

<b>Title:</b>	Some Incidents and Circumstances Written by William F. Haile in the Course of his Life, 1859		
<b>Creator:</b>	Haile, William F.		
<b>Dates of Material:</b>	1859	<b>Record Group Number:</b>	RG 557
<b>Summary of Contents:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The first part of the document traces Mr. Haile's lineage. His father, James Haile was a farmer. His grandfather, Amos Haile was a sailor for the early part of his life. He was placed on a British man-of-war in about 1758. He escaped and settled in Putney. (p.1)</li> <li>- His father's mother's maiden name was Parker. His mother's maiden name was Campbell. Her father was a captain in the Revolutionary Army. (p.2)</li> <li>- His earliest memories revolve around the death of his aunt and the funeral of General Washington (although he did not witness this). At the time, his father was a Lieutenant in a regiment militia of Light Dragoons who wore red coats. (p.3)</li> <li>- In 1804, an addition was added to the Haile house which necessitated that William was to stay home to help with the building. He continued to study and read on his own. He was particularly interested in Napoleon Bonaparte's victories. In that same year he was sent to Fairfield Academy where Reverend Caleb Alexander was the principal. (p.4)</li> <li>- On June 1, 1812, William was appointed as an Ensign in the Infantry of the Army of the United States. He was put into the recruiting service at Nassau (20 miles east of Albany) where he remained until September. (p.4)</li> <li>- He was assigned to the 11<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the W.S. Infantry and directed to proceed to Plattsburgh to report to Colonel Isaac Clark. (p.7)</li> <li>- He was assigned to the company commanded by Captain Samuel H. Halley who was not in the best of health and often absent. For a good part of the time William was in charge of the company. (p.8)</li> <li>- The 11<sup>th</sup> Regiment was encamped beside the 15<sup>th</sup> Regiment commanded by Col. Zebulon Montgomery Pike [Pike's Peak was named after him]. Col. Pike generously drilled and disciplined the 11<sup>th</sup> Regiment since their officers didn't seem capable of doing so. (p.8)</li> <li>- The first brigade to which William's regiment was attached to was commanded by Brigadier General Bloomfield of New Jersey.</li> </ul>		

Brigadier Chandler of Maine commanded the second brigade. (p.9)

- At the beginning of November, Major General Dearborn took command of the army. He had been a good officer in his time, but William refers to him as “old and inefficient” earning him the nickname “Granny Dearborn” (p.9)
- On November 17<sup>th</sup>, 1812, General Dearborn moved north with his army. The troops ended up in Champlain. There was no fighting, only a skirmish between a party of men under Colonel Pike and a few British troops who he succeeded in capturing. (p.10)
- The troops were moved to barracks for the winter. Colonel Pike’s troops were put into suitable barracks and kept healthy but another part of the army (including the 11<sup>th</sup> Regiment) were sent to a barracks of green lumber north of Burlington. Disease soon broke out in the damp barracks and the hundreds of deaths soon followed. One morning, William counted 22 bodies who had died the previous night. He puts a lot of this down to an inexperienced commanding officer, General Chandler. (p.11)
- At the beginning of 1813, William was stationed as a recruiter on the shore of Shoreham across from Fort Ticonderoga. In February, he returned to Burlington with his recruits. In March he received an order from General Chandler to proceed to Whitehall and take charge of the stores and provisions. In April and May it was decided that his half of the regiment (the First Battalion) should march to Sackett’s Harbour, Lake Ontario. They arrived at Sackett’s Harbour about the 10<sup>th</sup> of June, a few days after the Battle of Sackett’s Harbour. (p.12)
- He was camped near the site of Fort Oswego and got word to head back to Sackett’s Harbour. A storm overtook the schooner that he was on. (p.14)
- William was involved in the Battle of Williamsburg (or Chrysler’s Farm) which he calls a “stupid and bungling affair on the part of our generals”.(p. 18)
- General Covington was wounded and died a few days after the battle. (p.19)
- William speaks of being ill. The troops were ordered to march to Buffalo, but he is able to go to his father’s house in Fairfield where his mother nursed him back to health (p.23)
- Upon arrival at Buffalo, the “old fogy Generals” were replaced with younger, more efficient men. (p.25)

