

# THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL MAGAZINE

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## THE PAPERS OF MAJOR DANIEL McFARLAND

A Hawk of 1812

JOHN NEWELL CROMBIE

**L**ISTEN to the words of a traditional American farmer, turned soldier, a hawk<sup>1</sup> of 1812. What did he think of the war? Why did he fight in this War of 1812? — a war which was bitterly fought; a war which had fierce political connotations, spelling the death knell of a dying major political party. Few significant military victories were won by American forces, but the United States won a political victory in that the foreign British forces, which had been long on American territory after the Revolution, never again returned and guerrilla Indian war was no longer fostered and subsidized by the British.

Listen to the words of a participant who paid the supreme sacrifice, Major Daniel McFarland of Washington County. Listen to the magic of the Pennsylvania mountains, rivers and forests, to the details of military executions, to the protests against British as well as American cruelty, to a Presidential popularity contest and lastly to an appeal to a Congressman for relief against War Department red tape.

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Mr. Crombie, a member of The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania and a previous contributor to our magazine, has endeavored in this manuscript to report Major McFarland's participation in the War of 1812 as it is shown in existing documents. He has not attempted to improve these texts by rewriting. His Historical Notes are intended to bridge gaps between incidents not otherwise related.—Editor

1 The term "hawk" was first used in the War of 1812 to designate a pro-war faction.

Does all this have a contemporary ring and do these circumstances carry any lessons for today?

Major Daniel McFarland of the Twenty-Third United States Infantry was the grandson of a Revolutionary War veteran, Colonel Daniel McFarland (1731-1817). Colonel McFarland is first recorded in Washington County in 1784. Here he held a sizable portion of Washington County, together with Robert Morris speculating in large acreage. His son, Abel, was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, in 1765 and came to Washington County, apparently with his father, where his own son, Daniel, was born October 11, 1787, and another son, Demis Lindley, April 7, 1791. Abel was a State Senator at the time Major Daniel McFarland was killed.

A great-grandson of Demis Lindley McFarland, George Laban Harding, deposited the papers and journal of Major Daniel McFarland with The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania.<sup>2</sup> Among this material, besides the journal, is a small notebook having miscellaneous entries, two letters of Major McFarland and various letters pertaining to his affairs after his death at the battle of Lundy's Lane, Niagara Falls, Ontario, July 25, 1814.

Daniel McFarland enlisted March 12, 1812, as Captain before the war actually was declared, June 18, 1812. He was later assigned<sup>3</sup> to the Twenty-Second United States Infantry. He resigned on June 20, 1813, but the resignation was reconsidered. He was reappointed August 9, 1813, and on August 15, 1813, was made major in the Twenty-Third United States Infantry<sup>4</sup> which was a regiment enlisted in New York. He may have recruited a company of the Twenty-Second Infantry in Washington County.<sup>5</sup>

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2 The genealogy of Major Daniel McFarland was given by Mr. Harding. A letter dated July 2, 1784, by Colonel Daniel McFarland and other genealogical notes are at the Library of Washington and Jefferson College in the Boyd Crumrine collection (Author of *History of Washington County*, Everets, 1882).

George L.(aban) Harding of Palo Alto, is a native of Indianapolis, was graduated at Indiana University and at Harvard, is skilled in the banking, shipping and telephone business and nationally known for his work in the Protestant Episcopal Church and the Boy Scouts of America, also in South American printing and bibliography. He is the author of several scholarly books and many magazine articles and is a member of the California Historical Society and the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania.

3 Crombie, *WPHM*, L, 231, listed Captain Duncan McFarland. This was clearly an error in reading the Muster Roll at the National Archives.

4 Francis B. Heitman, *Historical Register of the United States Army 1789-1889*, National Tribune, 1890, I, 34.

5 Pencil note in Boyd Crumrine Collection, Washington and Jefferson College Library.

Some of the material, not being of significant interest, has been omitted. The first letter is addressed to Dr. Daniel Millikin,<sup>6</sup> Fort Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio:

Washington County Pa March 30th 1812

Dear Cousin,

I embrace the present opportunity of writing a few lines to you, As to political views you possess the same means of information with myself, and as to Domestic Robt. can inform more copious & correct than I can write. As a consequent then, it results that any communication I may make must be personal = What think you then of the bargain I have struck. I am about exchanging the peaceful occupation of the farmer and mecanick for the noisy and sanguine employment of the soldier. Has a laced coat and hat with the glittering side arms operated on my youthful fancy or am I actuated by a pattriotic impulse? judge ye gods, that I rally round the standard of my country only to defend those rights Chartered by natures god in common to all = Peace must be the object of every good man, if on honourable conditions, but between submission and a manly assertion of those rights, the possession of which makes life worth enjoying, to a Patriots mind there is no alternative. I have recd the appointment of a Capt in the infantry, united States army. No orders of any kind yet, and in fact still Calculate /though faintly/ that England will not provoke a war, when by an act of justice to herself, Demanded by the Law of nations of interest and humanity she can prevent it. What thinks you of Lord Liverpools letters to Mr. Foster and Henry. This contrast shews what Dependance we are to put in a government while they are in the habit of making professions of a conciliatory and friendly nature are engaged in the hellish project of creating a civil war. Are we not to disbelieve the protestation of Mr. Foster [denying] the interfrance of the Brittish govt. in the indian Confederacy, the Liar is not beleived though he speak the truth. Well Sam'l has hymen clasped you in his obscene hands yet? If he have not, leave that effeminate goddess called Love behind to Cowards while you go where your country and your glory calls you. I expect father home the 8th or 10th of April and about the 20th an increase in our family — All

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6 There was a Captain David Millikan or Milliken of the Twenty-Second United State Infantry (see Crombie, *WPHM*, 1967, L, 231) from March 12, 1812, to June 18, 1813. His resignation was accepted the same date as that of Captain Daniel McFarland. Relationship is not established.

well — give my love to Joanna, write a longer letter to me soon after the receipt of this.

