

know whatever was taking place in its territory and to report the facts to the Council of Safety. Each of the districts had one of these committees. It was the meeting held at Caughnawaga under the direction of the Mohawk district committee which was attacked and dispersed by the forces of Guy Johnson, of which mention has already been made in this chapter.

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## CHAPTER X.

Beginning of the Revolution — The British Influence — The Iroquois — Oneidas Remain Neutral — Organization of Militia in Tryon County — St. Leger Invades the Mohawk Valley — The Battle of Oriskany and Fort Schuyler — The British Defeated — The First Pension — Indian Depredations in 1778 — Campaigns of Sullivan and Clinton in 1779 — Sir John Johnson Invades the Valley in 1780 — Visits Johnstown and Secures his Plate — Details of his Raid.

THE flight of the last of the Johnsons from Tryon county restored partial tranquillity among its inhabitants, for while a few Tories still remained they were awed into silence by the determined action of the committees of safety. To such a class their property was a far greater sacrifice than the surrender of their principles.

In 1776 the war had become national instead of colonial and on the 4th day of July independence was formally declared. The long period of seven years of hardship, suffering and conflict which had begun in the battle of Lexington in April, 1775, was closely followed by the daring exploits of Allen and Arnold, both at Ticonderoga and on Lake Champlain, but it was some time before old Tryon county was made the scene of war. All through the Mohawk valley the greatest fear of the people arose from the probability of an Indian invasion, instigated by the Johnsons, and hence all possible preparations were proposed both to prevent a surprise and resist an attack.

The policy of the Americans had been to secure simply the neutrality of the Indians, but their success was limited to the Oneidas, while the British made undisguised efforts to unite them in close alliance with the royal cause. One of their officers exclaimed: "We must let loose the

savages upon the frontier of these scoundrels to inspire terror and make them submit." In the spring of 1777 Governor Tryon wrote to Germain that he was perfectly agreed as to the employment of Indians in the war. Brant, the great Mohawk chief who had been taken to England (1775-76), was shown marked favor by the government and was empowered to lead all who would follow him against the colonists. Lord Chatham, however, hurled his bitterest invective against this inhumanity, and when, in 1777, it was advocated in parliament, in such words as these: "It is perfectly justifiable to use all the means that God and nature have put in our hands," he indignantly exclaimed: "I know not what idea that lord may entertain of God and nature, but I know that such abominable principles are equally abhorrent to religion and humanity." Chatham's appeal however was in vain, and the secretary of war (Germain) gave special instructions to employ Indians in fighting republicans. A council had already been held in Montreal by the chiefs and warriors of the Iroquois, the Johnsons, Butlers and Brant taking part. Here the savages swore fealty to the king, this being the first act in the long catalogue of slaughter and devastation that followed.

For the emergency of war, during the early part of the summer of 1776, a company of rangers was formed among the people living in the Mohawk valley, and the command was given to Captain Robert McKean; but as this force was sent to another field it became necessary to organize another company, which was stationed in the valley under Captain Winn. In August Captain Getman's company of rangers was formed, and officered as follows: Captain, Christian Getman; lieutenants, Jacob Sammons and James Billington; corporals, William Kind, John Hulsor, Leonhart Kratzer; sergeants, Nehemiah Williams, Richard Coppernoll.

The Tryon county committee had charge of the organization of its militia, which was divided into four battalions and placed under command of General Nicholas Herkimer. The officers of the battalion were as follows: Canajoharie district, first battalion—Colonel, Nicholas Herkimer; lieutenant-colonel, Ebenezer Cox; major, Robert Wells; adjutant, Samuel Clyde. Palatine district, second battalion—Colonel, Jacob Klock; lieutenant colonel, Peter Wagner; major, Harmanus Van Slyck; adjutant, Anthony Van Vechten. Mohawk district, third

battalion — Colonel, Frederick Visscher; lieutenant-colonel, Adam Fonda; major, John Bliven; adjutant, Robert Yates. Kingsland and German Flats district, fourth battalion—Colonel, Hanyoost Herkimer; lieutenant-colonel, Peter Bellinger; major, Hanyoost Shoemaker; adjutant, John Demooth.

