

ALEXANDER A. MEEK TO GENERAL JOHN S. GANO
Piqua Oct 19th 1812

My Dear Sir,

I arrived here yesterday in good health with my lance
of artillery all in good order. I will give you a short detail
my rout.

In the first place after we left your town with the de-
ment of deserters, we turned out to kill game & succeeded
well all the way, the first day we camped at Mrs. Mills
next night at Lebanon where we gave the citizens a fire
we then went on to Dayton. Next day on the way my
panion Madiss killed a number of squirrels, partridges
ants one pig one cat &c. The cat he cleaned & took it on to Dayton
where he made a stylish fricasse & invited a number of
citizens to partake—some of which did so & I confess that
never eat a piece of more delicious meat in my life. I then
proceeded on to this place which took me two days where
found my frds Col^o. Campbell Capt. Cushing Lts. Howell
Gwynn with all things in good order. We have part of three
companies here & have this day depatched 115 packhorses,
waggon & a guard to St. Marys. We have been visited today
by some Indians which Gen^l. Harrison has desired us to treat
with politeness. We expect Gen^l. Harrison & a large number
of Eastern troops here every hour together with some com-
panies from the Upper part of this State which when arrived
we will move on with.

I have seen a Gentleman this Evening from Manary's block
house who informs us that there has been no farther injury done
in that country lately except two men was killed a few days
ago near Ft. Wayne. The army has burnt one of the Indian
towns on the Oglaise & seen 12 Indians who made their escape
&c. &c.

Every thing is scarce here Oats is only seventy-five cents
per bushel & Cushing & myself have agreed to give my horse
to a girl for one weeks f——g sooner than keep him so dear &c.
&c. but don't mention the thing, above all to Dugan & Goodwin.

God bless you My respect to all my frds. while I
remain your frd.

Alex A. Meek

MILITARY ORDERS

Cincinnati November 20th 1812

George Kisling,

Sir—

You will on the receipt of this cause complete Muster
rolls of the men who are drafted to take the next tour of duty
in your Brigade to be made out and forwarded to me as
soon as possible and the Commissioned officers, whose tour of
duty annexed them to the Command, will also be returned
and when organized you will have them exercised by com-
panies by their officers once a month (or oftener if you think
proper) untill ordered out. If the command ordered from
your Brigade amounts to a Battalion, you will order the Major
whose duty it is to take charge of the Battalion, and see that
they are properly organized and to furnish themselves with
knapsacks, and blankets and accoutrements as far as possible
agreeably to Law. You will make me a return of the same,
as also of your Brigade so that a Divisional return may be
made to the Adjutant Gen^l. next month, as the Law directs,
a strict compliance with this order is expected.

John S. Gano Maj^r. Gen^l. Comd^t.
of 1st divⁿ. Ohio Militia

George Kisling Brig Gen^l
Comdt 2d Brig. 1st Div. O.M.

N. B. This requisition is for the ballance of the quoto of
5000 some time since drafted & of which I have never had
compleat muster rolls—

GENERAL JOHN S. GANO TO GOVERNOR R. J. MEIGS
Copy.

Cincinnati Dec^r. 4th 1812

Dear Sir,

By Mr. Corry I would inform you that the waggoners who
took the 400 Stands of Arms to Chillicothe are very solicitous
for their pay. I would (as usual) advance out of my own funds
the amount, but it is not convenient at this time; I have ad-
vanced upwards of one hundred dollars including Rent for a

ALEXANDER A. MEEK TO GENERAL JOHN S. GANO

Headquarters Upper Sandusky Jan^y 18th, 1813.

My worthy old friend

Although you have not complied with your promise in writing to me yet I will comply with mine to you as often as opportunities may offer. I certainly expected to have heard from you before this time but as yet have not.

Gen^l. Harrison ordered us on here from Franklinton some time since of which I advised you. We left there on New Year's day & with a great deal of trouble & labour we arrived here on the 13th Inst, for the particulars of which voyage I refer you to a letter I wrote my wife a few days ago with an injunction on her to shew it to no other person but yourself &c. &c.

Gen^l. Harrison & his suit left here this morning for Lower Sandusky. We march this day for the rapids of the Maumee & the Petersburg Volunteers with all the pieces of artillery now here 5.^[five] 18 pounders 8.^[eight] 12 pounders, Six 6 [inch] & 5½-inch Howitzers. We shall take a new road that the Gen^l. has ordered to be cut out & shall not go by Lower Sandusky (as I expected when I wrote my wife) the distance from here about 55 miles. I have understood that Gen^l. Winchester has arrived at the Rapids.