Respectfully I remain  
your etc etc  
Dan M Farland

Da D & S Milliken

\* \* \*

The next letter of Major Daniel McFarland was to his brother Demis, mailed from Niagara via Pittsburgh to Amity post office, Washington County, Pennsylvania, the outside dated March 3 :

Fort Niagara  
Febry 2, 1813

Dear Brother,

I recd your letter dated the 28th Dec. on the 3d Inst this the first letter I have recd from home. it gave me pleasure to hear of you safe arrival into the bosom of your friends in health, of their health etc, etc. your letter was pleasing because it contained a little of everything be good enough to continue them. I wrote you a letter the last (27th I beleive) of Janry. I presume you have recd it. I recd a letter from father 24th Janry dated 27th Dec. Since writing my last nothing new to communicate, the soldiers are very healthy, the Disease which raged with so much mortality here I understand from Newspapers has traveled westward & southward. Relate its effects in Washington County. You have seen the acct. of Winchesters Defeat and capture. Genl. Winchester, Col Lewis and Maj. Maddison remain in Newark, have been there for 2 weeks whether they will be Parold soon or not is uncertain the excuse for Detaining them is waiting for orders of Gov. Prevost, the remaining officers & soldiers have been Parold and landed at this Fort amounting to near 500 men.

The enemy have been successfull again though our national character is not staid by the result, a few more such Victories will anihilate the enemys power in U.C. and convince them that we are not the pausillamimous kind of People that they were wont to attach to us on account of our forbearance in commencing the war.

The acct given by the Prisoners of the conduct of the savages and their more savage allies the British is too fearful for an american to recount, Yes Brother the wounded and a number of Prisoners were KILLED IN COOL BLOOD after they had surrendered, far be it

from me to wish a war of extermination, but with a nation whose honour is violated faith, whose humanity is savage ferocity I ask no quarter nor will I give it, the sword of Vengeance is Drawn and I trust in god it will not be sheathed till it is glutted. Retaliation However painfull will alone insure that respect which humanity calls for.

The enemy are landing their forces to oppose Harrison, building batteries at the Rock and have calld out their millitia though in the Depth of winter to leave their homes and firesides to quaff the chilling air of Niagara. Their situation is truly Deplorable, the Prisoners state they saw a number of fields of grain that had not been gathered, bread Stuffs are immensely Dear, Pork two shillings per pound, salt 24 Dollars per barrel, such are the difficulties and exertions of a people in Defense of what they call honour and Dignity of an old [Hessian] called George the 3d King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the faith etc, etc, etc.

Do the Americans sleep or are they Dreaming when the garment is burnt, the skin goes next, we shall probably take the hint after a while. Tell Col [Varnum?] and Murray they need not come here to shoot as the british can shoot 300 yards with more certainty than they can 25.

Mr. Sutton & Dr. Haidens wifes Death was anticipated, the others were prisoners. Should you have a superabundance of cloth you may send next spring by Capt. King a suit for me, blue will be prefered, black next . . . .

The snow that fell the first of Janry remains in status quo. The weather since Febry is generally clear and not so windy as it was in Dec and Janry though intensely cold. The river is full of floating ice. We have received reinforcement of 100 men, we feel secure. Fleming, Lugar, Carmichal, McIntire and Clydel are well. Mayer recd a letter giving an acc't of Mrs. Huffards Death.

We drill every Day and are making such progress that we shall Die with some grace next summer.

Remember me to Major Chambers D Enoch & etc.

March 4th 1813

News of the arrival of the enemy at Ogdensburg on 22nd Febrys have reached us. The capture of the [?] tract also reached us.

The enemy have leaked out their intention to attack this Port & Lewiston in the course of a few days. Should it be in the night we shall give them a warm reception in the Day it will be fine sport. 500 men will arrive at Lewiston tomorrow.

. . . . We have frequent alarms great bustle over the way. Harri-

son excites the Pulse. I presume he was at the Rapids the last [acct] I am fearful of his success, every thing is under way on the part of the enemy and large reinforcements have gone from this part of the Province to the aid of Col Preston, this would be a favourable time to make a Descent on their lines.

I will write in 10 days. troops healthy and in good spirits.

D. McFarland

#### HISTORICAL NOTE

This letter to Major McFarland's brother points strongly that he and his company were with that portion of the Twenty-Second Regiment which was at Fort Niagara under Lieutenant Colonel George McFeely.<sup>7</sup> It would appear also that he reached Fort Niagara sometime in November 1812. The capture of General Winchester occurred at Frenchtown (near Detroit, Michigan) on January 22, 1813, where Americans were surprised by the British Major General Henry Proctor who allowed his Indian allies to massacre most of the wounded after Winchester surrendered. Three hundred ninety-seven Americans were killed; 27 wounded and over 500 captured.<sup>8</sup>

\* \* \*

It was previously noted that among Major Daniel McFarland's papers there was a small notebook. In this book are some interesting jottings, one reading as follows:

"February 10, 1813

This day the votes for President and Vice President were counted off—

For President

James Madison 128

De Witt Clinton 89

For Vice President

Elbridge Gerry 131

Jared Ingersoll 68

This Election was to decide the Popularity of the war, unwarrantable exertions made to influence the result of the opposition."

<sup>7</sup> Crombie, *WPHM*, L, 139.

<sup>8</sup> B. J. Lossing, *Pictorial Field Book of War of 1812*, 358; F. C. Beirne, *The War of 1812*, 149.

HISTORICAL NOTE<sup>9</sup>

On April 25, 1813, a flotilla under Admiral Isaac Chauncey loaded with 1500 men under General Henry Dearborn sailed from Sackett's Harbor to attack York (now Toronto). They captured and burned the town and several days later proceeded to Niagara. Here the troops disembarked and the fleet then returned to Sackett's Harbor.

