks. Having been apprised by a British shot on the right, from the woods, that the enemy was near at hand, (and a providential shot it was,) the first platoon twenty-four men strong under the immediate command of Captain Levering reached the rising ground and halted near a post-rail fence. From that elevated position Captain Levering and his men noticed three men in a distant wood one of them reconnoitering with a spy-glass. The rear part of the platoon was ordered to fire, and after the smoke disappeared the three men had vanished. But as Wells and M'Comas (two sharpshooters) had been shot by the enemy, the natural conclusion was that one of them must have killed Gen. Ross. Niles' Register, Vol. VII, gives the report of Admiral Cockburn to the Admiralty (he having commanded five-hundred sailors and marines in the advance, with six-hundred regulars under Gen. Ross) and thereafter giving a recital of the affair in the advance, says that Gen. Ross received three wounds---one in the wrist

another in the leg and a third in the fleshy part of the arm penetrating the breast and causing death within two hours thereafter. Lord Cochrane's report to the Admiralty (See Niles' Register, Vol. VII, Page 199) states that Gen. Ross was killed by a musket ball. It is a well known fact among military men that a rifle ball cannot penetrate from one part of the body to the other owing to the rifle ball having the appearance when it enters the flesh, of a corkscrew and hence it tears the flesh and becomes powerless to enter another part of the body. From the circumstance Gen. Ross having received three wounds, and from the statement of Ross' servant, who assisted in carrying him on a litter from the place at which he was shot, to some distance and afterward deserted, and falling in with Capt. Levering's men who took him and another deserter to our camp that night, and as soon as he noticed the uniform of the Blues, said it was one of that company that killed the General, it is pretty evident that the honor of the deed has long rested on the wrong person. The writer of this therefore is only astonished at officers who knew of these circumstances not having done justice to the living as well as honor to the memory of the dead and "rendered unto Caesar the things that are due to Caesar."

"One of the forlorn hope party."

Baltimore Sun, August 23, 1847.

Maryland Light Artillery---This fine company now at Fort McHenry, numbers upwards of ninety men, and it may be said are now ready for starting, although a few more men will be taken. On Saturday last (Aug 21) the company proceeded to the election of officers and the following gentlemen were chosen---Lloyd Tilghman of Baltimore Captain; Isaac Marrow of Baltimore 1st Lieutenant and Arnold Lensfield of Baltimore 2d Lieutenant. David G. Griffith of Anne Arundel County 3rd Lieutenant; Edw. R. Pethenbridge has been appointed 1st Sergeant and John H. Barnard 2nd Sergeant. We doubt whether a finer body of volunteers have been collected any where than can be found in this company. They are all active young men not more than half doz. perhaps reaching the age of forty.

Sept 12, 1847

(From Scarf Collection. Box 59.)

(Sun, Sept. 13, 1847.)

Messrs. Editors

The following communication is from the pen of a clergyman who left the city of Baltimore 30 years ago the 3rd of last April. in company with the Rev. Messrs. Fry and Vinton, who we long since thought was dead a notice that he is yet living will be pleasing to some of the old Baltimore Defenders, and especially so to his friends in the church.

Reminiscence of Rev. Thomas Beacham,
residing in Xenia, Ohio, June
25, 1847.

If the War of Independence was a matter of necessity more than choice, equally so was the late war with Great Britain. For in the acknowledgement of our Independence it was easily seen that we were weak in number and limited in means. The practice of impressment which had obtained among the English not so much to obtain efficient seamen as to establish a precedent---a habit---by which it would be lawful to rob and impress with impunity the citizens of the States---hence it was useless for a captain to complain, for when the choice of his crew were taken from his ship it would be said by the English, "we are the greatest nation in the world, no army or navy can equal ours and we must make them know we are their superior." While we as a nation were compelled to acknowledge our inequality; and instead of multiplying our navy, which might have been done with little more expense than it cost to build a quantity of useless gun boats, we submitted to injury & insult from time to time. Thus had it not been for the war of 1812 we would have this day be ignorant of the strength of our army and navy. In our revolutionary struggle we succeeded by the help of a higher power.

(From Scarf Collection. Box 59.)

September 13th (1858)

The Sun---The Twelfth of September---Today we celebrated the anniversary of the memorable defence of Baltimore, and occasion which restores the verdure of the laurels won by a citizen soldiery in the repulse of the daring invader of our soil.

