

## WESTMORELAND & NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA ENCOUNTERS WITH THE BRITISH

### AUGUST 7-13 1814 FROM THE ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE

ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE Tuesday, August 9, 1814 A passenger in the stage from Fredericksburg, on Saturday evening, stated an express had been reached there from Kinsale, bringing information that the enemy had attempted a landing at that place, for the purpose it was supposed of destroying property there – that the militia under Col. Parker observing their motions, lay in ambush near where the landing was about to be effected, and suffered a considerable number to come on shore, which they fired on them and killed between thirty and forty, the remainder retreated precipitously on board their barges and made off; the loss on our part is said to have been one man, Capt. J. Stewart of the Cavalry.

ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE Saturday, August 13, 1814 *Extract of a letter from a young gentleman, to a gentleman in This, town dated the 7<sup>th</sup> August 1814.*

“I wrote you by the last post from Camp Yeocomico; we left that camp on the evening of the 2d instant and encamped last night about a mile from Kinsale, which place from the movements of the enemy we knew would be attacked very early the next morning: At 2 o’clock we marched down, placed out artillery consisting of four pieces and Rifleman and Infantry on the banks, and Captain Stewart’s and my troop a little in the rear; about day the enemy approached with two or three tenders and about 25 barges, but seeing us, landed on the Northumberland side and were met by Captain Henderson who fought bravely, had some men wounded, and killed some of the enemy; he was at last compelled to retreat; they pursued him as far as his store (about five miles I believe) and in their course left a train of fire and smoke. Our detachment seeing in the course of 25 minutes, fires two or three miles in their rear; feared they would be cut off unless they moved parallel with the enemy, who were on the opposite side of the creek; consequently the cavalry under Capt. Stewart and myself were ordered to keep as close to the enemy as possible and give every information — We soon got within two hundred yards of them and saw them wheel a field piece to give us fire — soon after this they appeared to move down the road toward Munday’s Point, where a part of them (we supposed the whole) arrived. We followed on with four troopers a little in the rear to watch them; but on our return we discovered a force in OUR rear, placed in ambush, who when we had got within about fifty yards of them gave us a smart fire — supposing it proceeded from our own Videttes I halted but finding it repeated and hearing the balls whistle pretty loudly I joined the troop, which was distant from the place of ambush only 7 or 800 yards — none of us were touched — Robert McCarty had his horse shot, and Gen. Parker and M. Saunders were so closely pursued as to be compelled to quit their horses and take to the woods where they narrowly escaped being killed, the former was slightly wounded in the hand and thigh, the latter had his hat shot off. So much for our reconnoitre.

“We returned very much fatigued about 2 o’clock, having been on horseback since 2 in the morning, and in the evening the enemy, having repulsed a small detachment at Kinsale, landed and burned all the houses, together with the Warehouse on the opposite side [Bailey’s] — the Tobacco they shipped. They threw a considerable number of grape shot, 18 pounders, and rockets over our heads, without doing any other damage other than killing one of our men — This morning they were moving down with all their force, which is more that sufficient to drive all before them. The force at Kinsale was seven tenders and 33 barges — The enemy landed yesterday in Northumberland and burnt everything on the Cone. Our head-Quarters are today at Northumberland Court-House we have about 1100 men there and I expect we had an action this morning.

ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE Saturday, August 13, 1814 We learn from the express that the Buccaneers spared nothing at Kinsale but the hovel of a poor old negro woman; the houses (about 20 or 30) were burnt; every article was taken off which they could carry, the rest was destroyed; all the tobacco which they found in the ware house was shipped except about 20 hnds, which they burned; as night fall prevented their carrying it on board The unfortunate soldier of Capt. Pitts’ company from Essex, who was killed by a grape shot, was ++++ from the ground where he fell within 10 steps of the ++++ where they dined; his pockets turned inside out and rifled. The enemy landed in Kinsale in 27 barges, which were supposed to contain near 1000 men. Admiral Cockburn is said to have been on shore mounted on a grey horse, sanctioning by his presence as well as by his orders all the atrocities which were perpetrated by his hand. The enemy landed at Monday’s Point 5 or 6 black platoons in red commanded by British officers. Weep, Britain weep and blush at the destitution of shame which marks thy country men!

We understand that orders have been issued from the Adjutant General’s Office of this state calling Major General Alexander Parker to command the troops in the Northern Neck.