Dearborn became ill and for a time his command devolved on his adjutant, Colonel Winfield Scott. On May 27, Scott was carried to the Canadian side by the fleet with Commander Perry. Fort George was taken by the Americans.<sup>10</sup>

On May 29, Generals William H. Winder and John Chandler set out in pursuit of the British who had retreated to Burlington Heights (now Hamilton). After some maneuvering the Americans camped at Stony Creek where the reinforced Canadians made a night attack, June 5. Here in the confusion both Generals Winder and Chandler were captured and the Americans retired.

Lieutenant Colonel McFeely commanded the Twenty-Second at Fort George<sup>11</sup> and a muster roll cited below proves Captain McFarland was with McFeely at Stony Creek. One readily can surmise that the resignations of Captain McFarland and others at this time were prompted by disgust at the mismanagement.

\* \* \*

There are the following memoranda in the little notebook:

March 17, 1813

Cannonading commenced at Black Rock, continued 20 hours with little effect on either side. May 1, 1813 assigned into Brigd under Genl Boyd viz 13th, 5th, 22d and 23 Rgts. [Black Rock now in Buffalo.]  
May 4th transfered into Genl Winders Brigade.

Picket No. 3 Lake Shore

Maj. Nicholas

June 16, 1813

At daylight this morning I discovered four boats 3 miles distant on the Lake off this place, Drift of boats are an [?], by sending a

<sup>9</sup> Beirne, 158-165.

<sup>10</sup> Daniel McFarland was present at Fort George, May 27. *National Archives Records of Men Enlisted in the United States Army Prior to Peace establishment, May 17, 1815, 97.*

<sup>11</sup> Crombie, *WPHM*, L, 138.

skiff with half a dozen men they may be taken.

Yours etc

D McFarland  
Capt 22d Infty

Fort George U. C.  
June 20, 1813

Extract from the order of the Day inst  
Adj. Genl's Officers Hq. Fort George

June 18, 1813

The resignations of Capts. McFarland and Millikin of the 22d Infty. are Accepted to take effect this Day. The Regimental Paymstr. will make settlements with them accordingly.

W. Scott Adj. Genl.

True Copy.

\* \* \*

Copy of the following document is addressed to Captain Daniel McFarland, 22nd Reg. of inf., Washington County, Pennsylv. and is postmarked Aug. 13. It reads:

Adj. & Inspector Generals Office  
Washington 9th Aug. 1813.

The resignation of Captain Daniel McFarland has been reconsidered and at his intercession he is reinstated in the 22nd regiment of Infantry, and will proceed to join it without delay.

By order

C. K. Gardner  
As. Adj. Gen.

#### HISTORICAL NOTE

There exists in the National Archives a consolidated Muster Roll of the company formerly commanded by Captain Daniel McFarland under Lieutenant Colonel McFeely covering the period September 30, 1812, to June 30, 1813, signed by Ensign William Gillaspie, and Surgeon's Mate Presley H. Craig. This shows Captain McFarland and First Lieutenant Frederick A. Wise resigned June 18. Second Lieutenant John H. Wise had resigned June 17. The roster gives a total of eighty-eight privates, one fifer, one drummer, six corporals and four sergeants. The company had been at Carlisle as proven by

statements concerning several men being left sick there. It shows one man killed at Fort Niagara, November 21, 1812, two killed in action at Stony Creek, June 6, 1813, and three missing in action at the latter place. One man was missing on the march from Stony Creek June 6 and five on the march from 40-Mile Creek to Fort George on June 8.

After the resignations of Captains McFarland and Millikin, the companies were combined under Captain Willis Foulk performing with distinction at the battles of Chippewa and Lundy's Lane.

Daniel McFarland was commissioned major in the 23rd Infantry on August 15, 1813, according to the official register cited previously but unfortunately nothing appears in the records until April 1, 1814, when he began his journal.

Journal Kept by Maj. D. McFarland  
23rd Rgt Inftry

Commencing the first Day of April 1814.

April 2d, 1814

Left home in Washington Coty Pena for Sackets Harbor by order of the War Dept staid at Washington.

3rd

Left Washington accompanied by Capt. Morrow 22d Inftry arrived at Pittsburgh

4th

Staid at Pitt. found some old friends, viz Col Brady, Lt Guy, Green etc

5th

Left Pitt in company with W. P. Brady a fine old [?] staid at Cunningham's

6th

Travelled to Morows crost the Conemaugh

7th

Past through Dennisons [?] and Indianna Towns. arrived at Esq. Brady's

8th

Rested myself & horse.

9th

Do                      Do

10th

Started in compy with John Brady came 12 miles and fed and parted; traveled 32 miles without a house, five of which was in

the night in a wilderness filed with Deer Bear and Panthers came to Raighs

11th

Still wilderness, pines & rocks crost the West Branch of Susquehannah & Clearfield creek, very long to ford and no boats found snow came to Phillipsburgh

12th

Travelled over Allegheny mountains, crost Murray's Mills to Belefonte, fine Day. Did not know when in the Mts. crost five or six of the handsomest streams I ever saw. Clear as crystal.

13th

Staid at Bellefont. remarkable Spring, large enough to turn three mills at its head is erected water works which raise water 92 feet from which the town is watered. Tower handsome, built of stone about 40 houses, Church, jail etc

14th April 1814

Started in company with H. Coburn, a Yankee singing master, fine country Down Nittany Valley, crost Bald Eagle swimming Deep Crost the West Branch at Dunnstown, staid at Evans past a noisy night with a crew of boatmen, the country down the branch is the handsomest I ever saw, under a high state of cultivation

15th

Crost Pine Creek, large stream to a village called Jersey shore saw Susan, rain came to Wilkesberry, took up the Lycoming on the rout I marched in 1812 to Reynolds.

16th

Traveled up Lycoming Day rough cold weather, settled thinly, staid at Stones a fine bred Bay State Yankee, could not get break fast for 20 miles asked one woman, said they lived on faith and [?]

