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M. Lemome Eng
with regards of Compiler
MILITARY (1776-179) TRANSACTIONS

OF

Abraham de Peyster
MAJOR, AFTERWARDS COLONEL, 8th of KING'S FOOT,

Arent Schuyler de Peyster,

BORN 27TH JUNE, 1736, AT NEW YORK, U. S. A.

DIED NOVEMBER, 1822 (? 1823), AT DUM-

FRIES, SCOTLAND, AND BURIED WITH

GREAT HONOR IN THE CHURCH-

YARD OF ST. MICHAELS,

IN THAT TOWN;

ALSO,

DETAILS OF THE DISCOVERY

OF THE

Ellice and de Peyster Islands

IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN, IN MAY, 1819,

BY

ARENT SCHUYLER DE PEYSTER,

NEPHEW OF COLONEL A. S. deP.,

BORN 4TH APRIL, 1779, DIED ~~7 May~~ 1863, AT NEW YORK:

the former the grandson, the latter the great grandson, of

de Heer Abraham de Peyster, Sr.,

the Confidant of the noble Bellomont, the Friend of William Penn,

the Defender of the memory of the martyred Leisler, and the

Advocate of the rights of the People; Alderman 1686 and

Mayor 1691-4 of New York; Member of the King's Council,

1698-1702, etc.; Acting Governor of the Province

of New York, 1700; Treasurer of the Provinces

of New York and New Jersey, 1706-1721;

(succeeded in office by his son and grand-

son); Assistant Justice of the Su-

preme Court, 1698, etc.; and

Chief Justice of the

same, 1699, etc.;

Colonel of the Regiment of Militia (1 Troop of Horse and 8 Companies

of Foot) of the City and County of New York, 1700, etc.

(His brother Johannes commanded the Cavalry and another brother,

Cornelis de Peyster, the 6th Company of Infantry) etc.

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COPIES AND TRANSLATIONS

OF ORDERS AND DIRECTIONS OF

ARENT SCHUYLER DEPEYSTER,

MAJOR 8TH OR KING'S FOOT, 1776-9, GOVERNOR OF
MICHILIMACQUENAC AND ITS DEPENDENCIES, ETC.

MR. WILLIAM KELBY, Assistant Librarian, N. Y. Historical Society, furnishes the following references from works in its collection.

LANMAN'S, *History of Michigan*, pages 139, 140.

[LANMAN would lead his readers to suppose that DEPEYSTER was a hot-headed despot in cutting up the belts. This was Lt. Gov. HAMILTON'S and not Maj. DEPEYSTER'S character. The two officials are confounded. Maj. DEPEYSTER was a very gentle Christian gentleman.]

HECKEWELDER'S *Narrative*, pages 229, 289, 291 to 297, 332 to 337, 343,* 346, 348, 356.

LOSKIEL'S *History of the Missions*, Part III., pages 114,** 133, 150, 153, 165 to 168, 172, 187, 190,*** 191, 193, (303) 200.**** (205).

[** 167, DEPEYSTER in this case did nothing but what his duty required.

163, "The Governor approved himself as a servant of God."

*** 190, Maj. DEPEYSTER gave a tract of land to the Christian Indians, thirty miles from *Detroit*, where they formed a settlement under his protection. They had hitherto been between two fires, as it were, the Whigs (Rebels) and Tories (British and Indians attached to Royal cause), DEPEYSTER saved them.]

**** "Toward the end of May, 1784, the Governor of *Detroit*, now Colonel DEPEYSTER, removed to *Niagara*, and both the missionaries and the believing Indians sincerely regretted the loss of this humane man, their kind friend and benefactor."

Pennsylvania Archives, vol. x., pages 86 to 90.

EPHRAIM DOUGLAS to the *Secretary of War*, August 18, 1783.

MORGAN'S *Celebrated Canadians*, page 100.

Historical Record of the 8th, or King's Regiment of Foot, page 66.

Manual of the Common Council of New York, 1861.

2d Edition, "The DEPEYSTER FAMILY in connection with the Colonial History of *New York*," (pages 556-576.) [571 to 575—compare "the Watts-dePeyster Genealogical References" by J. W. deP. Pages 7, 8 to 10, 239-40, 246.]

COPY OF FRENCH ORIGINALS.

