

Washington City April 23, 1818

Dear Sir

I had the pleasure of receiving your letter of the 14 of Febury last noting that your Brother Jeremiah had answered my former one - and given me the particulars of that most gallant little affair of taking the Margarett, Dilligent and Tapnagouche Schooners in the month of April and may in the year 1775 - - that letter was mis= carried & I fear lost - I should have answered yours some time since, but hoped to receive that of Capt. OBriens, and answered both: is the reason of this apparent - Delay- your letter I have not only paid particular attention to, but have shown it to my friend Jos Anderson Comptroler of the Treasury, to the past Mast^r Genl to the Commiss^r of the Land office, but to several other influential men & shall shew it to the President – But Sir Such has been my occupation and hurry in the office which I am Employed that I could not pay that attention to several important interests which my wishes urge — One I will recommend to you: to make a fair plain Statement of the attack on Machias 14 Sept^r 1814 — By the British forces, and of the maner of their taking your vessel, or destroying of Her, have the affair clearly Stated - and Sworn to by the best men evidence and most respectable ^ you can obtain when this is done Enclose your paper under cover (with a power of attorney to some one here to make proper application for your loss) - and address them Either to Joseph Anderson Comptroler

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MMN #7473

Date: April 23, 1818

Description: Eyewitness report of the capture of the Margaretta

of the Treasury; or to Return Jon^a Meigs Post Master Genl - and say I have authorized you thus to use — their Address — as I am inclined to believe the amt^t of the value of your vessel may be obtained. I will not be wanting in anything in my power to aid you in the recovery of it — and any letters you may please to favor me with — Please to cover the letters in the manner above. If I can render you, or any one of your brothers a Service, it will afford me sincere pleasure — — — with respect to the affair of taking the Margarette Schooner so far as my recollection serves was thus and I by you to correct add to, or strike out as your recollection may serve you for I can only state from memory — Viz —

Before the Battle of Concord 19. Ap^r 1775. The Margaret Schooner Capt^t. Moore - Sailed from Boston and came to Machias to escort convoy two sloops owned by Ichobod ^{Jones} with lumber for Boston & for the use of the British Government. While those vessels were loading. Their came to Machias a vessel. & brought the news of the Battle of Concord — and communicated it to the people, on a Saturday Evening — the next Morning Sunday ^{it was proposed to take the officers when at public worship, and thereby obtain the vessel in retaliation for Concord & Lexington, in attempting this. The officers Capt^t. Moore & others escaped and got on board the Schoon - and fell down to Scotts Wharf where they were fired upon by a party who had come there headed by M^r. Foster from the East river — but as it fell dark very soon, the Margarette fell down the river near where my family then lived on Monday Morning. the people being yet together at Scotts - the Schooner in view - your Brother}

