

Barrie - Cockburn

To/

George Cockburn Esq^r.
Rear Admiral of the Red
etc etc.

Sir

The Sloop Messenger
Rappahanock 7th Dec^r 1814

Understanding by Signal from the Dotterel that you are arrived in the Chesapeake I lose no time in acquainting you that in consequence of information I had received from authority on which I could rely "that the Regiments of Virginia Militia, lately stationed on the Banks of the Rappahanock, had been for several days passed disbanded for the Winter and that most of the Troops belonging to the distant parts of the State were already returned to their homes"

I determined to proceed with the Forces named in the Margin up the Rappahanock, intending first to attack the Town of Tappahanock where I understood there was an Suspectious Tobacco Store, but my chief object in the Expedition was to annoy the Enemy by obliging him to reassemble his Militia, and by landing in different parts of the River, keep his Troops constantly on the alert, which in this Country at this advanced season of the year is most harassing Service.

On the 29th Ultimo I entered the river with the Schooners and Boats, the Devastation, Terror, and Bream having previously grounded; light winds and our ignorance of the Navigation (some of the Schooners being constantly aground) prevented our getting sight of Tappahanock before eight O'clock on the 2nd Instant, when we observed a considerable body of Troops drawn out with their Field Pieces; as the Schooners could not make any progress

apparently an
informant

Devastation
Terror
Bream
Gabriel
Messenger
Little John
Bachelor &
Bachelor's Friend
Boats from
Dragon
Menelaus
Havannah
Brume