MINISINK

BY THEODORE D. SCHOOONMAKER, GOSHEN, N. Y.

I.—ITS BOUNDARIES.

It is pretty difficult at this late day to describe exactly by meets and bounds just what amount of territory was comprised in the term "Minisink."

In general terms, it was a portion of our country extending from the Delaware Water Gap, on either side of the Delaware River in a northerly direction for about forty or fifty miles to Cocheaton, covering a considerable land in the Townships of Montague, Sandy- ston and Waalpack, Sussex County, N. J.,—what is now known as the Town of Deerpark, in Orange County, and taking in a part of Sullivan County, and which last mentioned strip comprises part of the Towns of Lumberland, Forestburgh and Mamakating,—and also part of the Counties of Pike and Monroe, Pennsylvania, which bordered on the Delaware River.

The New York State white people claimed that the southern boundary line was from the Water Gap east to the Station on the Hudson River, which included the present Village of Deckertown, Sussex County, N. J., while the New Jersey white people claimed that the line ran from Cocheaton to the same Station on the Hudson, and included Edenville, in the Town of Warwick, Orange County. The Minisink Patent granted by Queen Anne in the year 1703, ran from Big Minisink Island, in the Delaware River, about three miles below Port Jervis, in the County of Orange, to the same Station on the Hudson for its southern line.

The "Station on the Hudson" above referred to is known as "The Highlands of the Hudson"—no distinct locality, but just that general designation, which would be the High Lands below the City of Newburgh.

This extensive territory had been acquired by treaty, so that the
Delaware Tribes of Indians had really no quarrel with the whites, only as they were urged and coaxed on by the British and Tories. What were called Pomptons claimed certain lands in New Jersey, and were treated with as "The Minises," "Monseys" or "Minnisineks." The Minnisineks were a friendly tribe or clan of the Minises or Wolf Tribe of the Delaware Nation. Their name described them as Backlanders, Uplanders or Highlanders. Their capital town was on what is called "Minnisinck Plains," in New Jersey, about eight miles south of Port Jervis, nearly opposite to Milford, a village in Pike County, Pa. Their town was palisaded and known to the Dutch as early as 1746. They were kindred of the Esopus Indians, but not associated with them in government. The territory which they occupied was called "The Minissick Country." The Delaware River was called "The Minissineck River" where it flowed through their territory. This Delaware River was named after Lord Delaware, and was by the Dutch generally called "Vishkill River," which in English means "Fish River." And it has to this day well sustained that name. Sometimes it was called by the Dutch "The South River" to distinguish it from the Hudson or "North River." The Indians residing along or near this river were called "The Delawares." There is another river in this region called "The Neversinck"—named, as I understand it, from the fact that its current is so swift that nothing will ever sink in it. The Indian name of this river was "Mahackmaek." This river empties into the Delaware at Carpenter's Point, near Port Jervis, at the junction of which is a rock where the three States, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, join or meet. You can stand on that tri-States rock on one foot and be in the three different States.

From Eager's History of Orange County I glean several facts. The whole territory thus described was occupied by a tribe of Indians known as "Minqua," and this may properly be regarded as the original word from which the name "Minisink" was derived. "Minisink"—people living on a low tract of land from which the water had been drawn, alluding to the belief that the valley along the Delaware River occupied by them had once formed the bottom of a vast lake, from which the water had been drained, or had
escaped by breaking through the mountain at a place called now "The Delaware Water Gap." I am told that there are even now evidences to the geologist along the sides of the mountains on both sides of the Delaware River to the north of the Water Gap, that the waters once rose to quite a height on their sides, and that the embankment where the Water Gap now is, to the height of two hundred feet, would flood the Delaware Valley or Minisink for over fifty miles.

The tradition of the Indians in this vicinity at the early settlement of the country was, that their nation had lived at Kittany, now called Blue Mountains, in Warren County, N. J., which means "Chief Town;" that there was a difficulty or disagreement of some kind, and that the discontented portion removed to the north side of the mountains and settled upon the low lands along the Delaware. It appears that from thirty to forty miles along both sides of the Delaware River were settled before New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania knew anything about it, and that they only found it out in 1729; that the settlers had been there so long there that they had apple trees larger than any near Philadelphia. For years "Minnising," in New Jersey, was the postoffice for all this region. The present town of Minisink, in Orange County, was only partially in this region. What is now known as the Towns of Minisink, Greenville and Mount Hope, Wawayanda and Goshen, was then the Precinct of Goshen. The present town of Minisink was settled by some of the inhabitants of Minisink coming across the mountains and settling in its present territory.

The settlement of the Minisink region began in 1689. Originally the north part was the most important; but before the Revolution the settlers in the lower part in New Jersey and in Pennsylvania outnumbered those in the New York portion.

