In Defense of the "Adams" : Some Men and Women of Frankfort (Winterport) and the Battle of Hampden

William F. Fernald

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The sloop-of-war, or corvette, was ship rigged, having three masts; but she carried guns only on her upper or spar deck.
IN DEFENSE
OF THE
"ADAMS"

SOME MEN AND WOMEN OF FRANKFORT (WINTERPORT)
AND THE BATTLE OF HAMPTON

BY
WILLIAM F. FERNALD
DEDICATION

This piece is dedicated to the memory of John and Anna (Lombard) Bolan, Joseph and Hannah (Wheelden) Cole, Paul and Mary (Moore) Downes, James and Chloe (Twining) Downes, John and Mehitable (Sparrow) Downes, Joshua and Sally (Nickerson) Downes, Capt. Lemuel and Sally (Bemen) Kempton, Tobias Oakman son of Capt. Tobias and Olive (Little) Oakman of Frankfort; William and Elizabeth (Eldridge) Reed and Littleton and Cynthia (Lewis) Reed from No. Bucksport all ancestors of the writer; as well as all of the other men and women who participated in this action independently or as part of Capt. Elisha Thayer's Co., or Capt. Amos Weston's Co. of Lt. Col. Andrew Grant's 3rd Regt., 2nd Brigade 10th Div. Massachusetts Militia.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to acknowledge with sincere appreciation the assistance provided to me by the staff of the Maine State Library, the staff of the Maine Historical Society Library, Mrs. Ralph Millner of the Hampden Historical Society, Mrs. John Moran (Maryanna Fernald) Winterport, Mr. Henry Wiswell, Orrington, and to Mrs. Louise Lasselle for the typing, spelling, punctuation, etc., my special thanks.
FOREWORD

The research and development of family history and genealogy is becoming an increasingly popular pastime for more and more older, and some not so old Americans. After retirement, such a project seemed like a good way to spend the winter days and nights. The original object was to do a simple son of the-son of the genealogy, but wives names were too interesting to ignore and it soon became evident that we had, I should say have, the proverbial tiger by the tail. Research of North Frankfort, Oak Point and Coles Corner, etc. families is especially challenging because most of the early town records were destroyed by fire in 1903.

In the course of this research we keep coming across the War of 1812, specifically the battle of Hampden fought in early September 1814. As several ancestors were engaged in this ill-fated affair it seemed appropriate to do a separate piece on it. No startling new historical facts have been discovered, the outcome is the same and the same mistakes are evident. This story has been written many times before by authors who have far greater ability for such things than I. The only thing different in this account is that we have tried to emphasize the participation of some Frankfort and North Bucksport citizens and Militia Companies by identifying specific individuals, most of whom are ancestors.

Farmingdale, ME
February 25, 1992

William Fernald
THE WAR OF 1812 AND SOME OF ITS CAUSES

The Situation
During the thirty year period between the end of the Revolutionary War (1783) and 1812, the United States was struggling to establish a workable system of government consistent with free enterprise while protecting the basic freedom of its citizens. Although life along the Penobscot was tough, even for the times, it grew a pace. Most of the dwellings were little more than huts built by the settlers largely from the materials at hand and the tools they brought with them. Notwithstanding, new settlers, mostly from Cape Cod, Boston and the North Shore, came to Frankfort and other towns or Plantations on both sides of the river. In the first census of 1790 Frankfort could count 891 souls.

The attraction was land and timber, lots of it, also a beautiful river full of salmon, alewive and smelts. Trade was developing rapidly; exporting timber and fish to coastal cities to the south and to European ports; importing household goods, cloth, flour, etc. In fact trade, shipping and shipbuilding dominated the economy of Maine and the rest of New England during this period and influenced the war to come.

Britons Dilemma
In 1803 the U. S. concluded the Louisiana Purchase with Napoleon I which extended our territory dramatically and included disputed areas in and near Canada. This together with our persistent attempts to trade with France created suspicion in London about U. S. neutrality. Great Briton and her allies had been locked in a life or death struggle with Napoleon since 1796 and the British Navy which gained undisputed control of the seas after the battle of Trafalgar, was trying to enforce a blockade of European ports controlled by Napoleon.

The British Navy of over 1000 ships, was always in desperate need of manpower during this period. In response to their need Parliament authorized the Navy to stop and search any foreign vessel, remove all British nationals and press them into His Majesty's Service. This practice inevitably involved American ships and American seamen. As unconscionable as this was, one can understand how difficult it must have been for a British boarding party to distinguish an American from an Englishman. The result seems to have been that they simply took the number of men needed regardless of nationality.

American Reaction
The blockade of European ports and the impressment of American seaman created a furor in the United States and war was declared on June 18, 1812. Ironically this was two days before
the British agreed to repeal the impressment laws. For want of better communication the war might have been avoided. This problem was to repeat itself when the most significant American land victory of the war was won by Andrew Jackson's army at the battle of New Orleans on Jan. 8, 1815 some fifteen days after the Treaty of Ghent which ended the war was signed on Dec. 15, 1814.

Support for the War
Support for the war was by no means universal. Opposition was strongest among the Federalists of New England and the coastal trading states who feared a British embargo of U. S. goods and a blockade of U. S. ports. These states even withheld money and troops in the early years of the war until British harassment of trade and the impressment issue won more enthusiastic participation.

"Williamson's History of Maine", hereafter Williamson, says that although our state (Massachusetts) government was Federalist, Maine voters favored the Democrat Candidate for Governor in the election of 1813 and 1814. This would seem to indicate that there may have been more support in Maine than other parts of the region for "Mr. Madison's War", as the Federalists cynically called it.

Support for the war predominated among the Democrats of the south and west led by Henry Clay of Kentucky and John C. Calhoun of South Carolina who promoted it as "The Seamen's War" undertaken for "free trade and sailors' rights." These people, however, also had a semi-secret agenda to attack Canada and expand our territory west of the Mississippi. They believed Briton would be vunerable while so heavily engaged with France.

The War Ashore
When the war started the regular army numbered only about 10,000 men and very few trained officers. This placed a burden on the Militia, which in many cases was little more than a social organization, that it was unable to fully accept. All the Canadian invasions failed, Washington was occupied and the White House burned on August 24, 1814 just a few days before the battle of Hampden.

The War at Sea
The war at sea was only a little more successful. The Navy began the war with fewer than twenty seagoing ships. Notwithstanding, it managed to win a few spectacular victories such as Lake Erie and the defeat of HMS "Boxer" by USS "Enterprise" off Monhegan on 5 Sept. 1813. The Navy supplemented by a fleet of adventurous privateers took 1500 British prize ships. These were a few of the exceptions, however, and not the rule.
History's Treatment of the War

For most, the war of 1812 is not a great moment in American History, perhaps because we didn't do very well militarily, or perhaps because the American people were divided on its merits. Unfortunately it has never achieved the prominence in our history that it deserved, because, if nothing else, it proved that the Government would not fall apart under the first serious challenge and that the American people could find a unifying issue among the many controversial issues when their security was being threatened. In spite of our poor showing militarily, Great Briton nor any other nation has ever threatened us again on our own shores.
MAINE'S INVOLVEMENT

1812-1813
Most of the last half of 1812 was spent in preparation for war - luckily the war in Europe was keeping the British busy - but they continued to impress American seamen wherever and whenever they could. The National Government called upon the States for a detachment of 100,000 militiamen, of which 2,500 was to come from the Province of Maine; and also took steps to enlarge the regular army and navy.

From the spring of 1813 until the end of the war, British squadrons were increasingly active along the New England coast threatening the destruction of coastal cities and villages as well as coastal shipping.

British Incursions Against Maine
The year 1814 was the most difficult year of the war for Maine; indeed for the whole country. The British were determined to make this year decisive on land and sea. During June the Massachusetts towns of Wareham, Orleans, Yarmouth, New Bedford and Fair Haven came under attack and Boston was frightened into a major updating of its harbor defenses. Local citizens had certainly felt the effects of the first two years of the war but no territory had actually been invaded. This was to change dramatically.

In early July 1814 Commodore Sir Thomas Hardy, with a small expedition secretly sailed from Halifax and joined a fleet from Bermuda that included several transports, entered Passamaquoddy Bay on the 11th and anchored off Fort Sullivan at Eastport. Commodore Hardy, charged with Admiral Cochrane's order "To destroy the coast towns and shipping and ravage the country", demanded immediate surrender giving the fort commander only five minutes to respond. Major Putnam commander of the fort refused to surrender but the inhabitants of Eastport feared destruction of the town if the fort resisted. At the urging of the town Putnam agreed to strike his flag and the British agreed to respect all private property while seizing all public property. About 1,000 British troops with 60 pieces of artillery were landed. A proclamation was issued declaring that all the villages and islands in and around Passamaquoddy Bay were in permanent possession of the British. Trade was soon opened by the British at Eastport which provided a strong temptation for Maine people to smuggle illegal items (mostly food) that the troops needed. This would be a problem throughout the remainder of the war. Commodore Hardy's easy occupation of Eastport and the local islands, encouraged the British to attempt the conquest of all the country between Passamaquoddy Bay and the Penobscot River.
The British next moved on the small garrison at Robbinston who destroyed what they could not carry away and retreated to Machias. These men were to be involved in a later incident at Frankfort.

Shortly thereafter a small body of men from two armed ships at the mouth of the St. George's river entered the fort below Thomaston at night, spiked the guns, destroyed the munitions and buildings, set fire to one vessel and towed away two others. This latter adventure caused a general alarm along the Penobscot. The Militia was ordered out at Camden and a draft was made on the Bangor Militia to reinforce the regular troops garrisoned at Castine. Machias had reason to expect the enemy at any moment. A general invasion seemed eminent. General Blake, Commander of the Eastern Militia, was alerted and some Militia units were ordered to rendezvous at Bangor.

The Cruise of the Adams

The United States Corvette John Adams, a sloop of war, rated for 18 guns, but mounting 24 was under the command of Captain Charles Morris of Woodstock, Conn. Capt. Morris was a professional Naval Officer whose competency would make him a notable figure during his career in the U. S. Navy. During the winter of 1813-14 the Adams was blockaded in the Potomac river. During a snow storm in January Capt. Morris ran the blockade, escaped to sea and began a cruise that, according to one source, captured ten British merchantmen but another source says that within the space of three months, a ship, two brigs and a schooner were taken. In any case, the cruise was very successful and the Adams became a prime target for the British fleet.

Several sources indicate the Adams was manned by two hundred and fifty eight officers, men and marines. This seems like a very large number for a vessel of this size, especially when compared with other vessels of 16 to 18 guns manned by just over 100 men. However that may be, while cruising northward in search of other British vessels the Adams ran on a rock in the fog off the Isle au Haut on August 17, 1814. Morris succeeded in floating his vessel but not until considerable damage had been done. Fearing that the British would learn of his mishap and his vessel needing repair he put up the Penobscot and beached her at Hampden, a short distance below Crosby's Wharf (later Long Wharf) and the mouth of Souadabscook Stream. Nearby was anchored the Decatur and Victory recently arrived from Europe with valuable cargos as yet unloaded.

Williamson says that the Adams "***had been with extreme difficulty, taken up the river by her Commander***". Those who are familiar with navigation on the river as it narrows above Fort Point can appreciate how difficult it would be to get a fairly large sailing vessel as far up the river as Hampden. Sail alone above Marsh Bay (and frequently below) for a large
vessel was particularly difficult. Typically such an operation involved more than one day, going up river on the incoming tide using sail enough to maintain headway, and control the vessel which at times required the help of oarsmen in the vessel's longboat; the vessel would ride at anchor during the outgoing tide and this process would continue until the destination was reached.

After arriving at Hampden Capt. Morris and his crew immediately set about refitting his vessel for another cruise. Morris must have known that if he was discovered he could easily be trapped and probably destroyed but concluded it was safer far up river than in a coastal port.

THE PENOBSCOT EXPEDITION

Control of Penobscot Bay

Notwithstanding smuggling and illegal trade, British troops at Halifax were in dire need of provisions. Capt. Barrie, later the scourge of the Penobscot, in the Dragon, 74 guns, was dispatched to Halifax from the Chesapeake Bay with 800 barrels of flour and other captured provisions. Shortly after Barrie's arrival an expedition was planned against the Penobscot and Machias.

On August 26th a strong force sailed from Halifax to attack Machias but learned in route that the Adams was in the Penobscot and decided to make her capture or destruction the first objective. The British squadron consisted of the battleships Dragon, Spencer and Bulwark, 74 guns each, frigates Burhante and Tenedon; sloops of war Sylph and Peruvian, armed schooner Pictou, a tender and 10 transports. One source says that the troops with sailors and marines made a force of about 6000. Williamson, however, says there were about 3000 troops.

"Some said there were 6000 embarked. It is only certain that the forces consisted of the 62nd and 98th regiments, 2 rifle companies of the 60th regiment and a detachment of royal artillery; possibly in all, 3500 men, besides women and children attached to the army."

The expedition was under the command of Lieutenant General Sir John Sherbrooke, who would later become Governor of Nova Scotia. Major General Gerard Gosselin commanded the troops and Rear Admiral Edward Griffin the fleet.

On the morning of Sept. 1st the fleet anchored in Castine harbor. Lieutenant Lewis of the U. S. Army with about 40 men plus a Militia detachment under Lt. Little from Bucksport, about 125 men total, occupied the half-moon redoubt known as Fort Porter. The fort was armed with four twenty-four pounders and two three pound brass field pieces.
Overwhelmed by the size of the British force, the defenders didn't wait for a summons to surrender, but immediately fired then spiked their guns, blew up the magazine and escaped with the two field pieces up river. The Militia had retired previously and was joined by Lewis on the way to Bucksport.

Troops from the fleet were soon landed taking possession of Castine and with it, control of Penobscot Bay.

Later in the day a flag was dispatched across the bay to Belfast advising the town that if it did not resist it would not be molested. On the morning of the 2nd, however, the town was occupied by 600 troops under General Gosselin and after foraging among the farms for a few days the whole force returned to Castine.

With the capture of Castine it only remained to take Machias to complete the objective of returning all the territory between Eastport and Penobscot bay to British control.

**The Advance to Frankfort**

The Adams was still the immediate objective and learning that she had gone up river, a detachment of troops and part of the fleet left Castine about noon on Sept. 1st to "Capture or destroy" the corvette. The detachment included the Dragon, Sylph, Peruvian, a small schooner as a tender, the transport Harmony with nine launches (in WW II they would be called landing craft) under the command of Capt. Robert Barrie of the Royal Navy as Commodore. The vessels carried 500 infantry and a small train of light artillery, about 700-750 in all commanded by Lt. Col. Henry John and Major Riddle.

That night the expedition anchored in Marsh bay off Frankfort. The vessels were probably anchored just west of the channel (on the village side) in the area roughly from what is now Winterport Docks to Hardy's Point. The presence of a battleship of 74 guns, two sloops-of-war and a transport probably thoroughly frightened the villagers. One can easily imagine that the news would spread like wild fire through the village and up river to Oak Point and Bald Hill Cove (North Frankfort) and into the back area settlements. The tension and uncertainty would last throughout the fall.

Early on the morning of the 2nd the British sent a detachment of 700 men from Castine to Bucksport and recovered the two brass field pieces carried away by Lt. Lewis on his retreat, threatening to burn the town. Lt. Lewis and his regulars managed to cross the river in the night and were present at the battle. Lt. Little and his Militia were not so successful. While on the march to Bangor they were fired on by the pursuing ships opposite Frankfort and seeing that a detachment of riflemen were being landed to intercept them, they left the main road and followed a trail through the
woods around Sweats' Hill in Orrington. At nightfall they arrived at Goodale's Corner where Mr. Goodale provided quarters for the night. Because of the detour, and perhaps Mr. Goodale's daughter, Lt. Little and his men never reached the battlefield. It appears that Little was in no hurry to leave Orrington as he later married the daughter.

**Call Out the Militia**

On the retreat from Castine Lt. Lewis managed to send a dispatch to Capt. Morris at Hampden advising that Castine had been occupied and part of the fleet was on its way up river. Morris notified Gen. Blake, Commander of the Militia, at his home in Brewer and requested that he call out the Militia to defend his vessel. Although Morris and Blake had no official information they correctly assumed that the objective was the Adams.

After receiving information of the British movement, General Blake mounted his horse and late in the afternoon of the 1st was in Bangor issuing orders to assemble the 2nd Brigade, 10th Division, Mass. Militia, specifically the 3rd Regiment of this Brigade under Lt. Col. Andrew Grant of Hampden. That same evening General Blake rode to Hampden to meet with Capt. Morris.

