

Documents

Letters of William H. Harrison to Thomas Worthington, 1799-1813

*Edited by John D. Barnhart**

Miss Caroline Dunn of the William Henry Smith Memorial Library called to my attention a group of recently acquired letters which William Henry Harrison wrote to Thomas Worthington, one of the leaders in the Northwest Territory, who became United States Senator and Governor of Ohio. Miss Dunn supervised the transcription from the originals which are in the William Henry Smith Memorial Library of the Indiana Historical Society at Indianapolis. This correspondence does not shatter any cherished traditions, but illustrates and clarifies minor points of his career, such as the growing factionalism in the territory and the development of the statehood movement. A very small but interesting item is the first letter which introduced Michael Baldwin to Worthington. Several items about the controversy over statehood for Ohio are mentioned in the early letters.

Since Harrison wrote to Worthington about things they had in common, there is less about Indiana Territory than might be assumed. There are, however, several items of interest about Indiana in the letters. The passage of the act creating the new territory and the Land Act of 1800 are mentioned in the letter of April 25, 1800. His statement of May 2, 1800, that he would not accept the governorship is a little surprising but it is followed by the explanation of July 13 that his friends had induced him to change his mind. Harrison's support of slavery in Indiana is clearly set forth in the letter of October 26, 1803. Altogether there is evidence that the Governor identified himself with his territory, strove to advance its interests as he understood them, and recognized distinctly what individuals were opposed to his policies.

Harrison may not have been as self-seeking as has been suggested. On November 20, 1812, he was apparently unconcerned about a high military appointment. But this letter should be read in the light of a previously published communication of July 14 (Esarey, *Messages and Letters of William*

* John D. Barnhart is chairman of the department of history at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, and editor of the *Indiana Magazine of History*.

Henry Harrison, II, 73-74). The present letter may be more of a revelation of his intense disappointment at not being appointed earlier than a statement of lack of interest.

Harrison disavowed responsibility for the massacre at the River Raisin in the letter of January 31, 1813. The later letters also throw some light on Harrison's campaign of 1813.

Cleves. North Bend
10th July 1799.

Dear Sir

This will be handed you by Mr Baldwin¹ a young gentleman who visited your county with some expectation of fixing himself there in the practice of the law, to which profession he has been regularly bred. Any advice & assistance which you may please to give Mr Baldwin I shall gratefully acknowledge as I feel myself much interested in his welfare—he is the brother of the Mr Baldwin who had been so many years a member of Congress & whose character you are no doubt acquainted with—

Mrs Harrison & myself are pleasing ourselves with the hope of seeing Mrs Worthington at the ensuing session of the legislature²—you can not have forgot your promise on this subject i e that if you did bring her with you she would give us the happiness of taking up her abode at our house—I hope you have too good an opinion of me to suppose that I would make this invitation for *forms* sake—therefore I shall take no denial but what may arise from inconvenience to your selves.

in great haste

I am Dr Sir

your friend &c

Willm H Harrison

Colo Worthington

Colo Thomas Worthington

Ml Baldwin Esqr Chilachothé

¹ Michael Baldwin was a brilliant young lawyer from Connecticut who became closely associated with Worthington. Henry Howe, *Historical Collections of Ohio* (2 vols., Cincinnati, 1902), II, 517-518.

² The first session of the General Assembly was held at Cincinnati, Ohio, from September 16 to December 19, 1799. Theodore C. Pease, *The Laws of the Northwest Territory, 1788-1800* (Springfield, Illinois, 1925), 317-516, xxx. This is volume XVII of the Illinois State Historical Library Collections (Springfield, 1903-).

North Bend Aug. 16th 99.

Dear Sir

At the last session of Congress a bill was brought in and passed through the Senate for increasing the Judiciary of this Territory from 3 to 5 Judges & as it was postponed only for the want of time it will be brought forward at the ensuing Session & I think there is now doubt but it will be passed into a law—If this should be the case Mr. Wills³ is desirous of filling one of [the] to be created seats on the bench of the Genl Court and has requested me to mention the subject to you as he thinks a letter from you to Mr Ross⁴ in his favour will be of great advantage to him & contribute much toward the attainment of his object. I shall say nothing of Mr Will's talents as you must be full as well acquainted with them as I am but only observe that having known him for many years I have always found him possessed of the strictest integrity. Should you think proper to say any thing in his favour to Mr Ross I shall esteem it an obligation conferred on myself—but if on the contrary you should not think proper to do so let me assure that it will produce no other sensation in my breast but regret that you should not think as highly of Mr Wills as I do

I take the liberty of again reminding you of your promise to bring Mrs Worthington with you when you visit us in September.

I am with great Regard

Dear Sir your

Huml Servt.

Willm H. Harrison

Colo Thos Worthington

(Colo Thomas Worthington
(Ross County
(Jno S. Wills Esqr)

³ John S. Wills had been appointed prothonotary to the court of common pleas and clerk to the court of general quarter sessions of the peace for Adams County, on July 11, 1797. Clarence E. Carter (ed.), *Territorial Papers of the United States* (Washington, 1934-), III, 473.

⁴ James Ross, a close friend of Arthur St. Clair, was elected by the Pennsylvania legislature to the United States Senate in 1794, re-elected in 1797, and served until 1803. James H. Peeling, "James Ross," *Dictionary of American Biography* (20 vols., New York, 1943), XVI, 178; *Pennsylvania Magazine of History* (Philadelphia, 1877-), XIII (1889), 4-6.

Cincinnati 19th Octr 99.

I have brought up for you My dear Sir, the following articles of furniture Viz

Six windsor chairs, one bed with a bedstead, two pr. of sheets 2 Do of pillow cases, 1 pr. of blankets, 1 counterpane large & six Teaspoons & one very indifferent table & 3 table cloths. The confusion attendant on packing up prevented my furnishing you with many other articles. The chairs & table when you have done with them I have made a present to Dr. Bryant. The other things with my books you will please to send to Symmes at the bend.

enclosed is an order for Colo Sargents Regt. You will please to pay McCullough whatever you may think reasonable for the House

I am with sincere regard yours &c

Willm H. Harrison

Colo Worthington

Colo Thomas Worthington
Cincinnati

Philadelphia 25th April 1800

My dear friend

I have postponed writing to you every post day until the present under the hope that I should be able to give an account of the confirmation of our wishes by the final passage of the law for the Devision of the Territory & that for the sale of the western lands—neither of these objects however have as yet been accomplished—the Senate have returned both bills with the amendments which are herein enclosed—You will observe at a Glance the intention of the amendmts to the Devision bill—by continuing the "Territory North West of the the Ohio" all its officers are preserved in *Statu quo*—An arrangement entirely the work of Messrs Brown⁵ & Ross—for the motive which governed the first of these Gentlemen I am entirely at a loss—that of Mr R. will at once suggest itself—you will observe the *salvo* that is given to the amend-

⁵ John Brown was a member of the Kentucky District of Virginia to the Continental Congress in 1787 and 1788. When Kentucky became a state in 1792, he was elected to the United States Senate and served in that capacity until 1805. *Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1927* (Washington, 1928), 746.

ments by fixing the seat of Government at Chilicothe—altho this is a very desirable thing under the circumstance of Govr St. Clairs Continuing at the helm of our Government yet under any other situation I should have opposed it upon the ground that Congress have not a right to pass any law of local arrangement—as the legislature of our Territory has complete, absolute & final legislative power. The Amendments are referred to a select Committee—of which I am not a member of choice—having requested the Speaker to leave me out of the nomination—a sense of delicacy prompted by the situation in which I was placed by the petitions & letters in my favor which the citizens of the Territory have done me the honor to forward to the executive & other public characters. The Committee have however declared their intention to make their report in every way conformable to my wishes. This has led me to enquire amongst the Senators & discover what would be the chance of their recinding the leading features of their amendments & I find them determined to loose the bill entirely if their amendments are not adopted. This has occasioned expressions of the warmest indignation from many of the leading characters in the House of Representatives. There are several of the amendments made by the Senate to the *land bill* which the Select Committee to whom that bill has been referred disapprove of—& they have agreed to demand a conference—You need be under no apprehension about your appointment. The Secretary of the Treasury told me the other day that he would endeavour to get any one appointed whom I may recommend it will be also I hope in my power to get the appointmt of Receiver of Moneys for Colo Finley^e—I some time ago Recd the letter which contained the money & have appropriated it as you desired—I enclose your note.