Thus is traced the English formation of the word "Minsiea" from the Dutch "Minquas" and then to its Indian name "Minisink." It was known by this last name in 1694, when that locality was visited by Arent Schuyler, the first white man that ever placed a foot in that region, recorded in authentic history. He was sent by Governor Fletcher, who then ruled over that Province by the Crown of England, to ascertain whether or not the French, who
then occupied Canada and were continually warring with the English, had not sent emissaries among the Minisink Indians to bribe them to unite with the Canadian Indians to wage war to exterminate the people of New York.

I also glean from the same source that in 1730 an agent was appointed to go and look after the state of things at the settlement about Kittany, or Blue Mountains; that then Indian guides were hired, and that his agent and his helpers had great difficulty in getting their horses through the “Water Gap” to the Minisink Flats, which were then all settled with Hollanders; that then the best interpretation they could get of the word “Minisink” was “The water is gone.” That there was then a good road from where the river was frozen to Esopus, near Kingston or Wiltwyck; that the first settlement in Minisink by the Hollanders was many years before William Penn’s Charter; then when Nicholas Scull, the surveyor, was about to survey the country, an old Indian put his hand on his shoulder and said, “Put up iron string and go home.” That this good road to Esopus was called “The Mine Road;” that when they endeavored to ascertain when and by whom this “Mine Road” was made, what ore they dug and bow or whence the first settlers came in such great numbers as to take up all the flats on both sides of the river for forty miles, this traditional account was given: that in some former age there came a company of miners from Holland, who expended a great deal of labor in making that road for one hundred miles; that they were very rich in working the two mines, one on the Delaware, in Waalpack Township, Sussex County, N. J., and the other on the north foot of the mountain, half way from the Delaware to Esopus in what is now Mamakating, Sullivan County, N. Y.

In short, the entire valley, from what is now called Westbrookville, Orange County, on the north, on both sides the Neverrink River, to the Delaware Water Gap on the south, on both sides the Delaware was “The Minisink Region” about 1770 to 1790, and is the territory meant by that name in dealing with Indian raids and massacres in this paper.

Thus much for its boundaries.

Attached hereto is a rough sketch of this valley as it was in 1771.
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II.—INDIAN RAIDS AND MASSACRES ABOUT THE TIME OF THE
REVOLUTION.

For years before the notorious Brant appeared, and at the time
of his two invasions, hereinafter referred to, the Indians along the
Delaware had become a terror to the inhabitants on both sides of
the river, owing to the extended advances of the whites on their
hunting ground above the forks of the two rivers, the Delaware and
the Neversink, at Carpenter’s Point, which, under the Penn Treaty,
had been held to be inviolable. Previous to this the Indians and
Dutch had got along well together in this Minisink Valley; the Hol-
landers cultivated it and the Indians fished and hunted along its
streams and in the mountains without interfering with or molest-
ing each other. But, when the storm of the Revolution broke
forth, the Delaware Indians were easily goaded to hostility by their
more warlike and treacherous neighbors of the North, who, through
Brant’s influence and the liberal patronage of the British Com-
missioners, had obtained sole control of the Six Nations. It now
became a life and death struggle between the Tories and Colonists
for the establishment of British power in America.

About the time of the “Battle of Minisink,” to which reference
will more largely be made, a fleet of 400 ships and 25,000 veterans
had landed in New York Bay, and all the vulnerable points on the
Atlantic seaboard and on the Hudson River had either been stormed
or capitulated to the British. Stony Point and Fort Montgomery
had been captured; Kingston and Cherry Valley burned; Phila-
delphia and every town on the Delaware, with the exception of
Trenton and Princeton, was in the hands of the British; and with
Claudius Smith and his Tory Gang in the Ramapo Valley on the
south, and Bonnell Moody and his blood-thirsty bands ravaging
New Jersey, and an army of hostile savages and Tories hanging
like a dark cloud on the west, this Minisink region and the precinct
of Goshen may well be said to have been surrounded literally with
a wall of fire. Brant’s raids were mainly in the region between
the mouth of the Neversink River, where it empties into the Dela-
ware, and the present Village of Cuddebackville, then known as
Peenpack, in the neighborhood of Forts DeWitt, Van Auken and
Gumaer. Fort Gumaer was located at Peenpack, near Cuddebackville, close to a Spring and a Spring Brook, in the central part of Peenpack Flats. It is said that the name “Peenpack” has reference to this spring and brook. Fort DeWitt was built at the commencement of the Revolutionary War and stood near where now the Suspension Bridge crosses the Neversink, on the road leading from Port Jervis to Cuddebackville, about a mile south of Cuddebackville, and in which house DeWitt Clinton was born. Fort Van Auken was nearer to where is now the Village of Port Jervis, and not far from the Old Burying Ground, and in the neighborhood of the farm house now owned by Levi Van Etten.