The Militia units mixed with volunteers started arriving about noon of the 2nd and continued coming in by companies throughout the afternoon and evening. Official Mass. Militia records show that troops were supplied from Dixmont, Hampden - 3 companies, Brewer, Bucksport, Monroe, Eddington - 2 companies, Orrington, Bangor and Frankfort - 2 companies. Most of these units were activated from Sept. 1st to the 4th. There were about 500 Militiamen present plus the crew of the Adams, Lt. Lewis and his contingent from Castine, the Bangor Light Artillery and an unknown number of volunteers. As a matter of interest, the Muster Rolls of the Frankfort companies under Capt. Elisha Thayer and Capt. Amos Weston are reproduced as they appear in "Massachusetts Volunteer Militia in the War of 1812" P. 216 and 217
**Gen. John Blake's Brigade, 3d Regiment, 2d Brigade, 10th Division.**

Service at Hampden. This regiment in battle at Hampden, Sept. 3, 1814.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Officer</th>
<th>Field and Staff</th>
<th>Andrew Tyler, Jr., Paymaster, Frankfort</th>
<th>Edmund Abbott, Surgeon's Mate, Frankfort</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Blake, Brigadier General, Bangor</td>
<td>Andrew Grant, Lieutenant Colonel, Hampden</td>
<td>Enoch Mudge, Chaplain, Orrington</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Joshua Chamberlin, Major, Orrington</td>
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<td>Rufus Gilmore, Adjutant</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ebenezer Brewer, Quartermaster, Orrington</td>
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**Capt. Elisha Thayer's Company, Lieutenant Colonel Grant's Regiment.**

From Sept. 1 to Sept. 4, 1814. Raised at Frankfort. Service at Hampden. Company in battle at Hampden.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank and Name</th>
<th>Ellingwood, Ralph</th>
<th>Page, James</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elisha Thayer, Captain</td>
<td>Goodwin, Francis L. B.</td>
<td>Page, William</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Thompson, Lieutenant</td>
<td>Goodwin, William</td>
<td>Parker, Oliver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saul Trevett, Ensign</td>
<td>Grant, William</td>
<td>Patten, Moses B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Lain, Sergeant</td>
<td>Hobin, Richard</td>
<td>Pickard, Joshua</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Curtis, Sergeant</td>
<td>Idle, Rowland</td>
<td>Rogers, Knowles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Nickerson, Sergeant</td>
<td>Idle, Stephen</td>
<td>Sedgley, Daniel, Jr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathaniel Grant, Musician</td>
<td>Johnson, Isaac</td>
<td>Shaw, William H.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Johnson, Thomas</td>
<td>Sparrow, Benjamin</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Keene, William</td>
<td>Sparrow, Joshua</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kenney, Benjamin</td>
<td>Treadwell, Jacob</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kingsbury, John</td>
<td>Treat, Ezra</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kingsbury, William</td>
<td>Trivett, Benjamin</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lain, Charles</td>
<td>Wardwell, Jeremiah</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lain, Daniel</td>
<td>Weed, Moses</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lain, Elijah</td>
<td>Weed, Nathan</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lain, Silas</td>
<td>Wentworth, Gant</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nichols, George</td>
<td>West, William</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nickerson, Aaron</td>
<td>Wintworth, Joshua</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nickerson, Jesse</td>
<td>Witham, Jetham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oakman, Tobias</td>
<td>Woodman, Benjamin</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank and Name</th>
<th>Privates.</th>
<th>Littlefield, Jeremiah</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baker, Moses</td>
<td>Ellingwood, Joseph</td>
<td>Low, Asa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowlin, John</td>
<td>Grant, Josiah</td>
<td>Low, Elijah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowlin, Peter</td>
<td>Grant, Samuel</td>
<td>Mugridge, William</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campbell, Daniel</td>
<td>Hall, Amos</td>
<td>Ritchie, Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clark, John</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sedgley, Samuel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cole, Joseph</td>
<td></td>
<td>Snow, Edward</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curtis, James, Jr.</td>
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<td>Tibbetts, William</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curtis, John</td>
<td></td>
<td>Twombly, Nathaniel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Downs, Joshua</td>
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<td>Downs, Paul</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Capt. A. Weston's Company, Lieut. Col. Andrew Grant's Regiment.**

From Sept. 1 to Sept. 4, 1814. Raised at Frankfort. Service at Hampden. Company in battle at Hampden.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank and Name</th>
<th>Privates.</th>
<th>Littlefield, Jeremiah</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amos Weston, Captain</td>
<td>Carlton, John</td>
<td>Low, Asa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel White, Lieutenant</td>
<td>Chase, John</td>
<td>Low, Elijah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Rowell, Lieutenant</td>
<td>Clark, James</td>
<td>Mugridge, William</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Littlefield, Sergeant</td>
<td>Clark, Robert</td>
<td>Ritchie, Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Husner, Sergeant</td>
<td>Clemmons, Prentice</td>
<td>Sedgley, Samuel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Sawyer, Sergeant</td>
<td>Courtland, Henry</td>
<td>Snow, Edward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Ritcher, Sergeant</td>
<td>Ellingwood, Joseph</td>
<td>Tibbetts, William</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel Littlefield, Musician</td>
<td>Grant, Josiah</td>
<td>Twombly, Nathaniel</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Grant, Samuel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Hall, Amos</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

9.
Captain Thayer's Company

Capt. Thayer's Company contains most of the names with which the writer can associate. The Bolan (Bowlin) brothers, John and Peter, were sons of John and Chloe (maiden name unknown) Bolan. The Bolans were early settlers and John, Jr. was to marry Anna Lombard in 1816, but this day he and brother Peter were young (23 and 20 respectively) and ready for adventure.

John Bolan was probably typical of Capt. Thayer's men. He was issued a musket, bayonet, cartridge box, iron rammer, scabbard and belt, knapsack, 3 flints and 24 cartridges with balls. He was discharged Sept. 4th after 3 days service. He received 80 cents in wages (based on $8 per mo), 60 cents for rations, 5 cents for "allowance for arms" and 25 cents allowance for privates clothing or a total of $1.70. It is not clear whether this equipment was issued prior to the "call out", however it appears to be Militia issue; (Department of the Interior Pension Office papers dated Feb. 19, 1879 and supporting Mass. Militia service record.)

Like other people along the river the Bolans did what it took to live and that included operating a farm, cutting timber, fishing, going to sea and working in shipyards. These activities changed in intensity with the seasons and whether Capt. Kempton or the Treats had a vessel under construction in one of the yards.

Capt. John Kempton first came to Frankfort from Plymouth with Dr. F. L. B. Goodwin in 1789 and bought land on and near Oak Point. He and the good Dr. went back to Plymouth and returned in August of 1790. Capt. Kempton brought his family. He located his house on a hill overlooking a cove that eventually became known as Kempton's Cove.

Capt. Kempton built the first vessel in town named The Cynthia and it is said that he fired a vessel still in the stocks to prevent its capture by the British advance.

One of Capt. Kempton's sons, Lemuel (who also was known as Capt.) married Sally Sturgis Bemen of Plymouth via Hallowell on 2nd April 1815. She was living on Oak Point prior to that, perhaps with the Kemptons, and was a teacher of North Frankfort children. She was present when the British passed Oak Point on Sept. 2nd and like many other women anxious to protect their valuables, she gathered hers, perhaps a few pieces of silver plate and a few silver coins, placed them in a porcelain mug and hid them in a tree. Whether this was Dr. Goodwin's famous Bacon Tree which was near by, I don't know, family tradition says it was.
In any case "Aunt Sally Kempton's" mug, pictured below, is now in the possession of Mrs. John (Maryanna Fernald) Moran of Winterport, ME.

The Downes family lived near Bald (Bauld) Hill Cove. A Hancock County Deed (1:37) shows that Paul Downes acquired 100 acres on 18 May 1779. The Downes family also did a little of everything to make a living. Paul and Deborah (Woodman) Downes had 13 children, 11 of whom are known to have lived beyond infancy. One son, John, spent his life as a sailor and served aboard the USS Superior during the war of 1812. In 1820 he married Mehitable Sparrow. John was lost at sea in February 1827. Sons Paul, Joshua and James served with Capt. Thayer. Paul Downes, Jr. was born in 1790, he married Mary Moore and eventually moved to Swanville. Joshua Downes born ca 1798 went to sea after the war and later married Sally Nickerson. James Downes was born 27 Jan. 1796, married Chloe Twining 28 May 1818 and spent most of his life on his No. Frankfort farm with intermittent periods at sea. James and Chloe were the parents of Nathan Twining Downes who was the Genealogist of the Frankfort Downes Family.

James Downes was not properly recorded on the Muster Roll and had to file extensive supporting evidence of his participation with his pension application 50 years later. Because it is so extensive, it contains detail not usually found in such documents,
explaining that he was visited by Orderly Sargent James Curtis and ordered to join the Company when it came to North Frankfort. He said that he and presumably the rest of the company watched and counted the troops as they landed at Bald Hill Cove on the evening of the 2nd. This would indicate that the two Frankfort Companies, probably because of their familiarity with the territory, were at least among those assigned advance picket duty to watch the British movement.

Further evidence that this was the case is found in the death of young Tobias Oakman. The records show that he was taken prisoner and forced to act as guide for the British Advance. One account says he was killed by the British trying to escape another account says he was killed by the first American volley. Mrs. Littlefield (Old River Town) says "Tobias Oakman was shot at his side (Capt. Johnston's) as they were going over a stone wall." Capt. Johnson in this case is Private Thomas Johnson who may also have been taken as a guide. Young Oakman was 26 and unmarried when he died on Sept. 2nd or 3rd (accounts conflict) and was to be the only fatal casualty in Gen'1 Blake's force. He was the son of Capt. Tobias and Olive (Little) Oakman who bought land at Frankfort in 1787. One of his sisters, Penelope, had married Josiah Fernald in June of 1809.

Joseph Cole came to Frankfort shortly after 1800, probably from Plympton, Mass., and married Hannah Wheelden. They lived near Cole's Corner in North Frankfort. Like John Bolan, Joseph served 3 days for $1.70 and went home to work the farm. Son Hiram Cole would marry John Bolan's daughter, Mary Annie, on 20 Sept. 1853 and their daughter Mary Esther (Cole) Downes was the writer's grandmother.

The Orrington - Bucksport Companies

In 1992 not many people are aware that in the 19th century and the first 2 or 3 decades of the 20th century there was extensive social contact between the people in Winterport (Frankfort) and those across the river in No. Bucksport, Bucksport Center and So. Orrington. Some owned land on both sides and there were many marriages that crossed the river. Capt. Ware's Orrington Company had Atwoods, Bakers, Downes, Freemans and Wheeldons who were related to Frankfort people. In Capt. Abram Hill's Bucksport Company you find such familiar names as Baker, Higgins, Hoxie, Rich and Reed.

Private Littleton Reed was the son of William and Elizabeth (Eldridge) Reed. The Reeds came to No. Bucksport shortly after 1800 from Truro - Provincetown, Mass. Littleton was a merchant, seaman and farmer who married Cynthia Lewis in Nov. 1814. They were the grandparents of Annie Reed who married Capt. William R. Fernald, 8 Nov. 1895 and were the grandparents of the writer. Littleton survived the battle of Hampden with no ill effects, his father was not so fortunate.
When the British fleet came up the river the Sloop of War Sylph with Capt. Barrie aboard fired its cannon indiscriminately at farms and other buildings on both sides of the river. William Reed was in Orrington visiting his friend William Loud when his shoulder was carried away by a cannon ball and he died within a few minutes. The inscription on his headstone in the Riverview Cemetery, No. Bucksport, notes this incident.

British mischief caused the Methodist Quarterly Conference at Orrington to be cancelled, the record reads "Sept. 3, 1814, the British troops coming up river prevented Q.M. They shot a cannon ball through the meeting house this day."

The Advance to Bald Hill Cove

The historical narrative of the "Records of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia" says that on the morning of the 2nd a detachment of British troops was landed at Frankfort and the vessels proceeded up river. The detachment marched up the western side of the river unmolested and the squadron arrived at Bald Hill Cove at about 5 o'clock in the evening. Neither Williamson nor Chapman mention this landing but, if true, it must have caused quite a stir as they moved through the village and along the road to Oak Point arriving at the Bald Hill Cove encampment during the evening.

Williamson's account says "The winds being light and adverse the Dragon did not weigh anchor during the day; but the residue of the squadron with great exertion, ascended a couple of leagues, into Bald-hill-cove, and landed at sunset, on the west bank, two miles below Morris batteries, about 500 light troops including a small train of artillery." This being the case the Dragon appears to have remained at anchor just below the village for about a week. During this time there must have been several landings of foraging parties for food and water. There must be numerous Winterport family legends of this period similar to Dr. Goodwin's Bacon Tree and "Aunt Sally" Kempton's mug. A collection of such stories would make interesting reading on a winter evening.

James Downes' pension application indicates that he was one of the advance pickets placed to watch and report British movements. The main body of Militia remained under arms and Capt. Morris' men stood by their guns all night because the pickets were reporting that the enemy was preparing to move by both land and water as early as daylight or before, wind and weather permitting. The troops on both sides spent the night of the 2nd exposed to a drenching rain storm which meant no fires, no hot food, and soaking wet clothing, but like soldiers since recorded history, rum aplenty helped control the jitters from the wet cold and the stark terror which waiting creates.

13.
The Advance to Hampden

On the morning of the 3rd the river valley was shrouded in dense fog but by 5 o'clock all the British forces were in motion toward Hampden. With little or no visibility they moved up the road, that was located very nearly like the present highway, with great caution in the mist and fog. Skirmishers screened the center, on the flanks were detachments of marines and sailors with a six-pound cannon, a six and one-half inch howitzer and rocket apparatus. The British vessels moved slowly up river at the same time within supporting distance.

General Blake had sent two companies of Militia to act as advance pickets to watch and annoy the advancing enemy. As pickets are supposed to do, they maintained contact with General Blake's headquarters and slowly fell back on the main body of troops. This is probably the action in which Tobias Oakman was captured. Between seven and eight o'clock they reported the British crossing the brook (Pitcher's Brook) below the battlefield.

The Battlefield

The battlefield was bounded on the west by the highway, on the east by the river, on the north by Souadabscook Stream and on the south by Pitcher's Brook.
The sketch on the previous page appears in "Historic Hampden, 150th Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Town, Sept. 4, 1944" Mrs. Lora Blanding Knott.

Immediately after receiving word of the capture of Castine on the 1st, Capt. Morris and his crew started to prepare for the defense of the Adams. Using men and oxen they man-handled the heavy cannon from the Adams and established a battery of nine guns on the high ground about a hundred feet above the river opposite the grounded vessel. A battery of 13 guns was stationed on Crosby's (Long) Wharf. One gun was placed in the gap between the two batteries. This was a strong position which Morris believed the British could not pass if his flanks could be protected. The guns were commanded and served by the officers and crew of the Adams.

General Blake took a strong position on the crest of the hill just south of the Academy. His right rested near the church (erected in 1794) which is the site of the present town office and his left extended to the river just south of the hill battery. The line of battle overlooked the sloping ground to Pitcher's Brook, which was then an open pasture and is now Locust Grove Cemetery. Col. Grant commanded the right of the line; Major Chamberlain, the left. The British would have to advance across this open ground.

In the roadway in front of the church Blake placed an eighteen pounder taken from the Adams. Two brass field pieces of the Bangor Light Artillery were placed west of the road and controlled the bridge across the brook. These guns were commanded by Lt. Lewis and served by his men who had escaped from Castine.

The Adjutant's returns on the night of the 2nd showed the total number under arms to be about 500 militiamen, mostly Col. Grant's regiment from the surrounding towns, a part of Capt. Trafton's troop of horse and the Bangor Light Artillery Company under Capt. Hammond. Those militiamen and volunteers who arrived on the field without arms were supplied with muskets from the Adams. It has been estimated the total force numbered about 750.

The Council of War
On the afternoon or evening, it is not clear which, of the 2nd, General Blake and Capt. Morris and their officers met with the Selectmen and influential citizens of Hampden in a Council of war. Apparently it was customary at that time to give the citizens of a town a major voice in deciding if and to what extent the town would be defended. Something like war by Town Meeting, which in this case sealed the fate of Hampden, Bangor and the Adams.

15.
The military men were in agreement that Blake's line should be strengthened by throwing up breastworks, digging rifle pits and where appropriate, entrenching. Had this been done the position would have been nearly impregnable when held by a determined force. In addition it would have kept the Militia busy during the rainy night, improved their confidence in their officers as well as the comfort of knowing that they had some protection from enemy fire.

The citizenry, however, were apparently divided on whether the town should be defended at all. The matter of an appropriate defense was debated at length and Capt. Morris tried mightily to convince them to do so but no specific agreement seems to have been reached, except that a line of battle be formed as previously described. Morris appears to have been reluctant to rely on the Militia but had no choice but to do so for the protection of his batteries and flanks from the British land force. He expressed his intention to destroy the Adams should the Militia retreat.

From this distance it is hard to understand why General Blake didn't put his troops to work on breastworks and other defenses once the decision was made to form a line of battle. It could have made a difference but then, military history is a fertile field for after the fact strageties and tacticians who do not experience the confusion and uncertainty that swirls around the decision maker at such times. Blake was being urged by Morris vigorously to meet the enemy at his landing place (Bald Hill Cove?) while the town wasn't sure it wanted to risk the aftermath of a fight. The result was a defense that had virtually no chance of success.