A MONSIEUR. NO. I. (Copy.)
MONSIEUR LANGLADE: (1) ORDRES.

MONSIEUR :

Vous prendrez le commandement des sauvages de cette poste qui consiste des Gens de plusieurs nations et quelques volontaires Canadiens avec qui vous poursuivrez votre route pour vous joindre au surintendant des affaires sauvages dans le voisinage de Montreal (2), ou bien l'officier qui commandera les troupes du Roi dans ce Quartier de qui vous recevrez des ordres alors.

Vous ferez votre possible de nuire aux Rebelles partout ou vous les rencontrerez et en tout vous conduirez avec toute prudence et Humanité ordinaires.

A Michilimaquenac,)
Le 4 Juliette, 1776. }

[1776] The very day of the Declaration of Independence.]

NO. II.

(Copy).

ORDRES :

Tout Traiteur est ordonner d'embarquer deux ou trois sauvages sur leur Canots en ces que Messrs. Langlade et Gaultier n'ayant pas assez de Canots pour les amener a ce poste, pour le service du Roy ; Mons. Langlade les fournissant des Vivres.

Donné au Fort de Michilimaquenac,
10th May, 1778.

AT. S. DE PEYSTER,
Major Commandant.

[l. s.]

NO. III.

MESSEIERS :

(Copy)

Par le pouvoir qui m'a été donné par son Excellence le Generale Hulinand, Command't en Chef les Armees de sa Majesté Le Roy (de) la Grand Bretagne en Canada, etc., etc., etc.

De faire tout dans mon pouvoir pour assister le Lieut. Gouverneur Hamilton (3) dans tout ces enterprises contre les Rebelles, at come J'ay appris par lettre du Lieut. Gouverneur qu'il est aller deloger les Rebelles des Illinois me prie de lui donner assistance : Il vous est ordonné par ces presentes de partir (et) tacher de lever les nations ; Monsieur Langlade depuis la Grand Riviere, jusqu'à St. Joseph, ou sont les *Court Oreilles* et les *Ganteaux* (*Sauteaux*?) (4) les faisant assembler a St. Joseph sans perte de temps.

Monsieur Gautier ira droit a St. Joseph (5) la s'adressant Mons. Louison Chevallier, pour lui requerrir d'assister Monsieur Aïnse en fait d'assembler les *Poutoutamies* pendant que lui Gauthier faire son possible pour avoir Intelligence du situation de Monsieur Hamilton de laquelle faisant son report a Monsieur Langlade. Ils feront leur possible de lui joindre par le chemin le plus court, ou de descendre la rivière des Illinois si il est pos-

sible, et mieux porté pour seconder les opérations de Monsieur Hamilton.

Comme l'on ne peut repoudre des evenemens en cas que Monsieur Hamilton est relaché et retourné au Detroit; alors si vous ne vous croyez pas assez fort de monde pour faire coup sur les *Caskakias*, ou au *Cahokias*: (6) vous renverrez les sauvages dans leur Hivernemens et vous gaguerez par le chemin le plus court vos différents posts.

Monsieur Langlade a La Bay (7) et Monsieur Gautier dans le Mississippi, la, tacher de tenir les nations bien disposés pour le service jusqu'a nouvelles ordres.

Dans cet enterprise Il vous est recommandé de dire au Guerriers d'usser d'Humanité envers les prisoniers et autres qui pourront se trouver sans armes comme il y a bien des commercians Anglais retenu de forces parmi—

.. ..

Les prisoniers seront payé.

Comme les nations en General ont deja eu beaucoup de presents de sa Majesté il vous est recommandé de faire aussi peu de frais que la nature du service permettent en leur donnent auqun chose que ne soit absolument necessaire.

Donné au Fort Michilimaquenac, ce
26m Octobre, 1778.

[L. S.]

AT. S. DE PEYSTER,

A Monsr. le Capitaine } Major du Regt: du Roy et Com-
Langlade et le } mand't du dit post et depen-
Lieut. Gautier. } dences.

NO. IV.

(Copy).

INSTRUCTIONS POUR MONSR. LANGLADE.

