Sackets Harbor July 5th 1813

Dear Sir,

Inclosed is my deposition agreable to your request. I have there stated the substance of what I could recollect relative to the affair. Perhaps it is less particular than you expect but I believe I have stated intelligibly whatever is important in the action within my knowledge.

I can give you but little information of the proceedings here ~~more~~ than you see in the public papers. We are disciplining our troops as fast as possible - Genl. Lewis has lately arrived & now commands here. The rigging of the Gen. Pike goes on rapidly - she will soon be ready to sail, till then we shall not venture out on the lake. Last wednesday Sir James Yeo with about eight hundred men principally sailors started from Kingston in boats with a determination to enter our harbor & destroy of our shipping in the night at all hazzards. [illegible] night proved so dark they could not find the way [illegible] fore light and they therefore landed on a point of land at the mouth of harbor called point peninsula about 12 ~~[illegible]~~ 12 miles from our shipping. They hauled their boats ashore, covered them with bresh & lay concealed on thursday with a determination to put their plan in execution that night: but so many of their men deserted, Sir James thinking, it is presumed, that we had got information, & fearing to trust any longer to the fidelity of his men, returned to Kingston. One of the deserters got to camp just before night on thursday which put us on the alert & early next morning our fleet went out to intercept him, but he had made his escape. Fifteen deserters from him have already reported themselves at this post & say that nearly fifty left him who have probably scattered into the country. We are constantly prepared for some desperate attack from the enemy on our fleet; for we know their great object is to destroy a part of it before the Genl. Pike is ready. This is a very important object. I consider that on our superiority on the lake depends the success of the campaign in a great measure. We are particularly on the alert tonight as it is reported that the

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enemy have four thousand troops embarked as I suppose to attack this place & the wind is very favorable. I do not believe the report because they have not shipping enough to convey half that number in addition to the ships' crews. They may however make an attack thinking to take us by surprise. If they do attack us, I am confident they will repent of their rashness. If the enemy with their whole fleet & one thousand troops were obliged retreat when our whole fleet were absent & we had not more than eight hundred men (except militia) & not more than six hundred in [illegible] they cannot expect any better success now even if they bring four thousand troops. In regard to the late attack I would observe that I have been very much surprised that with his force the enemy did not succeed, but much of that surprise has ceased since we know for a certainty that his loss was at least two hundred & eighty. They left upwards of fifty killed, wounded & prisoners & we have correct information that two hundred & thirty wounded were carried into their hospital in Kingston. They probably had many wounded who were not carried in. Some estimate the whole at near four hundred. Among their killed & wounded was a full proportion of officers. Some of our recruits, it is true, did not fight with the regularity of old soldiers, but skulking by companies behind whatever would screen them they kept up a most destructive fire. This mode of fighting though it does not great credit to our discipline, completely foiled the enemy: his orders were to fire one or two rounds on our line & then to charge bayonet, but he found that when he attempted to charge one company they retreated & were covered & protected by others in the rear. The enemy boasts that he drove us several leagues; this is true, but in all that time he did not get half a mile. The militia were stationed near [illegible] they landed and all fled as soon as the enemy were ashore [illegible] would except a few under Capt. M. Nitt. Gen. Brown says one hundred, but Genl. Brown belongs to the militia & his partiality has probably more than doubled the real number. Gen. Brown is no doubt a brave man but not a consummate General. The volunteers I believe fought well. I know very nearly the number in each corps & am satisfied that we had not more than seven hundred engaged at one time including the volunteers and I may perhaps add Capt. M. Nitt's militia. The enemy had at least nine hundred

in the engagement after deducting their probable loss in landing. Add to this the assistance they received from their shipping which was considerable - Col. Mills was killed by a grape shot from one of their gun boats & a considerable proportion of our killed & wounded ~~were~~ their wounds from the same quarter. 'Tis true we had some field pieces but I do consider that they rendered us so much service as the shipping did them & besides I reckon the men that manned them among the number engaged on our side. I cannot determine in my own mind which had the advantage of ground. Where the enemy landed they had a cleared spot, then woods partly cleared, then a few large trees with under brush & finally the ground they retreated from perfectly clear. Part of the time they had the disadvantage of being fair mark in the cleared ground while our troops were in the woods & part of the time we labored under the same disadvantage. The enemy, in his official order asserts that our troops threw themselves into block houses which obliged him to retreat. This is not true: the probably meant a few miserable huts built of round sticks which had been occupied as barracks but which were so open that I doubt whether they were any benefit to us except they gave our men some confidence & scared the enemy. In fact several of our men were shot in them. In the above sketch you have I believe very nearly a correct account of the relative force & advantage of both parties & can judge of American bravery when compared with British bravery aided by skill & discipline

I am sorry to learn from your letter & one I rec'd from Mr. Goodwin of the continued sickness of Broadstreet and sincerely hope he is restored to health. I have been quite unwell but am perfectly restored to health.

My best wishes attend you & your worthy family & that you may all enjoy health, peace & happiness is the earnest prayer of your friend & humble servant

Rufus Putnam

P.S. I & J. Wentworth have enjoyed good health & make good soldiers. Ezra Haskell died in June of an inflammatory fever & he was a very faithful & excellent soldier & made a good non-commissioned officer

Rufus McIntire
July 5th 1813

S. Harbour July 6.

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