There is now here about 2500 Men which I expect will follow us in a few days. This place & Delaware has been very sickly—three buried here yesterday.

We had a grand parade yesterday & all the regts. finally forming a hollow square had a very handsome & animating discourse delivered by a chaplain from the Penn^y line in which he pointed out the Soldier and man of courage & contrasted him with the dastard & cowardly fellow who would shrink from his duty & pointing to the ground on which Col^o. Crawford was burnt (within about 3 miles) strove to animate the men to go forward & not claim the protection of the Law which did not compel them to cross the line &c. &c. I think it all together very good.

I cannot help expressing my great pleasure at the beauties of this country, the plains of Sandusky are the most beautiful my eyes ever beheld, they are in every respect elegant.

The Men now here although most of them have served their time nearly out yet I have not heard any say that they would return untill they had invaded Canada, if they were wanted, &

they will not. We are encamped on the bank of the river in the following form. . . . [Here is inserted outline of the location mentioned] This is the first place situated of the stream that empties into the Northern

I do not wish you to shew anything respecting the situation of my army to any person, as it is contrary to Gen^l Orders. I am now in very good health & Capt. Cushing wishes me to inform you that "Joseph is alive" Our company is all in health.

I best respects to Mrs. Gano and your family & all others I require often. Your Very Sincere & faithful friend
Alex. A. Meek

Whiskey	1.50	per Gal.
Beer	4.50	per 100 lbs.
Corn meal	3.	per bushel
Chickens	25	each
Butter	50	& every other thing in proportion

If an opportunity offers [will] let you hear from me at the Rapids & also in Canada I hope in less than six weeks, I know we will either have Detroit & Malden in that time or we will never see this army. Gen^l. Harrison will in a few days have to accept his appointment of Brigadier or return as his K[entucky] appointment will shortly expire. I have understood from his aid that he would accept & in that case Gen^l. Winchester will command him which I am afraid will create some confusion particularly with this part of the army as they are entirely wrapt up in Harrison,

God send us success is the constant prayer of yours ever &c.
A. A. M.

ALEXANDER A. MEEKS TO GENERAL JOHN S. GANO

Upper Sandusky, Jany. 21. 1813.

Dear General

From one dam'd thing & another, being out of order & wanting repairs we have not got started as yet.

An express arrived here last night from the rapids from Gen^l. Winchester to General Leftwich (Gen^l. Harrison being

to me as soon as possible.* As the Detachments ordered from the first Division have been prompt when ordered on duty the General flatters himself they will evince the same patriotic spirit on this occasion.

John S. Gano, Maj. Genl
Comdt. 1 Div. Ohio Militia.

Test.

D. Wade, Aid de Camp

* N. B. You will order the Commandants of Regiments & Battalions who furnish men that none but healthy effective men that can pass muster be marched to the rendezvous as no discharges will take place after the men are returned for to take this tour of duty—the complement of effective men must be complete. The Surgeon's certificate of disability will be sufficient for the officer to excuse the invalid and an effective man must be ordered to supply his place in regular routine so as to fill the complement required.

N. B. There being some provision necessary for the Company at Hamilton you will please to inform me if there is a contractor's agent or commissary at Hamilton. If there is give him notice to have supplies ready.

J. S. Gano

Genl John Wingate

ALEXANDER A. MEEK TO GENERAL JOHN
STITES GANO

Camp at Carrying River Jan'y 25, 1813.

Dear General

I have the pleasure of informing you that I arrived here last night in good health, I will give you a short history of matters & things.