MONSIEUR :

Il vous est requis pour le bien du service de sa Majesté de partir d'ici faire votre possible de lever les Gens de La fourche Milwaukie, les Puants (Indian tribe, Stinkards) et autres bordant sur le Lac Michigan et avec eux vous depechez de joindre Monsr. Bennett a Chicagou, et si en cas Monsieur Bennett est passée en avant de lui suivre a Grand pas, lui ategnant avant son arrivé au Piè (Foot of the Lake?) et de travailler avec lui pour le bien du service conforme aux ordres qu'il tiennent de moi.

Donné au Fort Michilimakinac,
1re Juliet, 1779.

[L. S.]

AT. S. DE PEYSTER.

TRANSLATIONS OF THE ABOVE ORDERS, ETC.

To MR.

NO. I.

MR. LANGLADE :

ORDERS.

SUR :

You are to take upon you the command of the savages (Indians) attached to this post, consisting of detach-

ments from several nations (tribes), with some Canadian Volunteers, and proceed with them to join the Superintendent of Indian affairs in the neighborhood of Montreal, or the commanding officer of the King's troops in that district, from whom you will then receive further orders; Annoying the Rebels wherever you meet with them, and in everything conducting yourself with your usual prudence and humanity.

At Michilimaquenac,
the 4th July, 1776.

[177] The very day of the Declaration of Independence.]
(Copy.)

ORDERS : NO. II.

All traders are ordered to embark two or three savages (Indians) on their Canoes in case that Messrs. Langlade and Gaultier have not enough Canoes to carry them to this post for the King's service; Mr. Langlade furnishing them with provisions.

Given at the Fort of Michilimaquenac,
10th May, 1778.

[L. S.]

AT. S. DE PEYSTER,
Major Commanding.

SIRS : NO. III.

In accordance with the power which has been given to me by his Excellency General HALDIMAND, Commanding-in-Chief the Armies of his Majesty the King of Great Britain, in Canada, etc., etc., etc. :

To do all in my power to assist the Lieut.-Governor Hamilton in all his enterprises against the Rebels, and as I have learned by letter from the Lieut.-Governor that he has gone to dislodge the Rebels of the Illinois, and prays me to give him assistance: you are ordered by these presents to go and try to arouse the (Indian) nations; Mr. LANGLADE, from the Great River (8) (*Ottawa* (?) *la Grand Riviere*) as far as St. Joseph (St. Joseph e), where the Short Ears (*Court Oreilles*) and the *Ganteaux* (Leapers, *Santeux*?) are (located) causing them to assemble at St. Joseph (*St Josephhe*) without loss of time.

Mr. GAUTIER will go straight to St. Joseph (*St. Josephhe*), there addressing himself to Mr. Louison Chevalier, to require him to assist Mr. AINSE in assembling the Pottawattamies (*Poutouatamies*), while Gauthier does his utmost to acquire intelligence of the situation of Mr. HAMILTON, making his report thereof to Mr. LANGLADE. They shall do their utmost to join him by the shortest route, or to descend the river of the Illinois, if it is possible, and if such a movement is better calculated to second the operations of Mr. HAMILTON.

As no one can be responsible for the events in case that Mr. HAMILTON is released, and returned to the Detroit; then, if you do not think yourself strong enough in men to make a decisive attack on the Caskakias, or (6) the Cahokias, (9) you will send the savages to their Winter quarters, and you will regain your different posts by the shortest routes.

Mr. LANGLADE, at "The Bay," and Mr. GAUTIER, in the Mississippi (region), will try to keep the nations well disposed for the service until new orders.

In this enterprise you are recommended to exhort the Warriors to use humanity towards the prisoners, and others who may be found without arms, as there are many English merchants retained by force among the enemy. * * *

The prisoners will be ransomed.

As the nations in general have already had many presents from his Majesty, you are recommended to incur as little expense as the nature of the service will permit of, in giving them nothing which is not absolutely necessary.

Given at Fort Michilimaquenac this
26th October, 1778.

[L. S.]

AT. S. DE PEYSTER,
Major of the King's Regt., and
Commandant of the said post and
dependencies.

To Mr. the Captain Langlade }
and the Lieut. Gautier. }

NO. IV.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MR. LANGLADE.

