

Cantonment near Buffaloe
January 6th 1815

Dear John,

I received your letter of the 11th December and feels obliged for the attention you paid to my request; he papers have arrived regularly at the post office, but from the inattention of the postmaster, and suffering there to be taken from thence (contrary to my positive orders) have as yet benefited me little. The easy manner was possessed by some gentleman of our cloth, permits them to take from the office the papers of brother officers, without any previous acquaintance--- this practice so vexacious though frequently remonstrated against is still continued; and I think I shall be compelled, if further persisted in, to put in forced retaliatory system.

I mentioned in my last the opinion that prevailed as to a removal from here, and which has been considerably strengthened by recent orders. The ordinance and ordinance stores have been ordered to Batavia--all the convalescent of general Brown's division have been ordered to S. Harbor--- all ??? on the hospital, convalescents, he of Izard's division, now at Williamsville, to join their respective regiments immediately, and the sick at Buffaloe to be removed to Williamsville. The 14th or Maryland's regiments marched from hence some days ago----whither is only known to the commanding officer of the regiment who refused to tell the officers their destination, but assured them they were neither bound to S Harbor, Plattsburgh, nor Detroit, and that they would be pleased with the change. This news has deleted the officers extremely, who are fully impressed with the idea of visiting Baltimore. The 15th or ??? Regiment marched on the 3rd ????? destination unknown. The 4th regiment is now under marching orders. Should the whole of this division leave here before the spring, it will be in all probability approach ??? the seaboard, which you may be assured will be not a little gratifying to every officer and soldier composing it, and will be hailed by your humble servant as happy tidings.

Your small paper currency would produce no new feeling on my part, as I have felt its beneficial effect more than once last summer. Every rascal who could raise money enough to purchase a few quarts of whiskey, a little sugar, cheese, he issued due bills in change and having several hundred dollars of this money float, made free to take himself off.

You mentioned that wintry quarters of the 32nd as likely to be fixed at Lewiston—Quere. Would it not be in the republican style of rotation in office, he to allow the heroes of the Delaware to snuff the refreshing breezes of the lakes, and permit the old 16th, after three winters pleasure on the lines, to see their homes and families? Here the gentleman would have an opportunity of realizing a soldiers life, and be able hereafter, while chatting by their family firesides, to account (as do the surviving veterans of the revolution) the history of their sufferings.

I observed with sorrow the death of W.A. ????? announced in the paper; poor fellow, he was ill calculated to endure the ?????? and sudden changes of a soldier's life; his constitution was broken some years back, and exposure to the weather was certain if not immediate distraction.

It is some consolation to find that, though far distant, I am not forgotten by the Ladies. Assure them there is no fear of my forgetting the name of Batchellor (I had almost said old) while I remain in this part of the globe. In truth, John, I seldom see a petticoat, and when so far indulged, and forced to be held only at a distance, being generally monopolized by the great character; who, like other folks, love to while away their leisure moments in the company of the ladies. A poor, modest fellow, like myself, standing no chance amid the double-????? gentry, who you know carry double claim to their notice, particularly in the country.

I have ??? endeavored to retain the good opinion my friend Mrs. Pincham has invariably professed to have of me, and will be next I see her (let that be sooner or later) to take a sociable pinch, out of the Democratic side of the ??? with her. Give her my complements.

The circumstances respecting the blockade had been made known to Fisher, who, as well as myself, regret that you did not inform us whether the enemy be a member of the squad, or a late acquaintance; if the latter, and not regularly authorized, we hope the honor of the club will introduce you to march your forces to the relief of the besieged. Fisher and I often talk about Philadelphia and should an opportunity offer of months more visiting gets, are not certain that we will not abandon the good old cause, and at a care more to the list of "Benedicts".--- This, if the girls put any faith in it, may serve to keep their spirits up a little longer, though I would by no means advise them to rely upon it altogether for we male creatures are apt to change opinions.

I have always been pleased to be able to comply with the requests of the ladies, and more particularly those of my immediate acquaintances----the following information respecting Wright and Kitty, by procured from Captain Henshaw, who marched them from Philadelphia which with my kindest respects you will be good enough to convey to Mrs. ??? " Davis (not David) Wright died at this place on the 13th of November 1814, and Michael Kitty was left sick at the head of the Lake George, while on the march to this place" we left Lake George on 4th of September and all the sick left at the place where afterwards sent to Plattsburgh .

I returned from Lewiston on the 1st ????? Where I had been as the bearer of a flag. I was received with distant ?????, but considerable distrust. My ??? Obliged me to wait three or four hours for an answer, and they had not the ????? To invite me to cross to Queenstown, though they ??? Not a dwelling on this side within 6 or 7 miles.

We have a great deal of amusement:--- The numerous house warming was, at all of which we have dancing has kept us for two weeks well stocked in sport. Our huts are tolerably comfortable, and could ??? Obtained female society at our ????? To keep us somewhat in check, for we are apt, 2 proceed to extremes, we would spend our evenings pleasantly; but as this is impracticable, we are, in our dances, obliged to appoint partners.

With respects to the family, and complements to all friends, I remain

Yours sincerely,

N. McLaughlin

PS this letter is fairly due ? September? . However you must apologize for me--- he shall have the next