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1889

John M. McClintock, History of New Hampshire 501–02 (Boston,
B.B. Russell 1889)

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Colony

Province

State

1623-1888



HISTORY OF

NEW HAMPSHIRE

BY

JOHN N. McCLINTOCK



BOSTON

B. B. RUSSELL, CORNHILL

1889

over the country, and made the task of carrying on the government and keeping up the war one of no small difficulty.¹

In August the people of Portsmouth became apprehensive of an attack, and were furnished with arms and ammunition by the governor. In the west the war was conducted with varying success through the year. The retaking of Detroit and Michigan, and Commodore Perry's victory on Lake Erie, balanced many reverses of American arms. At Detroit Colonel Lewis Cass, a native of Exeter, became distinguished. He was born in 1782; at an early age settled in Ohio; and in 1807 was appointed marshal of the State. In 1813 he was appointed brigadier-general and later governor of Michigan Territory. He was afterwards secretary of war in General Jackson's cabinet; minister to France in 1836; United States senator in 1845; a candidate for the presidency in 1848; re-elected to the Senate in 1851; President Buchanan's secretary of state in 1857, resigning in January, 1861. He died in 1866. He was a brave soldier, an accomplished gentleman, a true patriot, and an able statesman, who reflected credit upon his native State.

During the year General Timothy Upham distinguished himself as a brave officer during an attempted attack on Montreal.

British ships of war remained off the coast of the United States during the winter of 1813 and 1814, their rendezvous being at the Bermuda Islands and at Gardner's Bay, at the east end of Long Island, while the coast of eastern New England was reached by an easy run of their cruisers from Halifax, their naval depot upon the coast of North America.

The attack of the British, in April, 1814, upon the fleet of vessels collected for safety in the Connecticut river greatly alarmed the people of Portsmouth, and in answer to their demands, companies under command of Captains Shackford and Marshall were immediately stationed in the neighborhood. In the latter part of the month Admiral Cochrane, from his rendezvous at the Bahamas, issued a proclamation declaring the whole coast of the United States in a state of blockade, thus including New England, before excepted. Forthwith British cruisers ap-

¹ Life of Mason.

peared in Massachusetts Bay and captured and burned some thirty or forty coasting vessels, producing great consternation in Portsmouth. A demand was made for a force of a thousand men for the protection of the town; and in May Governor Langdon detached eight companies of the militia and placed them under the command of Major Edward J. Long, of Portsmouth, to defend the town and harbor. Among the officers were Captain Andrew Pierce, Jr., of Dover, and Captain Bradbury Bartlett, of Nottingham.

When the legislature assembled in June, 1814, the governor laid before them his doings in a special message; and a special committee was appointed upon the subjects of the detached militia and the maritime defence. To this committee was referred the correspondence of the governor with the secretary of war; and the letters of the latter were so objectionable on account of their omissions that the committee recommended the disbandment of six of the eight militia companies detached in May and stationed at the mouth of the Piscataqua. This was done because the general government did not acknowledge the service done by the militia. Their report was accepted and acted upon by the governor. In the meanwhile the greatest excitement existed at Portsmouth. They had been for weeks in the expectation of an immediate attack upon the town, by the British, whose cruisers were continually hovering about our coast. Alarms had been frequent as to the landing of the enemy, and many of the inhabitants had their valuables packed ready for transportation into the interior. After ten o'clock in the evening of June 21, messengers brought the intelligence that a British force was landing at Rye and were about to march upon Portsmouth. Alarm bells were rung and signal guns fired. The militia companies turned out with alacrity and prepared for the attack. Teams and people on foot, loaded with packages and bundles, filled the streets, making with all haste for the country. Drums beating, the clatter of horses' hoofs on the pavement, the crying of children, the shrieking of women, made the confusion Babel-like.

A martial spirit pervaded all ranks, and they glowed with ardor