The Battle

Between 7 and 8 o'clock in the morning of the 3rd the enemy was reported crossing Pitcher's Brook. The steady tramp on the roadway and bridge could be heard by this time but only glimpses of them could be seen because of the fog. Lt. Lewis opened with his guns but failed to check the enemy who crossed the brook, formed line of battle and started to advance up the hill. Chapman ("The Battle of Hampden") says that Tobias Oakman and a British captain were killed by Lewis' guns.

The Militia were ordered to hold their fire until the enemy was near enough for the shots to count. The British laid down a well drilled and disciplined fire and as they approached the crest of the hill advanced at the "double-quick" firing volleys in rapid succession and because of the fog and smoke, the Militia couldn't see them clearly until they were upon them with gleaming bayonets and that awesome controlled presence. The ordeal of waiting without breastworks, the sheer terror that had built through the night, being wet and hungry, was too much for the untrained, untried farm boys, wood choppers, and fishermen to withstand. Some on the
flanks fired a few rounds at the enemy, but the center of the line gave way quickly and the dreaded words "we are flanked" spread along the line in both directions. James Downes said he stayed on the field as long as "anyone in Capt. Thayer's Company." The Militia simply could not resist the charge of the British regulars and they fled in panic in all directions, to the woods, their homes, hiding or throwing away their arms and removing all evidence of involvement from their persons. All attempts by the officers, notably Major Chamberlain, to rally the men to make a stand at the Souadabscook Bridge failed.

The retreat of the Militia left Lewis and his guns uncovered. Sergeant Bent fired the 18 pounder one last time, spiked it and fled. Capt. Hammond got away with his two brass field pieces which were hidden in the woods in Bangor.

When the first reports of the British advance were received on the 3rd Capt. Morris rushed to his wharf battery. The British ships preceded by a number of barges crowded with troops could be seen through the fog and Morris opened fire sweeping the river with canister and grapeshot for about 20 minutes. Because of the range the battery fire was not effective. Never really trusting Blake and the Militia, Morris sent a squad south of the hill battery to watch the enemy and to cover its flank if attacked. He soon received word that the Militia was in full retreat. Certain of being captured, the guns of the hill battery were spiked and the men fled to the bridge. Morris set fire to the buildings, spiked the guns of the wharf battery and set the Adams ablaze. British troops blocked Morris and his men from the bridge so they swam the stream, fled to Bangor and escaped capture by continuing via back roads to the Kennebec and Portland.

Within about an hour Hampden was under British control.

Casualties

Various accounts of the battle differ on the number of casualties. Williamson says "Our loss was three or four killed; the British lost by death and desertion about 3 times that number." Chapman says "Blake had one man killed, eleven wounded. The British lost one captain and one marine (killed), Captain Gell of the twenty-ninth and one private wounded." The correct number may never be known but casualties were obviously light. The two Englishmen are said to be buried in an old graveyard in the rear of the town hall. A number of citizens were made prisoners and confined overnight in the cramped spaces aboard the merchant ship Decatur but were released the next day on parole.
Occupation of Hampden and Bangor

The British left a force of about 200 men to secure the battlefield and village with the remainder in pursuit of the retreating Militia and crew of the Adams toward Bangor. Hampden, however, was to pay a high price for its decision to join in the defense of the Adams. The occupation force and other troops as they passed through town ransacked homes, took the best for their quarters, killed cattle, pigs, etc., and generally appropriated food and other needs from the supplies of the townspeople. Needless to say the people were terrified. Williamson says a committee asked Capt. Barrie for the "Common safeguard of humanity." He is said to have replied "I have none for you. My business is to burn, sink and destroy. Your town is taken by storm, and by the rules of war we ought both to lay your village in ashes and put its inhabitants to the sword. But I will spare your lives, though I mean to burn your houses." Fortunately Barrie didn't have time to carry out his burning threat on the 3rd and a messenger was dispatched to Gen. Sherbrooke at Castine who issued an order not to burn without dire necessity. This may have saved both Hampden and Bangor from total destruction.

Capt. Barrie, Col. John and most of the British force arrived at Bangor about noon. They were met by the Selectmen with a white flag who surrendered the town to Col. John. In the meantime the Militia had dissolved.

Despite its capitulation Bangor didn't fare much, if any, better than Hampden. The ships had arrived first and the sailors immediately proceeded to plunder $6000 worth of goods from six waterfront stores. When the troops arrived they were quartered in the Court House and in the school houses; the officers took over private houses and Hatch's Tavern built in 1801. At different times during the afternoon and evening various groups of sailors or troops would go on a drunken rampage, rifling homes of those who had left town (probably Militiamen), books and papers of law offices and other businesses and of course the grog shops, of which Bangor had an abundance. The town was just beginning to acquire its reputation for lumber.

The townspeople furnished food and other supplies in quantity and later in the day Barrie ordered that all liquor supplies be destroyed to prevent a breakdown of discipline among the troops. Needless to say this latter order was not strictly obeyed. Nearly 200 male inhabitants were placed on parole not to bear arms against His Majesty until exchanged. All arms and powder and the two brass field pieces carried away from Hampden were surrendered on threat of burning the town.
During the night of the 3rd and part of the 4th they burned the vessels lying at Bangor, 14 in all and carried 6 away with them including the Bangor Packet. They also planned to burn the vessels being built and still on the stocks in the village and across the river in Brewer. This so alarmed the inhabitants, who feared that the flames fanned by the typical southeasterly breeze would destroy the village, that the Selectmen gave the Brits a bond for $30000 conditioned that the unlaunched vessels would be completed and delivered to Castine by Nov. 1st. A subsequent investigation estimated losses and damages to the town and ship owners to be in excess of $45000 (Williamson). A small amount today but a fortune at the time.

Late in the afternoon of the 4th the British returned to Hampden with the captured vessels, several horses and other booty and camped near Morris' hill battery. The next day, Sept. 5th, was spent creating havoc in the town and generally terrorizing the citizens. The merchant ships Decatur and Katusoff were burned. The Decatur had arrived at Hampden in July from Rochelle with a valuable cargo of brandy, wine, oil and silks which had not been completely unloaded before the battle. Presumably the British confiscated what was left. The cannon on the wharf and on the hill were pitched into the river and the enemy exacted a bond similar to that obtained at Bangor in the amount of $12000. It was later estimated that the town had suffered damages amounting to $44,000.

Return to Frankfort

On Sept. 6th the enemy proceeded to Frankfort where the vessels anchored and rejoined the Dragon. The latter had been there since the 1st. The Commodore, Barrie, promptly demanded that the town supply 40 oxen, 100 sheep and an unspecified number of geese. He also demanded that the town surrender its arms and ammunition. The animals were supplied but only a few of the arms were turned in. "In general the sturdy republicans of this town were slow to obey any of his commands," Williamson, II:648. The town succeeded in staring Barrie down and on the 7th he and the troops reboarded their vessels and returned to Castine. Three years later one George Halliburton sued the town for a yoke of oxen furnished the British at the request of the Selectmen. He failed to convince the Court. 14 Mass. T. Reports, AD 1817 p 214.

THE BRITISH CONSOLIDATE THEIR GAINS

Other Areas Threatened

British success on the Penobscot alarmed other areas of the state to the potential danger. The Kennebec could be next. The coastal towns were especially apprehensive. Gen. King of Bath ordered his Militia Division to assemble at Wiscasset and other towns in the area. A part of Gen. Sewell's Div. was also called out. The movements of the British were constantly watched. Sightings were
made off Pemaquid on Sept. 10 and 11. A party of British troops actually landed briefly at Camden and Northport. These Militia units remained on duty at Wiscasset until it was known that the fleet had moved east of Castine.

The Capture of Machias
On Sept. 12th Gen. Sherbrooke and Admiral Griffith with about half of the troops in several vessels left Castine for the long awaited attack on Machias. The town was defended by a fort garrisoned by about 50 U.S. regulars, a few militiamen and the small force that had retreated from Robbinston after the fall of Eastport. The fort was commanded by Capt. Leonard and mounted ten 24 pound guns.

The troops were landed near Bucks Harbor on the 13th and started the short march to the fort. During this time the British war ships were conducting a heavy bombardment of the fort. It soon became obvious to Leonard that the fort could not withstand the attack and he with Lts. Morse and Manning supervised the destruction of the guns, fired the barracks, blew up the fort and retreated. The British now considered the area between the St. Croix and the Penobscot totally under their control and the fleet sailed for Halifax.

The Cocoa Incident at Frankfort
During the summer of 1814 and prior to the arrival of the Adams in the river, the merchant vessel Katusoff arrived at Frankfort. Although she would be burned at Hampden on Sept. 5th she was a British vessel that had been taken and placed under the command of prize master Capt. Alexander Milliken of Frankfort. Her cargo was predominantly, perhaps totally, cocoa that had been sold at auction in Boston to a Mr. Thorndike who was one of the Ten Proprietors. The cargo was discharged into McGlathry's storage shed which was located at the site of the old Haley store on the corner of Whig and Main Streets. "However, rumor of the approach of the British caused it to be hastily removed. From this point stories of the cocoa are many and varied, some of them perhaps more interesting than truthful. ****Perhaps the whole incident might be fittingly called the "Frankfort Cocoa Party." Old River Town - Littlefield p. 54.

On their retreat from Machias Capt. Leonard, Lts. Morse and Manning with their men came to Frankfort (sometime after Sept. 13th) where they found a British sloop under a flag of truce with a small party who were demanding the cocoa and perhaps other articles. The American troops promptly captured the vessel, took the party prisoners, threw the cocoa that had been loaded overboard, set the vessel afire and proceeded westward and eventually delivered the prisoners to the Marshal at Salem. "Our people became so alarmed, fearing a return of the British, that many fled to the country, many burned their household goods or buried silver in the gardens." Old River Town p. 103, 104. See also Williamson II:651.
Provincial Government Established

In Halifax, Gen. Sherbrooke issued a proclamation dated Sept. 21st establishing a Provincial Government for the newly conquered land from New Brunswick to and including the east bank of the Penobscot and off-shore islands. Frank E. Downes, great-grandson of James Downes, and the writer's grandfather, always referred to Orrington and Bucksport as the "British side of the river."

Gen. Gosselin was appointed to govern this country from Castine. This town became a port of entry and a collector of customs was appointed. Commercial privileges were granted to all the ports to the east of Castine and a brisk trade developed in European goods for local produce, domestic animals and lumber.

During the fall and winter (1814-15) Castine became the center of amusement and culture for British Officers and men on what we would later call "R & R". A theatre was opened and the popular European soiree became equally popular at Castine.

The U.S. mail was stopped at the river but smuggling persisted in both directions. The U.S. made Hampden a port of entry and a collector of customs was appointed. Neutral vessels were allowed to enter the ports on the west side of the river and in this way goods legally passed from Castine to Hampden, sanctioned by the Secy. of the Treasury. The "Anything for a buck" philosophy is not of recent origin.

Being unable to deliver the unfinished vessels to Castine as required, Bangor and Hampden drafted a petition praying to be relieved of the terms of the bonds and sent it with a deposition to Gen. Sherbrooke at Halifax. Hampden was flatly denied any relief but Bangor was told they could either destroy the vessels, deliver them, sell them and turn the proceeds over to the soldiers who captured them or pay the bond. Fortunately peace was declared in December and the terms of the bonds were never enforced.

The British Leave

British troops evacuated Castine on April 25, 1815 after an eight month occupation. The occasion was the cause of celebrations on both sides of the Penobscot as well as "down-east." Confiscated property was restored and both government and business gradually returned to normal. As an unknown author put it "Peace, joy, tranquillity, and prosperity came with the birds and blossoms in the spring of 1815, and from that day until now no foreign enemy has ever appeared on our coast."
THE AFTERMATH

When mistakes are made or when judgements turn out to have been wrong, someone must be found to bear the blame. Does this sound familiar? History certainly does repeat itself. In this, as in most other cases, there was a very broad base upon which to spread the blame, unfortunately Col. Grant and the Militia were selected to bear it.

After the battle of Hampden a public outcry arose that the behavior of the Militia and its officers amounted to little more than cowardice bringing great discredit on American arms, etc., and was the primary cause of the losses of the citizenry. In other words, the only locals to make an effort to defend the honor of the region were somehow thought to lack courage and to be the cause of everything that went wrong.

The Court of Inquiry

In response to the furor, Gov. Strong on May 15, 1815 ordered a Court of Inquiry into the conduct of the officers. The Court consisted of Major General Sewall of Augusta, Brigadier Generals Irish of Gorham and Payson of Wiscasset. They met for about a week at the Court House in Bangor.

Brigadier General John Blake of Brewer was a veteran of the Revolution with a spotless record and unquestioned bravery but here he was before the Court charged with cowardice and even treason. The charges cited his tardiness, non-compliance with Capt. Morris request that he attack the enemy at his landing place, his failure to throw-up breastworks and other alleged inefficiencies. The clamor against him eventually started to cool and the Court taking into account the situation at Hampden that day, acquitted him and commended his personal conduct.

The Court Martial

Shortly after his acquittal General Blake placed both Major Chamberlain and Col. Grant under arrest. Both were tried by a Court Martial in the spring of 1816. Major Chamberlain, the grandfather of Joshua L. Chamberlein, hero of Little Round Top at Gettysburg and later Governor of Maine, was acquitted but Col. Grant was suspended from his command for two years.

Was a Successful Defense Ever Possible?

The Militia as a group and as individuals must have endured heart breaking frustration at the expense of their fellow citizens that our Vietnam veterans can empathize with. In
evaluating the conduct of the Militia it must be remembered that they were untrained country boys who were asked to go up against combat experienced, first line British troops. Their training, if any, was largely confined to the occasional parade and the meetings were more of a social event than a training exercise. Their officers were also untrained, often elected on the basis of popularity rather than ability. No, this was not an act of cowardice, on the contrary it was an act of bravery that would be hard to match today. They were simply outgunned and overwhelmed by a superior force. The same thing was to happen to their sons and grandsons 50 years later in Virginia and Louisiana where a fair amount of "skedaddling" would occur in the face of a superior force. The major difference was that they won that war and the individual actions took place a long way from home.

The Militiamen that gathered in Hampden on Sept. 2nd and 3rd do not need our apologies instead they deserve to be remembered with honor as an important part of our heritage.

Hampden and the rest of the Penobscot Valley have every reason to be proud of the behavior of their ancestors in those trying times - I know that I am.

THE END
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The Naval War of 1812, William S. Dudley

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Some interesting reading about life along the Penobscot in the first half of the 19th Century, including the battle of Hampden, can be found in:

The Strange Woman, Ben Ames Williams and Pink Chimneys, Ardeana Hamlin Knowles

24.
PETITION FROM FRANKFORT, ME., 1807, FOR MILITARY COMPANY.

Communicated by John F. Pratt, of Chelsea, Mass.

"To the Honorable Senate and the Honorable House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in General Court assembled, A. D. 1807,

Your Petitioners beg leave to represent that they reside within the limits of a company of Militia in the Town of Frankfort, now under the Command of Capt. Henry Sampson; That Said Company contains upwards of one hundred effective privates, & that from Said Company a Sufficient Number may be taken to form a respectable company of Light Infantry without Infringing any Statute of this Commonwealth. Your Petitioners therefore pray that they may be organized and officered as such, with powers to enlist from such Company of Militia within the Town of Frankfort, as may from time to time contain a greater number than Sixty-four effective privates, and that they may be attached to the Third Regiment, First Brigade, Tenth Division of the Militia of this Commonwealth, and as in duty bound will ever Pray.

(Signed.)

Philo N. Washburn, Isaac Milliken,
Archibald Jones, Charles McGlathry,
Edmund Abbott, Go. Wetherell,
Tisdale Dean, Alfred Baylies,
William Andrews, Geo. Sparhawk,
Amos Grant, Samuel Merrill,
Andrew Grant, William R. Ware,
Ephraim Grant, James Dwinel,
Richard Thurston, Peter Littlefield,
Aaron Littlefield, Joel Grant,
Joseph R. Folsom, Timothy Thordikey.
Erasmus Jones, J. McGlathry,
Simeon Kenney, Alex. McGlathry,

Lincolnville, May 25, 1807.

I hereby certify that in my opinion, that it will (be) highly beneficial to the interest of the Militia in the tenth Division to grant the prayer of the foregoing petition.

Geo. Ulmer, Maj. Gen. 10th Division.

Officers of Capt. Henry Sampson's Company of Foot, May, 1807.

Henry Sampson, Captain; Elisha Thayer, Lieutenant; Waldo Pierce, Ensign; Samuel Merrill, Jonas Woodman, Nathan Phillips, Joseph Wheelden, Sargents; Reu'n Winchell, Drummer; Dan'l Veazey, Fifer."