17th April

Struck the Towanda Creek, down it to the north branch of the Susquehannah, took up the river, fine farms on the river, came to Tioga River crost it, very rapid, staid at Tioga point, an indifferent village of 60 houses — very cold hard frost

The country, inhabited by Yankees, very industrious and economical. Timber Pine, country mountainous, only fit for cultivation near the streams, good farms on river live well.

In viewing the "Northern" "lights" which appeared this evening a very remarkable Phenomena appeared, a ray of most

luminous light shot across the horizon in a direction of north and south, it appeared about 5 feet wide at its zenith with converging at the point where it struck the horizon. Superstition afloat as usual on the occasion.

Prices of grain etc at Tioga Point

wheat	\$1 - 50
Corn	1 - 12½
Rye	1 - 25
Oats	00 - 87½
Plaster of Paris or gypsum	
Per Ton	15 00

18th

traveled from Tioga Point up the Susquehannah river, elegant road, thickly settled, 3½ miles to New York State, could not find any difference in the air. Dont know why there should be different states if so water ran down hill as usual, came to the village of Owego, a tolerable village, at the mouth of Owego Creek, great deposit of gypsum.

19th

traveled through a fine country up the river, Crost the Chenango river at Oxford village 44 miles, past through Smithfield village 9/10 of the signs at inns in N. Y., have some Masonic device on them. Dont like to see it, tis prostituting the Institution

Oxford very fine Village indeed. Does not look like a place of great business as it has too many private Mansions. Yankees appear more grave than Pennas.

20th

Left Oxford, traveled on the turn pike, fine country up the Shenango River, Yankees have a certain neatness about house not observed by Pennas — people settle in clusters, have a village in the center of every Township, in which a handsome Church schoolhouse etc. country somewhat mountainous, timber principally pine and sugar tree, Clumped ox Ploughs, Chimneys in the middle of the house, men with old white hats Pailing the cows & when asked a question guessing I take it, well I should say, out. etc etc proclaims the Characteristic Yankee world.

21st April 1814

Rained timber pine with more sugar trees than I ever saw, saw snow bank, then up the River Chenango to its source. Past through Sangersfield and Whitesboro to Utica, on the Mohawk River, Utica place of very considerable business, large village.

- Saw my old friend Capt Mills, Col Mullany  
 22nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th  
 staid in Utica procuring equipments at a high price, fine weather  
 26th  
 Left Utica in company with Col. Mullany and Capt Ross of the  
 Topographical Department visited the Arsenal at Rome at which  
 place I crost the Mohawk, saw the Canal communicating with  
 Lake Ontario fine land, timber pine, Birch, sugar tree, land  
 Stormy ever since came into York State  
 27th  
 traveled intolerable roads also swamp with Yankee bridges. Snow  
 for miles would average at least 8 inches deep. Day warm strange  
 contrast, water black wild country. thinly inhabited. Staid at  
 Dr Westons an old sap headed drunken fool. Rained in torrents,  
 had bad cold — making sugar yet, most part of the way a snow  
 path, would break in, in deep mud.  
 28th  
 Cool mornings, country not much settled, farms neglected, all  
 employed for U. Sam and speculating on his soldiers. Came to  
 the Harbor  
 29th  
 Rested and doing nothing Brigs. Jefferson and Jones mounting  
 20 guns each, mostly ready for sea.  
 30th  
 Attempted to launch the larger Ship, did not succeed stuck in  
 her ways, rained  
 1st May  
 Launched the New Ship at 8 oclock AM named "Superior"  
 Went very slow into the water, no accidents  
 Her way was about one eighth stroke made all smooth great  
 cheering among the ship Carpenters and Sailors, all got drunk  
 as usual, Eckford the Master builder said the ship would have  
 been launched yesterday had it not been for the Delay occasioned  
 by the Comodores Lady backwardness in attending launching  
 The "Superior" is rated a 64 gun ship is Strong built. A  
 ship carpenter shot by one of the centinels on post after he had  
 been shoved off his post and brought to his back twice and his  
 arms were being taken away from him.  
 Carpenters disposed to mob the military, being officier of  
 The Day ordered 200 men to quell the riot.  
 5th May 1814

Sent out the "Lady,"<sup>12</sup> She fired signal guns, saw enemy fleet, they attacked Oswego. Reported by express sent by Col Mitchell express heard the firing.

6th

The "Oneida," "Sylph" and "Lady" left the Harbor in the morning.

7th

Sunday flags hoisted rained enemy fleet past of the Harbor going to Kingston.

8th

Ascertained that Oswego was taken, no particulars yet. hard fight he said

9th and 10th

All quiet

11th

Brigs Oneida Sylph and Lady out, heard nothing of the enemy  
Genl Gaines left this port for Oswego, Genl Brown assumed the command of the post with enough to shut the door after the horse is taken.

12th

Rained every day fine spring weather no news of moment.

13th

Genl Order read extolling in high terms the conduct of the officers and men under Lt Col Mitchel at Oswego. Also an order publishing the sentences of a general court martial in which an officer was cashiered for sleeping on his post and being drunk on guard and about 7 or 8 to be shot for Desertion and one hung for accepting a bribe and suffering two British officer to escape from confinement from Springfield Massachusetts

13th

Signed a petition directed to Major Genl Brown, soliciting the reprieve of ———— Laurence a private in the 9th Regt sentenced to be hanged for suffering two british officers to escape from Pittsfield goal and accepting bribe for the [favor] of some money and two watches. Lawrence had been enlisted but two or three months, was but 19 years of age, the consent of his parents or guardian not given or at least no evidence of it, Was the first time on post etc etc. These being the circumstances 15 officers

<sup>12</sup> The name was actually the "Lady of the Lake." See Theodore Roosevelt, *The Naval War of 1812*, Volume II, for details concerning the ships of both American and British fleets.

principally of the 9th Regt with myself signed the petition which was presented to Genl Brown by Capt Crooker

Gallows, everything torn down, six or eight sentenced to be shot

14th

gallows finished by 11 oclock and all the troops under arms to witness the executions. Genl Brown did not even Deign to send any kind of answer to the Petition although couched in the most respectful terms

Troops formed the Hollow square. Artillery on the right, Dragoons next, and Infantry next. at 1 oclock PM a strong guard brought the poor wretch with all his brother prisoners to witness his execution, one of whom had to act the part of hangman.