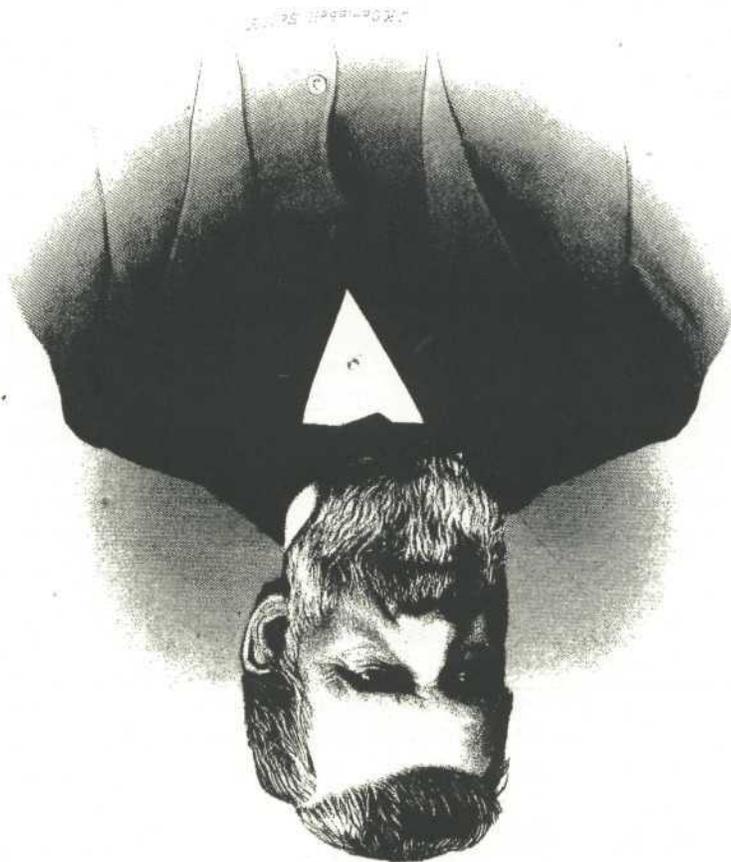
The organization of this military force was effected none too soon, and they were early called into service. Brant had appeared on the upper waters of the Susquehanna, and General Schuyler dispatched General Herkimer to communicate with him in order to learn his intentions, and if possible secure his promise of neutrality. In July Herkimer with 380 of his militia began his march, but the conference yielded no substantial result and as the season advanced the inhabitants of the Mohawk valley were thrown into a state of wild excitement by the news that a strong British force of regulars, Tories and Indians was assembled at Oswego with purpose to attack Fort Schuyler, after whose capture they were to march through the valley and co-operate with General Burgoyne and his army, which was then overpowering everything in the Champlain valley. Unfortunately, however, the people of Tryon county were so disconcerted by this alarm that no united action was taken. Preparation for defence was neglected, and even General Herkimer and the committee of safety did not escape the censure of the higher military authorities.

The British force at Oswego comprised 400 regulars, 600 Tories and 700 Indians, all commanded by General St. Leger with Sir John Johnson and Joseph Brant as allies, while the Americans under Herkimer numbered about 800. The latter were assembled at German Flats. Fort Schuyler, the object of British attack, was garrisoned by 750 men under Colonel Gansevoort, well supplied with ammunition except cartridges for the artillery. The advance guard of the British reached the outskirts of the fort on August 2, and made immediate preparation for an attack. On the 4th General Herkimer advanced from German Flats and on the 5th encamped near Oriskany. From this point he sent Adam Helmer and two others to inform Colonel Gansevoort of his approach, it being understood that the arrival of these messengers was to be announced by the firing of three cannon in quick succession. In the meantime St. Leger was apprised of the advance of Herkimer's militia,

