

1814



NEW LONDON



PETTYPAUG POINT



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Privately Printed

1881

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NEW LONDON

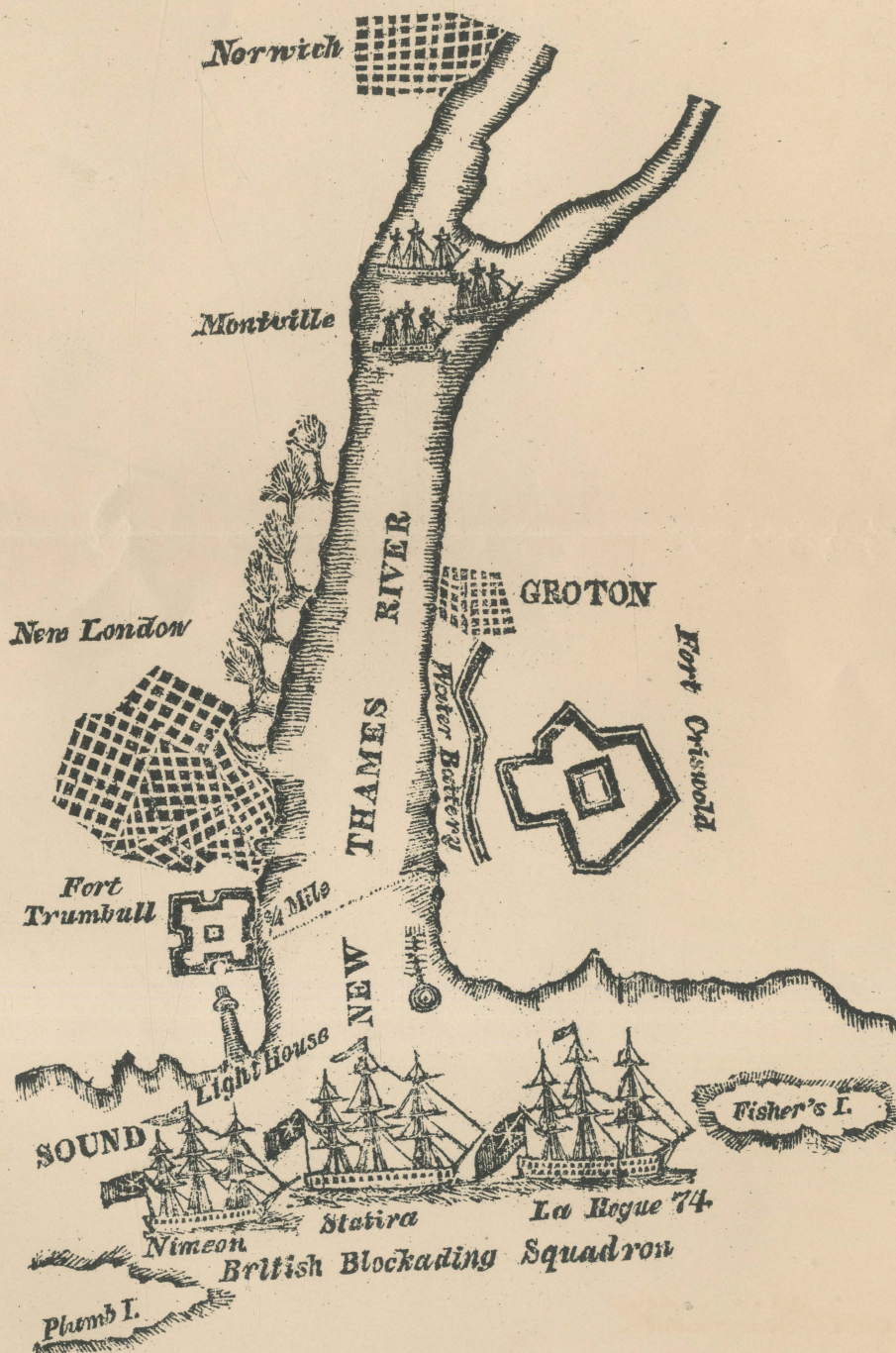
1811

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Paul L Ford

BIRDS' EYE VIEW
OF
NEW LONDON.
AND THE
British and American Squadrons.



REMARKS

The American Schooner is anchored opposite
Western wharf, near the corner of Broadway and
East 12th Street, New York City.

STATE OF MAINE

Whereas, the schooner "The American" is a vessel
owned and operated on the coast of Maine, and
was during the winter season, 1887, engaged in
trading with the British coast, and during the
year, and continuing to trade, the schooner
carried 25 and 27 passengers; the schooner
is about 120 feet above the level of the water,
is hoisted as to port on the deck of the schooner
in the channel, being that cargo and cargo
for, with a further, for heating fuel, which is
short time would let them on the coast, and
the bottom.

THE MAINE SCHOONER

is just before the schooner, and is also a schooner.

REMARKS.

The American Squadron is anchored opposite *Montville*, within 4 miles of *Norwich*, and considered perfectly safe from any attack.