Mrs Harrison is still in Jersey—our children have been innoculated the Second time the first not having taken effect—

Please to present me respectfully to Mrs Worthington—

^e James Findlay, a native of Pennsylvania, was living in Ohio in 1798 and became a member of the first territorial legislative council. Two years later he was appointed receiver of public monies for lands at Cincinnati. *Senate Executive Journal, 1789-1805*, p. 323; Carter, *Territorial Papers of the United States*, III, 97; Reginald C. McGrane, "James Findlay," *Dictionary of American Biography*, VI, 384-385.

& to all my other friends particularly the Speaker—Finley—
Baldwin Wills Langham⁷ &c &c—

I will soon write to them all but really cannot by this
post—

from your friend—

Willm H. Harrison

T. Worthington Esqr

Philada May 2nd 1800

My dear Sir

I have this day received your favor of the 23rd Ultimo—
& sincerely thank you for it—The House of Representatives
have acceded to the amendments of the Senate to the *Devision*
Bill with an amendment to the 3rd Section to this effect "That
the president may appoint the officers in the recess of the
Senate" Mr Ross & Mr. Brown were the managers on the
part of the Senate & Messrs C. Good——⁸ Rutledge⁹ & D.
Foster¹⁰ on the part of the Representatives. The managers
of the Senate were very obstinate & would not give up a single
point of consequence—& seeing that it was their intention to
loose the bill or carry their points I advised the House of to
concede to them—I do not know who will be the Govr of the
lower Territory—I could have it but *I will not accept it*—

The Committee of Conference have not yet determined
upon the amendments of the Senate to the *land bill*—I will
inform you on this project as soon as possible. The bill in
Judge Symmes¹¹ favor passed the House of Representatives

⁷ Elias Langham was a member of the first territorial legislature from Ross County. On December 9, 1800, he was appointed surveyor of Ross County. David M. Massie, *Nathaniel Massie, A Pioneer of Ohio* (Cincinnati, 1896), 66; Carter, *Territorial Papers of the United States*, III, 527.

⁸ Chauncey Goodrich, a Federalist from Connecticut, was a member of the national House of Representatives from 1795 to 1801. *Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1927*, p. 1021.

⁹ John Rutledge, Jr., a Federalist from South Carolina, served in the national House of Representatives from 1797 to 1803. *Ibid.*, 1488.

¹⁰ Dwight Foster was elected as a representative from Massachusetts and served from 1793 to 1800. *Ibid.*, 982.

¹¹ John Cleves Symmes, a land speculator from New Jersey, on February 19, 1788, was appointed a judge of the Northwest Territory. His daughter Anna became the wife of William H. Harrison. *Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789* (34 vols., Washington, 1904-1937), XXXIV, 50; Beverly W. Bond, Jr. (ed.), *The Correspondence of John Cleves Symmes, Founder of the Miami Purchase* (New York, 1926), 1-24; *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* (Boston, 1847-), XIII (1859), 137.

last Monday unanimously—it is in the hands of Ross & Brown in the Senate & I am afraid that their enmity will destroy it.

Mrs H. is still in Jersey—our children have the smallpox—I have not heard from them for a week—I sincerely congratulate you on your present happiness.

My best Respects to Mrs Worthington—& to our worthy Doctor & Colo Finley.

Your friend Willm H. Harrison

Free

Colonel Thomas Worthington Willm Henry Harrison
Chillicothe N.W.T.

Philada May 14th 1800

My dear Sir

The President has nominated & the Senate have confirmed the appointment of yourself as Register of the land office & Colo Finley of *Receiver*¹²—I am this moment setting out for Jersey for Mrs H. The session closes this day—when I return I will communicate to you our *good deeds* in the House of R——s & some of the *bad deeds* of the S——e—I yesterday sent to the press a circular letter addressed to my constituents which will be ready by the time I return i e in 8 or 10 days¹³

God bless you—yours sincerely—

Willm H. Harrison

Colo Worthington

Colonel Thomas Worthington

Chillicothe

N W T.

Richmond July 13th 1800

My Dear friend

I did not receive your letter of the 6th Ultimo until a few

¹² See *ante* 6. Worthington was appointed register of the land office at Chillicothe, Ohio, and Findlay receiver of public monies for lands at Cincinnati. Carter, *Territorial Papers of the United States*, III, 97.

¹³ The circular letter was published in the *Western Spy*, June 11, 1800. A copy of it appears in Logan Esarey (ed.), *Messages and Letters of William Henry Harrison* (2 vols., Indianapolis, Indiana, 1922), I, 12-18. These are volumes VII and IX of the *Indiana Historical Collections* (Indianapolis, 1916-).

days ago—it arrived here in my absence—Nothing I assure you was more distant from my intentions than to accept of the appointment of Governor of the Indiana Territory on the morning of the day on which the appointment was made but I was assailed by my friends with arguments which if not sufficient to remove all my scruples were nevertheless sufficiently weighty to make me abandon my first determination.¹⁴ It was suggested to me that as I was better acquainted with the wants and wishes of the people of this Territory than any other person so it would be more easy for me to make them Happy and satisfied with their government than a perfect stranger—to this a powerful motive of a personal and private nature suggested itself—the state of my affairs would not allow of my continuence in Congress—if I remained in the upper Territory I could be of no service to it. The territorial business in Congress was in a fair road to consummation & could be easily completed by my successor—My removal could therefore be of no disadvantage—nor would it preclude my appointment to any office which my circumstances would enable me to accept or the wishes of my fellow citizens call me to—Under these impressions I thought it best not to decline the appointment but by accepting it to give myself time to look about me & take the advice of my friends.—I shall leave this some time in October & be in Chillicothe at the meeting of the legislature when I shall have the pleasure of seeing you. My best regards to my friend Tiffin¹⁵ & to your better half, to whom also Mrs H. desires hers to be presented.

Mrs H. expects daily to be confined. Please to subscribe for the paper printed at Chillicothe & directed to be sent to me at this place until the middle of October.¹⁶

Yours truly

Willm H. Harrison

Colo Worthington

¹⁴ Harrison was appointed governor of Indiana Territory on May 13, 1800. *Senate Executive Journal, 1789-1805*, p. 354.