and on the morning of the 6th he dispatched Brant with a large body of Indians, also Major Watts with a detachment of Johnson's Greens and Butler's rangers, to intercept them and thus prevent the relief of the garrison. General Herkimer waited long and patiently for the expected signal, but unfortunately his subordinates interpreted his delay as evidence of cowardice, and even openly charged it upon him, until goaded on by this foul accusation he ordered his impatient men to advance. The enemy, practicing their favorite mode of warfare, lured the patriot force into ambush and opened a murderous fire, but Herkimer's men, though shockingly surprised, went into action with all the nerve that could have been expected of the Tryon county soldiery, and such bravery against fearful odds was seldom witnessed on any battlefield during the Revolution. The militia, indeed, were now for the first time brought face to face with their worst hated enemies (Johnson and the tories), and they knew that they must conquer or shamefully perish, leaving their families the victims of outrage and death. The battle of Oriskany finally ended in the dearly bought defeat of the British, while at Fort Schuyler St. Leger's force fared no better, but the details of this action, however interesting, are not necessary to this work (as it was fought beyond the present limits of the county of which we write) and are therefore omitted. It may be added, however, that General Herkimer was seriously wounded and yet bravely refused to leave the field. He supported himself against a tree, seated on his saddle and directed the action of his men until victory was secured. He was then carried to his dwelling where he died ten days afterward, death being the result of an unskillful amputation.

The most important result of the victory at Oriskany was the fact that it prevented a union of St. Leger with Burgoyne. The British plan was that their three armies should fight their way to Albany, Burgoyne taking the Champlain route in expectation that Lord Howe would come from New York (by the Hudson river) and thus co-operate. St. Leger, on the other hand, was to devastate the Mohawk valley and then join his commander in the same manner. It was a grand military scheme, but like many others proved a failure, the first decisive blow being the defeat at Oriskany, thus saving Fort Schuyler. Next in importance was General Stark's great victory over Colonel Baum and his

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Hessians at Bennington, on the 16th day of August. Each of these victories led to the final triumph, and the last scene in the bloody episode was Burgoyne's surrender to General Gates, at Stillwater on the 17th of the next October.

The patriot force in the battle of Oriskany, as has been stated, was from Tryon county, but unfortunately, no perfect roster of their names is in existence. They came from the various districts of the county, and the slaughter filled old Tryon with such grief that history was neglected in the general horror. A partial record, however, was preserved of the gallant band that fought in that fearful conflict, and we now add a copy in hope that some citizens of Montgomery may here discover an ancestor or kinsman. They were patriotic heroes of the highest rank and their names should be perpetuated in history, and this leads us again to express our regret at the loss of the roster. The following list, which is the best that can be given, contains the names of a large number of the force, also the place of residence, and also gives the killed, the wounded and those taken prisoners. The residences are given in many instances in towns erected since that day, but now used for convenience.

The killed were as follows: Brig.-Gen. Nicholas Herkimer, Danube; Col. Ebenezer Cox, Minden; Frederick Ayer, Schuyler; Nicholas Bell, Fall Hill; Joseph Bell, Fall Hill; Jacob Bowman, Canajoharie; Maj. John Bliven, Florida; Samuel Billington, Palatine; Lieut.-Col. Samuel Campbell, Cherry Valley; Robert Crouse, Minden; Andrew Cunningham, Amsterdam; Lieut. Robert Campbell, Cherry Valley; Capt. Henry Dievendorf, Minden; Capt. Andrew Dillenbeck, Palatine; Capt. John J. Davis, Mohawk; Martines Davis, Mohawk; Benjamin Davis, Mohawk; Capt. Thomas Davy, Springfield; John Dygert, Palatine; Maj. John Eisenlord, Palatine; Jacob Failing, Canajoharie; Lieut. Petrus Grant, Amsterdam; Nicholas Gray, Palatine; Capt. Frederick Helmer, German Flats; Lieut. Abel Hunt, Florida; Conrad Hawn, Herkimer; ——— Hiller, Fairfield; Jacob Klepsaddle, German Flats; Jacob Moyer, Fairfield; Jacob Markell, Springfield; William Merckley, Palatine; Isaac Paris, Palatine; Peter Paris (son of Isaac), Palatine; Lieut. Dederick Petry, German Flats; ——— Pettingill, Mohawk; Martines Putnam, Johnstown; Cornelius Phillips, Florida; John Petry, Herkimer; Lieut. Hanjost Petry, Herkimer; George Rays-

