

Moses Ashley Curtis diary, September 1831 (page 5 of 7)

Sept. 13th Morn. — We did not wake this morning & find our throats cut, & in this house had as quiet sleep as ever. In the garrison was no room to sleep. Those women who at last revived under a sense of their perfect security had a fine frolic, declaring they never passed so short a night in their lives; while the frantic & timid were plugging their noses with cologne, honey & lavender waters & hartshorn. The poor folks who were sleeping peacefully at home passed a review there for not falling in with the current of fearful ones. I hope we shall none of us die for running such a gauntlet. — The light of the sun seems to have infused the light of reason into their minds at this late hour, & none of them were at all alarmed & only went to the garrison because the rest went.

Evening — At 5 o'clock the inhabitants met to form a corps of defence. I enrolled my own name, took a musket & ammunition & came home, with a requisition to meet them at 7 o'clock. In the mean time the boat arrived from town. — We met at seven & delivered back our arms. — This is the silliest move of all, in running now into the extreme of neglect. — But the story is simple & short. A few revellers some miles above W. procured a field piece which they frequently discharged during a night, which gave an alarm.

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