¹⁵ Edward Tiffin, a native of England, emigrated to the United States in 1784 and settled near Charles Town, Virginia, now in Jefferson County, West Virginia. Five years later he married Mary Worthington, sister of Thomas. In 1799 and 1801 he was a member of the territorial legislature and served as speaker in both sessions. He became Ohio's first governor. William T. Utter, "Edward Tiffin," *Dictionary of American Biography*, XVIII, 535-536.

¹⁶ No doubt he has reference to the *Sicoto Gazette* which was published at Chillicothe, Ohio.

Colo Thomas Worthington
Chilicothe
North Western Territory

Cincinnati

Nov. 28th 1800

Dear Worthington

If Mr Silver had been fortunate enough to have overtaken me at Pittsburgh it was my intention to have put the ladies under his care on their voyage down the River & to have come on by land myself for the sole purpose of seeing my friends in Chilicothe. I regret this disappointment the more as I can not now say when I shall have that pleasure. I shall embrace your offer & keep a constant correspondence with you—the Surveys, I lodged in the hands of Mr Newman formerly the land clerk in the war office—he is now chief clerk in that office—of this I thought I had informed you long since—a line to Newman & to Wagoner the Chief Clerk in the Dept of State will effect their passage through the offices—particularly if you mention my name to them they are both my friends. I do not know whether there are any impediments to the passage of these surveys. I have lost the memorandum I made respecting them.

My best Regards to Mrs Worthington & to Tiffin & Finley—

from your friend
Willm H. Harrison

Colo Worthington

Colonel T. Worthington
Chilicothe
J. S. Wills Esqr.

Vincennes 9th Sepr 1801.¹⁷

My dear Sir

¹⁷ Harrison, because of the illness of Mrs. Harrison, did not reach Vincennes until January 10, 1801, to assume his duties of governor of Indiana Territory. *Quarterly Publication of the Historical and Philosophical Society of Ohio* (18 vols., Cincinnati, 1906-1923), II (1907), 100; "Executive Journal of Indiana Territory, 1800-1816," in *Indiana Historical Society Publications* (Indianapolis, 1895-), III (1900), 95.

Enclosed you will receive a bill on Mr Lucas Sullivant¹⁸ for two Hundred & fifty Dollars—This bill was forwarded to me by & is the property of Mr. William Berkley the Treasurer of the State of Virginia who married a neice of mine. Will you be so obliging as to receive the money & if possible transmit it to Mr Berkley at Richmond—I would also be much pleased to hear from you on this & any other subject which you may think proper to write on. When do you propose to make an attempt at an Independent Govt? What success have you in the sale of land? & does your country continue to populate as fast as formert[ly]. My situation here is as happy as I could have expected, the people are very orderly and I believe are as much attached to me as any people ever were to a magistrate not choosen by themselves. The country about this place is I think the most beautiful in the world—& it now begins to flourish—You have no Idea of the state of wretchedness to which they were reduced by the neglect & inattention of their Government. We are every day gaining respectable citizens, & I look forward to the Time when we shall as far excell in the arts of cultivation as we certainly now do in Natural beauties.

Give my best Regards to Dr Tiffin & all our Mutual friends.

I am Truly yours

Willm H. Harrison

P.S. Will you write to Mr Berkley & inform him what is the chance of getting the money from Sullivant.

Colo Thomas Worthington

near Chilicothe North Western Territory

Vincennes 22nd Jany 1802

Dear Worthington

Inclosed is a letter from a friend of mine in Virginia (Carter Page) relating to some land of his which has been sold to pay the taxes. Do my dear Sir Releive it instantly by paying whatever is necessary—& if you please write immediately to Mr Page & let him know what you have done. I

¹⁸ Lucas Sullivant founded the town of Franklinton on the Scioto River opposite the site of the future town and capital, Columbus. Beverly W. Bond, *The Foundations of Ohio* (*The History of the State of Ohio*, edited by Carl F. Wittke, 6 vols., Columbus, 1941-1944), I, 352.

would have written this letter to the Doctor but by a letter from Danl Symmes I am informed that he is gone to Washington & know his liberality & Friendship for me will induce him to release this land to the worthy owner—but pay any thing that may be necessary & draw on Mr Page or myself & it will be honoured on sight.—I have seen the law which your legislature have passed on the subject of altering the boundary lines of the future states¹⁹—pray did this body suppose that the citizens of this Territory had rights? did they suppose that they would quietly look on & suffer a measure to be carried into effect which must procrastinate their emancipation from the arbitrary Govt under which they are at present placed? It was adding insult to injury to pass such a law without taking any steps to ascertain our sentiments on a subject in which we have as much interest as themselves—& over which the ordinance gives us complete Controle. The alteration contemplated effects all the then *intended States* & therefore cannot be carried into effect without the *seperate consent* of the Inhabitants residing in each of the devisions, of the United States & of Virginia—this the Ordinance declares—& this you may depend upon it the citizens here will insist on—their indignation has been roused to a degree of frenzy at the Presumption of your *Honourable* Legislature for daring to propose a line to be run through their country loping off a number of their citizens without deigning to ask their consent—I believe a Remonstrance will certainly be forwarded to Congress by the people who will attend court at this place on the 2nd day of February—

How could you let the Governors friends blind you so much as to keep three members in the House of Representatives from Wayne when they are actually not entitled to but one—So far from their being a doubt of the situation of Macanac [Mackinac] there is not a man at Detroit who does not believe it a degree at least within their Territory—& I suppose you know that the 600 or 800 men belonging to that place gave the two additional members to Wayne—the people here intend to remonstrate on this subject also—they will not part with Macanac—& you & your friends may remain

¹⁹ See Randolph C. Downes, *Frontier Ohio, 1788-1803* (Columbus, 1935), 199. This is volume III of the *Ohio Historical Collections* (Columbus 1931-) The act consented to a division of the Northwest Territory by lines drawn north along the Scioto River and from the Falls of the Ohio. It was intended to defeat or delay statehood for Ohio.

contented with regard to the alteration of the State lines. We will never agree to it here.

Mrs H. is at present indisposed—(the rest of my family are well)—give her & my best Regards to Mrs W & believe me Yr friend

Willm H Harrison

Give my best Regards to Colo Finely & tell him I admire *highly admire* every part of his conduct in the contest with the *Chief* but his *resignation*—I wish you would write to Mr. Page immediately on the subject of his land he is very uneasy about it.

Colo Thomas Worthington

or

Doctor Edward Tiffin

Chillicothe

N.W.T.

Vincennes 11th June 1802

Dear Sir

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th May—

Your conquest over the arbitrary faction of your Territory has given me the sincerest pleasure—The Cincinnati Junto²⁰ will I fear however give you some trouble still—their cunning and perseverance are I believe unexampled—I have no doubt but their Machinations have also extended to this Territory—for what purpose god and themselves only know—Unless it was intended to [do] me injury—However their labour repaid their pains—& I put their motive at defiance.—Notwithstanding I am conscious that Govr St Clair has endeavoured to injure me—as I am not a citizen of your Territory I think it would be highly improper to give the certificate you request—indeed if I recollect well the letter was shewn to me in confidence—which absolutely precludes all possibility of my giving such a certificate to be made public—I shall pass through your town on my way to the seat of Government in the fall and will endeavor to be there during the sitting of the Convention.²¹ My object in going to Washington is to obtain the

²⁰ Obviously a Federalist group in Cincinnati which opposed the movement for statehood.

²¹ This was the convention which furnished the first constitution for the state of Ohio.

passage of some laws which are necessary to the Citizens of this territory—the people are very anxious that I should go—& I mean to oblige them altho' it will be extremely inconvenient to me to leave home at that time.

