

SIEGE OF FORT HENRY

Captain John Vanmatre to Colonel Edward Cook

Beech Bottom, Ohio, 28 September 1777

I am sorry that I have the following account to give you; that is, on the 27th of this instant Captain Linn with nine men, Captain William Forman with 24, Captain Joseph Ogle from this place with 10 men went down to Grave Creek to make what discovery they could make. When come there found Grave Creek Fort all consumed to ashes, the corn cut up and totally destroyed and on their return to Wheeling about eight miles below Wheeling was attacked by a large number of Indians. The killed and wounded is unknown any further than sixteen that hath came in and four of them wounded. Sir, I request the favor of you to have another company in readiness and at this place against my time is up, for I think there will be great necessity for them here for the times seem to be now dangerous and more so hereafter. Otherwise I expect I shall have to guard the people of this place away from here, for it is impossible for them to stay for the garrison will be left desolate....

In case another company should come, send with them a sufficient quantity of flour to support them, for it appears that they cannot be supported with flour here. The times is so difficult that people that has wheat cannot thrush it neither can get it ground As for beef or pork, there is plenty to be had convenient. Also send a sufficient quantity of salt and ammunition, for it is not to be had here any. Your compliance will amiably oblige the people.

Reuben Gold Thwaites, ed. *Frontier Defense on the Upper Ohio, 1777-1778*. (Madison: 1912):110-111.