SIR:

You are required, for the good of the service of his Majesty, to set out from this place to do your utmost to levy the People of The Milwaukie Fork the Indian Tribe, Sinkards (*Puants*), and others bordering on Lake Michigan, and with them hurry and join Mr. BENNETT at Chicagon, and if, in case Mr. BENNETT has gone farther on, to follow him by forced marches, so as to overtake him before his arrival at the Foot of the Lake (*Pié*), and work with him for the good of the service, conformable to the orders he holds from me.

Given at the Fort Michilimackinac,
1st July, 1779.

[L. S.]

AT. S. DE PEYSTER.

NOTES.

(1). M: DE LANGLADE was a Canadian gentleman especially esteemed by the Indians. He was Captain of the Colonial troops under the French Dominion. He had acquired a very great influence over the Indians inhabiting the country about Detroit and Michilimackinac. In the Summer of 1759, he led 200 warriors down to Montreal for the defence of the French colonies against WOLFE.

(2). The chain of fortified posts which the English occupied at this time to control the Indians of the, then, far West, comprised Forts Frontenac and Niagara, at the two extremities of Lake Ontario; of Buffalo, Presqu'île, the island, formerly a peninsula, protecting the port of Érie; and Sandoské or Sandusky, on the Southern shore

of Lake Erie; of Detroit, and the Miamis toward the Western extremity of the same lake; of Michilimackinac and Green Bay (*Baie Verte* or *Baie des Puants* (HODGINS, 130) (Stinkards, "Opossums") (the name of a tribe well known and thus recognized by the French) on Lake Michigan; beside those on the Ohio, the Wabash, and the Illinois.

(3). HENRY HAMILTON, Esq'r, succeeded *General HALDIMAND* as temporary Governor in 1785, but was soon, next year, 1786, superseded by *Colonel HOPE*.

(4). These were branches of the Hurons or Wyandots, driven westward by the Iroquois to the northern shores of Lake Superior, who settled first on the Island of St. Joseph under the protection of the Ojibwas. *Ganteaux* must be a mistake and intended for *Sauteux* or *Sautaux* a branch of the Ojibwas or Chippewas, located on the Winipeg, called the "Sauteur" by the French. Whether this term refers to the character of this river, full of falls or rapids, or tumbling water, or to the peculiar bounding dances of the Indians, is not settled.

(5). The *St. Joseph* referred to was 40 miles from Michilimackinac.

(6). The "*Cuskakias*" and "*Cuhokias*" were tribes of the Illinois, and from them were named the two first settlements of the French in Illinois. (See *Charlevoix's Voyage*, Letters 28, Page 227-'8).—*Honorable C. J. WALKER, Detroit, October 29, 1867.*

(7). "*La Baie*" was the settlement on GREEN BAY which was called "*Baie des Puants*." The PUANTS were our Winnebagoes. (See SHEA'S "*Discovery of the Mississippi*," Page 10 of MARQUETTE'S *Journal*. *Honorable C. J. WALKER, Detroit, October 29, 1867.* "*La Baie*," "The Bay" west end of Lake Superior, LAN-MAN'S map.

(8). The *St. Lawrence* is often called *La Grande Riviere*, but this must refer to the *Ottawa*, which is still known on the map as *Grand River* or the *Ottawa, Utawas*.

"Lt. Gov. HAMILTON (sometimes styled *Col. HAMILTON*), had gone with troops to Port Vincennes, and was there, together with his officers, taken prisoner by an American army under General CLARKE, and by him taken to Virginia." (HECKEWELDER'S "*Narrative*," 203.) "It was in February, 1779." This CLARKE was the Virginian Col. GEORGE ROGERS CLARKE, the '*Hannibal of the West*.' HAMILTON was at *Fort St. Vincent*. He was taken to Williamsburg, the original capital of Virginia, near the battlefield of May 5, 1862, so famous for the glorious conduct of KEARNY and HOOKER and the Federal troops present. It was on this occasion, February, 1779, it took CLARKE, with his "intrepid Spartan band," "five days to cross the drowned lands of the Wabash, having often to wade up to their breasts in water"—"often upwards of two leagues," adds BURK, a feat commemorated by a picture which is, or was in 1861, hanging in the office of the Secretary of War, at Wash-

ington, D. C.—(Howe's "Virginia Historical Collections," 116; BURK's "Virginia," iv., 319-324.)