Mr W Mills is a most inveterate drunkard. I spoke to Dr Tisdale on the subject of his Resignation & he observed that he would continue to act until the business was finished—which I think much better than the appointment of a new Collector.—

Did you hear any of the *great men* speak of the Govt of this Territory? Three opponents are already held up to me for the next appointment of Governor—viz—Mr Davis of Congress²² Mr M Lyon²³—& a Genl Brackenridge²⁴ near Louisville Kentucky—However I do not know that I have any reason to dread either of them.

With respect to your question about the Counties in this Territory—there are four—viz—St Clair Knox & Randolph (which existed before the Devision) & Clark which has been laid out by me.

Mrs Harrison is not in good health—but I am in hopes she will be much better in a *few Months*

My respects to your family—Dr. Tiffin Colo Findlay Mr Baldwin & the rest of my friends.

I am Dr Sir your friend—

Willm H. Harrison

Colo Thos Worthington
Chilicothe
N.W.T.

²² This was probably Thomas Terry Davis who represented Kentucky in the national House of Representatives from 1797 to 1803. In 1803 he was appointed a United States Judge of Indiana Territory. He served as chancellor of Indiana Territory from March 1, 1806, to November 15, 1807. *Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1927*, p. 888.

²³ Matthew Lyon, a native of Ireland, who emigrated to the United States in 1765. From 1797 to 1801 he represented Vermont in the national House of Representatives. During the latter year he moved to Kentucky. *Ibid.*, 1248.

²⁴ This may have been Robert Breckenridge, son of Robert Breckinridge of Virginia, who was an officer in the American Revolution and who moved to Kentucky soon after the war. He was a member of the Kentucky constitutional convention of 1792 and lived in and near Louisville until after 1830. Joseph A. Waddell, *Annals of Augusta County, Virginia* (Richmond, 1886), 140-142.

Vincennes 26th Octr 1803

Dear Worthington—

I believe you know my habit of procrastination too well to render an appology necessary for my having so long neglected to write you. the fact is that I fully intended to have done it every week for four months at least You would however certainly have had a letter waiting your arrival at Washington but for these eight weeks past I have been very unwell & the greater part of the Time unable to write at all from a violent inflammation in my eyes which at this moment is far from being removed.

In the first place let me congratulate you upon your elevation to a seat amongst the wise men of the Nation.²⁵ In this distinguished situation it will be in your power to render essential services to your state & indeed to the whole western Country your Knowl[e]dge of which is perhaps as extensive as that of any of your brother members & from the activity of your mind & the eagerness with which you seek information I am persuaded you will possess an extensive influence in the National Councils—You will no doubt accustom yourself to deliver your sentiments in the Senate. let me recommend to you however to speak seldom at first & never to attempt to make a long speech—When you design to speak on any subject select one or two of the strongest arguments that occur in favour of the side you propose to advocate & make use of those alone—there is not one man in a thousand who is not trained to it by a long course of practice at the bar that ever succeeds in that figure of Rhetorick called amplification it is indeed the rock upon which young orators generally split. I am affraid you will think all this advice very presumptuous & it is very possible that you may be able to instruct me on those very points in which I have presumed to dictate to you—but I really feel a warm interest in your success & what I have said proceeded from the sincerest friendship. Mr Parke²⁶ left this a few days since on his way to the seat of

²⁵ When the first legislature met in Chillicothe on March 1, 1803, Worthington was elected a senator from Ohio. Frank T. Cole, "Thomas Worthington," in *Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Quarterly* (Columbus, 1887-), XII (1903), 348.

²⁶ Benjamin Parke was born in New Jersey and settled in Indiana about 1800. He was a delegate to Congress from 1805 to 1808 and during the latter year was appointed by Thomas Jefferson a territorial judge, which office he held until Indiana became a state. He participated in the discussions at the Indiana constitutional convention in

Government to endeavor to effect the objects of his last years mission. He informed me that you promised to aid him in every particular excepting that of the introduction of slaves. I am sorry you are so much opposed to this measure—but more so on account of the opinion you have given that the consent of the State of Ohio is necessary before we can have slaves in this Territory²⁷—You certainly did not consider this subject sufficiently or you would not have given such an opinion. The Articles of Compact (so called) are made between the U.S. & each particular State to be formed out of the then North Western Territory & the words “mutual Consent” mean nothing more, certainly, than the consent of the Contracting parties—it is true that by *Construction* & by construction only & not by the plain & obvious meaning of the words—they are construed so as to make it necessary to have the consent of all the several states which may be formed as above to any alteration in the Articles which *directly* affect the interests of all—but on a question like the present in which the state of Ohio has no more interest or concern than the state of Kentucky, Vermont or any other state in the Union a reference to either of those states would be as proper as to the state of Ohio—but enough of this subject—

There has been much speculation in this country on the destiny of Louisiana—It is generally supposed that what is called Upper Louisiana which extends (that is the Settlements) from Lanse le Grosse to the Missouri will be attached to this Territory—almost the whole of those settlements will be as convenient to this place as those of Cahokia & KasKaskias—almost four fifths of the inhabitants are upon the Mississippi (or near it) from the Missouri to Lanse le Grosse & one fifth up the Missouri the highest settlement of which is about 60 miles from the Mississippi. A most ridiculous scheme has been hatched in KasKaskias i e to cut off the counties of St. Clair & Randolph (which are in the Illinois) & attach them to the Upper Louisiana²⁸—for the purpose of forming a

1816. When Indiana was admitted to the Union, James Monroe appointed him a United States District Judge. William Wesley Woollen, *Biographical and Historical Sketches of Early Indiana* (Indianapolis, 1883), 384-385.

²⁷ This reveals Harrison's friendly attitude towards slavery.

²⁸ The memorial to Congress from the inhabitants of these two counties is printed in Carter, *Territorial Papers of the United States*, VII (1939), 140-144.

Territorial Government of the two—there would then be left in this Territory exclusive of Detroit about 4000 Inhabitants only & this settlement would be still nearly as far from those on the Ohio as the Counties in the Illinois are at present from this place—the only greivance they Complain of is this distance from the seat of Governt This to the furthest settlement (Cahokia) is about 150 miles & by the late Treaty with the KasKaskias Tribe over half the distance has become the property of the U.S. & we have the right of fixing three stations on the other moiety of the way for the accomadation of Travelers.

Mr. Parke will converse with you upon all the subjects connected with his mission but there is one in which I alone am interested that I must beg your attention to—Viz—If a bill for regulating the post office establishment should be introduced this session I wish if possible to have a clause introduced allowing me to receive letters free of postage—As there are seldom private Conveyances my Correspondence with the distant Counties is almost entirely through the medium of the post—this together with the reports & returns from the several Indian Agents—applications from Individuals on account of depredations Committed by the Indians & ten thousand other Items run up my account with the post master to at least Sixty Dollars per Annum—I wrote last year to several of my friends on the subject & the Secretary of War promised particularly to patronise it—

I will write to you again in a few days—Mrs H. requests me to present her respects to you.

I am Dr Worthington

your friend

Willm H. Harrison

P.S. I had something else to say to you but my eyes are so bad that it is with the utmost difficulty that I can write at all
Honble

Thos Worthington Esqr.

The Honble

Thomas Worthington

in the Senate of the

U.S.