Source: Bangor Historical Magazine
Sir John C. Sherbrooke is represented as a man of splendid talents and courtly manners; he has more show and more the air of authority and command, and more precipitation than the late Chief Justice Sewall; but in other respects there is said to be a strong resemblance.

Edward Griffith, Esq., rear admiral of the white, is somewhat younger than Sherbrooke; is rather tall, well proportioned; with blue eyes and lightish complexion. He appeared to be affable and easy in his manners, and mild in temper; a man of handsome talents.

Robert Barrie is a post-captain of the Dragon, 74. He is said to be a native of New York; but some call him an Irishman. He is about thirty-eight or forty years old; of more than middling stature; not very handsomely built. His complexion is of a darkish hue. He speaks quick, often rather snappish, and assumes quite a consequence and importance. As he entered Capt. Hatch’s, and saw Thomas Hatch dealing out some brandy to his soldiers, he knocked down young Hatch with his fist, and kicked over and spilled his cask of brandy. In him was nothing gentlemanly, nothing generous, nothing great. He was bold without magnanimity, cruel without cause; even unmercifully rough both to prisoners and to his own men. As said in a statement from Hampden, “he is what God Almighty designed for a brute.”

Henry John, lieutenant-colonel of the rifle corps, is some younger than Barrie, but not so well favored; is somewhat cross-eyed, but has more of the man; has less bluster, but more ability. He however could without remorse hear of undeserved severity, and witness unprovoked plundering and pillage.

Barrie was dressed like officers of the navy. He wore, blue coat and pantaloons, and shoes; a large brimmed, rather low crowned hat; no lace on his clothes while at Bangor; two epaulettes. John wore a bottle-green or smoke-blue short jacket, and pantaloons of same color, with a cap something like that of an infantry soldier.

Major Riddle wore a short red coat, and dark mixed woolen pantaloons, and a cap. All the other infantry officers were dressed like him; each wore two epaulettes. The riflemen were dressed like Col. John. There was a part or whole of a company of Germans, who wore dark bottle green short coats. The officers and almost every soldier were under forty years of age. They had two drums; one, an elegant brass one; but they bent upon them none. All their martial music was a bugle horn; the buglar was dressed in white.

Source: Bangor Historical Magazine
The following (P. 28-34) is excerpted from "The History of Frankfort" by Erasmus Jones. This part of the book was written by Mr. Jones in 1844 and was published in 1897 together with additions by C. K. Lougee, Mrs. Charles Abbott and E. Ferren Blaisdell.

The portion excerpted describes some of the incidents that occurred in the town during the War of 1812, specifically the year 1814 and the battle of Hampden. Some differences from those previously described will be noted such as the account of the British Fleet in Marsh Bay, etc. The events described by the writer were taken from generally accepted versions and such official records as could be found. Mr. Jones' account appears to have been based on his memory as well as the memory of other local citizens who were living at the time which makes it interesting and no doubt accurate in most - perhaps all details.

My sincere thanks to Mr. Henry Wiswell of Orrington for a copy of the "History of Frankfort."

W. F. Fernald
The year 1814 is memorable for the visit paid our river by a British fleet. It was in the month of September that the enemy took possession of Castine, and the same day the news of the event reached this place. It was expected that the enemy would immediately ascend the river with the intention of capturing the John Adams, an American frigate then lying at Hampden. To meet the emergency, the militia were called out, and a watch kept during the night. Soldiers were stationed as sentries at intervals along by the river, with orders to bring to all boats that might be ascending the river and inquire into their business. One boat belonging in Orrington containing three or four men, not answering when hailed, was fired upon; the shot fell into the water and did no harm. It had the effect however, of bringing them to and when their destination was known they were allowed to pass. The next morning the enemy's fleet was seen coming up the bay with a moderate breeze. Many of the people at the marsh had assembled on Beale Mt., from whence they looked down upon them with intense
anxiety. As they came fanning along they kept boats out ahead to sound the way, sometimes using their barges manned by eighteen oars to tow their ships.

Some time previous to this there had been brought into the river a vessel taken as a prize, loaded with cocoa, named the Kettusorf. Her valuable cargo had been sold at auction, being bid off by Boston gentlemen. One of the purchasers was Mr. Thorndike, one of the Ten Proprietors, who happened to be here. This cocoa was discharged into the McGlathry store and the vessel sent up river.

As soon as news was received that the British had captured Castine, and were expected up the river, teams were employed in removing the cocoa to Campbell's hill, where it was stored. They were actively engaged in the business that night and the next morning until the fleet was in the river, when it was thought prudent to desist, though it had not all been removed. During the night, Mr. Richard Thurston's store—the building now occupied by Mr. Wm. Holmes (the lot where Moody's cooper shop now stands) had been used as a place of rendezvous for the men employed as a watch during the night and the next morning as the fleet came along seeing armed men in the road by the store, they fired an eighteen lb. shot which passed through a window in the second story on the back side, came out of a window on the front side, passed through a shed attached to A. L. Kelly's house and struck the ground in McGlathry's field, not far from some females who had gone there for safety. This
ODD FELLOWS' BLOCK.
shot was intended to disperse the warlike demonstrations on the road, and it had the desired effect, for the soldiers scattered with great agility, being only impeded by tumbling over one another in their great anxiety to place themselves out of danger, and were soon lost sight of in the direction of the woods. It was now feared a regular cannonading would ensue, and the inhabitants began to seek places of safety for themselves. Perhaps the excitement which prevailed may be best shown by an anecdote. Those who lived upon Shaw's hill, fearing from their position that they were peculiarly exposed, collected their women and children and hurried them off in a body to the house now occupied by John Oakman (this house was back Northwest of the cemetery.) One gentleman who had got his blood very warm in the business and his mind abstracted in the excitement caught up a thin pair of pantaloons as he was leaving his house which he exchanged on the march for the thick ones he had on without being aware of it at the time or having any recollection of it afterwards; though of course so singular a proceeding did not pass unnoticed by the rest of the company.

No more shots were fired, and as the ships passed along they seemed desirious of exciting admiration rather than fear. On the decks the troops in rich uniform, were arranged so as to show to best advantage. The yards were covered with marines in uniform also, the fleet consisted of three large vessels, two of them sloops of war accompanied by smaller vessels, trans-
ports and gun boats, the whole making an imposing and beautiful show, and only wanting to be divested of the idea of war and bloodshed to call forth feelings of admiration and delight.

The troops from the fleet were landed this side of the Cove, where they made their encampment for the night converting the neighboring houses into barracks. The next morning a regiment of Militia of about seven hundred men had been collected at Hampden, (most of them had been under arms the day previous) and were posted on the hill by the old meeting-house. Capt. Morris, who commanded the frigate John Adams lying at the wharf where he intrenched himself, intending to make a desperate resistance. He also detached his first lieutenant with an eighteen pounder to assist the land force. This piece was planted in the road by the meeting house and supported the right wing of the infantry, the left extending in two lines down towards the river. A picket guard had been stationed during the night on the road leading to the Cove, to watch the movements of the enemy. The morning was very foggy which allowed the enemy to advance upon the guard so closely that some of them were taken prisoners at the lower corner. One of the prisoners was Tobias Oakman of this town.

As the British advanced they put their prisoners in front of the column which is one of the expedients the cruelty of war allows to defend themselves. As they ascended the hill after passing the bridge, the field-piece opened its fire upon them, killing and wounding
This occasioned some confusion in their ranks, which the prisoners took advantage of to attempt their escape. Tobias Oakman, attempting this, was shot through the head and killed instantly, two others were more successful, one of the men ran behind a barn and got off, another fell down feigning death until the column passed over him, and then escaped.

Gen. Blake gave strict orders that no one should fire until they could see the enemy. The British on the contrary commenced a galling fire from behind a board fence which they had taken as a cover causing several in our ranks to fall. This our men could not stand, some here and there broke from the ranks and fled. This became more and more frequent, and soon the whole body was precipitately retreating in great confusion, amounting to a complete rout, some of them not having seen the enemy at all.

Capt. Morris, as soon as he knew the Americans were defeated spiked his guns, sent his men round a point of land in his boats to join the retreating soldiers remaining behind, himself to apply the match which blew up his vessel, thereby narrowly escaping being taken prisoner.

A knowledge of the facts in the case must lead to the conclusion that the defeat of Hampden was not as is generally supposed, disgraceful to our arms. In the first place it is never to be supposed that a body of men collected together with barely a day's notice, poorly equipped, without drill or discipline, officered
by men without practical knowledge, the men having no confidence in their officers, nor the officers in their men, can contend successfully with an equal body of men who have been instructed in the necessary evolutions for years, desperate men who have deliberately enlisted, commanded by officers who have made war the study of their lives. A case of successful opposition under such circumstances is probably not on record. The great mistake then, was in attempting to resist at all unless a much larger and better drilled army could have been collected.

Again the only chance of success was allowed to pass, this was the night previous. Gen Herrick, who was then commander of the cavalry, requested permission to go with a few hundred men and surprise them in their encampment. This request Gen. Blake refused to grant. Under cover of a dark, foggy night, it might have been successful.

A mistake was made in occupying the brow of the hill where our men could be seen by the enemy before they themselves were visible on account of the fog. No discredit can attach to the men composing our force for they acted as all other men in the circumstances would have acted. Much blame has been attached to Gen. Blake and no doubt he erred greatly in judgment, particularly in supposing that new militia would stand a fire without breaking and not permitted to return it; but the charges which have been alleged against him of being bribed, and of cowardice, are not sustained. Those who knew him well say he was in-
HISTORY OF FRANKFORT.

He was in the Revolutionary war; and was promoted to the rank of lieutenant for his bravery. At one time he, with a few men, captured some British officers who were at the time playing cards in a private house, and carried them into the American lines. He was afterwards Captain of a company, in the army raised under John Adams' administration, in apprehension of a war with France. At the time of the engagement at Hampden he lived at East Orrington, and was somewhat advanced in life. He has died within a few years aged more than 80, (this history was written in 1844.)

The enemy having possession of the place, committed many acts of wantonness in revenge for opposition they had met with, as breaking crockery, spilling molasses over the floors and mixing ashes with it, grinding up feather beds in a grist mill, etc., etc. It however relieves somewhat the dark page of history devoted to scenes of war, to record some deeds of humanity.

The wounded of our soldiers who could not be carried off the field in their hasty retreat fell into the hands of the enemy but were treated with great kindness, their wounds were dressed by their own surgeons and their wants well provided for. The wounded in all were thirteen, three of them from this town. John Carleton of this town, was shot down by a musket-ball in the thigh. He was partly carried off the field by his comrades, then dropped, he expostulated, but they answered we cannot help and left him to his fate while they sought their own safety by flight. He crawled
through a fence into a corn field, where he lay some hours when he was found much exhausted by loss of blood, by a British who gave him wine from his canteen and removed him to a house where his wounds were dressed.

In the morning before the action Solomon Tibbetts, of this town, was going to join the ranks when he saw a company marching on the street, which he took to be a company sent out from the American lines to reconnoitre. They were dressed in a handsome uniform with green jackets and high caps, and these were in reality a German company composing the vanguard of the British army.

He stood looking at them until they had got nearly by him, when he heard one of them say, "there's an enemy," with a pronunciation he knew was not Yankee, then he started to run and as he passed them, the whole company, twenty in number fired at him without hitting him. The men then wanted to follow him with the bayonet but the Captain said "No, let the poor fellow live after running such a gauntlet as that."

The British fleet was up river six or eight days during which time they visited Bangor. On their way back, they anchored off this place, took in water, and made demand for provisions. They were furnished with ten oxen, about thirty sheep, potatoes and other vegetables. These were brought forward on the assurance from the selectmen, that they should be paid for by the town, but when a town meeting was held, it was decided that the selectmen had transcend-
ed their powers and those who had furnished provisions had to bear their own loss. The Penobscot Indians followed the fleet down as far as this and camped on the opposite side of the river, expecting to be employed by the British in committing depredations, but here they were told that their services would not be required, and they returned home. Capt. Little was the greatest sufferer from the British here. He had a brig loaded with timber, which they took away with them and sent to Liverpool.

On their passage down the river, the sloop Sylph got aground on Haley's Point, (near the steam mill) where she discharged a quantity of cannon balls to lighten her. These were taken possession of by some of the people at the Marsh and were quite valuable.

Not long after the British had taken their departure, they sent up here a sloop under the protection of a flag of truce, demanding the cocoa which had been hauled into the country. That at first deposited at Campbell's Mills had been sent farther into the country. Some of it to Thorndike farm in Jackson, some was stored at Livermore's in Monroe, some at Lowe's in Goshen. They immediately commenced hauling it back, where Lieut. Morse with about twenty armed soldiers, being routed at Eastport where he was stationed came through at Hampden. Hearing of this vessel he came down, went on board where he found a chest of arms which deprived her of the protection of a peace flag. He threw overboard the cocoa she had taken in, set the vessel on fire and cut her adrift. She floated up stream
enveloped in flames, and soon burned to the water's edge. The Lieut. immediately took his departure, carrying off her crew as prisoners. This bold act took our people by surprise, and filled them with great consternation. They feared the enemy would send a force and commit atrocities similar to those committed at Hampden. Many of the families moved into the back part of the town, and most sent off their household goods, losing half their crockery in transportation. Some barreled up their crockery and burned it in their gardens, many secured their silver spoons and other most valuable articles in this way. A deputation was immediately sent to Castine to state the facts concerning the burning of the vessel and to assure them that the people of this town had no part in the transaction. Upon first receiving information of it, Gen. Goslin ordered out six hundred troops which our commissioners took as a bad omen, but they succeeded in pacifying the Gen. and in satisfying him that our people were not to blame in the affair.

From the time the cocoa was first landed, the people generally seemed to regard it as lawful plunder, and few felt any compunctions in taking it wherever they could find it. When it was on the way to Campbell's a good many bags were filched from the carts, and after it was stored they would break into the buildings and steal it by night. Mr. Daniel Campbell had a quantity of it stored in his dwelling house, which for safe keeping, when the English officer was expected to demand it, he hid in the woods, every bag of which
HISTORY OF FRANKFORT.

was carried off.

Sometimes a man would be riding along with a bag of it on his horse behind him, when another would come up, seize it, and make off in an opposite direction. One man from the back part of the town, stationed himself near the wharf as the teams came out loaded at night, and as they passed he would snatch a bag and hide it in a field of oats near where Edward Fermi's store is (now Mrs. A. E. Treat's.) In this way he had secured several bags and had gone for another when someone who had been watching him, carried off his booty, and he was obliged to go home without any cocoa. At the time the cocoa was thrown overboard from the vessel everybody there was welcome to all he could carry off, several boats were loaded; in one case they threw it into a boat until the owner begged them to stop, or they would sink him. When the vessel was burned, there were several loads on the road, which of course was supposed did not belong to any one in particular, and this scattered in all directions, while they were hauling the teamsters felt justified in taking their pay out of their loads, as they were not paid in any other way and one of them if no more, hauled his load to his own barn instead of the vessel and buried it in his hay-mow. After peace was declared, the owners in Boston sent down an agent to hunt up their cocoa, and search warrants were produced to seek for it. Some of it was recovered, but a great deal was never found; it was scattered in all possible ways. In some cases the floors were removed
HISTORY OF FRANKFORT.

to make a safe deposit and replaced; one old lady outwitted the officer when he came by putting it in the pot over the fire. After the search was over it was offered very plentifully for sale. One man who had been very diligent, got a horse and peddled it round the country for six months. It found its way even to the Kennebec.

These facts are recorded because they are matters of history. It were to be wished for the credit of our town that they had never transpired; there were men, however, here, who would have nothing to do in the business, and who discountenanced all the proceedings altogether. The only excuse which can be offered to palliate such conduct, is that the cocoa was taken from the enemy, and would again fall into their hands, if not taken possession of. It is one of the thousand evils attending the dreadful scourge of war, the feeling of enmity and hostility blunts the moral sense and renders obtuse those faculties which under other circumstances would discriminate between right and wrong. That it was a thievish propensity alone that prompted these acts, is showed by the fact that Major Ware sent as many as fifty barrels of pickeled fish a mile or two back and had them rolled into a gully not far from the public road, where they remained scarcely depredated upon for sometime.