The "Twelfth" was duly commemorated yesterday, September 12, in a manner suited to the hallowed associations of the day. The general military and civic observances, together with the appropriate ceremonies connected with the obsequies of the young heroes, Wells and McComas, whose almost voluntary oblation of their lives upon the altar of their country's honour has graven their memories with enduring fame, will to-day dignify the commemoration of the eventful period.

"Conquer we must, in God is our trust,
And this is our motto, our cause it is just."

In the late war we arose in our weakness, fought and conquered amidst all the disadvantages under which we labored. America has thus secured a character and standing among the nations of the earth which would never have been had it not been for the late war.

No people ever evinced more resentment at British cupidity and tyranny than the people of Baltimore---there, was no place for any citizen suspected of friendship for Great Britain. Baltimore was ever ready to do her part in every warlike measure---no soldiers could step off in finer style when on parade, or march up to the tune of Hail, Columbia with a better grace than the citizens of Baltimore. Several years before the declaration of war their patriotism (which is still proverbial) was not pleasant to the British---and their design was to chastise Baltimore severely as they were more able---and had the powerful forces of the enemy made a sudden attack upon our city, I am doubtful as to the result. But turning aside to Washington City they gave us more time and a louder warning, which we did not fail to improve. Our spades and shovels were employed in throwing up breastworks---our guns were all put in order & we then awaited the approach of the enemy until Sabbath the 11th of September.--In the morning we performed military duty, we then went to the House of God, and from this we were called away before 12 o'clock. The balls on the observatory were run up---the alarm gun fired---the city was in commotion, weeping & lamentation was heard in almost every house; and yet we found at our headquarters more men than we had before. We took up our line of march and encamped where came the "tug of war." In the morning at sunrise, we formed a line and then for the first time I heard those affecting words, "load with ball cartridge." After which we marched about one mile, and drew

up for battle. We had, all told, about 8,000 men, all willing to defend their homes.

On the **night** we saw the 5th regiment and a few rifle companies, and on the left was the 39th and 51st regiments. Two or three companies with one of the four cannons, volunteered to go and hunt up the enemy and they found them just in sight. There a desperate battle ensued. Every man did his best and a young man by the name of Wells, belonging to the company of sharpshooters, stopped the career of Ross. They now came on in earnest, in front was an extensive old field and after filling this they flanked our left. The three six-pounders (one having been spiked) commenced, and never were three little guns more constantly at work, or for a better purpose, for the space of one hour.

The hardest of the battle was with the 27th and the first musket was fired from that regiment. On my right I saw the valiant young man with trailed gun and quick step, advance forward about 30 rods, while hundreds were calling, "Come back! Come back!" all to no purpose. He fired and this was the signal--in a moment the whole line was in a blaze. Brave boy! I doubt whether he ever returned to his home.

Our adjutant, Donaldson, the beginning of a great man, had just passed in the rear, advising the men to shoot low. "Hit them," said he, "about the middle." We fought hard until a retreat was called for, and forty two boys and two old men were killed in the company to which I belonged. (Captain Pinney's). We rallied again with the 6th and other forces, about two miles from the city. We were now willing for another trial, but were soon ordered in front of the entrenchment. The 27 & 5th were allowed to sleep home that night and the next morning were rallying at headquarters, the sound of the 1st bomb saluted our ears. Undaunted we marched out & although 33 years have passed away, I have not forgotten the feeling caused by the loud cheer from the soldiers in the entrenchment as the little 27th passed by to take our position in front.

This day we were looking every moment for the onset which was to decide the fate of the city but it came not. At night we drew nearer the entrenchment, & enjoyed all the comforts of a dark rainy, night, enlivened by the rockets blaze & the dismal roar of the bomb. They had been at work all day and all night, and we could witness the truth of that patriotic sentiment, which a Baltimorean will always love & admire

"The rockets red glare, the bomb bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still"

In the morning we heard with astonishment the enemy had fled to their ships. When it was too late Gen. Scott became our commander. We mustered three months; sometimes walking as sentinels at the six gun battery. Our city was kept in peace & safety, some say the Lord kept it so, & so he did. Baltimore was then almost as celebrated for soldiers of the cross of Christ as soldiers of the musket.

I have never seen any history of the Battle of North Point; these few particulars are from my memory, and in the main are true. My home is in the West, yet I love Baltimore still.