Washington City

Vincennes 25th Decr 1804

Dear Worthington

I am very much indebted to you for the exertions you made in my behalf during the last Session of Congress and altho the object was not obtained for which you contended my gratitude is not the less on that account.

It appears to me strange that Congress should think it proper to make me perform the duties of two governments for the emoluments which have been for several years attached to one of them.²⁹ About 5 weeks ago I returned from a tour to Louisiana I found the people of that Country much more attached to the Government of the United States than I expected they were from the accounts I had received & I am persuaded I left them much more so than they were on my arrival—What do you intend to do with that Country?³⁰ I hope that they may be made to pass a probationship before they are admitted into the Union for which they are certainly not ripe. The people of Upper Louisiana However are very far from wishing to be placed in that situation—their object is to obtain a Seperate Territorial Government & security for their land titles.

The Indiana Territory has at length entered the Second grade of Government—it was most warmly opposed here by your acquaintance Vanderburgh³¹— & a Scotchman of the name of McIntosh³² & in the Illinois Country by Colo Edgar³³

²⁹ When Harrison became governor of Indiana Territory, he was also ex officio superintendent of Indian affairs for the territory. *Annals of Congress*, 6 Cong., 1 Sess., 1499. Harrison complained about not being paid extra for additional work.

³⁰ By an act of March 26, 1804, the District of Louisiana was joined to Indiana for administrative purposes. This union lasted until the formation of Louisiana Territory on July 4, 1805. *Ibid.*, 8 Cong., 1 Sess., 1227-1299; *ibid.*, 8 Cong., 2 Sess., 1684-1686.

³¹ Henry Vanderburgh was appointed a probate judge and justice of peace for Knox County on August 12, 1791, a member of the legislative council of the Northwest Territory in 1799, and a judge of Indiana Territory in 1800. Carter, *Territorial Papers of the United States*, III, 356; *Senate Executive Journal, 1789-1805*, p. 323.

³² William McIntosh was appointed treasurer of Indiana Territory in 1804. Carter, *Territorial Papers of the United States*, VII, 194. McIntosh, Edgar, and the Morrisons were leaders of the anti-Harrison faction.

³³ John Edgar, a Scots-Irishman, came to Kaskaskia in 1784. He represented Randolph County in the first legislature of the Northwest Territory. James H. Roberts, "The Life and Times of General John Edgar," *Transactions of the Illinois State Historical Society for the Year 1907* (Springfield, 1908), 64-73.

& the Morrison family³⁴—the people of Detroit did not vote upon the question at all—they say that the writ of election did not arrive in time—but I believe the Truth is that they are determined not to have any thing to do with us. I have however assigned them their full share of the Representative i e three out of nine—this arises from the number of engages at Michilimacnac but the number of voters in that County is not equal to those of this County. The election of the Representatives will take place on the 3rd of next month & the meeting of the Members to choose the Council on the 1st day of February hardly time enough to send on the Nomination to the President before Congress will rise—if it does not get there in Time I must beg the favor of you to get a clause inserted in some law (or a seperate law passed for the purpose) to authorise the President to make the selection of Councillors in the recess of the Senate—this is a matter of much importance to us & I must beg your particular attention to it—if the Members come on at the day appointed & the Mail goes on to Washington without interruption the nomination of the Council will reach the President about the 26th of February—but you know that there are a thousand accidents to retard both the one & the other in passing through immense Wilderness—if We cannot get our Council organised before the next Session of Congress We cannot get a Delegate to that body until late next Winter.

If the bill for making an addition to the Salaries of the Govr & Judges & Secretary of this Territory should be revived this Session & you should discover that it is not likely to pass perhaps you could prevail on them to give us a sum in gross for our services—I have heard that it was the intention of some of the members to add \$400 to the salary of the Judges but not to encrease mine. This would make their compensation just equal to mine as Governor—it is true that I receive \$800 as Superintendant of Indian affairs—(making in the whole \$2000) but God knows that I richly earn the \$800—& so will any man who performs his duty & has the Superintendence of 10 or 12 Indian Tribes. this 800\$ was a sinecure to Govr St. Clair because he paid no attention to Indian affairs & it

³⁴ William Morrison born at Doylestown, Pennsylvania, came west and established a store in Cahokia, Illinois, about 1800. He and his brother Robert opposed Harrison. W. J. Ghent, "William Morrison," *Dictionary of American Biography*, XIII, 230-231.

is so still to the Governor of New Orleans & the Mississippi Territory. I rely upon you exerting yourself to serve me in this particular. I am affraid that the House of Representatives will not be so liberal as the Senate. I must therefore beg you to use your influence amongst the Members of that house in my favor. Those from whose friendship I should expect assistance in that House are—Messrs Eppes,³⁵ Newton³⁶ Clopton³⁷ Nicholson³⁸ & Eliot.³⁹ I have written to Eppes. Newton is an old school mate. If you think proper you may speak to them upon my subject.

Mrs Harrison is not very well but desires her respects may be presented to you—she presented me in October with the 3rd son & the 5th child—

from your friend—

Willm H. Harrison

Honble

Colo Worthington Ansd May 10th 1805

Vincennes 25th May 1805.

Dear Sir

I receivd your favor of the 10th Inst. by the last mail & should agreeably to your request have answered it by its returned but it was closed before I knew of its arrival. I have enclosed your letter to Mr Coopland who will immediately write you & enclose the money necessary to reimburse you. I would have done it myself but I have already drawn for my present quarters salary & there is not a bank bill to be had here. Mr Coopland is my brother in law & will I am sure be very grateful for your friendship to him

I am sorry to hear that you have doubts respecting your Continuance in Congress. Why should you decline? There

³⁵ John W. Eppes from Virginia was elected to the national House of Representatives and served from 1803 to 1811. *Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1927*, p. 947.

³⁶ Thomas Newton, a Virginian, was a member of the national House of Representatives from 1801-1829, 1829-1830, and 1831-1833. *Ibid.*, 1356.

³⁷ John Clopton was also a representative from Virginia. He served from 1795 to 1799 and 1801 to 1816. *Ibid.*, 825.

³⁸ Joseph H. Nicholson was a representative from Maryland in the national Congress from 1799 to 1806. *Ibid.*, 1358.

³⁹ James Elliott was elected as a representative from Vermont and served from 1803 to 1809. During the War of 1812, he served as a captain for a short time. *Ibid.*, 940.

are certainly few men in the Western Country better able to make the sacrifice of time than you are—and few who could render more service to it. I thank you sincerely for what you have done & what you intend to do for me.

If you are at leisure suppose you make us a visit this summer for a few weeks—you can pretend business in this quarter to prevent people from supposing that you have *run off from the Ague & fever*

Mrs Harrison remembers with gratitude your polite attentions to her. Accept of our best Wishes for you and yours.

I remain sincerely your friend
Willm H. Harrison

Honble
T. Worthington Esqr

The Honble Thomas Worthington Esqr
Chillicothe

Vincennes 23rd Novr 1805.

