

*Transcript*  
*William Jones Letter, MS 448-3-59a*

Point Peter 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1814

Dear Captain

My stay here has been lengthened in consequence of the appearance of arm'd vessels being off the Bar and frequently in sight, indeed I had set out and had got twenty miles when an **express** from Capt. Chilsom over took me – which gave the information of them being near – we are making preparation for the reception of the enemy which will be in **barges** and small crafts – a **seventy four a Rayes** 80 guns – are said to be off and that two **sloops** as daily expected when an attack on St. Marys is to take place - this is among the great number of reports in circulation and is most likely true - tis certain that one of the gun Boats had nearly been taken by a brig a few days ago- nothing but **shoal water** prevented (unreadable) as soon as things get right, which I hope will be in a day or so, will set out for South – I would recommend to you to direct a **picket** to consist of a captain and three privates posted in the neighborhood of Thunderbolt- and to direct Lt. Jones of the **Fencible** as well as the Captain at Fort Jackson to be vigilant in gaining information of an approach of the enemy and to guard against surprise as tis equally uncertain which will be the place of the attack in this state \_\_\_ had a report been true, which was credited by the inhabitants for a short time- I should have ordered the sloops from South towards Amelia Island – but the enemy had not landed 800 men as was reported --- the militia in this neighborhood are endeavoring to get together, but when god only knows – be pleased to open letters for me on Public Service and such as can be an answer for me –

You will no doubt be a little surprised to hear of my being Married? True Oh King, and to an angel from heaven- better (?????) good fellow \_ she as (???????) good.

So no more at present  
From your most noble col.

Law Manning  
Lt. Col. 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry

I will thank you to mention to lieut. Wayne that I am fearful he may dislike the long stay of his home –  
When is to get married.

## Vocabulary

**Express** - a messenger or a message specially sent.

**Barges** - a boat reserved for a flag officer.

**Seventy-four** - a type of two-decked sailing ship of the line nominally carrying 74 guns

**Rayee** – There are several possible definitions. It could mean a gun or cannon with the caliber, instead of being cylindrical, was angular. It could refer to an early type of rifled cannon, or simply cannon of a higher caliber. It could also refer to a striped French rifle.

**Shoal** – sandbar

**Picket** – group of soldiers sent to watch or warn against an enemy approach

**Fencible** - army regiments raised in the United Kingdom and in the colonies for defense against the threat of invasion during the American War of Independence and French Revolutionary Wars in the late 18th century. Usually temporary units, composed of local volunteers, commanded by Regular Army officers, their role was, as their name suggests, confined to garrison and patrol duties, freeing the regular Army units to perform offensive operations