- On page 27 he sums up a few facts:  
 In 1812, the army was assembled on Lake Champlain with the intention of capturing Montreal, and then Quebec.  
 That year, under General Dearborn the army marched as far as Champlain, then turned back and went into winter quarters.  
 In 1813, the army was assembled at Sackett's Harbour and that year the campaign ended at French Mills which was 70 or 80 miles from Montreal.  
 In 1814, the army at Buffalo were some 400 miles from Montreal with still the same object in view.
- He says that these facts make "a riddle – difficult to explain". (p.27)
- On the evening of July 2<sup>nd</sup> they embarked on the boats with the objective of capturing Fort Erie. The enemy were all made prisoners of war (p.27)
- On July 4<sup>th</sup> they went to Street's Creek, 2 miles above the Chippewa [Chippawa] River (p.28)
- Page 29 is titled *The Battle of Chippewa* [Chippawa]
- He speaks of 2 drummers who were fighting over the possession of a drum when a cannonball came along and took of both of their heads (p.29)
- He proclaims that this was one of the "most brilliant battles of the war". The battle was fought and won in less than an hour after they left their tents. He credits General Scott with this success and states that was due to his rapid orders and movements. (p.30)
- The dead of the battle remained on the field during the night. He describes this as quite gloomy seeing friend and foe lying side by side. At daybreak they set to work digging trenches to bury the dead. (p.31)
- Colonel Campbell was wounded and advised to have his leg amputated. He refused, and subsequently died. (p.32)
- It is said that the British threw several of their dead into the river and they went over the Falls. (p.32)
- His troops repaired the bridge over Chippawa which the enemy had partially destroyed and then pursued the British as far as Queenston Heights. (p.32)
- On pages 33 and 34 he speaks about meeting an old friend of his, Philip Harter.

	<p>- The account ends at Queenston Heights</p>
<p><b>Physical Description / Condition:</b></p>	<p>32 manuscript pages on folio leaves. They are slightly discoloured with a vertical fold through them. Most pages are numbered except 1, 2, 7 and 8. Pages 5 and 6 are missing.</p>
<p><b>Administrative/ Biographical Sketch:</b></p>	<p>This document was written for the children of William Frederick Haile in January of 1859 [as noted on p.23]. The memoir ends in July of 1814 before the Battle of Lundy's Lane. Haile's memoir is laced with names of military personnel and he expresses his opinions freely.</p> <p>William Frederick Haile was born in Putney, Windham County, Vermont on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 1791. He was raised in Fairfield, Herkimer County, New York. At the age of 21 he entered the United States Army. He served in the War of 1812 as a lieutenant in the 11<sup>th</sup> United States Infantry. He was severely wounded in the Battle of Lundy's Lane [not mentioned in this memoir]. After the war he settled in Plattsburgh, New York and became a lawyer. He was a judge from April 1837 to March of 1843. He was also the fifth collector of customs for the District of Champlain. He died on October 1861 at the age of 69.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Source: <i>History of Clinton and Franklin Counties</i>. Philadelphia. J.W. Lewis and Co., 1880</small></p> <p>Brigadeer Zebulon Montgomery Pike, 1779-1813, was famous for his explorations of the west. He had published journals of his expeditions which took place in 1805-1807. In 1806, his expedition tried to climb to the summit of the peak which was named after him [Pike's Peak]. In 1811, he fought at the Battle of Tippecanoe. He was promoted to Colonel in 1812. He became a Brigadier General in 1813 and left the outpost of Sackett's Harbour with General Jacob Brown. He successfully commanded an attack on York (Toronto) on April 17, 1813. He was killed on the 27th of April, 1813 when a piece of rock fell on him when the British garrison set fire to the magazine</p>

while retreating during the attack on Fort York.

General Jacob Brown, 1775-1828, was a Brigadier General in the New York Militia when the War of 1812 began. The British were defeated by Brown's troops at the Battle of Sackett's Harbour on May 29, 1813. In 1814, his army captured Fort Erie. He also defeated the British at the Battle of Chippawa. He was wounded twice at the Battle of Lundy's Lane and went on to be victorious at the siege of Fort Erie in 1814. He was presented with a Congressional Gold Medal.