Dear Worthington

Agreeably to your recommendation I have sent forward a petition to Congress from the Judges Secretary & myself praying compensation for the duties performed by us in the District of Louisiana. It was supposed that it would be better to try our fate first in the House of Representatives & therefore the petition was sent to my friend Eppes I have no doubt you will give it all the aid in your power. I have another favor to ask of you—a new nomination for Governor of this Territory comes on at the present Session & altho I have every reason to believe that the President entirely approves of my administration; the affair is of such importance to me that it would be improper to neglect any honorable means of securing a reappointment. I know that in all affairs relating to the Western Country generally the members of Congress from that division of the United States have as they ought to have great influence. I therefore count upon your exertions in my favor & be assured they shall always be held in grateful remembrance. I wish you to write to me on the subject as soon as you can ascertain what the result is likely to be. You are acquainted with our Deligate Mr Parke who is a very worthy man or I would have given him a letter of Introduction

to you. He will amuse you with an account of our Territorial politics.

Mrs. Harrison desires her compliments to you & to Mrs. Worthington should she be with you.

I am Dr sir with great Regard your Hum Servt.

Willm Henry Harrison

The Honble

Thomas Worthington Esqr

Vincennes 10th Decemr 1811.

Dear Sir

If years have passed away without any communication between us it has not been occasioned on my part from the want of regard and attachment to you. I recollect indeed some years ago to have experienced for a short time some little uneasiness from something that I had heard. But it has been so long vanished from my mind that I have at this moment but a faint recollection of the circumstances & none of the particulars. I would long since have written to you but I am one of those unfortunate mortals who procrastinate every thing that is not necessary to be done immediately & which requires the use of the pen. Writing has always been my aversion & the great deal of it that I am obliged to do has not lessened by dislike to it. Petitions have been forwarded to Congress in favor of the sufferers in the late action with the Indians. I hope that your talents & influence will be exerted in their favor. Nothing in my opinion can be more just and politic than for the U States to provide handsomely for the families of those who were killed, as well as for those who were badly wounded. I have now in my House a Major White of Shelby county Ky. altho a Major in his state he served under me as a private. He is by trade a gun smith but I fear that a wound he received in the shoulder will forever render his left hand useless. What compensation would 5 Dolls per month be to him? I know also several persons who were killed that had left their families upon land which they had entered & on which they had paid one or two instalments that have no other means of making the money for the other payments but by their labour. This was particularly the case with Lt. McMahon—without the Interference of Congress his family will be turned off of the land & left destitute of

subsistence. Congress can very well afford to spare a little of their land to those who have contributed to defend it with their blood. What is called the new purchase above this on the Wabash is the finest part of the Western world in my estimation.

Whilst I was upon the late expedition Mrs Harrison added to our family a son which brings up my number of children to eight of whom five are sons. I hope that you have been equally successful. I enclose you herewith a Vincennes paper containing all *our* news which I wish to use the Indian phrase "to swap" for some of *yours*.

I am with great Regard
your friend & Sevt.

Willm H Harrison

P.S. If it is in your power to render any services to my aid de camp Major & (Judge) Taylor do so.⁴⁰ You will find him a clever fellow.

The Honble General T. Worthington
in the Senate of the United States

Cincinnati 7th Augt 1812.

Dear Sir

I have expected to have had the pleasure of seeing you before the Commencement of the Council at Piqua but as I have been called by Express from Govr Scott⁴¹ to Frankfort & am now about setting out I must abandon the Idea. The letter which you wrote me in the latter end of February or March was received but leaving home shortly afterwards & not returning until the Papers announced a recess of Congress

⁴⁰ Waller Taylor, who was born in Lunenburg County, Virginia, before 1786, had settled in Vincennes in 1805. Two years later he was appointed chancellor of the territory. He resigned this office when he was appointed a judge of Indiana Territory. At the Battle of Tippecanoe he was a major. When Indiana entered the Union, he was elected to represent the state in the United States Senate. Charles W. Taylor, *Biographical Sketches and Review of the Bench and Bar of Indiana* (Indianapolis, 1895), 27-28.

⁴¹ Charles Scott was born in Virginia about 1739. In 1785 he moved to Kentucky. Five years later he participated in Josiah Harmar's expedition against the Indians on the Scioto. In 1794 he took part with Wayne's army in the Battle of Fallen Timbers. He was elected governor of Kentucky in August, 1808. One of his last official acts was to commission William Henry Harrison of the United States Army as a major general of the Kentucky militia. Samuel M. Wilson, "Charles Scott," *Dictionary of American Biography*, XVI, 487.

being about to take place and sending off my family shortly after to this place it afforded me the prospect of a personal interview which I assure you would have been very agreeable to me as this hope has however been rendered abortive by the postponement of the Council & my being obliged to leave the State I drop you this to assure you of my willingness to bury in forgetfulness every unpleasant feeling which may have arisen from incorrect Statements the fact is that I never had a particle of resentment towards you & no other sentiment but that of regret at your putting as I supposed a harsh construction upon my conduct.

I fear that your Council will be but thinly attended unless our army at Detroit should at least be in the way to victory or that the Indians should think so. You will see in the papers a letter from Govr Edwards⁴² to Govr Scott by which it appears that the whole mass of Indians between Lake Michigan & the Mississippi are hostile altho some of their Chiefs are now in the Seat of Government. I am instructed to take the command of the troops destined for that quarter—but I have recommended to the Sec'y of War to send a regular officer for the purpose—in the mean time I shall do everything in my power to put things in a proper train.

I have sent the bearer Mr Barron to act as Interpreter to the Wabash Tribes.⁴³ He has been employed in that capacity for many years & has ever manifested the greatest fidelity in the discharge of his duty.

Please to present my Respects to Govr Meigs.⁴⁴ Mrs. H & my family will remain here until October, & should you be able to visit this after the Council we will be glad to see you.

I am Dr Sir
yours Respectfully
Willm H Harrison

⁴² Ninian Edwards was born in Montgomery County, Maryland, and in 1795 moved to Kentucky. In 1809 he was appointed governor of Illinois Territory by James Madison. When Illinois became a state in 1818, he began his career in the United States Senate. Wayne E. Stevens, "Ninian Edwards," in *ibid.*, VI, 41-42.

⁴³ This no doubt was Joseph Barron born at Detroit, Michigan, Carter, *Territorial Papers of the United States*, VIII (1939), 444.

⁴⁴ Return J. Meigs, who was born at Middletown, Connecticut, and who came to Ohio in 1788, was appointed judge of the Northwest Territory in 1798. He was elected governor of Ohio in 1810 and was active in raising troops in the War of 1812. William T. Utter, "Return Jonathan Meigs," *Dictionary of American Biography*, XII, 509-510.

Honble

Genl Worthington

———The Honble General Worthington

at Piqua

Mr Barron

Ohio

Cincinnati 28th August 1812

8 o Clock P.M.

Dear Sir

Your letter to Genl Payne⁴⁵ of yesterday was put into my hands this eveng. All the troops of my command that are on this side the Ohio will be put in motion early tomorrow morning—and I have ordered Captn Garrard⁴⁶ with a fine troop of Dragoons (armed however at this time as mounted Infantry) to proceed with all possible dispatch & put himself under the orders of Govr Meiggs or in his absence such other officer as may have been directed to take command of the mounted Corps ordered to releive Ft. Wayne—Captn Garrards is the only mounted company that I have with me—nor do I expect any other before monday next. I shall set out myself from hence the day after tomorrow morning & will overtake the Infantry by the time they reach Dayton—I have dispatched an express & have directed him to ride night & day to hurry on the troops that are on their march from Kentucky—A regiment of Infantry will arrive at New Port tomorrow evg but it will require two days to pay & equip them—If Govr. Meiggs should be with you please to communicate this letter to him.