nor, Minden; Christian Sharrar, Herkimer; ——— Sharrar, Snyder's Bush; Maj. William Seeber, Minden; Capt. Jacob Seeber, Minden; Adolph Seeber, Minden; Henry Spencer, Joseph Snell, Jacob Snell, Frederick Snell, Sufferenus Snell, of Snell's Bush; John Snell, John Snell, jr., Jacob Snell, of Stone Arabia; Maj. Harmanus Van Slyke, Palatine; Peter Westerman, Minden; John Wohlever, Lawrence Wrenkle, Fort Herkimer.

Wounded: Capt. John Bigbread, Palatine; John Cook, Palatine; Peter Conover, Maj. John P. Frey, Palatine; Capt. Christopher W. Fox, Conrad Folts, Herkimer; Henry Failing, Canajoharie; Capt. Jacob Gardner, Fultonville; Samuel Gardner, Fultonville; Philip Nellis, Palatine; Adam Price, Canajoharie; Joseph Petry, Herkimer; Capt. Nicholas Rechter, Ephratah; Jacob Radnour, Minden; William Shafer, Col. Frederick Visscher, Mohawk; ——— Van Antwerp, supposed Glen; George Wagner; George Walter, Palatine; Henry Zimmerman, St. Johnsville.

Taken prisoners: Lieut.-Col. Frederick Bellinger, German Flats; Maj. Blauvelt, Mohawk; Peter Ehle, Francis Lighthall, Ephratah; Garrit Walrath, Minden; Lieut. Henry Walrath, Herkimer; Henry Walrath, Herkimer; Surgeon Moses Younglove, Stone Arabia; Jacob Youker, Oppenheim.

In the battle: Abram Arndt, Minden; Jacob Alter, Minden; Col. Peter Bellinger, German Flats; Capt. George H. Bell, Fall Hill; Melchert Bauder, Palatine; John R. Boyer, Snyder's Bush; Adam Bellinger, John Bellinger, ——— Billington, Palatine; Peter Bargy, Frankfort; Adj. Samuel Clyde, Cherry Valley; Capt. Abram Copeman, Canajoharie; Isaac Conover, Glen; Jacob, John and Adam Casler, Minden; Richard Coppernoll, Minden; William Cox, Minden; George Crouse, Minden; Jacob Clemens, Schuyler; Jacob Collier, Florida; John Dievendorf, Minden; Peter Dygert, Palatine; Hans Peter Dunckel, Han Garrit Dunckel, Han Nicholas Dunckel, Minden; John Dockstader, German Flats; Capt. William Dygert, German Flats; Marx Demuth, Deerfield; Capt. Immanuel De Graff, Amsterdam; Peter S. and George Dygert, German Flats; Peter Dorn, Johnstown; Jacob Empie, Palatine; William Ehle, Palatine; John Eysler, Snyder's Bush; Capt. Christopher P. Fox, Peter Fox, Charles Fox, William Fox,