We left upper Sandusky on the 21. and proceeded with six companies & the artillery &c. (as I wrote you in my last from Sandusky) on our march and on the 22nd at 9 o'clock in the morning we were met by an express who informed us that Genl. Winchester (who had previously went on from the rapids, to the river Reson) had had a battle & was victorious with the loss

13 killed 37 wounded & 150 killed & wounded of the
At about 2 o'clock same day we met another express
Genl. Harrison directing us to leave every thing where
the letter met us & proceed immediately to join him. We
until night, called a council & agreed to start at 2 o'clock
morning, each man & officer shouldering a gun, Blanket
days' provision which we did & I assure you we had a
bad trip of it; it began to rain at 9 o'clock in the evening
continued until our arrival here,—mud, snow & water, some-
knee deep & sometimes worse wading creeks & swamps, &c.
on our arrival here we met Genl. Harrison who has retreated
this place from the rapids (15 miles) in consequence of find-
that place untenable for want of artillery, before he left
he had to burn all the buildings & military stores & a
quantity of provisions that could not be brought away.
You will of course enquire what has given rise to all this—
Genl. Winchester with 900 men has met with a total defeat,
they have had two battles one on the 21, in which they were
victorious, the second on the 18th in which the whole detach-
ment has been killed & taken from the accounts which (about a
dozen), some who have escaped say, there is about six or seven
hundred killed & the balance are prisoners. It is generally
supposed that our men would have stood if their ammunition
had not given out, although they were opposed by six or seven
pieces of artillery & some Howitzers. It is said with much cer-
tainty that Genl. Winchester is among the dead and some say
they saw him with his entrails & tongue cut out, tomahawked,
scalped, &c.

We are fortifying here and the Genl. told me he intended
remaining here for reinforcements which he has ordered on from
every point. We are now about 15 or 16 hundred strong. We
have two pieces of artillery here & plenty of ammunition &
provisions for any length of time & more arriving every day—
Col^o. Wells's Regt is cut to pieces entirely. The French at the
river Reson & about the rapids are coming for protection to us
(we marched 33 miles yesterday)

I am in haste your Very sincere frd.

Alex. A. Meek

Administer a little consolation to my little girls in my absence—
I regret much the very imprudent step Genl. Winchester has

BRIG. GENERAL JOHN WINGATE TO GENERAL JOHN
STITES GANO

Hamilton, February 3rd, 1813.

Maj^r. Gen^l. John S. Gano,

Sir, received your order of this morning by Mr. Stubb, and rest assured I am satisfy^d with the arrangement as I have ever felt a disposition to take a part in the cause of my Country when properly called on. I shall therefore with pleasure comply with order and as my Country requires my services I shall use every exertion to serve her to the best of my abilities and I have only to regret that my capacity is not paramount to the duties required of that important office. I am sorry that I could not have had some longer notice that I might have had my Business better arranged this time, however I must plead for as long time as the nature of the case will admit so that I may be Enable to arrange my affairs that I may not suffer in that respect, however I shall see You on Friday agreeable to Your wishes at which time more satisfactory statements can be made, in haste

I am sir with the highest Consider^t.

Your^s &c. &c.

John Wingate

Brig^r. Gen^l. Comdt. 3 Bri. O. M.

ALEXANDER A. MEEK TO GENERAL JOHN
STITES GANO

Head quarters foot of Miami Rapids,
Feby. 4th, 1813.

My worthy friend

I have again the pleasure of informing you of my very good health at this time.

I am happy to inform you we have at last proceeded this far into the Enemies country. I believe I informed you in my last that General Harrison sent a flag of truce to the British on the 31st Ultio with a physician & two men to obtain leave to take care of the wounded & bury the dead that lay where Winchester was defeated. We left our camp at carrying (or portage) River on the first Inst. and arrived here on the 2nd. The evening we arrived here our spies in tracing the track which the flag took

the men had a carryall) they found (nearly opposite to where we are now encamped) where the men had encamped (on the W. side), the carryall & one of the men shot, tomahawked & scalped; the spies, traced the Indians trail about 7 miles & found that the other two were prisoners— one of them they had to put on horse back & from his frequent spitting blood conjecture he is badly wounded— the flag lay by the person who was killed, his name was Le Grand, a private from Gen^l Perkins Brigade, the Doctor's name was McGeeham from Ky, the other is a french man who had come in from the river Reason with his family.

This unfortunate man was the first I ever saw butchered by the d...d rascally yellow heads & I assure you it was not a pleasant sight, we buried him yesterday with the honors of War in front of our Marquee where is an old indian burying ground.

We have fortified this camp & are now employed in building block houses Magazines &c. I have this moment rec^d. an order to attend to fixing our cannon. In haste your fr^d.

Alex. A. Meek.

We expect about 3,000 troops here today. I expect we will see Malden in about 10 days.

DIVISION ORDERS

Cincinnati, Feby. 4th, 1813.