He was drest in a fatigue frock and trousers with a white cap on his head, he appeared cool and collected and persisted in his innocence to the last and said the rules and Articles of War had never been read to him.

He mounted the scaffold with a firm step and suffered the rope to be affixed with great composure, praying all the while.

Such was the descent in his fall when the scaffold was cut down that his neck was broken and he expired without a struggle.

At this time what an interesting sight, all was silence and every eye was Directed to the quivering victim, my god! when will this vestige of barbarism be obliterated from at least The legal Decisions of man the god of nature never intended that I should take the life of a fellow creature except in self-defense or for my national rights

Tis surely trifling with omnipatence to destroy one of his most exalted works when the subject might be branded with infamy and confined for life, if necessary.

I felt a Kind of indescribable kind of feelings which did not leave me a moment During the Day.

His grave was dug under the gallows into which he was tumbled without a coffin. He was said to be of very reputable parentage in Massachusetts

From at this Post 2500 men somewhat sickly went to the graveyard today

I believe I may say safely that in and near this place there was at least 1500 men buried. When a soldier is taken sick he dies or gets well if his constitution bears him out. Our medical Dept is most villainously conducted. Attention from the head to the

foot is not paid the climate being different, country swampy, Change of habits, manners, diet etc etc with hard duty produce disease without parallel

15th

Very rainy weather with sunshine, at 10 oclock AM a fog raises which being an exhalations from filth of all Kinds in abundance is not only disagreeable but unhealthy.

16th

Review ordered but postponed on acct of rain intolerably muddy.

17th

Genl Brown returned home to Brownsville, Genl Gaines returned, fine day

British off Oswego yesterday no fears for the Stores at the falls of the river.

News of the Peace having taken a British sloop of 22 guns, she only 20, lost no men, enemy lost 50 men and \$200,000. no pertickulars.

19th

Fine weather officers disgusted with the service, our affairs appear to be badly managed all confidence lost in terminating the war honourably Enemy fleet consisting of 3 ships, 2 brigs and 2 schooners appeared of Point Peninsular or [ran] near cutting off the lady of the lake, first boats to her assistance

The enemy knows our force and forwardings as well as if he visited the Harbor Daily from spies among our own citizens.

20th

Enemy still off Point Peninsula this morning Stood up the bay in the afternoon and anchored of Horse Island distant about 6 miles. Gnl Gaines and Comod. Chauncey went out in the "Lady" and took a birds Eye view of them returned without accident.

23rd May 1814

Fine weather, enemys fleet coming nearer, Distant about 6 miles

This day saw two soldiers executed by shooting, the sight was truly effecting and horrible. They kneeled down without hesitation and recd the fatal volley with apparent resignation

Poor victims to fear to [prefer] security in Desertion to War, how unfortunate your end, how detressing to friends, how dishonourable to your country.

These public executions are among the demoralizing and [deteriorating] influences of War.

28th

WAR 1812-14  
BATTLE OF LUNDY'S LANE  
SKETCH OF BATTLEFIELD

FIRST POSITION

- a—Incorporated Militia, commanded by Lieut.-Col. Robinson.
- b—Detachment of The King's, commanded by Capt. Campbell.
- c—Two troops of the 19th Dragoons, which retired to
- d—on a and b being ordered to retire to second position
- e—89th which arrived on the ground as the action commenced with its left thrown back.
- f—A detachment of the Royal Scots, commanded by Capt. Brereton, which was moved first to
- h—and afterwards to

n—

- g—Glengary Regiment, which, after skirmishing with the enemy's advance, took its station on the right of the line, and finding the enemy were advancing directly in front, were ordered to
- h—from whence, in conjunction with the embodied militia and a few Indians, they drove the enemy back and retired to their position at