and Christopher Fox, Palatine; Henry N. Failing, Canajoharie; Valentine Fralick, Palatine; Lieut.-Col. Adam Fonda, Fonda; Peter Geortner, Minden; Lieut. Samuel Gray, Herkimer; Captain Graves, Captain Lawrence Gros, Minden; Cyrus Gray, Florida; John Adam Helmer, German Flats; Lieut. John Joseph House, Minden; Christian Huffnail, John Huyck, Palatine; Marcus Hand, Florida; William Hall, Glen; Maj. Enos Klepsaddle, German Flats; Conrad and Peter Kilts, Palatine; Andrew, Jacob and Solomon Keller, Palatine; Col. Jacob Klock, Palatine; Lieut. Peter Loucks, Palatine; George Lintner, Minden; ——— Lighthall, Palatine; Solomon Longshore, Canajoharie; Henry Louns, Canajoharie; Colonel Louis, a St. Regis Indian with the Oneidas. He held a lieutenant's commission, and was usually called "Colonel"; Adam Miller, Glen; Jelles, John P. and Henry Miller, Minden; David Murray, Florida; Lieut. David McMaster, Florida; Jacob Myers, German Flats; Joseph Myers, Herkimer; Conrad Moyers, Danube; ——— Moyers, ——— Moyers (brothers); Christian and John D. Nellis, Palatine; Peter Nestell, Palatine; John and Garret Newkirk, Florida; Dr. William Petry, German Flats; John Marks Petry, German Flats; Ensign Richard Putnam, Johnstown; Nicholas Pickard, Canajoharie; Lieut. Abram D. Quackenbush, Glen; John Rother, Minden; Johannes Roof, Fort Stanwix; John Roof, Marx Rasbach, Kingsland; ——— Ritter, Fairfield; Ensign John Jost Scholl, Ephratah; Peter Sitts, Palatine; Henrick Staring, Schuyler; Thomas Shoemaker, Herkimer; Rudolph Siebert, George Shults, Stone Arabia; Henry Shaull, Herkimer; ——— Shimmel, Herkimer; Henry Sanders, Minden; Sufferenus, James and John Seeber, Christian Schell, Schell's Bush; George Smith, Palatine; ——— Smith, father of Nicholas; Lieut. Jeremiah Swarts, Mohawk; John G. Sillenbeck, John Shults, Palatine; Peter Sommers, Philip G. P. Stowits, Root; Peter and George Snell, Stone Arabia; Adam Thumb, St. Johnsville; Henry Thompson, Glen; Conrad Timmerman, St. Johnsville; Nicholas Van Slyke, a fifer, Palatine; Cornelius and Henry Van Horne, Florida; ——— Van Slyke, Canajoharie; Lieut.-Col. Peter Wagner, Palatine; Lieut. Peter Wagner, John Wagner, sons of Col. Jacob Wagner, Minden; John Wagner, Canajoharie; Richard, Peter and Abram Wohlever, Jacob Weaver, German Flats; Peter James Weaver, German

Flats; Michael Widrick, Schuyler; Jacob Walrath, Palatine; Robert Yates, Root; Nicholas Yerdon, Minden.

Of the representatives of the Snell family who took part in the battle of Oriskany, Jephtha R. Simms, in his *Schoharie and Border Wars*, says: "It has been said for many years that nine Snells went into the battle and that seven of that number remained there."

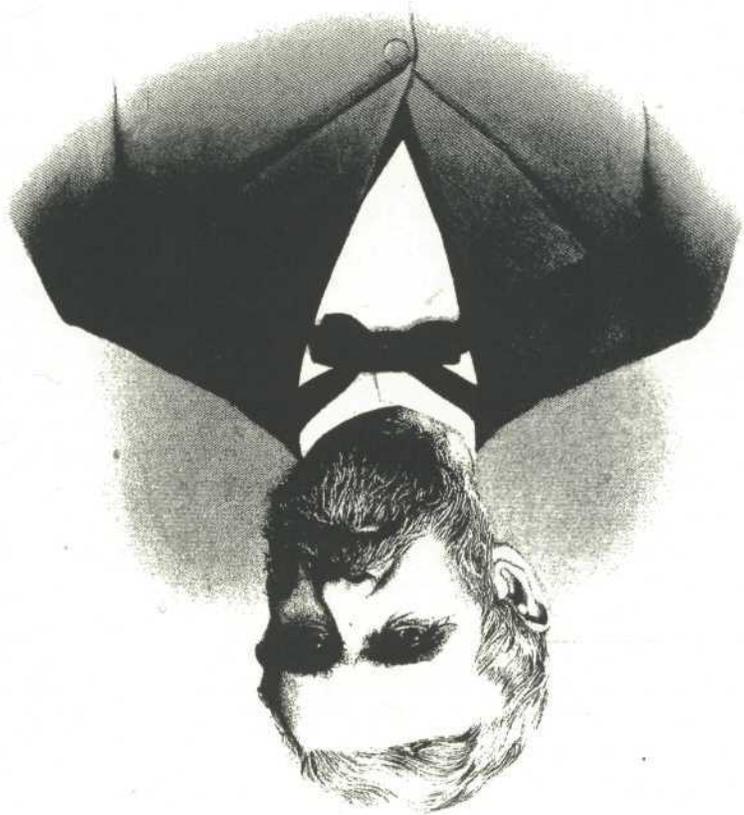
Henry Staring was the ancestor of Commodore John H. Starin, whose magnificent summer residence and grand estate adorns the beautiful elevation just outside the limits of Fultonville. Lieut.-Col. Adam Fonda was the ancestor of Henry A. Fonda, of Milton, Pa.