One other incident connected with this war deserves to be recorded in which some of the citizens of this town manifested great bravery. The Rertusorf which was taken with the cocoa, was brought in here by Capt.
Alexander Milliken of this place, who was put on board her as prize master. He afterwards commanded a privateer fitted out at Thomaston which returned from her cruise without any success. Six of her crew, three of them from this town, Isaac Milliken, Joseph Ellingwood, and Thomas Seavey, being dissatisfied with this result, went out in an open boat and captured a rich prize off Castine and carried her into Camden. This daring act was but poorly rewarded. Justice should have given the prize to her captors, but the owners of the privateer by a protracted and expensive lawsuit succeeded in cutting them off with only their share as privateersmen.
A SLOOP-OF-WAR

The sloop-of-war, or corvette, was ship rigged, having three masts; but she carried guns only on her upper or spar deck.
IN DEFENSE
OF THE
"ADAMS"

SOME MEN AND WOMEN OF FRANKFORT (WINTERPORT)
AND THE BATTLE OF HAMPDEN

BY
WILLIAM F. FERNALD
DEDICATION

This piece is dedicated to the memory of John and Anna (Lombard) Bolan, Joseph and Hannah (Wheelden) Cole, Paul and Mary (Moore) Downes, James and Chloe (Twining) Downes, John and Mehitable (Sparrow) Downes, Joshua and Sally (Nickerson) Downes, Capt. Lemuel and Sally (Bemen) Kempton, Tobias Oakman son of Capt. Tobias and Olive (Little) Oakman of Frankfort; William and Elizabeth (Eldridge) Reed and Littleton and Cynthia (Lewis) Reed from No. Bucksport all ancestors of the writer; as well as all of the other men and women who participated in this action independently or as part of Capt. Elisha Thayer's Co., or Capt. Amos Weston's Co. of Lt. Col. Andrew Grant's 3rd Regt., 2nd Brigade 10th Div. Massachusetts Militia.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to acknowledge with sincere appreciation the assistance provided to me by the staff of the Maine State Library, the staff of the Maine Historical Society Library, Mrs. Ralph Millner of the Hampden Historical Society, Mrs. John Moran (Maryanna Fernald) Winterport, Mr. Henry Wiswell, Orrington, and to Mrs. Louise Lasselle for the typing, spelling, punctuation, etc., my special thanks.
FOREWORD

The research and development of family history and genealogy is becoming an increasingly popular pastime for more and more older, and some not so old Americans. After retirement, such a project seemed like a good way to spend the winter days and nights. The original object was to do a simple son of the-son of the genealogy, but wives names were too interesting to ignore and it soon became evident that we had, I should say have, the proverbial tiger by the tail. Research of North Frankfort, Oak Point and Coles Corner, etc. families is especially challenging because most of the early town records were destroyed by fire in 1903.

In the course of this research we keep coming across the War of 1812, specifically the battle of Hampden fought in early September 1814. As several ancestors were engaged in this ill-fated affair it seemed appropriate to do a separate piece on it. No startling new historical facts have been discovered, the outcome is the same and the same mistakes are evident. This story has been written many times before by authors who have far greater ability for such things than I. The only thing different in this account is that we have tried to emphasize the participation of some Frankfort and North Bucksport citizens and Militia Companies by identifying specific individuals, most of whom are ancestors.

Farmingdale, ME
February 25, 1992

William Fernald
THE WAR OF 1812 AND SOME OF ITS CAUSES

The Situation

During the thirty year period between the end of the Revolutionary War (1783) and 1812, the United States was struggling to establish a workable system of government consistent with free enterprise while protecting the basic freedom of its citizens. Although life along the Penobscot was tough, even for the times, it grew a pace. Most of the dwellings were little more than huts built by the settlers largely from the materials at hand and the tools they brought with them. Notwithstanding, new settlers, mostly from Cape Cod, Boston and the North Shore, came to Frankfort and other towns or Plantations on both sides of the river. In the first census of 1790 Frankfort could count 891 souls.

The attraction was land and timber, lots of it, also a beautiful river full of salmon, alewive and smelts. Trade was developing rapidly; exporting timber and fish to coastal cities to the south and to European ports; importing household goods, cloth, flour, etc. In fact trade, shipping and shipbuilding dominated the economy of Maine and the rest of New England during this period and influenced the war to come.

Britons Dilemma

In 1803 the U. S. concluded the Louisiana Purchase with Napoleon I which extended our territory dramatically and included disputed areas in and near Canada. This together with our persistent attempts to trade with France created suspicion in London about U. S. neutrality. Great Briton and her allies had been locked in a life or death struggle with Napoleon since 1796 and the British Navy which gained undisputed control of the seas after the battle of Trafalgar, was trying to enforce a blockade of European ports controlled by Napoleon.

The British Navy of over 1000 ships, was always in desperate need of manpower during this period. In response to their need Parliament authorized the Navy to stop and search any foreign vessel, remove all British nationals and press them into His Majesty's Service. This practice inevitably involved American ships and American seamen. As unconscionable as this was, one can understand how difficult it must have been for a British boarding party to distinguish an American from an Englishman. The result seems to have been that they simply took the number of men needed regardless of nationality.

American Reaction

The blockade of European ports and the impressment of American seaman created a furor in the United States and war was declared on June 18, 1812. Ironically this was two days before
the British agreed to repeal the impressment laws. For want of better communication the war might have been avoided. This problem was to repeat itself when the most significant American land victory of the war was won by Andrew Jackson's army at the battle of New Orleans on Jan. 8, 1815 some fifteen days after the Treaty of Ghent which ended the war was signed on Dec. 15, 1814.

Support for the War
Support for the war was by no means universal. Opposition was strongest among the Federalists of New England and the coastal trading states who feared a British embargo of U. S. goods and a blockade of U. S. ports. These states even withheld money and troops in the early years of the war until British harassment of trade and the impressment issue won more enthusiastic participation.

"Williamson's History of Maine", hereafter Williamson, says that although our state (Massachusetts) government was Federalist, Maine voters favored the Democrat Candidate for Governor in the election of 1813 and 1814. This would seem to indicate that there may have been more support in Maine than other parts of the region for "Mr. Madison's War", as the Federalists cynically called it.

Support for the war predominated among the Democrats of the south and west led by Henry Clay of Kentucky and John C. Calhoun of South Carolina who promoted it as "The Seamen's War" undertaken for "free trade and sailors' rights." These people, however, also had a semi-secret agenda to attack Canada and expand our territory west of the Mississippi. They believed Briton would be venerable while so heavily engaged with France.

The War Ashore
When the war started the regular army numbered only about 10,000 men and very few trained officers. This placed a burden on the Militia, which in many cases was little more than a social organization, that it was unable to fully accept. All the Canadian invasions failed, Washington was occupied and the White House burned on August 24, 1814 just a few days before the battle of Hampden.

The War at Sea
The war at sea was only a little more successful. The Navy began the war with fewer than twenty seagoing ships. Notwithstanding, it managed to win a few spectacular victories such as Lake Erie and the defeat of HMS "Boxer" by USS "Enterprise" off Monhegan on 5 Sept. 1813. The Navy supplemented by a fleet of adventurous privateers took 1500 British prize ships. These were a few of the exceptions, however, and not the rule.
History's Treatment of the War

For most, the war of 1812 is not a great moment in American History, perhaps because we didn't do very well militarily, or perhaps because the American people were divided on its merits. Unfortunately it has never achieved the prominence in our history that it deserved, because, if nothing else, it proved that the Government would not fall apart under the first serious challenge and that the American people could find a unifying issue among the many controversial issues when their security was being threatened. In spite of our poor showing militarily, Great Briton nor any other nation has ever threatened us again on our own shores.
MAINE'S INVOLVEMENT

1812-1813

Most of the last half of 1812 was spent in preparation for war - luckily the war in Europe was keeping the British busy - but they continued to impress American seamen wherever and whenever they could. The National Government called upon the States for a detachment of 100,000 militiamen, of which 2,500 was to come from the Province of Maine; and also took steps to enlarge the regular army and navy.

From the spring of 1813 until the end of the war, British squadrons were increasingly active along the New England coast threatening the destruction of coastal cities and villages as well as coastal shipping.

British Incursions Against Maine

The year 1814 was the most difficult year of the war for Maine; indeed for the whole country. The British were determined to make this year decisive on land and sea. During June the Massachusetts towns of Wareham, Orleans, Yarmouth, New Bedford and Fair Haven came under attack and Boston was frightened into a major updating of its harbor defenses. Local citizens had certainly felt the effects of the first two years of the war but no territory had actually been invaded. This was to change dramatically.

In early July 1814 Commodore Sir Thomas Hardy, with a small expedition secretly sailed from Halifax and joined a fleet from Bermuda that included several transports, entered Passamaquoddy Bay on the 11th and anchored off Fort Sullivan at Eastport. Commodore Hardy, charged with Admiral Cochrane's order "To destroy the coast towns and shipping and ravage the country", demanded immediate surrender giving the fort commander only five minutes to respond. Major Putnam commander of the fort refused to surrender but the inhabitants of Eastport feared destruction of the town if the fort resisted. At the urging of the town Putnam agreed to strike his flag and the British agreed to respect all private property while seizing all public property. About 1,000 British troops with 60 pieces of artillery were landed. A proclamation was issued declaring that all the villages and islands in and around Passamaquoddy Bay were in permanent possession of the British. Trade was soon opened by the British at Eastport which provided a strong temptation for Maine people to smuggle illegal items (mostly food) that the troops needed. This would be a problem throughout the remainder of the war. Commodore Hardy's easy occupation of Eastport and the local islands, encouraged the British to attempt the conquest of all the county between Passamaquoddy Bay and the Penobscot River.
The British next moved on the small garrison at Robbinston who destroyed what they could not carry away and retreated to Machias. These men were to be involved in a later incident at Frankfort.

Shortly thereafter a small body of men from two armed ships at the mouth of the St. George's river entered the fort below Thomaston at night, spiked the guns, destroyed the munitions and buildings, set fire to one vessel and towed away two others. This latter adventure caused a general alarm along the Penobscot. The Militia was ordered out at Camden and a draft was made on the Bangor Militia to reinforce the regular troops garrisoned at Castine. Machias had reason to expect the enemy at any moment. A general invasion seemed eminent. General Blake, Commander of the Eastern Militia, was alerted and some Militia units were ordered to rendezvous at Bangor.

The Cruise of the Adams

The United States Corvette John Adams, a sloop of war, rated for 18 guns, but mounting 24 was under the command of Captain Charles Morris of Woodstock, Conn. Capt. Morris was a professional Naval Officer whose competency would make him a notable figure during his career in the U. S. Navy. During the winter of 1813-14 the Adams was blockaded in the Potomac river. During a snow storm in January Capt. Morris ran the blockade, escaped to sea and began a cruise that, according to one source, captured ten British merchantmen but another source says that within the space of three months, a ship, two brigs and a schooner were taken. In any case, the cruise was very successful and the Adams became a prime target for the British fleet.

Several sources indicate the Adams was manned by two hundred and fifty eight officers, men and marines. This seems like a very large number for a vessel of this size, especially when compared with other vessels of 16 to 18 guns manned by just over 100 men. However that may be, while cruising northward in search of other British vessels the Adams ran on a rock in the fog off the Isle au Haut on August 17, 1814. Morris succeeded in floating his vessel but not until considerable damage had been done. Fearing that the British would learn of his mishap and his vessel needing repair he put up the Penobscot and beached her at Hampden, a short distance below Crosby's Wharf (later Long Wharf) and the mouth of Souadabscook Stream. Nearby was anchored the Decatur and Victory recently arrived from Europe with valuable cargos as yet unloaded.

Williamson says that the Adams "**had been with extreme difficulty, taken up the river by her Commander**". Those who are familiar with navigation on the river as it narrows above Fort Point can appreciate how difficult it would be to get a fairly large sailing vessel as far up the river as Hampden. Sail alone above Marsh Bay (and frequently below) for a large
vessel was particularly difficult. Typically such an operation involved more than one day, going up river on the incoming tide using sail enough to maintain headway, and control the vessel which at times required the help of oarsmen in the vessel's longboat; the vessel would ride at anchor during the outgoing tide and this process would continue until the destination was reached.

After arriving at Hampden Capt. Morris and his crew immediately set about refitting his vessel for another cruise. Morris must have known that if he was discovered he could easily be trapped and probably destroyed but concluded it was safer far up river than in a coastal port.

THE PENOBSCOT EXPEDITION

Control of Penobscot Bay

Notwithstanding smuggling and illegal trade, British troops at Halifax were in dire need of provisions. Capt. Barrie, later the scourge of the Penobscot, in the Dragon, 74 guns, was dispatched to Halifax from the Chesapeake Bay with 800 barrels of flour and other captured provisions. Shortly after Barrie's arrival an expedition was planned against the Penobscot and Machias.

On August 26th a strong force sailed from Halifax to attack Machias but learned in route that the Adams was in the Penobscot and decided to make her capture or destruction the first objective. The British squadron consisted of the battleships Dragon, Spencer and Bulwark, 74 guns each, frigates Burhante and Tenedon; sloops of war Sylph and Peruvian, armed schooner Pictou, a tender and 10 transports. One source says that the troops with sailors and marines made a force of about 6000. Williamson, however, says there were about 3000 troops.

"Some said there were 6000 embarked. It is only certain that the forces consisted of the 62nd and 98th regiments, 2 rifle companies of the 60th regiment and a detachment of royal artillery; possibly in all, 3500 men, besides women and children attached to the army."

The expedition was under the command of Lieutenant General Sir John Sherbrooke, who would later become Governor of Nova Scotia. Major General Gerard Gosselin commanded the troops and Rear Admiral Edward Griffin the fleet.

On the morning of Sept. 1st the fleet anchored in Castine harbor. Lieutenant Lewis of the U. S. Army with about 40 men plus a Militia detachment under Lt. Little from Bucksport, about 125 men total, occupied the half-moon redoubt known as Fort Porter. The fort was armed with four twenty-four pounders and two three pound brass field pieces.
Overwhelmed by the size of the British force, the defenders didn't wait for a summons to surrender, but immediately fired then spiked their guns, blew up the magazine and escaped with the two field pieces up river. The Militia had retired previously and was joined by Lewis on the way to Bucksport.

Troops from the fleet were soon landed taking possession of Castine and with it, control of Penobscot Bay.

Later in the day a flag was dispatched across the bay to Belfast advising the town that if it did not resist it would not be molested. On the morning of the 2nd, however, the town was occupied by 600 troops under General Gosselin and after foraging among the farms for a few days the whole force returned to Castine.

With the capture of Castine it only remained to take Machias to complete the objective of returning all the territory between Eastport and Penobscot bay to British control.

The Advance to Frankfort

The Adams was still the immediate objective and learning that she had gone up river, a detachment of troops and part of the fleet left Castine about noon on Sept. 1st to "Capture or destroy" the corvette. The detachment included the Dragon, Sylph, Peruvian, a small schooner as a tender, the transport Harmony with nine launches (in WW II they would be called landing craft) under the command of Capt. Robert Barrie of the Royal Navy as Commodore. The vessels carried 500 infantry and a small train of light artillery, about 700-750 in all commanded by Lt. Col. Henry John and Major Riddle.

That night the expedition anchored in Marsh bay off Frankfort. The vessels were probably anchored just west of the channel (on the village side) in the area roughly from what is now Winterport Docks to Hardy's Point. The presence of a battleship of 74 guns, two sloops-of-war and a transport probably thoroughly frightened the villagers. One can easily imagine that the news would spread like wild fire through the village and up river to Oak Point and Bald Hill Cove (North Frankfort) and into the back area settlements. The tension and uncertainty would last throughout the fall.

Early on the morning of the 2nd the British sent a detachment of 700 men from Castine to Bucksport and recovered the two brass field pieces carried away by Lt. Lewis on his retreat, threatening to burn the town. Lt. Lewis and his regulars managed to cross the river in the night and were present at the battle. Lt. Little and his Militia were not so successful. While on the march to Bangor they were fired on by the pursuing ships opposite Frankfort and seeing that a detachment of riflemen were being landed to intercept them, they left the main road and followed a trail through the
woods around Sweats' Hill in Orrington. At nightfall they arrived at Goodale's Corner where Mr. Goodale provided quarters for the night. Because of the detour, and perhaps Mr. Goodale's daughter, Lt. Little and his men never reached the battlefield. It appears that Little was in no hurry to leave Orrington as he later married the daughter.

**Call Out the Militia**

On the retreat from Castine Lt. Lewis managed to send a dispatch to Capt. Morris at Hampden advising that Castine had been occupied and part of the fleet was on its way up river. Morris notified Gen. Blake, Commander of the Militia, at his home in Brewer and requested that he call out the Militia to defend his vessel. Although Morris and Blake had no official information they correctly assumed that the objective was the Adams.

After receiving information of the British movement, General Blake mounted his horse and late in the afternoon of the 1st was in Bangor issuing orders to assemble the 2nd Brigade, 10th Division, Mass. Militia, specifically the 3rd Regiment of this Brigade under Lt. Col. Andrew Grant of Hampden. That same evening General Blake rode to Hampden to meet with Capt. Morris.

The Militia units mixed with volunteers started arriving about noon of the 2nd and continued coming in by companies throughout the afternoon and evening. Official Mass. Militia records show that troops were supplied from Dixmont, Hampden - 3 companies, Brewer, Bucksport, Monroe, Eddington - 2 companies, Orrington, Bangor and Frankfort - 2 companies. Most of these units were activated from Sept. 1st to the 4th. There were about 500 Militiamen present plus the crew of the Adams, Lt. Lewis and his contingent from Castine, the Bangor Light Artillery and an unknown number of volunteers. As a matter of interest, the Muster Rolls of the Frankfort companies under Capt. Elisha Thayer and Capt. Amos Weston are reproduced as they appear in "Massachusetts Volunteer Militia in the War of 1812" P. 216 and 217
MASSACHUSETTS VOLUNTEER MILITIA IN THE WAR OF 1812.