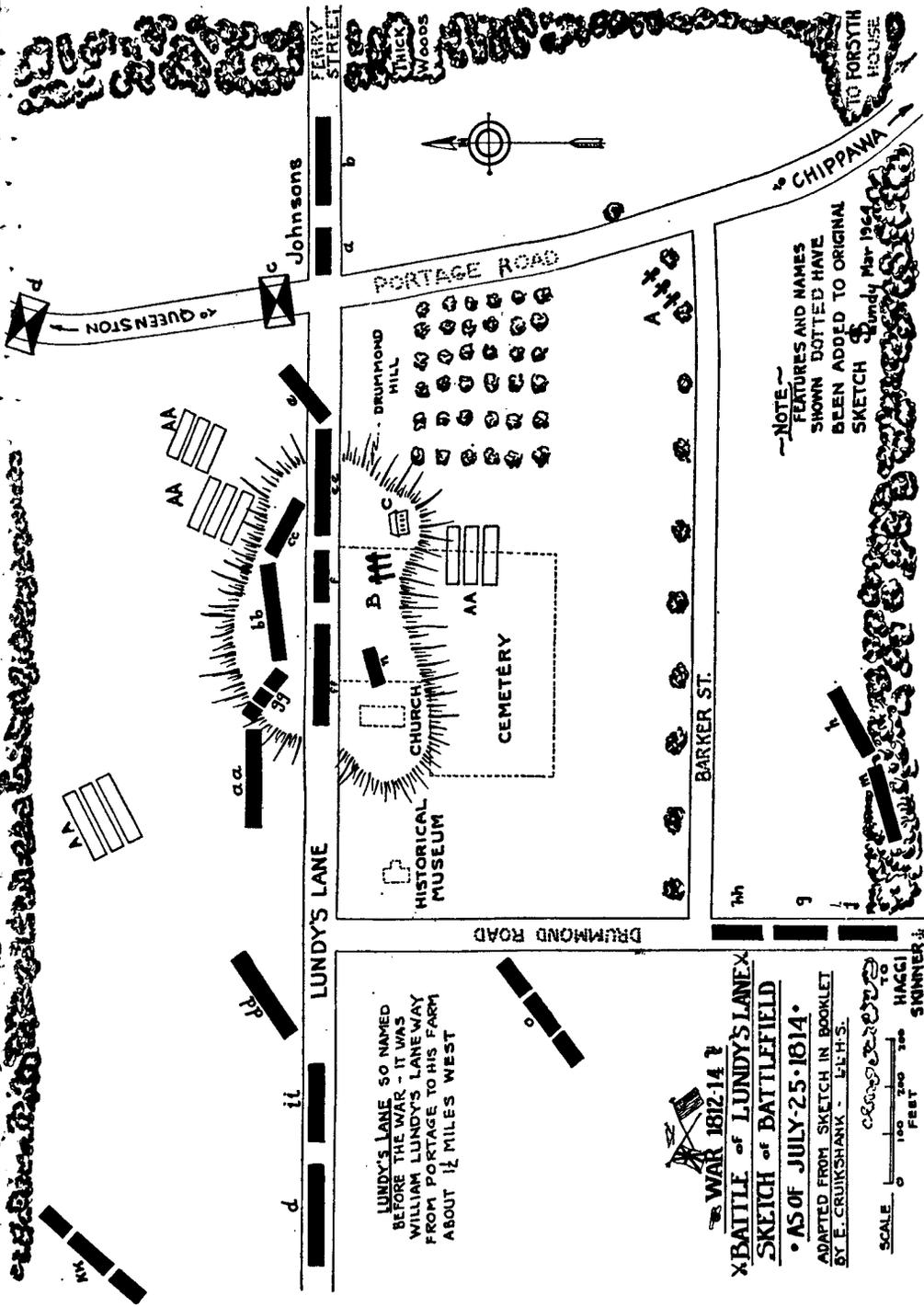
o—

- j—Embodied Militia, under Lieut.-Col. Parry who advanced to
- m—and assisted in driving the enemy through the woods, then retired to
- kk—

SECOND POSITION

- aa—Light Company of the 41st. which arrived early in the action.
- bb—89th Regiment, which has changed its position from e after the Incorporated Militia and detachment of the King's Regiment were ordered to retire from a and b.
- cc—Incorporated Militia and detachment of the King's Regt., which had retired from a and b.
- dd—Left wing of the 103rd Regt., which, with the troops under Col. H. Scott, arrived as the troops were changing from the 1st to 2nd position.
- ee—Right wing of the 103rd Regiment.
- ff—Royal Scot Regiment.
- gg—Grenadiers of the 103rd Regt. and flank companies of the 104th Regt. which afterwards advanced to
- hh—
- ii—King's Regiment.
- kk—Indians and embodied Militia who had retired from m
- A—American Artillery.
- AA—American columns advancing to attack.
- B—British field pieces.
- C—Church.

Reproduced from pamphlet of the Lundy's Lane Historical Museum, Drummond Road at Lundy's Lane, Niagara Falls, Ontario. The map was adapted from one in booklet, *The Battle of Lundy's Lane*, by Captain Ernest Cruikshank, published by the Lundy's Lane Historical Society, no date given. This map in turn noted as a Sketch of the Battlefield, enclosed in Sir George Provost's dispatch to Lord Bathurst, dated Montreal, 5th August 1814.



FERRY STREET

Johnsons

PORTAGE ROAD

CHIPPAWA

TO FORSTH HOUSE



NOTE--  
 FEATURES AND NAMES  
 SHOWN DOTTED HAVE  
 BEEN ADDED TO ORIGINAL  
 SKETCH by Lundy Mar 1954

LUNDY'S LANE

DRUMMOND ROAD

BARKER ST.

LUNDY'S LANE SO NAMED  
 BEFORE THE WAR - IT WAS  
 WILLIAM LUNDY'S LANE WAY  
 FROM PORTAGE TO HIS FARM  
 ABOUT 1/2 MILES WEST

WAR 1812-14  
 BATTLE of LUNDY'S LANE  
 SKETCH of BATTLEFIELD  
 AS OF JULY-25-1814  
 ADAPTED FROM SKETCH IN BOOKLET  
 BY E. CRUIKSHANK - E.H.S.

SCALE 0 100 200 300 FEET  
 HAGCI  
 SUMNER

A dispute as to the Adjutany of the 23rd Regt has existed for some time between Lt [Levi] Burr and Lt [Richard C.] Smyth. Their claims were thus. Lt Burr was appointed by Col Brown who had resigned and Lt Burr had taken his station in the line for some time. Lt Smyth had been appointed Adjt by Lt Col Mullany the present commandant of the Regt so reported to me and Genl Gaines. This being the case gave occasion for a rivalry which their dispositions unhappily did not offer a cure, it resulted in frequent altercations and finally in a challenge from Mr Smyth to fight which was accepted on the part of Mr. Burr. This day they crost the Bay with their seconds Capt Cummings and Lt Spencer Dr Thomas etc and exchanged one shot in which they were badly wounded

So secret were they in their business that I knew nothing about it till I met them at the shore bleeding and faint with loss of blood.

Having had too many Adjts before I now found myself intirely Destitute and no timber to spare to make them of.

30th

Express from Sandy creek 12 miles distant brought the news of an indication on the part of the enemys boats to carry off about 60 [pieces] of Cannon Deposited 4 miles up the creek. Lt Ingersol, Curtin and Ensign Blaize with 60 men joined to 50 from 13th Regt. I started immediately with Detachment from all the forces to save them but before they arrived Capt Appling with about 150 riflemen and a few Oneida Indians deployed from their boats in part about two miles up the creek. Killd 16 among whom was one midshipman, wounded 25 and took the ballc prisoners amounting to 170 men in all. 2 Mist Cpts 4 Lt 2 Lt Marines with four gun boats each 2 guns and Sir James [illegible] "Gig," our loss one Indian Killed and two riflemen wounded, one mortally The prisoners arrived in the evening guarded by Millitia were quartered in Cantonment adjoining Fort [Volluntin]

#### HISTORICAL NOTE — APRIL 28-MAY 30, 1814

Major McFarland arrived at Sackett's Harbor, April 28, 1814. His journal covers the incident of the launching of ship *Superior*, carpenters' difficulties, the British attack on Fort Oswego, May 5, the British Admiral Yeo's blockade of Sackett's Harbor May 19 and attempt to capture stores and guns at the falls of Oswego, about twelve miles away.