By reference to the above roll it will be seen that Isaac Paris, of Palatine, and his son were killed in the battle. On the 14th day of February, 1793, Catharine Paris, widow of Isaac, was voted a pension by a special act of the state legislature. It is believed to have been the first pension ever granted, either by state or federal authority. Catharine Paris passed her last days in Johnstown, being cherished by her son, Daniel Paris, a prominent lawyer, who was at one time a member of the state senate. He married Catharine Irving, sister of the author, and among his descendants is Mrs. S. V. R. Cruger, of New York. Mrs. Paris was buried in the old Johnstown cemetery, where her grave is still to be seen.

The pension act just mentioned is an interesting feature in Tryon county history, and may therefore be included in our record as follows: "Whereas it has been represented to the legislature that Isaac Paris, one of the militia of this state, was slain at the battle of Oriskany, by the enemy of the United States; and that Catharine Paris, the widow of the said Isaac, hath not intermarried with any other person since the decease of her said husband, and is now in indigent circumstances; In consideration thereof, be it enacted by the people of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly, that the Treasurer of this State shall, on or before the first day of May next, pay to the said Catharine Paris, or her order, the sum of thirty pounds; and on the first Tuesday in May, in every year afterward during her widowhood, the like sum of thirty pounds."

During the year 1778, although there were no historic battles in the Mohawk valley, the whole region was constantly alarmed by Indian

Herbert Spencer



depredations. These petty invasions led Congress to hold a general conference with the Six Nations at Johnstown, for the purpose of bringing them to neutrality, and thus prevent further devastation. For this purpose a council was called at Johnstown between the 15th and 20th of February, but the Indians were so slow in attendance that it was not until March 9 that the proceedings began. General Schuyler and Volkert Douw, associated with James Duane (as special commissioner) conducted the council. The entire Six Nations, except the Senecas, were represented by chiefs and sachems, the Indian attendance being in all seven hundred. The commissioners opened the council, and one of the chiefs of each nation replied. The Oneidas and Tuscaroras expressed friendship, but while some others assumed a similar position their words were deceitful, and, in fact, during the course of the council there was concealed within convenient distance a number of British spies. The results of the council quieted for a time the public fears, but it was thought wise to adopt the suggestion of General La Fayette (who also was present), and build forts at various places along the frontier.

The Indians at this time were smarting under the chastisement they received at Oriskany and Fort Schuyler, hence cautious leaders of the Americans were not willing to trust them implicitly, notwithstanding their promises. It was well known that the Johnsons were desirous, and even determined to reoccupy the Mohawk valley and their deserted estates, and were only awaiting a favorable opportunity for an invasion. In the south part of Tryon county Brant was perpetrating his cruel and cowardly outrages, robbing, burning and slaughtering in the smaller frontier settlements. A much bolder movement, which occurred about the same time, was the reappearance of a body of tories, estimated at one hundred, who came into the Mohawk valley, took their movable property and families and escaped without molestation. They left Fort Hunter, proceeded to Fonda and thence journeyed northward to the Fish House. There they took eleven prisoners, among whom were Solomon Woodworth, Godfrey Shew and his three sons. They burned the buildings, among them the lodge built by Sir William Johnson in 1760, and then took boats and rowed down the Sacandaga and up the Hudson, thence crossed to Lake George and returned to Canada by the Champlain valley.