(9). These tribes were two of the five subdivisions of the Illinois. The former belonged in the country drained by the Kaskaskia, the latter in St. Clair County, Illinois, along the creek of the same name, which falls into the Mississippi from the East, about 5 miles below St. Louis. The great Pontiac was murdered in the territory of this tribe. Thus *Major*, afterward *Colonel*, ARENT SCHUYLER DEPEYSTER, exercised jurisdiction from the Mississippi west, to the Ottawa east, and from Lake Superior, north, to the Ohio, south, 800 by 700 miles, a pretty extensive sphere of supervision even for this day of railroads and steamboats.

EXTRACTS FROM THE LOG BOOKS

KEPT BY

CAPTAIN ARENT S. DE PEYSTER,

GIVING THE DETAILS OF HIS DISCOVERY OF THE
DE PEYSTER AND OTHER ISLANDS IN
THE PACIFIC OCEAN, MAY, 1819.

THURSDAY, 13th May, 1819.

Noon, Duke of York Island West—Northerly 20 miles.

FRIDAY, 14th May, 1819.

At noon I was apprehensive that either my Longitude or that of Duke of Yorks Island was incorrect, as I was by observation about 18 miles from it. The weather beautiful. From the masthead the trees were first discovered, and after running 15 miles by Log, it bore N. W. by N. about 6 miles; at this distance it had the appearance of small separate clumps of trees, and it was only by going aloft any connection could be seen. Had there been a commanding breeze, I should have approached much nearer, and probably got a supply of cocoanuts, but being nearly calm, I judged it most prudent to keep on. This Island certainly is very dangerous to approach in dark weather, or at night.

Variation 10 min. 13 sec. East.

Longitude, Chronometer..... 173 deg. 24. min

Acct..... 173 deg. 01 min

Latitude 8 deg. 37 min. South.

SATURDAY, 15th May, 1819.

Pleasant weather and breeze. Employed cleaning

ship. Saw and passed through some very strong ripplings.

Longitude, Chronometer..... 176 deg. 01 min.
Acct..... 175 deg. 27 min.

Latitude 8 deg. 31 min. South.

SUNDAY, 16th May, 1819.

Pleasant breeze and weather. Passed through a strong rippling, at four o'clock, A. M. Performed Divine service at 8 o'clock.

Longitude, Chronometer and Lunars 179 deg. 08 min.
Acct..... 177 deg. 53 min.

Latitude 8 deg. 32 min. South.

MONDAY, 17th May, 1819.

Pleasant breeze and weather, under all sail. At 3 hours and 45 min. A. M., while under all sail the man at the helm discovered a low white sandy beach, to appearance a cable's length ahead. Hauled immediately to the wind on the starboard tack, in studding-sails, and fortunately, 4 hours 30 minutes, just cleared the Land.

At 8 I hove to, to obtain the Latitude and Longitude of the Islands.

Longitude, Chronometer..... 181 deg.
Acct..... 179 deg. 34 min.

Latitude, 8 deg. 21 min. South.

ELLICE'S GROUP.

When the day broke I bore up and, standing to the Southward and Westward about half an hour, the land we had so miraculously escaped during the night again appeared. The cocoanut trees were the first objects we saw, then the low beach, and, on approaching within 4 miles, a large group of Islands, apparently consisting of 14 in a circular direction and united by sand banks, presented themselves. I have attempted from the bearings and probable distances, to delineate them in plan No. 1. I did not think myself justified in either approaching them nearer or waiting longer than to procure to a certainty their Latitude and Longitude, the latter was certainly a duty I owed to every other navigator, as well as myself. Accordingly at 8 o'clock A. M. I hove to and remained until twelve. The following is the result of my observations.

On the 16th inst. I had four sights of the Sun and Moon, worked separately, they gave at noon on that day, Long. :

179 deg. 3. min. W.	} Mean 179 deg. 8 min. 30 sec. Lunars.
179 deg. 8 min.	
179 deg. 15 m.n.	
179 deg. 8 min.	

Chronometer—

507—179 deg. 5 min.)	} Mean 179 deg. 8 min. 30 sec.
508—179 deg. 12 min.)	