I am Dr Sir yours Respectfully

Willm Henry Harrison

Honble T. Worthington [Esq]r

Marginal note: Please to send the enclosed letter as directed.

Honble T. Worthington esqr

Piqua

Mr. Shaw

⁴⁵ This was probably John Payne, a citizen of Augusta, Kentucky. He was an active and brave officer under Harrison at the battles of Mississinawa Towns and the Thames. Richard H. Collins, *History of Kentucky* (2 vols., Louisville, 1924), II, 93.

⁴⁶ William Garrard commanded a troop of volunteer state dragoons. The names of the men are recorded in *ibid.*, 76.

Franklinton 13th Sept 1812

Dear Sir

Will you be so obliging as to have a waiscoat made for me at Chilicothe of Blue Superfine cloth double breasted & limed [sic] with an Edging of Gold Cord round it. Send it to me as soon as it is done and a conveyance offers together with the price & it. shall be immediately forwarded. You can give the tayler a pretty good Idea of my size recollecting that I am as lank as a New Market Jockey

Yr friend

Willm Henry Harrison

Genl Worthington

Head Quarters Urbana 11 Octo. 1812

Dear Sir

The money which you inform me has been placed in your Bank to the credit of Col. Buford⁴⁷ will all be expended in the Chilicothe District in the purchasing provisions to be taken to the Rapids of Miami by the way of Sandusky. I have dispatched an express after Col. Buford to bring him to the Sciota. The bearer goes Express to the mouth of Kennawa for the purpose of directing the Troops there to take the route by Chilicothe & Franklinton to Delaware. Will you be so obliging as to inform the Contractor's Agent at Chilicothe of this and direct him to prepare provisions for them. If there is an agent of Messrs Baymiller & Barr in your Town I must request the favor of you also to inform him that I shall be at Franklinton tomorrow for the purpose of making arrangements for the supply of the Troops and that I wish to see him there. From mis-information I had designated Wooster as the place of Deposit when it should have been Mansfield. Indeed I now find that a principal part of the supplies may be taken up the Sciota through Worthington & Delaware directly to Sandusky without passing either Mansfield or Wooster and it is by this route that I mean a principal part of the supplies are to be carried to the Miami Rapids. Can flour Cattle, Hogs & Whiskey be procured in the Sciota Country—to the amt. of the former (flour) of 500,000 Rations & of Cattle or Hogs & Whiskey 1000,000 of Rations. Give me

⁴⁷ Thomas Buford was the deputy commissary at Lancaster, Kentucky. Esarey, *Messages and Letters of William Henry Harrison*, II, 92.

all the information you can upon the subject and send it to Franklinton. The Pennsylvania Troops & the artillery are still intended to go by New Lisbon Canton & Wooster to Mansfield.

I enclose you a letter to a Mr. Morris who is the Agent of Baymiller & Barr the Subcontractors. Will you be so obliging as to send it to him by Express wherever he may be

Four Regiments of my Left Wing are at Defiance under General Winchester.⁴⁸ Two others thirty six miles in the rear on the Auglaise building some block houses & boats and one Regiment on St. Mary's. The supplies on that wing are in tolerable forwardness. Two hundred & fifty thousand Rations are at St. Mary's and arrangements made to send them on to Defiance. The Depot at St. Mary's is also daily increasing.

The supplies for the right wing are much behind-hand. Send me if you please to Franklinton all the information in your power as to the facility of procuring Cattle, Hogs, Whiskey, flour & Salt in the Sciota Country & on the heads of the Muskingum.

I have not time to inform you of the events which have transpired on the other wing.

Yr friend &
Willm Henry Harrison

The Honble T Worthington

Public Service
from Gen. W. H. Harrison
The Honble Thomas Worthington
Chilicothe
O.

Hd Quarters Franklinton
20th Novr 1812

Dear Sir

Your favor of the 10th Inst. reached me this Evg—You inform me that my nomination as Brigadir lies over in the

⁴⁸ James Winchester was born in Carroll County, Maryland, in 1752. In 1785 he migrated to Tennessee. When Tennessee was admitted to statehood in 1796, he was elected a state senator and also became the speaker of the Senate. Edd W. Parks, "James Winchester," *Dictionary of American Biography*, XX, 378-379.

Senate until I shall make the declaration that I will resign my appointment as Govr. of the Inda Territory—to tell you the truth I am willing that it should lie over forever. You may appear surprised at this & therefore I will explain myself I had spent a considerable portion of the prime of my life in the army—& had afterwards devoted much of my time to the improvement of the information I had acquired in the army—I believe that there were very few persons in the U. States who had turned their attention that way & as most of the revolutionary office[r]s were gone or going off the stage I thought that the little information I possessed might be useful & was very willing to leave a large helpless & justly beloved family & a snug office & accept of an military appointment. But I soon found that I had been mistaken as to the mass of military information in the U. States & that there were enough of the Revolutionary officers still capable of service as well as others that were qualified to fill all the appointments in the grade of general officers I was content therefore to remain at home tho' mortified a little I confess at my being passed over. You have been made acquainted with the circumstances which placed me at the Head of a body of Kenty Troops & that the partiality of the Army & the Western people had given an importance to my services which I am satisfied they did not merit. I feel myself bound therefore by every principle of duty to continue in the army in any situation that may be given until the peculiar circumstances which create my usefulness no longer exist—in other words until peace is restored to the western country—persuaded that I can then be of no no further importance to the Army I shall wish to retire not choosing to serve as a Junior Brigadir to several who have never seen any service—I hope that a few months will put us in possession of Malden & prostrate the Indian Tribes at our feet I can then leave the service without subjecting myself to censure or violating my own sense of propriety—But if it is thought proper to deprive me of my Govmt in the mean time I must submit—at any rate I do not want the appointment of Brigdr If the Commission I have from Kenty will be recognized & unless it is I cannot command the Army as Genl Winchester being the senior Brigadir will by the Articles of War have a right to assume it. I have thus my dear Sir done as you desired i e explained myself candidly to you— & I can assure you I am quite in-

different as to the result. Unless my informants were very much mistaken I am no great favorite of the Senate & I should not be much surprised if your calculations should prove erroneous & I should be rejected as Brigadier by the that body.—That will not however prevent me from going with the army in some shape or other

With respect to the operations of this army I have little information to give you—the great obstacle to our advance arises from the difficulty of transporting our supplies. I had calculated largely upon water transportation for the left wing & had ordered a considerable number of boats & perogues to be prepared for a rise of water—the water did rise—but the boats were not *quite* ready. The roads on that wing are nearly impassable for Waggon & our only resource is in Pack horses—these can be procured immediately but it will take some time to prepare the equipment for the number ordered & we are very apprehensive that drivers cannot be procured. I have a large quantity of stores for the army now on the Sciota & I have taken my stand here to forward them whilst the troops advance to Sandusky— A Brigade of this state under Genl Perkins⁴⁹ is now or will be at Lower Sandusky in a day or two—I enclose you a hand bill containing an abstract of Genl Tupper's⁵⁰ account of his late expedition to the Rapids. I have ordered Generals Winchester & Perkins to ascertain if the enemy are still there & if so to dispossess them. I fear that it will not be in my power to comply with your request as to giving you my opinion on the subject of a militia law. I do indeed believe that I deserve the opinion you have of me with respect to industry—but with all that I have I am really scarcely able to perform the duties which appertain to my station. My private affairs are totally given up & my property is where ever I have any going to the devil—my wife & whole family have been & still are ill—& I have hardly time

⁴⁹ Simon Perkins was born at Norwich, Connecticut, September 17, 1771. He moved to Oswego, New York, in 1795 spending three years in extensive land operations. In the spring of 1798, he went to Ohio to explore that portion of the Western Reserve which had been sold by the state of Connecticut. The new proprietors had requested him to undertake this task and then suggest a plan for the sale and settlement of the lands. Benson J. Lossing, *The Pictorial Field-Book of the War of 1812* (New York, 1869), 339.

