

busily employed in preparing for our defence. [On the] 29th I had the honor of being presented to him. The troop was under the command of Capt. Alex. Hamilton, my most intimate and particular friend. They were composed of the choicest and best young men in the country. [On] the 30th I received an order to repair to Chippawa with 20 men, and place myself under the command of Col. Clark, 2d Line[oln] Mil[itia]. At this time Capt. Geo. Hamilton was about raising another troop of M[ilitia] Drag[oons] at this place. Wm. Merritt was to have been cornet of the 1st troop, Jno. Secord lieutenant, and Pell Major, corn[et] of the 2d do. I had the charge of the volunteers at this post, all amounting to about 40 men. Our time was constantly taken up in drilling, patrolling and parading. As we heard of the enemy's collecting a large force opposite we expected an attack nightly, especially on [the] 4th July. On the 3d I attained my 19th year. I remained between this post and Fort Erie till the 20th, when I was relieved by Capt. Geo. Hamilton: some dispute having arisen between him and Col. Clark in respect to the same, his troop fell through. Most of the men were turned over to ours. Major Merritt appointed John Pell Major cornet vice Wm. Merritt. (I am sorry to say by which means the latter became a ruined man.\*) Capt. H[amilton] and myself quartered in my father's house in Niagara. On the 28th July I got leave to visit the 12 M[ile] Creek. [I] had not arrived many hours when I was followed by my father with 6 men, with orders to proceed to Delaware town on River Thames without delay and endeavour to keep up the communication with Amherstburg, as the exterminating Gen. Hull had taken possession of Sandwich [and] sent parties as far as the D[elaware] Town with his proclamations. We were apprehensive Amh[erstburg] would fall. Col. Procter, 41st, had gone up to command. I was well pleased with the excursion, as I wished to see service, since I had commenced—anything new is pleasing. My poor mother was almost distracted at the idea of my going to so dangerous a place, or rather where there was a probability of there being any fighting. I immediately prepared for my departure and set off at 2 A. M., 29th July, with six of the best men in the troop. On the 31st [we] arrived at Oxford. Col. Bostwick was there with the militia, who had just assembled. I heard of Mr. Watson† being at Del[aware] Town with ten or twelve men. I pushed on with a design of surprising him. A few miles before I arrived at the place [I] fell in with Mr. Tiffany, who apprised me of Watson being at Allen's with a number of men well armed, likewise that the country would all join him. I sent

---

\*He joined the enemy in 1813 and fled to the United States.—Ed.

†Simon Z. Watson, a surveyor, who had joined the invaders.—Ed.