

Fifth Regiment of Connecticut Militia, and Experience Storrs, Esq., of Mansfield, was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel. This was an Eastern Regiment. This appointment gave Mr. Elderkin his military title. It does not appear, however, that he was ever on active duty.

His services were more needed in other quarters than in the field. December 9th, 1776, it was reported that Colonel Elderkin and Lieutenant Storrs were not in fit condition to march with the Fifth Regiment and the command was given to Major Brown. Colonel Elderkin was one of the first Committee of Safety, organized in 1775, and was often a member afterwards. November 2d, 1775, he was appointed by the Governor and Council of Safety, with Major Dawes, of Boston, then of Norwich, to view the harbor of New London and report places suitable to fortify. He visited New London, and on the 15th made a lengthy report. It was found impossible to procure an engineer, and Major Dawes declined the service. Colonel Elderkin therefore repaired to New London alone and examined the localities about the city, in company with some of the citizens, and after consulting with those best informed, gave the result of his observations and inquiries. The report is a clear and definite statement of his views on the importance and feasibility of fortifying the approaches of the harbor, and he names the island, or point, called Mamacock, Winthrop's Point, and Groton Hill, opposite New London, as places important to fortify. He gives a description of these localities, with heights and distances, and his opinion in regard to how and in what manner they should be fortified, with as much particularity as a topographical engineer. He concludes his report as follows:

"I own, I never till lately gave much attention to the business or art of fortifying harbors or building forts, batteries, etc., but the alarming situation and distress in which our country is in, and ministerial designs and vengeance aimed