On the 17th the moon was not visible but at 8 o'clock

and 20 minutes I had good sights at the Sun for my chronometers, when the center of Oscar's Islands bore S. E. by S. 4 miles per compass, which gave the vessel's Longitude at that time 180 deg. 56 min. West.

Difference Longitude E, of the bearing 2

Longitude centre of the Group or
Oscar's Islands West..... 180 deg. 54 min.

Latitude noon South..... 8 deg. 21 min.

Difference Latitude by Calculation 8 min. South.

Latitude centre of the Group or Os-
car's Islands South..... 8 deg. 29 min.

I sincerely trust that the above may be found correct, less on account of any credit that may attach to myself, than for the security of others who might at some future period follow this track, and not prove equally fortunate with myself in clearing this dangerous group. Had the vessel not sailed remarkably fast and instantly obeyed the helm, some fragment, perhaps, picked up at no distant date, would have been all, that, in a few moments, would have remained of the Rebecca; and the only evidence that these Islands had ever before been seen, and proved the Graves of their Discoverers. We saw no signs of population. They were covered with cocoanut trees, and low brush, in many places to the water's edge. The breakers between the Islands were tremendous, the centre, which appeared like a large basin from the mast-head, smooth as a mill pond. After getting my observation, I again bore up and made sail to the Westward and Northward. As I have every reason to believe these Islands were never before seen by any other European, I have given them the name of Ellice's Group, in honor of my friend and benefactor, E. Ellice, Esq., M. P. for Coventry, and as a small evidence of my grateful recollection of his kindness. The first Island on which we so nearly struck, I call Escape Island, the one adjoining Rebecca Island, and two, united by a small sand bar, and which appeared the centre of the group. Oscar's Islands, one detached from the rest to the Westward, Brown's Island (see plan No. 1), in honor of my good friend, G. Brown.

THURSDAY, 18th May, 1819.

Wind East, moderate and cloudy, made sail at 6, in studding-sails to keep the vessel under command; at 8 o'clock and 30 minutes saw very distinctly a large fire on our starboard bow, shortened sail and hove to to the Southward. Tremendous thunder, lightning and rain. Tacked occasionally to keep our station until daylight, when we saw the land from N. by W. to NW. by W., distant about 6 miles; at 7 the highest point bore North about 6 miles.

Long. Chro. 182 deg. 10. min.

Acct. 180 deg. 57 min.

Lat. noon 8 deg 4 min. South.

Few persons, perhaps, have ever had a narrower es-

cape than we on the night of the 17th inst.* I believe the fear of living, had the vessel struck, was the only fear; the prospect of ever getting from the Island was so faint that it hardly inspired a hope while the reflection that perhaps a few years might drag along with one or two companions in misery, and then Death snatch from you this only consolation in wretchedness and leave you a solitary wanderer where the voice of man could never reach you was, even after our danger was over almost maddening. It made a serious impression on all, and the careless Seaman, who had before sought some hiding place on deck to sleep away his Watch, was aroused by his recent danger to vigilance. To this aid the kind interposition of Providence we were again indebted for our safety. I had taken in the studding-sail, put the vessel under commanding canvas and was gliding slowly on our course when the men forward called out "a light ahead." It blazed up and all hands instantly discovered a large fire. Brought to head to the Southward. Finding her drift in the direction of the light, I made sail, determined by short tacks to keep her during the night as near her present station as possible. We knew that a short distance to the Northward and Westward there must be land, but we did not know its extent or the direction in which it trended. The next moment might find us on some sand bar. I did not think it possible to augment the horror of our situation or add another pang to those I already endured, when an hour convinced me that no man can say "He's at the worst." It became dark, the distant thunder announced an approaching gust, which came on so rapidly we had scarce time to take in sail, when the lightning actually *streamed* down, the rain poured, the thunder rattled, and in this situation we remained two hours drifting about at the mercy of the elements; I got an anchor over the gunwale and bent the chain cable.

"At length the wished for morrow
Broke through the hazy sky."

and certainly not more than 6 miles under our lee appeared a low Island, which we conjectured to be about 10 miles long, and from which, the fire that had warned us of our danger, proceeded.

DE PEYSTER ISLANDS.