Gen. John Blake's Brigade, 3d Regiment, 2d Brigade, 10th Division.
Service at Hampden. This regiment in battle at Hampden, Sept. 3, 1814.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Officer.</th>
<th>Field and Staff.</th>
<th>Andrew Tyler, Jr., Paymaster, Frankfort</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Blake, Brigadier General, Bangor</td>
<td>Andrew Grant, Lieutenant Colonel, Hampden</td>
<td>Edmund Abbott, Surgeon's Mate, Frankfort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joshua Chamberlin, Major, Orrington</td>
<td>Enoch Mudge, Chaplain, Orrington</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rufus Gilmore, Adjutant</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ebenezer Brewer, Quartermaster, Orrington</td>
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Capt. Elisha Thayer's Company, Lieutenant Colonel Grant's Regiment.
From Sept. 1 to Sept. 4, 1814. Raised at Frankfort. Service at Hampden. Company in battle at Hampden.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank and Name.</th>
<th>Privates.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elisha Thayer, Captain</td>
<td>Ellingwood, Ralph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Thompson, Lieutenant</td>
<td>Goodwin, Francis L. B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saul Trevett, Ensign</td>
<td>Goodwin, William</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Lain, Sergeant</td>
<td>Grant, William</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Curtis, Sergeant</td>
<td>Hobin, Richard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Nickerson, Sergeant</td>
<td>Idle, Rowland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathaniel Grant, Musician</td>
<td>Idle, Stephen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baker, Moses</td>
<td>Johnson, Isaac</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bowlin, John</td>
<td>Johnson, Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowlin, Peter</td>
<td>Keene, William</td>
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<tr>
<td>Campbell, Daniel</td>
<td>Kenney, Benjamin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clark, John</td>
<td>Kingsbury, John</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cole, Joseph</td>
<td>Kingsbury, William</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curtis, James, Jr.</td>
<td>Lain, Charles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curtis, John</td>
<td>Lain, Daniel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downs, Joshua</td>
<td>Lain, Elijah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downs, Paul</td>
<td>Lain, Silas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page, James</td>
<td>Nichols, George</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page, William</td>
<td>Nickerson, Aaron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parker, Oliver</td>
<td>Nickerson, Jesse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patten, Moses B.</td>
<td>Oakman, Tobias</td>
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<td>Pickard, Joshua</td>
<td>Rogers, Knowles</td>
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<td>Rogers, Knowles</td>
<td>Sedgley, Daniel, Jr.</td>
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<td>Shaw, William H.</td>
<td>Sparrow, Benjamin</td>
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<td>Sparrow, Joshua</td>
<td>Treadwell, Jacob</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treat, Ezra</td>
<td>Trivett, Benjamin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trivett, Benjamin</td>
<td>Wardwell, Jeremiah</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wardwell, Jeremiah</td>
<td>Weed, Moses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weed, Nathaniel</td>
<td>Weed, William</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wentworth, Gant</td>
<td>West, William</td>
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<tr>
<td>West, William</td>
<td>Wintworth, Joshua</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wintworth, Joshua</td>
<td>Witham, Jetham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Witham, Jetham</td>
<td>Woodman, Benjamin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From Sept. 1 to Sept. 4, 1814. Raised at Frankfort. Service at Hampden. Company in battle at Hampden.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank and Name.</th>
<th>Privates.</th>
<th>Littlefield, Jeremiah</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amos Weston, Captain</td>
<td>Carlton, John</td>
<td>Low, Asa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel White, Lieutenant</td>
<td>Chase, John</td>
<td>Low, Elijah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Rowell, Lieutenant</td>
<td>Clark, James</td>
<td>Mugridge, William</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Littlefield, Sergeant</td>
<td>Clark, Robert</td>
<td>Ritchie, Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Housner, Sergeant</td>
<td>Clemmons, Prentice</td>
<td>Sedgley, Samuel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Sawyer, Sergeant</td>
<td>Courlard, Henry</td>
<td>Snow, Edward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Ritcher, Sergeant</td>
<td>Ellingwood, Joseph</td>
<td>Tibbetts, William</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Littlefield, Musician</td>
<td>Grant, Josiah</td>
<td>Twombly, Nathaniel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hall, Amos</td>
<td>Grant, Samuel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9.
Captain Thayer's Company

Capt. Thayer's Company contains most of the names with which the writer can associate. The Bolan (Bowlin) brothers, John and Peter, were sons of John and Chloe (maiden name unknown) Bolan. The Bolans were early settlers and John, Jr. was to marry Anna Lombard in 1816, but this day he and brother Peter were young (23 and 20 respectively) and ready for adventure.

John Bolan was probably typical of Capt. Thayer's men. He was issued a musket, bayonet, cartridge box, iron rammer, scabbard and belt, knapsack, 3 flints and 24 cartridges with balls. He was discharged Sept. 4th after 3 days service. He received 80 cents in wages (based on $8 per mo), 60 cents for rations, 5 cents for "allowance for arms" and 25 cents allowance for privates clothing or a total of $1.70. It is not clear whether this equipment was issued prior to the "call out", however it appears to be Militia issue; (Department of the Interior Pension Office papers dated Feb. 19, 1879 and supporting Mass. Militia service record.)

Like other people along the river the Bolans did what it took to live and that included operating a farm, cutting timber, fishing, going to sea and working in shipyards. These activities changed in intensity with the seasons and whether Capt. Kempton or the Treats had a vessel under construction in one of the yards.

Capt. John Kempton first came to Frankfort from Plymouth with Dr. F. L. B. Goodwin in 1789 and bought land on and near Oak Point. He and the good Dr. went back to Plymouth and returned in August of 1790. Capt. Kempton brought his family. He located his house on a hill overlooking a cove that eventually became known as Kempton's Cove.

Capt. Kempton built the first vessel in town named The Cynthia and it is said that he fired a vessel still in the stocks to prevent its capture by the British advance.

One of Capt. Kempton's sons, Lemuel (who also was known as Capt.) married Sally Sturgis Bemen of Plymouth via Hallowell on 2nd April 1815. She was living on Oak Point prior to that, perhaps with the Kemptons, and was a teacher of North Frankfort children. She was present when the British passed Oak Point on Sept. 2nd and like many other women anxious to protect their valuables, she gathered hers, perhaps a few pieces of silver plate and a few silver coins, placed them in a porcelain mug and hid them in a tree. Whether this was Dr. Goodwin's famous Bacon Tree which was near by, I don't know, family tradition says it was.
In any case "Aunt Sally Kempton's" mug, pictured below, is now in the possession of Mrs. John (Maryanna Fernald) Moran of Winterport, ME.

The Downes family lived near Bald (Bauld) Hill Cove. A Hancock County Deed (1:37) shows that Paul Downes acquired 100 acres on 18 May 1779. The Downes family also did a little of everything to make a living. Paul and Deborah (Woodman) Downes had 13 children, 11 of whom are known to have lived beyond infancy. One son, John, spent his life as a sailor and served aboard the USS Superior during the war of 1812. In 1820 he married Mehitable Sparrow. John was lost at sea in February 1827. Sons Paul, Joshua and James served with Capt. Thayer. Paul Downes, Jr. was born in 1790, he married Mary Moore and eventually moved to Swanville. Joshua Downes born ca 1798 went to sea after the war and later married Sally Nickerson. James Downes was born 27 Jan. 1796, married Chloe Twining 28 May 1818 and spent most of his life on his No. Frankfort farm with intermittent periods at sea. James and Chloe were the parents of Nathan Twining Downes who was the Genealogist of the Frankfort Downes Family.

James Downes was not properly recorded on the Muster Roll and had to file extensive supporting evidence of his participation with his pension application 50 years later. Because it is so extensive, it contains detail not usually found in such documents,
explaining that he was visited by Orderly Sargent James Curtis and ordered to join the Company when it came to North Frankfort. He said that he and presumably the rest of the company watched and counted the troops as they landed at Bald Hill Cove on the evening of the 2nd. This would indicate that the two Frankfort Companies, probably because of their familiarity with the territory, were at least among those assigned advance picket duty to watch the British movement.

Further evidence that this was the case is found in the death of young Tobias Oakman. The records show that he was taken prisoner and forced to act as guide for the British Advance. One account says he was killed by the British trying to escape another account says he was killed by the first American volley. Mrs. Littlefield (Old River Town) says "Tobias Oakman was shot at his side (Capt. Johnston's) as they were going over a stone wall." Capt. Johnson in this case is Private Thomas Johnson who may also have been taken as a guide. Young Oakman was 26 and unmarried when he died on Sept. 2nd or 3rd (accounts conflict) and was to be the only fatal casualty in Gen'l Blake's force. He was the son of Capt. Tobias and Olive (Little) Oakman who bought land at Frankfort in 1787. One of his sisters, Penelope, had married Josiah Fernald in June of 1809.

Joseph Cole came to Frankfort shortly after 1800, probably from Plympton, Mass., and married Hannah Wheelden. They lived near Cole's Corner in North Frankfort. Like John Bolan, Joseph served 3 days for $1.70 and went home to work the farm. Son Hiram Cole would marry John Bolan's daughter, Mary Annie, on 20 Sept. 1853 and their daughter Mary Esther (Cole) Downes was the writer's grandmother.

The Orrington – Bucksport Companies

In 1992 not many people are aware that in the 19th century and the first 2 or 3 decades of the 20th century there was extensive social contact between the people in Winterport (Frankfort) and those across the river in No. Bucksport, Bucksport Center and So. Orrington. Some owned land on both sides and there were many marriages that crossed the river. Capt. Ware's Orrington Company had Atwoods, Bakers, Downes, Freemans and Wheeldons who were related to Frankfort people. In Capt. Abram Hill's Bucksport Company you find such familiar names as Baker, Higgins, Hoxie, Rich and Reed.

Private Littleton Reed was the son of William and Elizabeth (Eldridge) Reed. The Reeds came to No. Bucksport shortly after 1800 from Truro – Provincetown, Mass. Littleton was a merchant, seaman and farmer who married Cynthia Lewis in Nov. 1814. They were the grandparents of Annie Reed who married Capt. William R. Fernald, 8 Nov. 1895 and were the grandparents of the writer. Littleton survived the battle of Hampden with no ill effects, his father was not so fortunate.
When the British fleet came up the river the Sloop of War Sylph with Capt. Barrie aboard fired its cannon indiscriminately at farms and other buildings on both sides of the river. William Reed was in Orrington visiting his friend William Loud when his shoulder was carried away by a cannon ball and he died within a few minutes. The inscription on his headstone in the Riverview Cemetery, No. Bucksport, notes this incident.

British mischief caused the Methodist Quarterly Conference at Orrington to be cancelled, the record reads "Sept. 3, 1814, the British troops coming up river prevented Q.M. They shot a cannon ball through the meeting house this day."

The Advance to Bald Hill Cove
The historical narrative of the "Records of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia" says that on the morning of the 2nd a detachment of British troops was landed at Frankfort and the vessels proceeded up river. The detachment marched up the western side of the river unmolested and the squadron arrived at Bald Hill Cove at about 5 o'clock in the evening. Neither Williamson nor Chapman mention this landing but, if true, it must have caused quite a stir as they moved through the village and along the road to Oak Point arriving at the Bald Hill Cove encampment during the evening.

Williamson's account says "The winds being light and adverse the Dragon did not weigh anchor during the day; but the residue of the squadron with great exertion, ascended a couple of leagues, into Bald-hill-cove, and landed at sunset, on the west bank, two miles below Morris batteries, about 500 light troops including a small train of artillery." This being the case the Dragon appears to have remained at anchor just below the village for about a week. During this time there must have been several landings of foraging parties for food and water. There must be numerous Winterport family legends of this period similar to Dr. Goodwin's Bacon Tree and "Aunt Sally" Kempton's mug. A collection of such stories would make interesting reading on a winter evening.

James Downes' pension application indicates that he was one of the advance pickets placed to watch and report British movements. The main body of Militia remained under arms-and Capt. Morris' men stood by their guns all night because the pickets were reporting that the enemy was preparing to move by both land and water as early as daylight or before, wind and weather permitting. The troops on both sides spent the night of the 2nd exposed to a drenching rain storm which meant no fires, no hot food, and soaking wet clothing, but like soldiers since recorded history, rum aplenty helped control the jitters from the wet cold and the stark terror which waiting creates.
The Advance to Hampden

On the morning of the 3rd the river valley was shrouded in dense fog but by 5 o'clock all the British forces were in motion toward Hampden. With little or no visibility they moved up the road, that was located very nearly like the present highway, with great caution in the mist and fog. Skirmishers screened the center, on the flanks were detachments of marines and sailors with a six-pound cannon, a six and one-half inch howitzer and rocket apparatus. The British vessels moved slowly up river at the same time within supporting distance.

General Blake had sent two companies of Militia to act as advance pickets to watch and annoy the advancing enemy. As pickets are supposed to do, they maintained contact with General Blake's headquarters and slowly fell back on the main body of troops. This is probably the action in which Tobias Oakman was captured. Between seven and eight o'clock they reported the British crossing the brook (Pitcher's Brook) below the battlefield.

The Battlefield

The battlefield was bounded on the west by the highway, on the east by the river, on the north by Souadabscook Stream and on the south by Pitcher's Brook.
The sketch on the previous page appears in "Historic Hampden, 150th Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Town, Sept. 4, 1944" Mrs. Lora Blanding Knott.

Immediately after receiving word of the capture of Castine on the 1st, Capt. Morris and his crew started to prepare for the defense of the Adams. Using men and oxen they man-handled the heavy cannon from the Adams and established a battery of nine guns on the high ground about a hundred feet above the river opposite the grounded vessel. A battery of 13 guns was stationed on Crosby's (Long) Wharf. One gun was placed in the gap between the two batteries. This was a strong position which Morris believed the British could not pass if his flanks could be protected. The guns were commanded and served by the officers and crew of the Adams.

General Blake took a strong position on the crest of the hill just south of the Academy. His right rested near the church (erected in 1794) which is the site of the present town office and his left extended to the river just south of the hill battery. The line of battle overlooked the sloping ground to Pitcher's Brook, which was then an open pasture and is now Locust Grove Cemetery. Col. Grant commanded the right of the line; Major Chamberlain, the left. The British would have to advance across this open ground.

In the roadway in front of the church Blake placed an eighteen pounder taken from the Adams. Two brass field pieces of the Bangor Light Artillery were placed west of the road and controlled the bridge across the brook. These guns were commanded by Lt. Lewis and served by his men who had escaped from Castine.

The Adjutant's returns on the night of the 2nd showed the total number under arms to be about 500 militiamen, mostly Col. Grant's regiment from the surrounding towns, a part of Capt. Trafton's troop of horse and the Bangor Light Artillery Company under Capt. Hammond. Those militiamen and volunteers who arrived on the field without arms were supplied with muskets from the Adams. It has been estimated the total force numbered about 750.

The Council of War

On the afternoon or evening, it is not clear which, of the 2nd, General Blake and Capt. Morris and their officers met with the Selectmen and influential citizens of Hampden in a Council of war. Apparently it was customary at that time to give the citizens of a town a major voice in deciding if and to what extent the town would be defended. Something like war by Town Meeting, which in this case sealed the fate of Hampden, Bangor and the Adams.
The military men were in agreement that Blake's line should be strengthened by throwing up breastworks, digging rifle pits and where appropriate, entrenching. Had this been done the position would have been nearly impregnable when held by a determined force. In addition it would have kept the Militia busy during the rainy night, improved their confidence in their officers as well as the comfort of knowing that they had some protection from enemy fire.

The citizenry, however, were apparently divided on whether the town should be defended at all. The matter of an appropriate defense was debated at length and Capt. Morris tried mightily to convince them to do so but no specific agreement seems to have been reached, except that a line of battle be formed as previously described. Morris appears to have been reluctant to rely on the Militia but had no choice but to do so for the protection of his batteries and flanks from the British land force. He expressed his intention to destroy the Adams should the Militia retreat.

From this distance it is hard to understand why General Blake didn't put his troops to work on breastworks and other defenses once the decision was made to form a line of battle. It could have made a difference but then, military history is a fertile field for after the fact strageters and tacticians who do not experience the confusion and uncertainty that swirls around the decision maker at such times. Blake was being urged by Morris vigorously to meet the enemy at his landing place (Bald Hill Cove?) while the town wasn't sure it wanted to risk the aftermath of a fight. The result was a defense that had virtually no chance of success.