Theodore Roosevelt in *The Naval War of 1812*, Volume II, Chapter II, New York, 1902, writes a detailed account of these actions, corresponding to McFarland's journal even to the carpenters' trouble.

The affair at Sandy Creek occurred when Captain Woolsey at Oswego was transporting the heavy cannon in two barges to Sackett's Harbor. Woolsey went up Sandy Creek. An ambush of British was made and the whole force was captured.

At the time, April 2, 1814, when Major McFarland began his journey from Washington County to Sackett's Harbor, Brigadier General Scott had already established his training camp of instruction at Buffalo.<sup>13</sup> At the camp of instruction were the 9th, 11th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, and 25th regiments. But it is clear, at least, that portions of the 9th and 23rd were not present all of the time. Major McDaniel, with his detachment, was ordered from Sackett's Harbor to Buffalo, June 9 or 10, 1814.<sup>14</sup>

Among the papers of Major McFarland is a receipt of Lieutenant L. S. Burr, 23rd United States Regiment, dated Rome, June 14, 1814, acknowledging the receipt of fifty muskets, fifty bayonets and one hundred flints. This would indicate his group was at Rome on that date.

The next items of significant interest are contained in the small notebook of Major McFarland. In this book are several pages relating to the campaign of July 1814 around the Niagara frontier, the battles of Chippewa and Lundy's Lane.

The Second Brigade of General Jacob Brown's army in the Niagara campaign of 1814 was under the command of Brigadier General Eleazer W. Ripley. It consisted of the Twenty-First and Twenty-Third Regiments. Also under General Brown's command was Brigadier General Peter B. Porter with some five to six hundred Pennsylvania militia and about five hundred Indians of the Six Nations.

Most of the fighting at Lundy's Lane devolved upon Scott's First Brigade. Scott was an impetuous fighter, while General Ripley earned the reputation of being cautious, careful and slow, although brave. When both Generals Brown and Scott were wounded at Lundy's

<sup>13</sup> Crombie, *WPHM*, I, 137-138.

<sup>14</sup> Established by letter of Auditor's Office, Treasury Department, February 7, 1827, which states that Major D. McFarland was advanced \$500 on June 11, 1814, for "purpose of defraying the contingent charges of a detachment of 400 U. S. Infantry of the 23rd Regt. under his command on the march from Sacketts Harbor to Buffalo."

Lane, the command devolved upon General Ripley. Because of severe losses and exhaustion of the men, he withdrew American forces from the captured hill at Lundy's Lane and in consequence was relieved of his command by General Brown. He was later exonerated at a court-martial.

Concerning the period from July 3, 1814, to July 25, 1814, covered by Major McFarland, his writings correspond closely with authentic contemporary documents and writings, in some details an amplification. From all these records one can reasonably place the position of the Twenty-Third Regiment during the campaign and battle.<sup>15</sup>

#### MAJOR DANIEL MCFARLAND'S SMALL NOTEBOOK

The following portion of the small book corresponds exactly with the attack of General Brown beginning July 3, 1814, on the Canadian side. Several of McFarland's entries, however, appear to read "June" but should be July.

June[?] 3d 1814

Left Buffalo at 2 A M landed at Daylight took Ft. Erie

4th

Marched down the river Genl Scott skirmishing with the enemy

5th

enemys Indians and light troops began Skirmishing with our Pickets early in the morning at 4 A M. our Indians attacked their light troops. Drove them 1½ miles met their Collumn retreated, our troop put in motion[?] action began with [?] at ¼ mile from camp lasted 3 hours, Enemy retreated soon with great loss enemy 400 ours engaged 200

6th

buried the dead sent off the wounded

June[?] 7th, 1814

Sent off the Enemys wounded and 14 prisoner to Buffalo[?] We have fought ourselves into respect yesterday as our [victory] remains undisturbed today. Found[?] 100 of the En Indians and millitia dead our Indians and Pa. Millitia fought well yesterday.

Drove all before them till they met the En columns

<sup>15</sup> Captain E. A. Cruikshank, "The Documentary History of the Campaign on the Niagara Frontier in 1814," Parts I-II, Lundy's Lane Historical Society, gives the bulk of the following details. The specific page references concerning Major McFarland and the Twenty-Third Regiment are numerous.

8th

2d Brigade Genl Ripley Col [James] Miller etc marched for the crossing place for Chippeway river at Daylight had to cut the road through a swampy country Struck the river 1½ miles above the Chippeway river at 2 oclock PM

8 June [?] 1814

began to construct a bridge 3 batteries the enemy 400 in number opened on us, they soon found themselves mistaken they had only 3 pieces, we 6 or 8, made the bridge but found the enemy had retreated not only before us but from Chippeway marched down river and crost 2d Bridg a few canon and skiffs had several loads thrown over board swam our horses. much fatigued. we had 2 or 3 wounded, the enemy lost 13 killed. B. Genl. Porter left at Chippeway with his Brigade.

9th

Fine weather but hot marched at 12 oclock rangers in front, 1st Br next, artillery next, 2 Brigad next, very dusty. Past the falls, all Deserted enemy had fled taking their valuables Indians ordered into our rear, found the [?] in queenston heights [?] to our astonishment.

19th

Ordered out with my Batalion as a corps of observation skirmished with the enemy had two men badly wounded marched in the morning to Ft George. 23d ordered to march up the River [Niagara] skirmished with the Ens light troops at Queenston

23d July 1814

I volunteered to cut off the enemy with my Battalion in the rear of St David 3 miles distant made the attempt through swamps & thick woods lost two men killed caught no prisoners and got no mention in genl orders published on the 24th presumed [?] it would be good policy not to fight unless by order.