On the 2d of July of the same year, a strong party of Indians made a descent upon the settlement at Cobleskill, and two days later occurred the terrible massacre at Wyoming. In the same month also the settlement at Andrustown, six miles from German Flats, was plundered by Brant and his savage warriors. During the same fall, General Haldimand, governor-general of Canada, at the suggestion of Sir John Johnson, sent a party of forty or fifty men to Johnstown to recover certain valuable papers which were concealed near the former residence. In this party was one Helmer, who was injured and obliged for a time to remain in his father's house. He was discovered and arrested, tried, convicted and sentenced to death at Johnstown. The others of the party, although they committed no depredations (at least there are none on record), escaped in safety to Canada, having come and returned by the short but unfrequented route of the Sacandaga, Lake George and Champlain Valley. Another fearful outrage occurred in November of the same year, when Brant and Butler, with 200 Tories and 500 Indians, fell upon the little settlement at Cherry Valley and ruthlessly slaughtered its inhabitants and plundered their dwellings.

The Indian depredations of 1778 were really the most important features in warfare during that year, but it was also noted for the alliance with France, which gave renewed confidence to the colonies and really insured the final victory. In November a large British force advanced from Canada to Ticonderoga and completed the devastation that had been begun on both sides of the lake; a foray, which, if justified by the laws of war, wrought but little benefit to the British, while it caused much unnecessary suffering.

The early part of 1779 brought to the inhabitants of Tryon county a repetition of the events of the preceding year. The Mohawk valley once more became the scene of scalping and plundering, and among the settlements first to suffer from Indian savages and cruelty were Stone Arabia and a small hamlet south of the Mohawk. In both instances men were either killed or carried into captivity. At the same time a band of Senecas made an attack upon Schoharie, with the scalping knife and torch, and compelled the settlers to flee for their lives. The Palatine committee of safety at last was compelled to ask protection from General Clinton, and the latter responded with a detachment of

troops which swept the savages from the valley and inflicted severe punishment wherever they were found. The Onondagas were among those upon whom Clinton's force had visited summary justice, and in revenge, they attacked Cobleskill, killed a number of its people and plundered the settlement. In the meantime Brant extended his predatory warfare into the Hudson river country, and massacred, plundered and burned wherever an opportunity offered.

These atrocities at last became so numerous that the authorities were thoroughly aroused and determined to draw upon the troops in service for a general expedition against the Indians. The plan of the campaign called for two forces, one under General Sullivan to march through the Susquehanna and Chemung valleys; and thence down Seneca Lake to destroy the Seneca villages, while the other force, under General Clinton, was to sweep through the Mohawk Valley and thence westward and punish all the hostile tribes. Both of these movements were entirely successful, and the result was that the Indians, especially the fierce Senecas, were driven to the protection of the British post at Fort Niagara. Their villages and growing crops were destroyed, and thereafter they were obliged to rely on the generosity of the British for their support.

We now approach that most horrible episode in Tryon county history known as "Sir John Johnson's raid." In the spring of 1780 (May 21) Sir John came from Canada by Lake Champlain to Crown Point, at the head of a force of five hundred British troops, a detachment of his own Royal Greens, and about 200 Indians and Tories. From Crown Point he made his way through the forest to the Sacandaga river, and at midnight entered the north part of Johnstown so stealthily as to take the slumbering inhabitants unawares. He divided his force into two bodies in order that they might cover more territory, and then he enacted a series of atrocities from whose record history almost recoils. Families were aroused from slumber by the terrific war whoop, and men, women and children were brutally slaughtered, their dwellings burned and their property destroyed. Even the lapse of a century has hardly abated the horror which accompanied the memories of Sir John's infernal purpose and the Mohawk valley was fearfully ravaged by his barbarous horde. An important object in the cowardly invasion was the recovery of some