Brigadier General Bloomfield, 1753-1823 served along the Canadian border from March 13, 1812 to June 15, 1815. He participated in an unsuccessful attack against Fort George. He served as the Governor of New Jersey from 1801-1812 and as a Congressman from 1817-1821. He was a staunch activist for the abolition of slavery.

Henry Dearborn, 1751-1829, served under Benedict Arnold in the Revolutionary War. He also served in George Washington's Continental Army. He maintained a position as Secretary of War from 1801 to 1809 and was a General in the War of 1812. He had some success at the capture of York and the capture of Fort George in 1813. He was a very inefficient commander and was honourably discharged from the army in 1815. Dearborn Michigan was named after him.

Isaac Chauncey, 1772-1840, commanded naval forces on Lake Ontario and Lake Erie during the war of 1812. He defeated the British squadron under Sir James Yeo and kept the British fleet at bay in 1813. Chauncey gave control of Lake Ontario to Yeo near the end of the war.

James Wilkinson, 1757-1825, became a Major General in the War of 1812. He was involved the Battle of Crysler's Farm and the Battle of Lacolle Mills. These were both failed campaigns. Theodore Roosevelt has been quoted as calling Wilkinson "a despicable character" for his role in being a paid agent for the Spanish crown in informing them about the purpose of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

Colonel John B. Campbell, 1777-1814, was known for his expedition to destroy Miami Indian Villages along the Mississinewa River in the United States. He was notorious for ordering the destruction of private homes, mills and other property in Dover, Canada. He commanded the 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment at the capture of Fort Erie and was the commander of the right wing of Brigadier Winfield Scott's army at the Battle of Chippawa where he was mortally wounded.

General Winfield Scott, 1786-1866, had a 53 year career. He led forces in the Black Hawk War, the Mexican-American War, the Second Seminole War, the American Civil War and the War of 1812. As a Lieutenant Colonel, he commanded a landing party during the Battle of Queenston Heights. In 1813,

	<p>he was promoted to Colonel. He planned and led the capture of Fort George. He was made a Brigadier General in 1814. Scott was the commander of the 1st Brigade at the Battle of Chippawa on July 5, 1814. He was wounded at the Battle of Lundy's Lane.</p> <p>The Battle of Crysler's Farm took place on November 11, 1813 in a farmer's field between Morrisburg and Cornwall, Ontario along the shores of the St. Lawrence River. This was America's last attempt at capturing Montreal. General James Wilkinson had an impressive fleet of well-armed ships, but Wilkinson himself was ill and he remained on his ship while delegating authority to Brigadier General John Parker Boyd. General Covington was ordered to take a position at a supporting distance. The British troops were in a more advantageous position than the Americans who had to face obstacles such as ravines and fences to reach their target. Covington led the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade against the enemy's left. Covington was severely wounded and the Americans began to run out of ammunition. The conflict lasted about 5 hours and victory fluctuated between the British and the Americans. Boyd's leadership was confusing. His troops did have an effect on the British, but the British were well organized and coordinated in their efforts. Boyd called a retreat which Wilkinson denied issuing. Wilkinson claimed that Crysler's Farm was a victory but most saw it as a defeat of the Americans.</p> <p>The Battle of Chippawa took place on July 4, 1814, the day after the Americans captured Fort Erie. A brigade commanded by Brigadier Winfield Scott arrived at a point south of the Chippawa River. Pineas Riall had set up an advance guard, so Scott went south to Street's Creek. General Brown met up with Scott and their troops totaled 2,400 regulars plus a contingent of Pennsylvania volunteers and Indians. Riall's troops advanced towards the Americans. For about 30 minutes each side continued to load and fire their muskets. The British lost many men in this battle. The American troops were victorious but the two armies actually remained in their places for 2 day until the British retreated to Fort George.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Source: Lossing, Benson J. <i>The Pictorial Field-Book of the War of 1812</i>. New York. Harper and Brothers, 1869</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Elting, John R. <i>A Military History of the War of 1812</i>. Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Algonquin Books, 1991</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hannings, Bud. <i>The War of 1812: A Complete Chronology with Biographies of 63 General Officers</i>. McFarland and Company Inc. Jefferson, North Carolina, 2012</p>
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