The Officers commanding detachments who are to rendezvous in Cincinnati, agreeable to orders of the 24th January last, will make report of their detachments to Major Wade opposite the Court house where the men are to be quartered until they are equipt with Arms, accoutrements &c. and be prepared to march at the shortest notice. Genl. Wingate is appointed to the Command of the two Regiments from this State now called into service, who is to be obeyed and respected accordingly, Thomas Thompson is appointed Quarter Master and is now officiating as such, every thing that is within the power of Genl. Gano to afford the detachment to facilitate their march and render them comfortable shall be afforded, as the first Division of Ohio Militia have been prompt in obedience to orders when called into the service of their Country it is hoped the same ardour

taken as I am informed he was apprised of the force which would oppose him was not less than 2000, some who was in the battle say not less than 4000—

This, Genl., is our unpleasant situation, we are encamped on a low bottom surrounded almost by swamp in consequence of the unfortunate thaw & rain that has lately taken place & still continues.

Farewell, write to me
Ever yours
Alex. A. Meek

Genl. Harrison informed me he would, as soon as our artillery & sufficient reinforcements arrive, go to the rapids again and fortify which I hope will be in at the furtherest two or three weeks— One more of the unfortunate men who was with G^l. Winchester has this moment arrived, he is nearly froze to death, he passed the rapids last night & heard the Indians exulting &c., he says he saw our (prisoners) men tied off [f] by the Indians in large gangs. It is to be hoped they (the enemy) have taken a great many prisoners if they only spare them afterwards.

adieu
A. A. Meek

RICHARD M. GANO TO GENERAL JOHN STITES GANO

Camp Carron River, Jan. 25, 1813.

Dear Bro[ther]

What shall I say or how begin. My God, my God, my God! hast thou forsaken us. On the 22nd inst. General Winchester at the River Raisin (after the successful action of Col. Lewis of the 17th as I informed you) was totally defeated— did I say totally— yes, out of 1050 Officers and men not more than 30 have escaped the infernal British savages and oh, to call to mind the situation of our best Kentucky blood, to see officers and men sinking under the tomahawk without resistance— saying "Dam you— tomahawk me, it is all you can do." Out of three Kentucky Regts. not a Batallion remains. But two officers in the engagement have got in, viz: Major Mc Clenahan & Capt. Graves of our Regt.—the latter wounded in two

but trifling. The command was by detail and the first we arrived at the Rapids fell to my lot and a number of officers of our Regt.—as the youngest for duty. We performed the duty ordered; we suffered much from cold but expected nothing thro' them. Thus you see how Providence has spared us a little longer (but not without much murmur that we were not ordered on.)

Gen^l Winchester, Col. Lewis & several other officers were seen on horseback 3 or 4 miles from the camp retreating, and several accounts correspond that the General and six other officers were killed near there, all together, and most horribly mangled. One or two say Gen^l Winchester was cut open & his arm cut off & stuck in his body.

Capt. Price, son of the late Col. Price was seen for 2 or 3 miles retreating nearly exhausted and he was heard to say to Col. Lewis "I can go no further, let us form & fight," the Col. replied "the men cannot be rallied we must do the best we can." The Genl. & Col. rode slowly and encouraged the men to keep up and Retreat and thus exposed themselves.

Col. Allen was seen two miles on the retreat on foot nearly exhausted, fighting 3 or 4 Indians with his sword. All accounts as yet are imperfect. Mourn, mourn, mourn America, your history does not furnish an equal. Arouse, unite and march to avenge your loss. The number of British & Indians are said to be from two to three thousand engaged; they attacked our camp at the River Raisin about day break with 8 pieces of cannon — some say 1000 British & Canadian militia & about 1500 or 2000 Indians. Our troops sustained the action until the sun was one-half hour high when a Retreat across the River exposed an open place where every gun [of the enemy] could play upon them; it is said that great injury was done the enemy there. A Cadet by the name of Combe belonging to our Regt. started from our camp to go on to the camp in advance the day before action, he got within a few miles and stoped at a french house where from the Intreaties & distress of the french he stop^d and last night got on to our camp with a french family and 2 or 3 wounded men. The Canadians that had an opportunity escapt— they are in a horrid situation— it is hard among them to discriminate between friend & foe. Capt. Hart got to the camp in advance the night before— just time enough to suffer with his company. Major Madison is said to have or-