valuable plate which had been buried at the time of Sir John's flight in 1776. Since that time it had been faithfully guarded by one of his former slaves, who, with the aid of the soldiers, disinterred the silver and laid it at his master's feet, and it was divided among forty soldiers for transportation to Montreal. Such we say was the leading object in Sir John's invasion, but only a man of his malignity could have added the horrors which he wrought merely to gratify brutal revenge.

Having secured the plate they passed on through the village unobserved by the garrison that occupied the stockade around the jail and resumed their hellish task. The first family to feel their malice was that of Sampson Sammons, who with his three sons, Jacob, Frederick and Thomas, were made prisoners. No doubt they were worth more alive than dead. The dwelling was plundered, after which the invaders joined the eastern division at the north of the Cayadutta.

The other force, led, as it was believed, by two notorious tory brothers named Brown, passed at once through Johnstown to the vicinity of Tribes Hill, and thence all through the river country, both east and west of Caughnawaga, they wreaked vengeance on the unprotected inhabitants. Ludowick Putnam and his son were first butchered, their property stolen or destroyed, but the females of the family escaped. Amasa Stevens, son-in-law of Putnam, was also killed, but his wife also escaped. Garrett Putnam was an intended victim, but had recently moved away after renting his house to two tories. The house of Henry Hanson was likewise plundered and its owner murdered. In fact the property of every patriot in the locality was robbed or destroyed, and only that belonging to the tories was spared. The church and parsonage at Caughnawaga were also unmolested, being prominent features in the estate of Sir William Johnson. At the latter place Douw Fonda was killed and scalped; and it was said that he was one of the nine aged men, four of whom were more than eighty years old, who were slain during Sir John's raid. His descendants are still prominent citizens of the valley and tradition preserves the spot where he was so cruelly massacred.

Returning from the Mohawk valley the raiders again visited the Sammons place and took away seven horses. The Hall was also revisited, Sir John remaining there several hours and regaining possession of

about twenty of his former slaves who had remained behind at the time of his flight, and who now accompanied him to Canada. Among these was the trusted and faithful William, who had concealed the plate. He had previously been in the service of Jacob Sammons (who had rented the estate and Hall from the commissioners) but he would never disclose the place of concealment.

At the time of this bloody invasion Governor Clinton was at Kingston. He hastened to Albany, collected such militia as were in his command and marched to Lake George to intercept Sir John. Colonel Van Schaick also, with 700 men (part being of the Mohawk valley militia) followed the invaders by the way of Johnstown to cut off their retreat by the Oswego route. The governor descended Lake George to Ticonderoga, where he was joined by a body of militia, but all these efforts to cut off Sir John's retreat were ineffectual and the monster escaped with his horde, taking their boats, probably at Crown Point, whence they proceeded down the lake to St. John. Their captives (including the brothers Jacob and Frederick Sammons) were thence transferred to the fort at Chambly.

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## CHAPTER XI.

Additional Depredations in the Mohawk Valley — Sir John Johnson again Invades the Region — The Battle at Stone Arabia — Van Rensselaer's Cowardly Conduct — Condition of the Inhabitants after the Raid — Governor Clinton sends Colonel Willett to Protect the Valley — Invasion by Brant and Butler — Defeat of the latter by Willett's Troops — Battle at Johnstown — The Enemy Routed — Death of Walter Butler — End of Hostilities in the Mohawk Valley.

THE devastation and bloodshed that had thus far marked the track of war throughout the states was now approaching an end, but in the autumn of 1780, and simultaneous with the movement of Sir John Johnson in the Mohawk country, the enemy actively engaged against the settlements north of Albany, and also upon the upper Connecticut river. In order to create a diversion in favor of Sir John, Major Carleton came up the lake with a large fleet, and more than 1,000 men.