⁵⁰ Edward Tupper, a resident of Gallipolis, Ohio, raised one thousand men mostly from Gallia, Jackson, and Lawrence counties, marched to the northwest and fought with the enemy at the foot of the Maumee Rapids. Howe, *Historical Collections of Ohio*, I, 680.

to write them a word of comfort—You will not wonder at this when you reflect on the size [&] the dispersed situation of the several coprs which compose it the kind of troops of which it is composed & inexperience of the officers. Until the arrival of Colo Morrison⁵¹ here a few days ago I have had the whole weight of that important Department upon my own hands.—I am preparing an Expedition against the Miamis of Mississiniway—If their own Conduct did not make this measure proper which it certainly does—the position of this town as it regards one of my lines of operation & the use the other Indians will make of it to annoy & cut off my convoys makes it indispensable—It is rendered more so by the failure of Genl Hopkins—⁵²

Your are mistaken in supposing that I am unacquainted with all the members of yr committee. With Genl Smith of Md⁵³ I have long been very intimate & still regard him as one of my best friends

Be pleased to give my respects to him & tell him that I would willingly give up the Command of this army either to himself or Colo Monroe⁵⁴ & serve in a subordinate station

I am yr friend

Willm Henry Harrison

⁵¹ James Morrison, the son of an Irish emigrant, was born in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, in 1755. For six years he served in the army during the American Revolution. In 1792 he moved to Lexington, Kentucky. He filled many important offices such as, land commissioner, representative in the legislature, supervisor of revenue, navy agent, contractor of the northwestern army during the War of 1812, quartermaster general, president of the Lexington branch of the United States bank, and chairman of the Board of Trustees of Transylvania University. Collins, *History of Kentucky*, II, 196.

⁵² See "The Expeditions of Major-General Samuel Hopkins up the Wabash, 1812 . . .," in the *Indiana Magazine of History* (Bloomington, 1905-), XLIII (1947), 393-402. Hopkins was born in Albermarle County, Virginia, on April 9, 1753. He was one of the original members of the Society of Cincinnati. In 1797, he settled in Kentucky, and was a member of the lower branch of the state legislature from 1800 to 1806, and the upper house from 1809 to 1813. In the latter year he became a member of Congress. E. Merton Coulter, "Samuel Hopkins," *Dictionary of American Biography*, IX, 218-219.

⁵³ Samuel Smith was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, on July 27, 1752. Later the family moved to Baltimore. He served with distinction in the battles of Brandywine and Fort Mifflin. In the War of 1812 he served as a major general. Lossing, *The Pictorial Field-Book of the War of 1812*, p. 947.

⁵⁴ Could this be James Monroe later president of the United States, who attained the rank of lieutenant colonel in the Virginia militia? Daniel C. Gilman, *James Monroe* (Boston, 1883), 12.

Genl Worthington

Honble

Thomas Worthington
U S. Senate
Washington City

Endorsed: Wm H. Harrison
20th Novr 1812
Ansd 28th

Head Quarters
Portage River 31th Jany 1813.

Dear Sir

You will have heard before this reaches you of the unfortunate affair of the River Raisin. The Detachment to that place was made without my knowledge or consent & in direct opposition to my plans. As soon as I was informed of it I hastened on to the rapids & did every thing in my power to support it.

A Frenchman came in last night who left the River Raisin the day after the action he gives a more favorable account than that previously received. He says that the greater part of the troops behaved extremely well & would have beaten off the enemy if the center of the line had not given way. The right kept its ground & never retreated—nor did they surrender until Genl Winchester was brought back with the few that were taken on the retreat. The Frenchman says that he saw 61 of the enemy dead & 49 that lay opposite our right flank taken off[f] in sleds & he heard Colo Babe⁵⁵ say that their troops & Indians had suffered as severely as ours. He thinks there were about 600 of our men taken prisoners. If this be so the killed & wounded (the latter being not included in the 600) will amount to 340. I was reinforced last night

⁵⁵ This was probably François Baby. He was born within the stockade of Detroit December 7, 1768. On September 5, 1795, at Sandwich he married Frances Abbott. They established their home on the south shore of the river opposite the city of Detroit. He was an active citizen of Upper Canada, served several terms in the legislature as a representative from Kent County, as colonel of the militia, and during the War of 1812 as adjutant general. Milo M. Quaife (ed.), *The John Askin Papers* (2 vols., Detroit, 1928), I, 377.

with 1000 men under Genl Leftwich⁵⁶ & shall tomorrow again be at the Rapids

From the Peculiar Organization of the Militia under the State laws the staff officers of all the Militia that are now in service are likely to suffer—the laws of the U States give to each staff officer pay in addition to their pay in the lines. Intending that they should all be from the lines. There is however scarcely a militia staff officer which has been taken from the lines. The greater part of them are privates & others selected from volunteers who joined the army. The U S pay masters refuse to allow them any thing but the additional pay—to an Adjutant, for instance ten Dollars per month & the Aids de camp 24 Dollrs I think that it would be proper to allow them what the regular officers receive in particular the aids de Camp & Brigade Majors & Inspectors to receive the Pay & emoluments of the office. The Regimental Adjutants & Quarter Masters the Extra pay added to that of Lieutenant. Unless this is done great dissatisfaction will prevail amongst the Militia. I presume that those members who come from states that have militia in the field will join you in effecting this arrangement

Yr. friend

Willm Henry Harrison

Honb T. Worthington

[Endorsed:] Wm Harrison

31st of Jany 1813

ansd 14th Feby

Head Quarters Franklinton

19th May 1813.

Dear Sir

Your letter upon the subject of the flour remaining on your hands did not reach me until the moment of my leaving

⁵⁶ Dorothy B. Goebel, *William Henry Harrison, A Political Biography* (Indianapolis, 1926), 443, refers to General B. G. Leftwich. *Appleton's Cyclopaedia of American Biography* (7 vols., New York, 1887-1900), III (1894), 677, gives a short account for Joel Leftwich as having been born in Bedford County, Virginia, in 1759. During the American Revolution he fought at Germantown and at Camden and was severely wounded at Guilford. He was a member of the Virginia legislature and for a number of years a justice of peace of Bedford County. It also states that during the War of 1812 he served under Harrison.

Fort Meigs. Upon my arrival here I understood that you had left Chillicothe for Washington & I presumed that you had made another disposition of the flour. At any rate it is not in my power to take it upon the public account—the transportation would cost more than double what the Contractor has agreed to furnish it on on the Lakes—Indeed we have more flour than we want. Mr Orr the Contractor⁵⁷ will no doubt take all you have to dispose of for internal consumption.

I am your friend

Willm Henry Harrison

Genl Worthin[gton]

[Endorsed:] Wm H Harrison

no ans

⁵⁷ This may have been A. D. Orr of Orr and Greeley who were army contractors. Goebel, *William Henry Harrison*, 177n.