Title: Letter to Henry A. Dearborn

Creator: Matthew Clark

Dates of Material: July 2, 1814

Record Group Number: 685

Summary of Contents:

1 letter:

Transcription [verbatim]

Honored Sir,

I have had the pleasure to receive your favor of 28th ins’ from Portland; and have attended to the enclosures.

The grateful tidings of the safety of Commodore Barney’s flotilla in the Patuxent reached here this morning., in his official dispatch to the Secretary of the Navy…..much anxiety had arisen for the fate of the Flotilla, as the enemy’s force was considered by friends as sufficient to capture or destroy it; but, it appears, they were repulsed after a pretty severe contest – in which Com. Barney acknowledges the loss of eleven persons – that of the enemy could not be ascertained, but a probable conjecture is, that their loss was heavy to induce them to retire; there was a [illegible] and the Frigate Narcissus opposed to Com. B. – the Frigate was set on fire three several times, before the action ceased, by some of the [cannonade?] employed on our part.

The ungrateful account of the landing of 2000 British troops at Pensacola is confirmed by a letter from Col. Hawkins to the Governor of Georgia.

Your honored father continues to improve in health and strength, insomuch as to be actively employed in his official duty: You will of course perceive by the papers, that the Militia are ordered out by the Governor – about five hundred, assembled on the common yesterday: and will do duty for thirty days.

Your children are in good health. There has been nothing worthy of notice transpired at the office since my cast ______.

Confirming my last pledge of unremitted attention to the business that may come before me; be assured, Dear Sir of my respectful consideration and services.

Matthew Clark
### Physical Description / Condition:
This letter is 1 ½ pages. It is a handwritten letter on a 25 by 20 cm. single folding sheet. It is addressed to Henry A Dearborn Esquire, Bath, District of Maine. There is a Boston postmark for July [1814]. This is from the Custom House, Boston. Some of the final blank of this letter has been restored. This does not affect any text.

### Administrative/Biographical Sketch
A flotilla was formed to serve as defense in Chesapeake Bay. The commander of this flotilla was American Revolutionary War hero Commodore Joshua Barney. On June 1, 1814, British naval forces advanced, forcing the Chesapeake Flotilla to retreat into the waters of the Patuxent River. June 7, Barney withdrew his naval forces up the Patuxent to the mouth of St. Leonard's Creek with the British in fierce pursuit. At St. Leonard's Creek, naval battles were fought, and the British tried their best to destroy the flotilla. On June 26, Commodore Barney pulled off a courageous counter attack that allowed the Chesapeake Flotilla to move further up the Patuxent River which delayed the Flotilla’s destruction.

The Chesapeake Flotilla was destroyed not by the British, but by its own sailors. On August 22, 1814, the Secretary of the Navy ordered Commodore Joshua Barney to blow up the Chesapeake Flotilla at Pig Point to avoid its being captured by the enemy. Barney and his men then took to land and fought courageously two days later at the Battle of Bladensburg.

H.A.S. (Henry Alexander Scammell) Dearborn (1783-1851) was the son of Henry Dearborn, the American politician and veteran of the Revolutionary War and War of 1812. In the War of 1812, H.A.S Dearborn served as Brigadier General of the volunteer forces, responsible for the defense of Boston Harbour. From 1812-1829 he was collector of customs in Boston, from 1831-1833 he served as a representative from Massachusetts in the United States Congress, he was adjutant general of Massachusetts from 1834 to 1843 and mayor of Roxbury from 1847 to 1851.

Source: Biographical Directory of the United States Congress

### Location:
Brock University Archives

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