The Battle

Between 7 and 8 o'clock in the morning of the 3rd the enemy was reported crossing Pitcher's Brook. The steady tramp on the roadway and bridge could be heard by this time but only glimpses of them could be seen because of the fog. Lt. Lewis opened with his guns but failed to check the enemy who crossed the brook, formed line of battle and started to advance up the hill. Chapman ("The Battle of Hampden") says that Tobias Oakman and a British captain were killed by Lewis' guns.

The Militia were ordered to hold their fire until the enemy was near enough for the shots to count. The British laid down a well drilled and disciplined fire and as they approached the crest of the hill advanced at the "double-quick" firing volleys in rapid succession and because of the fog and smoke, the Militia couldn't see them clearly until they were upon them with gleaming bayonets and that awesome controlled presence. The ordeal of waiting without breastworks, the sheer terror that had built through the night, being wet and hungry, was too much for the untrained, untried farm boys, wood choppers, and fishermen to withstand. Some on the
flanks fired a few rounds at the enemy, but the center of the line gave way quickly and the dreaded words "we are flanked" spread along the line in both directions. James Downes said he stayed on the field as long as "anyone in Capt. Thayer's Company." The Militia simply could not resist the charge of the British regulars and they fled in panic in all directions, to the woods, their homes, hiding or throwing away their arms and removing all evidence of involvement from their persons. All attempts by the officers, notably Major Chamberlain, to rally the men to make a stand at the Souadabscook Bridge failed.

The retreat of the Militia left Lewis and his guns uncovered. Sergeant Bent fired the 18 pounder one last time, spiked it and fled. Capt. Hammond got away with his two brass field pieces which were hidden in the woods in Bangor.

When the first reports of the British advance were received on the 3rd Capt. Morris rushed to his wharf battery. The British ships preceded by a number of barges crowded with troops could be seen through the fog and Morris opened fire sweeping the river with canister and grapeshot for about 20 minutes. Because of the range the battery fire was not effective. Never really trusting Blake and the Militia, Morris sent a squad south of the hill battery to watch the enemy and to cover its flank if attacked. He soon received word that the Militia was in full retreat. Certain of being captured, the guns of the hill battery were spiked and the men fled to the bridge. Morris set fire to the buildings, spiked the guns of the wharf battery and set the Adams ablaze. British troops blocked Morris and his men from the bridge so they swam the stream, fled to Bangor and escaped capture by continuing via back roads to the Kennebec and Portland.

Within about an hour Hampden was under British control.

Casualties
Various accounts of the battle differ on the number of casualties. Williamson says "Our loss was three or four killed; the British lost by death and desertion about 3 times that number." Chapman says "Blake had one man killed, eleven wounded. The British lost one captain and one marine (killed), Captain Gell of the twenty-ninth and one private wounded." The correct number may never be known but casualties were obviously light. The two Englishmen are said to be buried in an old graveyard in the rear of the town hall. A number of citizens were made prisoners and confined overnight in the cramped spaces aboard the merchant ship Decatur but were released the next day on parole.
Occupation of Hampden and Bangor

The British left a force of about 200 men to secure the battlefield and village with the remainder in pursuit of the retreating Militia and crew of the Adams toward Bangor. Hampden, however, was to pay a high price for its decision to join in the defense of the Adams. The occupation force and other troops as they passed through town ransacked homes, took the best for their quarters, killed cattle, pigs, etc., and generally appropriated food and other needs from the supplies of the townspeople. Needless to say the people were terrified. Williamson says a committee asked Capt. Barrie for the "Common safeguard of humanity." He is said to have replied "I have none for you. My business is to burn, sink and destroy. Your town is taken by storm, and by the rules of war we ought both to lay your village in ashes and put its inhabitants to the sword. But I will spare your lives, though I mean to burn your houses." Fortunately Barrie didn't have time to carry out his burning threat on the 3rd and a messenger was dispatched to Gen. Sherbrooke at Castine who issued an order not to burn without dire necessity. This may have saved both Hampden and Bangor from total destruction.

Capt. Barrie, Col. John and most of the British force arrived at Bangor about noon. They were met by the Selectmen with a white flag who surrendered the town to Col. John. In the meantime the Militia had dissolved.

Despite its capitulation Bangor didn't fare much, if any, better than Hampden. The ships had arrived first and the sailors immediately proceeded to plunder $6000 worth of goods from six waterfront stores. When the troops arrived they were quartered in the Court House and in the school houses; the officers took over private houses and Hatch's Tavern built in 1801. At different times during the afternoon and evening various groups of sailors or troops would go on a drunken rampage, rifling homes of those who had left town (probably Militiamen), books and papers of law offices and other businesses and of course the grog shops, of which Bangor had an abundance. The town was just beginning to acquire its reputation for lumber.

The townspeople furnished food and other supplies in quantity and later in the day Barrie ordered that all liquor supplies be destroyed to prevent a breakdown of discipline among the troops. Needless to say this latter order was not strictly obeyed. Nearly 200 male inhabitants were placed on parole not to bear arms against His Majesty until exchanged. All arms and powder and the two brass field pieces carried away from Hampden were surrendered on threat of burning the town.
During the night of the 3rd and part of the 4th they burned the vessels lying at Bangor, 14 in all and carried 6 away with them including the Bangor Packet. They also planned to burn the vessels being built and still on the stocks in the village and across the river in Brewer. This so alarmed the inhabitants, who feared that the flames fanned by the typical southeasterly breeze would destroy the village, that the Selectmen gave the Brits a bond for $30000 conditioned that the unlaunched vessels would be completed and delivered to Castine by Nov. 1st. A subsequent investigation estimated losses and damages to the town and ship owners to be in excess of $45000 (Williamson). A small amount today but a fortune at the time.

Late in the afternoon of the 4th the British returned to Hampden with the captured vessels, several horses and other booty and camped near Morris' hill battery. The next day, Sept. 5th, was spent creating havoc in the town and generally terrorizing the citizens. The merchant ships Decatur and Katusoff were burned. The Decatur had arrived at Hampden in July from Rochelle with a valuable cargo of brandy, wine, oil and silks which had not been completely unloaded before the battle. Presumably the British confiscated what was left. The cannon on the wharf and on the hill were pitched into the river and the enemy exacted a bond similar to that obtained at Bangor in the amount of $12000. It was later estimated that the town had suffered damages amounting to $44,000.

Return to Frankfort

On Sept. 6th the enemy proceeded to Frankfort where the vessels anchored and rejoined the Dragon. The latter had been there since the 1st. The Commodore, Barrie, promptly demanded that the town supply 40 oxen, 100 sheep and an unspecified number of geese. He also demanded that the town surrender its arms and ammunition. The animals were supplied but only a few of the arms were turned in. "In general the sturdy republicans of this town were slow to obey any of his commands," Williamson, II:648. The town succeeded in staring Barrie down and on the 7th he and the troops reboarded their vessels and returned to Castine. Three years later one George Halliburton sued the town for a yoke of oxen furnished the British at the request of the Selectmen. He failed to convince the Court. 14 Mass. T. Reports, AD 1817 p 214.

THE BRITISH CONSOLIDATE THEIR GAINS

Other Areas Threatened

British success on the Penobscot alarmed other areas of the state to the potential danger. The Kennebec could be next. The coastal towns were especially apprehensive. Gen. King of Bath ordered his Militia Division to assemble at Wiscasset and other towns in the area. A part of Gen. Sewell's Div. was also called out. The movements of the British were constantly watched. Sightings were
made off Pemaquid on Sept. 10 and 11. A party of British troops actually landed briefly at Camden and Northport. These Militia units remained on duty at Wiscasset until it was known that the fleet had moved east of Castine.

The Capture of Machias

On Sept. 12th Gen. Sherbrooke and Admiral Griffith with about half of the troops in several vessels left Castine for the long awaited attack on Machias. The town was defended by a fort garrisoned by about 50 U.S. regulars, a few militiamen and the small force that had retreated from Robbinston after the fall of Eastport. The fort was commanded by Capt. Leonard and mounted ten 24 pound guns.

The troops were landed near Bucks Harbor on the 13th and started the short march to the fort. During this time the British war ships were conducting a heavy bombardment of the fort. It soon became obvious to Leonard that the fort could not withstand the attack and he with Lts. Morse and Manning supervised the destruction of the guns, fired the barracks, blew up the fort and retreated. The British now considered the area between the St. Croix and the Penobscot totally under their control and the fleet sailed for Halifax.

The Cocoa Incident at Frankfort

During the summer of 1814 and prior to the arrival of the Adams in the river, the merchant vessel Katusoff arrived at Frankfort. Although she would be burned at Hampden on Sept. 5th she was a British vessel that had been taken and placed under the command of prize master Capt. Alexander Milliken of Frankfort. Her cargo was predominantly, perhaps totally, cocoa that had been sold at auction in Boston to a Mr. Thorndike who was one of the Ten Proprietors. The cargo was discharged into McGlathry's storage shed which was located at the site of the old Haley store on the corner of Whig and Main Streets. "However, rumor of the approach of the British caused it to be hastily removed. From this point stories of the cocoa are many and varied, some of them perhaps more interesting than truthful. ****Perhaps the whole incident might be fittingly called the "Frankfort Cocoa Party." Old River Town - Littlefield p. 54.

On their retreat from Machias Capt. Leonard, Lts. Morse and Manning with their men came to Frankfort (sometime after Sept. 13th) where they found a British sloop under a flag of truce with a small party who were demanding the cocoa and perhaps other articles. The American troops promptly captured the vessel, took the party prisoners, threw the cocoa that had been loaded overboard, set the vessel afire and proceeded westward and eventually delivered the prisoners to the Marshal at Salem. "Our people became so alarmed, fearing a return of the British, that many fled to the country, many burned their household goods or buried silver in the gardens." Old River Town p. 103, 104. See also Williamson II:651.
Provincial Government Established

In Halifax, Gen. Sherbrooke issued a proclamation dated Sept. 21st establishing a Provincial Government for the newly conquered land from New Brunswick to and including the east bank of the Penobscot and off-shore islands. Frank E. Downes, great-grandson of James Downes, and the writer's grandfather, always referred to Orrington and Bucksport as the "British side of the river."

Gen. Gosselin was appointed to govern this country from Castine. This town became a port of entry and a collector of customs was appointed. Commercial privileges were granted to all the ports to the east of Castine and a brisk trade developed in European goods for local produce, domestic animals and lumber.

During the fall and winter (1814-15) Castine became the center of amusement and culture for British Officers and men on what we would later call "R & R". A theatre was opened and the popular European soiree became equally popular at Castine.

The U.S. mail was stopped at the river but smuggling persisted in both directions. The U.S. made Hampden a port of entry and a collector of customs was appointed. Neutral vessels were allowed to enter the ports on the west side of the river and in this way goods legally passed from Castine to Hampden, sanctioned by the Secy. of the Treasury. The "Anything for a buck" philosophy is not of recent origin.

Being unable to deliver the unfinished vessels to Castine as required, Bangor and Hampden drafted a petition praying to be relieved of the terms of the bonds and sent it with a deposition to Gen. Sherbrooke at Halifax. Hampden was flatly denied any relief but Bangor was told they could either destroy the vessels, deliver them, sell them and turn the proceeds over to the soldiers who captured them or pay the bond. Fortunately peace was declared in December and the terms of the bonds were never enforced.

The British Leave

British troops evacuated Castine on April 25, 1815 after an eight month occupation. The occasion was the cause of celebrations on both sides of the Penobscot as well as "down-east." Confiscated property was restored and both government and business gradually returned to normal. As an unknown author put it "Peace, joy, tranquillity, and prosperity came with the birds and blossoms in the spring of 1815, and from that day until now no foreign enemy has ever appeared on our coast."
THE AFTERMATH

When mistakes are made or when judgements turn out to have been wrong, someone must be found to bear the blame. Does this sound familiar? History certainly does repeat itself. In this, as in most other cases, there was a very broad base upon which to spread the blame, unfortunately Col. Grant and the Militia were selected to bear it.

After the battle of Hampden a public outcry arose that the behavior of the Militia and its officers amounted to little more than cowardice bringing great discredit on American arms, etc., and was the primary cause of the losses of the citizenry. In other words, the only locals to make an effort to defend the honor of the region were somehow thought to lack courage and to be the cause of everything that went wrong.

The Court of Inquiry
In response to the furor, Gov. Strong on May 15, 1815 ordered a Court of Inquiry into the conduct of the officers. The Court consisted of Major General Sewall of Augusta, Brigadier Generals Irish of Gorham and Payson of Wiscasset. They met for about a week at the Court House in Bangor.

Brigadier General John Blake of Brewer was a veteran of the Revolution with a spotless record and unquestioned bravery but here he was before the Court charged with cowardice and even treason. The charges cited his tardiness, non-compliance with Capt. Morris request that he attack the enemy at his landing place, his failure to throw-up breastworks and other alleged inefficiencies. The clamor against him eventually started to cool and the Court taking into account the situation at Hampden that day, acquitted him and commended his personal conduct.

The Court Martial
Shortly after his acquittal General Blake placed both Major Chamberlain and Col. Grant under arrest. Both were tried by a Court Martial in the spring of 1816. Major Chamberlain, the grandfather of Joshua L. Chamberlein, hero of Little Round Top at Gettysburg and later Governor of Maine, was acquitted but Col. Grant was suspended from his command for two years.

Was a Successful Defense Ever Possible?
The Militia as a group and as individuals must have endured heart breaking frustration at the expense of their fellow citizens that our Vietnam veterans can empathize with. In
evaluating the conduct of the Militia it must be remembered that they were untrained country boys who were asked to go up against combat experienced, first line British troops. Their training, if any, was largely confined to the occasional parade and the meetings were more of a social event than a training exercise. Their officers were also untrained, often elected on the basis of popularity rather than ability. No, this was not an act of cowardice, on the contrary it was an act of bravery that would be hard to match today. They were simply outgunned and overwhelmed by a superior force. The same thing was to happen to their sons and grandsons 50 years later in Virginia and Louisiana where a fair amount of "skedaddling" would occur in the face of a superior force. The major difference was that they won that war and the individual actions took place a long way from home.

The Militiamen that gathered in Hampden on Sept. 2nd and 3rd do not need our apologies instead they deserve to be remembered with honor as an important part of our heritage.

Hampden and the rest of the Penobscot Valley have every reason to be proud of the behavior of their ancestors in those trying times - I know that I am.

THE END
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The World Book Encyclopedia, Vol. 21

An Old River Town, Ada Douglas Littlefield

Brewer, Orrington, Holden, Eddington, History and Families, Thayer and Ames

Index to War of 1812 Pension Files transcribed by V. D. White

The Naval War of 1812, William S. Dudley

Pictorial Field Book of the War of 1812, Benson J. Lossing

Some interesting reading about life along the Penobscot in the first half of the 19th Century, including the battle of Hampden, can be found in:

The Strange Woman, Ben Ames Williams
and
Pink Chimneys, Ardeana Hamlin Knowles

24.
PETITION FROM FRANKFORT, ME., 1807, FOR MILITARY COMPANY.

COMMUNICATED BY JOHN F. PRATT, OF CHELSEA, MASS.

"To the Honorable Senate and the Honorable House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in General Court assembled, A. D. 1807.

Your Petitioners beg leave to represent that they reside within the limits of a company of Militia in the Town of Frankfort, now under the Command of Capt. Henry Sampson; That Said Company contains upwards of one hundred effective privates, & that from Said Company a Sufficient Number may be taken to form a respectable company of Light Infantry without Infringing any Statute of this Commonwealth. Your Petitioners therefore pray that they may be organized and officered as Such, with powers to enlist from such Company of Militia within the Town of Frankfort, as may from time to time contain a greater number than Sixty-four effective privates, and that they may be attached to the Third Regiment, First Brigade, Tenth Division of the Militia of this Commonwealth, and as in duty bound will ever Pray.

(Signed.)

Philo N. Washburn, Archibald Jones, Edmund Abbott, Tisdale Dean, William Andrews, Amos Grant, Andrew Grant, Ephraim Grant, Richard Thurston, Aaron Littlefield, Joseph R. Folsom, Erasmus Jones, Simeon Kenney,

Isaac Milliken, Charles McGlathry, Go. Wetherell, Alfred Baylies, Geo. Sparhawk, Samuel Merrill, William R. Ware, James Dwinel, Peter Littlefield, Joel Grant, Timothy Thorne. James, J. McGlathry, Alex. McGlathry,

LINCOLNVILLE, May 25, 1807.

I hereby certify that in my opinion, that it will (be) highly beneficial to the interest of the Militia in the tenth Division to grant the prayer of the foregoing petition.

GEO. ULMER, Maj. Gen. 10th Division.

OFFICERS OF CAPT. HENRY SAMPSON'S COMPANY OF FOOT, MAY. 1807.

Henry Sampson, Captain; Elisha Thayer, Lieutenant; Waldo Pierce, Ensign; Samuel Merrill, Jonas Woodman, Nathan Phillips, Joseph Wheelden, Sargent; Reu'n Winchell, Drummer; Dan'l Vezey, Fifer."