FORT GRISWOLD,

commanded by Major LEE, is a strong picketed Fort, and erected on the same site where the fort was during the revolutionary war. It is a commanding position, with strong bastions fronting the river, and mounting extensive batteries of heavy cannon 18 and 24 pounders; the height of this fort is about 150 feet above the level of the river, and so situated as to pour on the decks of the enemy's ships in the channel, heavy shot, grape and cannister, with 2 furnaces for heating balls, which in a short time would set them on fire or send them to the bottom.

THE WATER BATTERY,

is just below *Fort Griswold* and is also a command -

ing position mounted with heavy cannon and situated about 75 feet above the level of the river.

FORT TRUMBULL,

commanded by Capt. LATHROP, or RICHARDS, is a small Fort but considered impregnable; the walls are 20 feet high and sixteen feet thick and able to stand the fire of the heaviest ships in the British Navy. The river in a direct line between *Fort Trumbull* and *Fort Griswold*, is about three quarters of a mile wide, so that every shot from the Forts on either side would strike the enemy's ships anywhere within the entrance of the River. It would be utterly impossible for them to lay in the Channel between the Forts.

THE GARRISONS,

are composed of detachments from Lt. Col. A. BENJAMIN's 37th Regt. of Infantry, and a company of the 3d artillery. The troops are in a good state of health and discipline, and the officers commanding, particularly Major LEE, are highly respectable. The Forts will be well defended in case of an attack by the enemy, which however is not at all probable, as they are well apprised of the state of preparation to receive them.

Lieut. Col. A. BENJAMIN has the care of the recruiting service for the district of *New - London*. This gentleman is one of the remaining revolution -

ary Officers, and has served under MONTGOMERY and BUTLER; he has seen much service and is every way calculated to promote the discipline of his corps, and to render important service to his Country. He has all the activity of a young man of 30 years of age, a man of known courage, prudent, yet energetic, and as a further recommendation of this gentleman he is a staunch republican and a firm friend of the administration in *words* and *actions*. If he had been possessed of the controuling power over our troops at the time of the attack on Pettipaug the troops would not have advanced from the garrisons at the late hour they did on that occasion to attack the enemy. If Col. Benjamin had received information of the enemy's attack at 10 o'clock he would not have delayed their march till 4 o'clock in the afternoon. He would not have waited till the last hour before he marched the troops. He would have headed them himself and every man of the enemy would have been secured, and this is the general opinion amongst the most respectable people in New - London. He has no doubts about the justice of the war; he is no enemy to the administration; he does not revile them on all occasions as some other officers do; he will not favour the escape of the enemy; he would not have refused the citizens a few pieces of flying artillery to attack the enemy if they had called upon him.

THE BLOCKADING SQUADRON,

consisting (generally as stationary ships) of the *La Hogue* 74, frigate *Statira* and *Nimeon*, were at anchor on Friday 15th ult. about 7 miles from New-London inside of Fisher and Plumb Islands. They occasionally up anchor and stand in under full sail for about a mile, no doubt for the purpose of exciting alarm at New-London, but the people have got over useless fears as they have full reliance on the protection of the forts, which no doubt are ample security against any attack of the enemy.

N. B. At the entrance of the Harbor will be perceived a little Island, with a tree upon it, which very much resembles a *Torpedo*. It is two miles from *Fort Trumbull*, and such good marksmen are they at the Fort, that they literally took a limb off the tree by a cannon shot.

PETTYPAUG AFFAIR.

The foul stain fixed forever on the priest-ridden State of Connecticut, by the dastardly conduct of the inhabitants, in the affair at *Pettypaug*, will be recorded on the page of history to their everlasting shame and disgrace. That 150 men, from the enemy's ships, should be permitted to land and destroy so much property, in open day, without resistance, can be accounted for in no other way, than

by the debased state of the public mind in that State. Although *Massachusetts* is sunk in disgrace by the deleterious efforts of a vile and unprincipled faction, yet she is not yet quite so lost to honor, as to hold up one cheek to be smote, to save the other; or to make a dastardly bargain with the enemy, to give up their valuable ships, to save a few pitiful hamlets on the sea-shore. Shame, shame upon such conduct. Let the war be just or unjust, no people ever ought to disgrace themselves by a miserable and cowardly truce with the enemy.

“ The blockade of New London was kept up in 1814, and as early as April a party of British seamen and marines, in several small vessels (each armed with a 9 or 12 pound - er), under the Command of Lieutenant Coote, of the Royal Navy, went up the Connecticut River in the evening, and at four o'clock the next morning, (April 8. 1814) landed on Pautopaug Point, seven miles from the Sound, spiked the heavy guns found there, and destroyed twenty two ves - sels, valued at one hundred and sixty thousand dollars. At ten o'clock they went down the river two or three miles to Brockway's Ferry, where they indulged in similar incendi - ary sport. In the mean time a body of Militia, with some marines and sailors from Decatur's vessels in the Thames, under Captain Jones and Lieutenant Biddle, gathered on the shore and endeavored to cut off their retreat, but, under cover of darkness that night, and with the silence of muffled oars, they escaped. ”

(Lossings Pictorial Field Book of the War of 1812. Chap. 38 p. 888.)

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