The Southern point, which we doubled at five or six miles distance, was the highest, and covered with Coconut trees. From the mast head sixteen small Islands appeared to form a circle. In the centre and amongst them in every direction much broken water. I am induced to believe that the greater part of

* When Captain DE PEYSTER came on deck his hair was black throughout, the next morning the forelock was perfectly white, and so continued, a distinct memento of this night, until age changed the rest to gray.

them are only one Island, the highest points appearing, but there were evidently two or three perfectly distinct ones. Plan No. 2 taken when the Southernmost point of the large Island bore due North, per compass, by actual bearings and probable distances will give a tolerably good idea of their appearance. At 9 o'clock, I had good sights for the Chronometers and one distance of the sun and moon which gave the following results :

Chro. 507 at 9 o'clock 181 deg. 49 min. West.

508 " " " 181 deg. 53 min.

Lunar 182 deg.

3|545 : 45

Mean..... 181 : 55

Deduct 12 West made. 12

From 7 to 9..... 181 : 43 West.

Longitude South Point.*

Lat. 9 o'clock..... 8 deg. 09 min. South.

Distance from 7 to 9 o'clock, A.M. 2 North.

Lat. at 7 o'clock..... 8 deg. 11 min. South.

South point of the Island distant

six miles by compass, No.th. 6

Lat. South Point..... 8 deg. 5 min. South.

After passing two such nights of danger and anxiety, I determined on lying by every evening after dark until daybreak, particularly as the lands we had made were so low, and in many places banks of sand projecting from them some distance into the sea. It is remarkable that Commodore Byron sailed in this parallel of Latitude, till within a very short distance of the Longitude of the first Islands, and Captain Wallis passed as short a distance to the Westward of this Group. I am strongly inclined to believe they stretch to the Northward and Westward as far as King's Mills Group, and that many more remain in that direction to be discovered. This Group is evidently inhabited, the land rather higher than ELLICE'S GROUP, but like them covered with coconut trees. Off the Southern point appears a reef on which the sea breaks very high. To this Group, judging ourselves to be the discoverers, my officers did me the honor to give the name of DE PEYSTER ISLANDS.†

* Here Captain DE PEYSTER subsequently made a note in pencil "between the tracks of Byron and Wallis."

† "Captain Bennet, of Ship Independence, of Nantucket, near Latitude 9, 18, S. Longitude 179, 45 E. fell in with a group of Islands, with peaceable inhabitants. Supposing them a new discovery, he called them after the owner of the ship 'Mittell's Group,' and not far from them discovered another Island which he called 'Rocky Island.'—*New Bedford Mercury*, Nov. 8, 1822.

J. Watts de Peyster:

ROSE HILL, TIVOLI P. O., DUCHESS CO., N. Y.
1st January, 1868.

MEMBER of the NETHERLANDISH LITERARY ASSOCIATION [*Maatschappij der Nederlandsche Letterkunde*] at Leyden, Holland.

HONORARY MEMBER of the MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY and of the PHRENOKOSMIAN SOCIETY of PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE, *Gettysburg*; of the PHILOSOPHIAN SOCIETY, *Missionary Institute, Selins Grove*, and of the EUTERPIAN SOCIETY, *Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pennsylvania*.

HONORARY MEMBER of the N. Y. BURNS CLUB, (BURNS was a Member of the DUMFRIES VOLUNTEERS, of which Col: ARENT SCHUYLER DEPEYSTER, B. A., was Colonel, (to whom the "National bard of Scotland" addressed, just before his death, in 1796, his "Poem on Life,") and LIFE MEMBER of the ST. NICHOLAS SOCIETY of New York (of which JOHANNES DEPEYSTER, first of name in the New World, was Schepen, 1665, Alderman 1666, Burgomaster, 1673, Deputy Mayor, 1677; Mayoralty offered and refused.)

MEMBER of the NEW YORK and of the PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES; MEMBER, Third Class, (HONORARY) of the MILITARY ORDER of the LOYAL LEGION of the United States.

LIFE MEMBER of the HISTORICAL SOCIETY of MICHIGAN, and of the NUMISMATIC and ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY of New York.

CORRESPONDING MEMBER of the STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETIES of MAINE, of VERMONT, and of WISCONSIN; of the LONG ISLAND, and of the BUFFALO HISTORICAL SOCIETIES; of the NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC-GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY; of the QUEBEC LITERARY AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY; etc., etc., etc.