Source: Bangor Historical Magazine
BRITISH OFFICERS ON THE PENOBSCOT, IN 1814.

FROM NOTES OF THE LATE WM. D. WILLIAMSON.

Contributed by Joseph Williamson, Esq.

Sir John C. Sherbrooke is represented as a man of splendid talents and courtly manners; he has more show and more the air of authority and command, and more precipitation than the late Chief Justice Sewall; but in other respects there is said to be a strong resemblance.

Edward Griffith, Esq., rear admiral of the white, is somewhat younger than Sherbrooke; is rather tall, well proportioned; with blue eyes and lightish complexion. He appeared to be affable and easy in his manners, and mild in temper; a man of handsome talents.

Robert Barrie is a post-captain of the Dragon, 74. He is said to be a native of New York; but some call him an Irishman. He is about thirty-eight or forty years old; of more than middling stature; not very handsomely built. His complexion is of a darkish hue. He speaks quick, often rather snappish, and assumes quite a consequence and importance. As he entered Capt. Hatch’s, and saw Thomas Hatch dealing out some brandy to his soldiers, he knocked down young Hatch with his fist, and kicked over and spilled his cask of brandy. In him was nothing gentlemanly, nothing generous, nothing great. He was bold without magnanimity, cruel without cause; even unmercifully rough both to prisoners and to his own men. As said in a statement from Hampden, “he is what God Almighty designed for a brute.”

Henry John, lieutenant-colonel of the rifle corps, is some younger than Barrie, but not so well favored; is somewhat cross-eyed, but has more of the man; has less bluster, but more ability. He however could without remorse hear of undeserved severity, and witness unprovoked plundering and pillage.

Barrie was dressed like officers of the navy. He wore, blue coat and pantaloons, and shoes; a large brimmed, rather low crowned hat; no lace on his clothes while at Bangor; two epaulettes. John wore a bottle-green or smoke-blue short jacket, and pantaloons of same color, with a cap something like that of an infantry soldier.

Major Riddle wore a short red coat, and dark mixed woolen pantaloons, and a cap. All the other infantry officers were dressed like him; each wore two epaulettes. The riflemen were dressed like Col. John. There was a part or whole of a company of Germans, who wore dark bottle green short coats. The officers and almost every soldier were under forty years of age. They had two drums; one, an elegant brass one; but they bent upon them none. All their martial music was a bugle horn; the buglar was dressed in white.

Source: Bangor Historical Magazine
The following (P. 28-34) is excerpted from "The History of Frankfort" by Erasmus Jones. This part of the book was written by Mr. Jones in 1844 and was published in 1897 together with additions by C. K. Lougee, Mrs. Charles Abbott and E. Ferren Blaisdell.

The portion excerpted describes some of the incidents that occurred in the town during the War of 1812, specifically the year 1814 and the battle of Hampden. Some differences from those previously described will be noted such as the account of the British Fleet in Marsh Bay, etc. The events described by the writer were taken from generally accepted versions and such official records as could be found. Mr. Jones' account appears to have been based on his memory as well as the memory of other local citizens who were living at the time which makes it interesting and no doubt accurate in most - perhaps all details.

My sincere thanks to Mr. Henry Wiswell of Orrington for a copy of the "History of Frankfort."

W. F. Fernald
The year 1814 is memorable for the visit paid our river by a British fleet. It was in the month of September that the enemy took possession of Castine, and the same day the news of the event reached this place. It was expected that the enemy would immediately ascend the river with the intention of capturing the John Adams, an American frigate then lying at Hampden. To meet the emergency, the militia were called out, and a watch kept during the night. Soldiers were stationed as sentries at intervals along by the river, with orders to bring to all boats that might be ascending the river and inquire into their business. One boat belonging in Orrington containing three or four men, not answering when hailed, was fired upon; the shot fell into the water and did no harm. It had the effect however, of bringing them to and when their destination was known they were allowed to pass. The next morning the enemy's fleet was seen coming up the bay with a moderate breeze. Many of the people at the marsh had assembled on Beale Mt., from whence they looked down upon them with intense
anxiety. As they came fanning along they kept boats out ahead to sound the way, sometimes using their barges manned by eighteen oars to tow their ships.

Sometime previous to this there had been brought into the river a vessel taken as a prize, loaded with cocoa, named the Kertusorff. Her valuable cargo had been sold at auction; being bid off by Boston gentlemen. One of the purchasers was Mr. Thorndike, one of the Ten Proprietors, who happened to be here. This cocoa was discharged into the McGlathry store and the vessel sent up river.

As soon as news was received that the British had captured Castine, and were expected up the river, teams were employed in removing the cocoa to Campbell’s hill, where it was stored. They were actively engaged in the business that night and the next morning until the fleet was in the river, when it was thought prudent to desist, though it had not all been removed. During the night, Mr. Richard Thurston’s store—the building now occupied by Mr. Wm. Holmes (the lot where Moody’s cooper shop now stands) had been used as a place of rendezvous for the men employed as a watch during the night and the next morning as the fleet came along seeing armed men in the road by the store, they fired an eighteen lb. shot which passed through a window in the second story on the back side, came out of a window on the front side, passed through a shed attached to A. L. Kelly’s house and struck the ground in McGlathry’s field, not far from some females who had gone there for safety. This
ODD FELLOWS' BLOCK.
shot was intended to disperse the warlike demonstrations on the road, and it had the desired effect, for the soldiers scattered with great agility, being only impeded by tumbling over one another in their great anxiety to place themselves out of danger, and were soon lost sight of in the direction of the woods. It was now feared a regular cannonading would ensue, and the inhabitants began to seek places of safety for themselves. Perhaps the excitement which prevailed may be best shown by an anecdote. Those who lived upon Shaw's hill, fearing from their position that they were peculiarly exposed, collected their women and children and hurried them off in a body to the house now occupied by John Oakman (this house was back Northwest of the cemetery.) One gentleman who had got his blood very warm in the business and his mind abstracted in the excitement caught up a thin pair of pantaloons as he was leaving his house which he exchanged on the march for the thick ones he had on without being aware of it at the time or having any recollection of it afterwards; though of course so singular a proceeding did not pass unnoticed by the rest of the company.

No more shots were fired, and as the ships passed along they seemed desirious of exciting admiration rather than fear. On the decks the troops in rich uniform, were arranged so as to show to best advantage. The yards were covered with marines in uniform also, the fleet consisted of three large vessels, two of them sloops of war accompanied by smaller vessels, trans-
ports and gun boats, the whole making an imposing and beautiful show, and only wanting to be divested of the idea of war and bloodshed to call forth feelings of admiration and delight.

The troops from the fleet were landed this side of the Cove, where they made their encampment for the night, converting the neighboring houses into barracks. The next morning a regiment of Militia of about seven hundred men had been collected at Hampden, (most of them had been under arms the day previous) and were posted on the hill by the old meeting-house. Capt. Morris, who commanded the frigate John Adams lying at the wharf where he intrenched himself, intending to make a desperate resistance. He also detached his first lieutenant with an eighteen pounder to assist the land force. This piece was planted in the road by the meeting house and supported the right wing of the infantry, the left extending in two lines down towards the river. A picket guard had been stationed during the night on the road leading to the Cove, to watch the movements of the enemy. The morning was very foggy which allowed the enemy to advance upon the guard so closely that some of them were taken prisoners at the lower corner. One of the prisoners was Tobias Oakman of this town.

As the British advanced they put their prisoners in front of the column which is one of the expedients the cruelty of war allows to defend themselves. As they ascended the hill after passing the bridge, the field-piece opened its fire upon them, killing and wounding
This occasioned some confusion in their ranks, which the prisoners took advantage of to attempt their escape. Tobias Oakman, attempting this, was shot through the head and killed instantly; two others were more successful, one of the men ran behind a barn and got off, another fell down feigning death until the column passed over him, and then escaped.

Gen. Blake gave strict orders that no one should fire until they could see the enemy. The British on the contrary commenced a galling fire from behind a board fence which they had taken as a cover causing several in our ranks to fall. This our men could not stand, some here and there broke from the ranks and fled. This became more and more frequent, and soon the whole body was precipitately retreating in great confusion, amounting to a complete rout, some of them not having seen the enemy at all.

Capt. Morris, as soon as he knew the Americans were defeated spiked his guns, sent his men round a point of land in his boats to join the retreating soldiers remaining behind, himself to apply the match which blew up his vessel, thereby narrowly escaping being taken prisoner.

A knowledge of the facts in the case must lead to the conclusion that the defeat of Hampden was not as is generally supposed, disgraceful to our arms. In the first place it is never to be supposed that a body of men collected together with barely a day's notice, poorly equipped, without drill or discipline, officered
by men without practical knowledge, the men having no confidence in their officers, nor the officers in their men, can contend successfully with an equal body of men who have been instructed in the necessary evolutions for years, desperate men who have deliberately enlisted, commanded by officers who have made war the study of their lives. A case of successful opposition under such circumstances is probably not on record. The great mistake then, was in attempting to resist at all unless a much larger and better drilled army could have been collected.

Again the only chance of success was allowed to pass, this was the night previous. Gen Herrick, who was then commander of the cavalry, requested permission to go with a few hundred men and surprise them in their encampment. This request Gen. Blake refused to grant. Under cover of a dark, foggy night, it might have been successful.

A mistake was made in occupying the brow of the hill where our men could be seen by the enemy before they themselves were visible on account of the fog. No discredit can attach to the men composing our force for they acted as all other men in the circumstances would have acted. Much blame has been attached to Gen. Blake and no doubt he erred greatly in judgment, particularly in supposing that new militia would stand a fire without breaking and not permitted to return it; but the charges which have been alleged against him of being bribed, and of cowardice, are not sustained. Those who knew him well say he was in-
capable of either. He was in the Revolutionary war; and was promoted to the rank of lieutenant for his bravery. At one time he, with a few men, captured some British officers who were at the time playing cards in a private house, and carried them into the American lines. He was afterwards Captain of a company, in the army raised under John Adams' administration, in apprehension of a war with France. At the time of the engagement at Hampden he lived at East Orrington, and was somewhat advanced in life. He has died within a few years aged more than 80, (this history was written in 1844.)

The enemy having possession of the place, committed many acts of wantonness in revenge for opposition they had met with, as breaking crockery, spilling molasses over the floors and mixing ashes with it, grinding up feather beds in a grist mill, etc., etc. It however relieves somewhat the dark page of history devoted to scenes of war, to record some deeds of humanity.

The wounded of our soldiers who could not be carried off the field in their hasty retreat fell into the hands of the enemy but were treated with great kindness, their wounds were dressed by their own surgeons and their wants well provided for. The wounded in all were thirteen, three of them from this town. John Carleton of this town, was shot down by a musket-ball in the thigh. He was partly carried off the field by his comrades, then dropped, he expostulated, but they answered we cannot help and left him to his fate while they sought their own safety by flight. He crawled
through a fence into a corn field, where he lay some hours when he was found much exhausted by loss of blood, by a British who gave him wine from his canteen and removed him to a house where his wounds were dressed.

In the morning before the action Solomon Tibbetts, of this town, was going to join the ranks when he saw a company marching on the street, which he took to be a company sent out from the American lines to reconnoitre. They were dressed in a handsome uniform with green jackets and high caps, and these were in reality a German company composing the vanguard of the British army.

He stood looking at them until they had got nearly by him, when he heard one of them say, "there's an enemy," with a pronunciation he knew was not Yankee, then he started to run and as he passed them, the whole company, twenty in number fired at him without hitting him. The men then wanted to follow him with the bayonet but the Captain said "No, let the poor fellow live after running such a gauntlet as that."

The British fleet was up river six or eight days during which time they visited Bangor. On their way back, they anchored off this place, took in water, and made demand for provisions. They were furnished with ten oxen, about thirty sheep, potatoes and other vegetables. These were brought forward on the assurance from the selectmen, that they should be paid for by the town, but when a town meeting was held, it was decided that the selectmen had transcend-
ed their powers and those who had furnished provisions had to bear their own loss. The Penobscot Indians followed the fleet down as far as this and camped on the opposite side of the river, expecting to be employed by the British in committing depredations, but here they were told that their services would not be required, and they returned home. Capt. Little was the greatest sufferer from the British here. He had a brig loaded with timber, which they took away, with them and sent to Liverpool.

On their passage down the river, the sloop Sylph got aground on Haley’s Point, (near the steam mill) where she discharged a quantity of cannon balls to lighten her. These were taken possession of by some of the people at the Marsh and were quite valuable.

Not long after the British had taken their departure, they sent up here a sloop under the protection of a flag of truce, demanding the cocoa which had been hauled into the country. That at first deposited at Campbell’s Mills had been sent farther into the country. Some of it to Thorndike farm in Jackson, some was stored at Livermore’s in Monroe, some at Lowe’s in Goshen. They immediately commenced hauling it back, where Lieut. Morse with about twenty armed soldiers, being routed at Eastport where he was stationed came through at Hampden. Hearing of this vessel he came down, went on board where he found a chest of arms which deprived her of the protection of a peace flag. He threw overboard the coco a she had taken in, set the vessel on fire and cut her adrift. She floated up stream
enveloped in flames, and soon burned to the water's edge. The Lieut. immediately took his departure carrying off her crew as prisoners. This bold act took our people by surprise, and filled them with great consternation. They feared the enemy would send a force and commit atrocities similar to those committed at Hampden. Many of the families moved into the back part of the town, and most sent off their household goods, losing half their crockery in transportation. Some barreled up their crockery and burned it in their gardens, many secured their silver spoons and other most valuable articles in this way. A deputation was immediately sent to Castine to state the facts concerning the burning of the vessel and to assure them that the people of this town had no part in the transaction. Upon first receiving information of it, Gen. Goslin ordered out six hundred troops which our commissioners took as a bad omen, but they succeeded in pacifying the Gen. and in satisfying him that our people were not to blame in the affair.

From the time the cocoa was first landed, the people generally seemed to regard it as lawful plunder, and few felt any compunctions in taking it wherever they could find it. When it was on the way to Campbell's a good many bags were filched from the carts, and after it was stored they would break into the buildings and steal it by night. Mr. Daniel Campbell had a quantity of it stored in his dwelling house, which for safe keeping, when the English officer was expected to demand it, he hid in the woods, every bag of which
Sometimes a man would be riding along with a bag on his horse behind him, when another would come up, seize it, and make off in an opposite direction. One man from the back part of the town, stationed himself near the wharf as the teams came out loaded by night, and as they passed he would snatch a bag and hide it in a field of oats near where Edward Ferndald's store is (now Mrs. A. E. Treat's.) In this way he had secured several bags and had gone for another when someone who had been watching him, carried off his booty, and he was obliged to go home without any cocoa. At the time the cocoa was thrown overboard from the vessel everybody there was welcome to all he could carry off, several boats were loaded; in one case they threw it into a boat until the owner begged them to stop, or they would sink him. When the vessel was burned, there were several loads on the road, which of course was supposed did not belong to any one in particular, and this scattered in all directions, while they were hauling the teamsters felt justified in taking their pay out of their loads, as they were not paid in any other way and one of them if no more, hauled his load to his own barn instead of the vessel and buried it in his hay-mow. After peace was declared, the owners in Boston sent down an agent to hunt up their cocoa, and search warrants were produced to seek for it. Some of it was recovered, but a great deal was never found; it was scattered in all possible ways. In some cases the floors were removed.
to make a safe deposit and replaced; one old lady out witted the officer when he came by putting it in the pot over the fire. After the search was over it was offered very plentifully for sale. One man who had been very diligent, got a horse and peddled it round the country for six months. It found its way even to the Kennebec.

These facts are recorded because they are matters of history. It were to be wished for the credit of our town that they had never transpired; there were men, however, here, who would have nothing to do in the business, and who discountenanced all the proceedings altogether. The only excuse which can be offered to palliate such conduct, is that the cocoa was taken from the enemy, and would again fall into their hands, if not taken possession of. It is one of the thousand evils attending the dreadful scourge of war, the feeling of enmity and hostility blunts the moral sense and renders obtuse those faculties which under other circumstances would discriminate between right and wrong. That it was a thievish propensity alone that prompted these acts, is showed by the fact that Major Ware sent as many as fifty barrels of pickeled fish a mile or two back and had them rolled into a gully not far from the public road, where they remained scarcely depredated upon for sometime.

One other incident connected with this war deserves to be recorded in which some of the citizens of this town manifested great bravery. The Rertusorf which was taken with the cocoa, was brought in here by Capt.
Alexander Milliken of this place, who was put on board her as prize master. He afterwards commanded a Privateer fitted out at Thomaston which returned from her cruise without any success. Six of her crew three of them from this town, Isaac Milliken, Joseph Ellingwood, and Thomas Seavey, being dissatisfied with this result, went out in an open boat and captured a rich prize off Castine and carried her into Camden. This daring act was but poorly rewarded. Justice should have given the prize to her captors, but the owners of the privateer by a protracted and expensive lawsuit succeeded in cutting them off with only their share as privateersmen.