24th

Laid in quarters at the hights [?]

25th

Marched up the river, rained, saw the falls from Chippeway side  
encamped South side Chippeway.

#### HISTORICAL NOTE

Lundy's Lane trends westward from the Queenston Road along the river and bisects the hill where the British artillery was located

and which was so bitterly contested. The battle began late in the afternoon, variously stated at from 4 to 7 P.M. Colonel Henry Leavenworth testified that General Ripley's brigade was announced at 9 P.M. He stated that the enemy's captured artillery and American artillery occupied the summit of the hill near the old church and the Twenty-Third regiment on the right. Captain William McDonald gave witness that Ripley was to form his brigade to the right of General Scott and that he gave orders for the Twenty-First to storm the battery in front, directing the Twenty-Third to form columns and march against the enemy's flank. The Twenty-Third received fire from fifty to sixty musketry, and was thrown into confusion, causing it to fall back fifty to sixty yards. "The regiment, however, speedily recovered, and formed into column sooner than he had ever known one formed for parade though perhaps not with equal accuracy." The Twenty-Third advanced within twenty paces of the enemy flank before the first volley was fired. This caused the enemy to fall back immediately down the hill.

A little later, it seems, the British advanced on the hill, coming within ten or twelve yards of the American right, composed of the Twenty-Third Regiment. This action lasted about twenty minutes and the enemy again gave way, falling back out of sight.

General Brown in his report of the battle to the Secretary of War wrote: "After the enemy's strong position was carried by the Twenty First and detachments of the Seventeenth and Nineteenth, the First and Twenty Third assumed a new character — they could not again be shaken or dismayed. Major McFarland of the latter fell nobly at the head of his battalion."

Lundy's Lane is presently a wide main highway. There are two cemeteries adjacent to it, one to the south and one to the north. The curator of the Lundy's Lane Museum told the writer some graves of American soldiers had been discovered in the cemetery to the north during some relatively recent construction. Since we can place the Twenty-Third at this location with reasonable accuracy it seems Major McDaniel would be buried near where he fought and died.

#### CONCLUSION

Other letters and documents pertain to events following the death of Major McFarland. Major George Mercer Brooke wrote on July 31, 1814, from camp at Fort Erie to Abel McFarland, Washington County, stating he is sending Major McFarland's clothing and horse to Pittsburgh.

Seth Wetmore, Canojohar, Montgomery County, wrote to Abel McFarland on September 12, 1814, that Benjamin McLary who had been on his way with Major McFarland's horse, saddle, bridle, clothing, sword, "vallice" and portmanteau became sick with Ugu fever and was unable to proceed on his journey. The articles mentioned could be obtained if called.

Abel McFarland makes a deposition on October 15, 1814, that his son, Demis McFarland, is his attorney to receive the property belonging to the estate of Major Daniel McFarland. Evidently Demis went to New York State to claim the possessions.<sup>16</sup>

Major McFarland's affairs dragged on, for there is a letter dated February 7, 1827, from the Treasury Department, Auditor's Office, showing bounties and premium paid him in May, June and July, 1812 (which, no doubt, was for recruits).

Then there is a letter from Representative Joseph Lawrence of Pennsylvania, February 13, 1827, to Abel McFarland concerning the balancing of \$947 advanced to the Major and \$177.66 owed to him and saying that he will endeavor to have an Act of Congress passed for Abel to draw the arrears in pay, since it seems all are agreed the Major did not use any of the government's money for his own purposes.

Major Daniel M. McFarland's words clearly establish him as well-educated, although there seems no record concerning how or where. He must have been a sensitive man, appreciative of beauty as his record of the journey to Sackett's Harbor shows. That he also was sensitive to cruelty is proven by his actions in the Private Laurence case.

The letter to his cousin establishes the Major as a patriot, a hawk who laid emphasis on honor and felt indignation over the British intrigues promoting guerrilla civil Indian war.<sup>17</sup> His letter tends to substantiate those historians who attribute a major cause of the War of 1812 to resentment against the British supplying arms and giving encouragement to the Indians.

One is intrigued by the popularity contest for President and Vice President. Unfortunately no indication is given concerning which side made the "unwarrantable exertions," reminding us of the modern

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16 There is a note in the Crumrine Collection that Demis claimed the effects. According to family tradition the sword became property of a great nephew in Washington County whose name was Evans.

17 Theodore Roosevelt, *Winning of the West*, relates in considerable detail the British machinations with the Indians.

Know all men by these presents, that I  
Abel McFarland of the County of Washington  
and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania do  
nominate constitute and appoint, my  
son Denis McFarland, of the County, and  
Commonwealth aforesaid, my true and  
lawful Attorney, in my name (but for  
my use) to ask and receive, whatever mo-  
nies and property, may have been intru-  
sted with Benjamin McGory of the State  
of New York or elsewhere, belonging to  
the Estate of Daniel McFarland Esquire  
Dec<sup>d</sup> Major of the 28<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> U. S. Infantry

Hereby Ratifying, whatever my said  
Attorney my lawfully do in the prem-  
ises. In testimony whereof I have  
hereunto set my hands and seal this  
15<sup>th</sup> day of October 1814

Teste meum  
John Wilson.

Abel McFarland 



pressure groups influencing various polls of the current Vietnamese War.

McFarland's observations relative to the difference between Yankees and Pennsylvanians give contemporary evidence of the difference between early New Englanders and the Scotch-Irish of Western Pennsylvania, the latter with a characteristic thrifty but "impatient to move on to a better place" spirit.

"Our affairs appear to be badly managed, all confidence lost in terminating the war honourably." Such words are being dinned in our ears today from all directions. We only can hope the outcome of the present war will earn our country the respect for itself that historians are agreed followed the War of 1812.