

SIEGE OF FORT HENRY

Colonel David Sheperd to General Hand

Fort Henry, 27 September 1777

Early yesterday a party of 46 men under the command of Captains Foreman & Ogle set out on a scouting party. They purpose reconnoitering as far as Capeteening & making their return in 3 or 4 days. On their arrival at Grave Creek they found the place burned down & all the canoes or crafts destroyed or carried off. This brought them to a resolution of returning as they could not conveniently cross the river. By 5 men returned, of whom Col. Linn is one. We learn that about 11 o'clock forenoon they were fired on a little above McMahan's Narrows by a large body of Indians who lay concealed between them & the river & put our men to flight such as did not fall before they had time to discharge their guns. We have reason to believe by the reports that few are escaped, the number of the enemy being so vastly superior. One of the men returned has received two wounds with one ball or shot, not mortal. Our situation calls for immediate assistance as we expect to have the enemy in a few hours at farthest. We wholly depend on you for flour as we are not able to go to mills as a party would only fall into the enemy's hands. 4 men are come in but can give no further account....

There are wounded men who lie in the woods, particularly one with a broken leg & some others.

Reuben Gold Thwaites, ed. *Frontier Defense on the Upper Ohio, 1777-1778*. (Madison: 1912):106-107.