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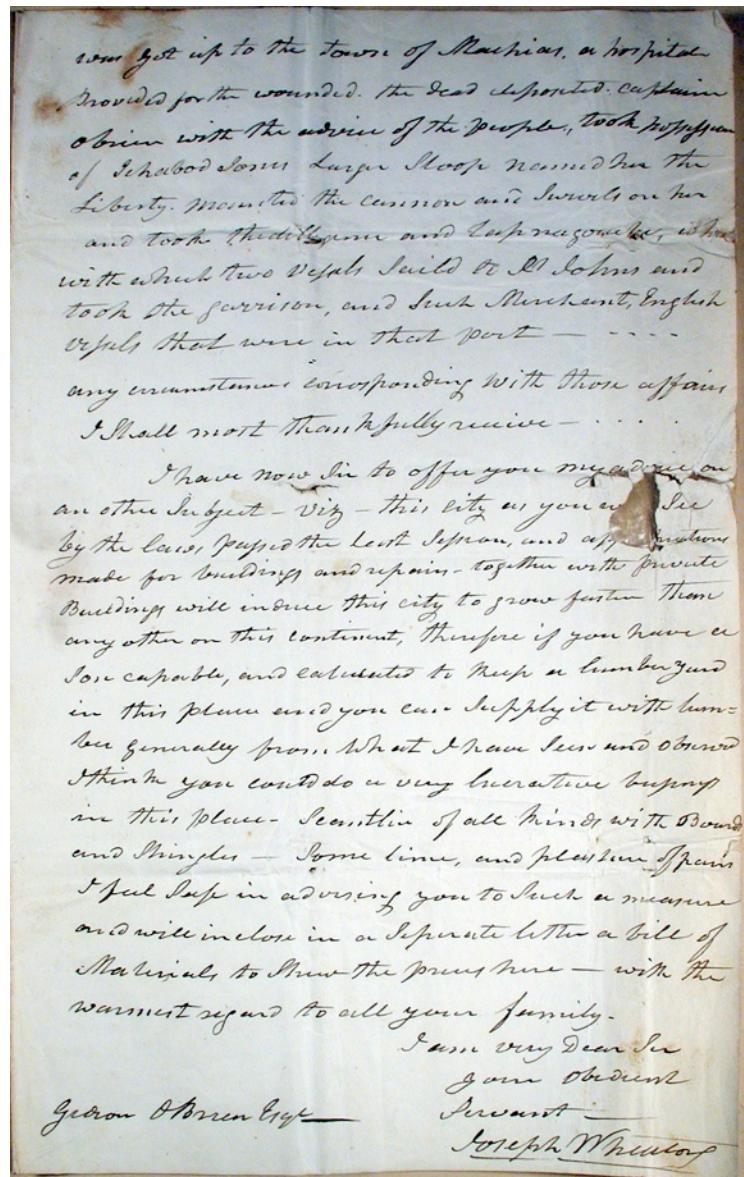
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Dennis and Myself were Standing on the Wharf by ourselves - when I said to him - Dennis let us go and take that Schooner - how will you do it Said Dennis - I said, we can take Job Hains's Sloop, get the people on board her, the Sloop will out Sail the Margarett, we can board her and take her - with all my heart said Dennis - we then called to our aid two youths, and renewed the proposition to which they agreed - we four immediately steped into a boat and went on board the Job Hains's Sloop and demand him to take the Sloop to Scotts wharf which with some little opposition was effected. So soon as we steped on Shore and gained the Bush before Scotts house, we four took off our Hatts and gave three cheers - when your Brother Jeremiah steped forward, yourself & Brother John & called upon the people to undertake the interprise to which all consented - who with one impulse collected the arms, three round of loose powder and ball, a number of axes, several hay forks - took on board one barrel of water, a small bag of bread & a few pieces of pork - and made ready to pursue the Margarett - while the people were thus employed - the Capt. of the Margarett observing the movement of our people going to and from the Sloop, by his Spy glass - got his Schooner under way and prowded down the river, and on passing the high point of land Some person fired at the Schooner, which occasioned her to jibe and by which she carried away her boom, and when She had reached Holmes's bay Met with a Sloop commanded by Robert Avery from her the Capt took the boom, and as soon as it was rigged our

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Sloop came in sight of the Margarettie when she made sail and stood to sea for Boston with Capt. Avery on board, and his boat in tow - our crew in chase choose with one voice Jeremiah Obrien Commander, who arranged our men in rank across the deck from the windlass aft. & thus formed & parted stood ready for action, in a short time the Margarettie began to cut away her boats, and finding we gained upon her they cut away all or three boats - and commenced a heavy fire in quick succession. a man named McNeal took our wall piece, the only one we had, & while resting it on the bitts of the windless to take aim. received a swivel ball in his forehead & fell. a man named Knight, took up the wall piece as it fell from the hand of McNeal, & fired it and wounded the man at the Helm of the Margarettie at which time she broached too. while our gallant little Helmsman was Steel was steering our Sloop for the broad side of the Schooner, and at which moment our men made a fair fire of Musketry on the Margarettie - and as we made the second fire, our bowsprit took the shrouds of the Schooner running through her mainsail, when Capt. Moore put a hand grenade among us. but the moment our Sloops bow struck the Schooners side. I believe you lead the boarders for some sure I was near you - the Capt. Moore was shot down with two balls in his breast. The second officer slightly wounded or much frightened - Robert Avery killed. when all was quiet and order restored I ran up the Shrouds and cut the penant halyards from the crosstrees and brought them down. your Brother Jeremiah took down the Ensign - the boats were regained which had been cut a way from the Margarettie, the rigging over halled and put in order. when a southerly breeze sprund up and we returned to Scotts Wharf about sunset - as soon as the Margarettie was

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was got up to the town of Machias, a hospital provided for the wounded, the dead departed captain obrien with the advise of the people, took possession of Ichabod Jones Large Sloop named her the Liberty mounted the cannon and swivels on her and took the diligence and Tapnagouche, [?] with which two vessels saile to St Johns and took the garrison, and such Merchant, English vessels that were in that port — — — any circumstances corresponding with those affairs I shall most thankfully receive —

I have now Sir to offer you my advice on an other Subject - viz - this city as you [page torn] see by the laws passed the last session and app[er]tions made for building and repairs - together with private Buildings will induce this city to grow faster than any other on this continent, therefore if you have a son capable, and entrusted to keep a lumber yard in this place and you can supply it with lumber generally from what I have Seen and observed I think you could do a very lucrative business in this place - [?] of all kinds with Boards and shingles - some lime, and plaster of paris I feel safe in advising you to such a measure and will inclose in a seperate letter a bill of Materials to shew the prices here — with the warmest regard to all your family.

I am very Dear Sir
your obedient
Servant
Joseph Wheaton
Gideon O'Brien Esqr.