

Beynon Journal August 1814

Date

- '19 Lt Pearce came back from Annapolis having captured two small vessels. Says town is very pretty. PM] Sent tender in shore near Kent I. captured a small craft.
20. Very hot. Anchored abreast of Annapolis - very pretty well fortified. Lt. Warr in the barge with four men chased a boat and a woman in it. all escaped except the master who was too drunk. A battery nearby with 300 men - one gun fired from it. Tenders ret'd from Balto. chased by 16 gun boats. Weighed & anchored at entrance to Potomac - evening flotilla moving up river to city. Lt. Crease went up with 2 barges & both tenders ^{at 7 pm} to reconnoiter - Evening gunboats formidable - schooners, luggas and cutters.
- 21 Boats ret'd at 8 without seeing anything - Dicks weighed & went to Annapolis. Sir P. determined to storm fort Madison. Took 200 seamen & marines - grounded several times gave up trying ret'd to sleep at 3³⁰
22. 10 AM heard explosion of Berne's shells - encampment left at town militia marched into town saw town from cross tree - very pretty. Lt. Pearce ^{& Howe} left at dark to reconnoiter fort Madison
23. Pearce ret'd at 5 am - missed the fort but heard sentinels. At 6 AM weighed for Balto. sent boats to Kent I for stock. Took geese etc threatened farmers - Thos. Evans resisted boats took 2 fine ones - stayed overnight.
- 24 Couldnt find Evans. farmers brought stock. Sir P. anxious to leave didnt take the stock. At dark Crease left with 2 boats and 2nd tender.
- 25 Very warm. 10 AM saw tender close to Poles I. 6 large gunboats & 2 schooners came out in direction of tender, got under weigh, gunboats retreated, Crease had destroyed fine schooner Lion of Balto. & brought out a fine boat. 2 PM ^{thunder & very} squall upset MARY could not send boats to help & blowing a hurricane saved all but 2 men one could not swim Martin stayed with him but almost drowned himself. Mr. Colliers was in a small boat and succeeded in reaching shore and was recovered.
- 26 Motion very ill all night - surgeon took great quantity of blood AM felt much better. Cat tried to climb on his shoulders. Great fire seen last night [Washington burned]
27. Fresh wind from SW. After breakfast Sir P took JANE & reconnoitered Balto. Saw JANE unregg'd. brought out boat full of fruit taken 3 mi from town - No gunboats came out. 2³⁰ PM weighed for Poles I. Saw Yankee horseman riding along, sword drawn. fired 18 lbs at him - ^{on rearing horse} he fell from horse and rode off like the devil. At half past 6 anchored abreast Poles I - a large white house 1/2 mile away
28. Long description re attack on Genl Lloyd's house, Congreve rocket misfires, several more fired & 18 lbs. at 5 landed & marched up to the house. Cavalry kept a distance at end of corn field - set fire to horses. ^{extremely} Cavalry well mounted & dashing dress in blue with long white feathers in hats. At dusk went back to sleep - finest part of America he had seen. House ^{was} elegant.
29. AM. House burning furiously. One of men found letter Walker was writing to daughter at 2 pm landed on Poles I but found no stock. Ret'd to sleep at 5. House burned all day.
- 30 - good stuff