In regard to the Indian raids and massacres that occurred in that part of Minisink lying in the State of New Jersey, I find that Tadeuskund, the Chief of the Lenape Indians, was their manager in the Old Minisink War, miscalled “The French and Indian War,” who was insistent that it was waged to revenge their wrongs inflicted by the heirs of William Penn in robbing them of their lands on the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware River, and strict orders were issued by him that the war should not be carried into New Jersey, where the Indians had been paid for their lands. In consequence, the only Indians who came across the river into New Jersey, were vagrant stragglers, under no leadership, and only seeking to take revenge irregularly.

And in regard to these Indian raids and massacres, I desire to say that they were committed in direct violation of the treaty which General Schuyler, on the part of Congress, had concluded with the Six Nations of Western New York, in July, 1775, by which they were to observe strict neutrality between the Americans and the British. But this was not according to what the Indians desired. It was not long before they were induced to break their pledges. First among they singled out individuals whom they feared or hated, and then their death-dealing blows became more numerous and frequent.

In the short time allotted me I cannot narrate any family or individual raids to any extent, but must content myself with giving an account of the raids that partook of a neighborhood, war-like or battle character.
Of those that occurred on the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware River, I will mention one, called "The Battle of the Conashaugh." This took place a few miles below the present Village of Milford, Pike County, Pa., as furnished me in a copy of a letter by John Van Campen, dated April 24th, 1780, found in the Pennsylvania archives and kindly sent me by Hon. J. H. Van Etten, attorney, of Milford, Pa., whose great grandfather was in the fight.

This Lawyer Van Etten has stood when a boy on the battle field with his grandfather and had pointed out to him the location of the Indians and his great grandfather's men as they had been shown to him by his father.

(From Copy of Letter in Pennsylvania Archives.)

Battle Called "Battle of the Conashaugh.
John Van Campen to Pres. Reed.

Southfield, April 24, 1780.

Hon'r'd Sir:

I hope my last by Mr. Mixer has come to hand informing you of the incursion of the Indians at the house of Manuel Gunsaleyes. I herewith inform your Honor of their late attempts. James McCarte with his family was removed to the Jersey on the 20th inst., his sons went to their home to feed the cattle, the farm was in Pa. about three miles below Milford, discovered signs of Indians, returned to the Jersey immediately and acquainted Major Westbrook and Captain Westbrook and the signs they had discovered: they sent immediately for some of their best men and crossed the River that night. About sun rise the morning following discovered the Indians nigh the barn and began the attack: the number of the enemy is supposed to be about fourteen: the Major received no damage with his party: the Indians retreated to the woods: The Major was reinforced by Cap. Van Etten with three of his sons and son-in-law: pursued the Indians by the blood and about two miles came up with them. As it is without doubt three of them was wounded: renewed the attack, drove the Indians to the edge of a thick wood. Captain Van Etten maintained his ground with his few men, the Major with his men also. Captain Westbrook's men left at the first fire from the enemy in the woods, which was the
ruin of the whole, but the ground maintained for some time and
the retreat secured by the Major and Van Etten. Killed and miss-
ing on the part of the Major and Van Etten,—Captain Westbrook
missing,—not yet found: Benjamin Ennis killed, son-in-law to Cap-
tain Van Etten; Richard Rosecrans killed and two more wounded.
Of the enemy killed, two found,—one an officer appearing by his
dress,—found in his pocket a regular Journal from the first of
March till the 16th instant. As appears by his Journal there is
Three Hundred and Ninety marched from Niagara, divided into
different parties. The officer was a white man. Respected Sir,
now under difficulties of march, what the event will be God only
knows. The people are determined to evacuate the country as
there appears no prospect of relief by the Militia.

I am, sir, with due respect,

Your most humble Servt.,

JOHN VAN CAMPEN.

P. S. The said Mc.Cartee, where the attack began, is about two
miles below Wells Ferry on the banks of the Delaware.

Capt. Van Etten lives in Delaware Township one mile below Mc-
Cartee's.

I will refer to two more raids and they will be "The Invasion by
Joseph Brant."

Who was this Joseph Brant?

Well, he was the celebrated Mohawk Chief, whose name was "Tha-
yen-den-da-gue," which means "two-sticks-of-wood-bound-togeth-
er," denoting strength. Was that name prophetic? Did he com-
bine the Indian cunning, cruelty and craftiness with the military
education and training which he received, "two sticks bound to-
gether, denoting strength?"

He was born of pure Iroquois blood on the banks of the Ohio
River in 1742, where his father died. His mother returned with
him and his sister, Mary or Molly, to the Mohawk and married an
Indian by the name of Barent, and the two children were after-
wards known as Joseph and Mary or Molly Brant. Molly, by her
beauty and grace in riding captivated Sir William Johnson, the
General-in-Chief of all the Indians in North America of Johnstown,
in what is now Montgomery County, and she became his leman,
he already having a wife in Ireland. This Sir William Johnson sent young Brant to Dr. Wheelock’s School at Lebanon, Conn., where the lad was educated for the Christian ministry. For some cause he did not enter the ranks of the clergy; but, in his old age he labored to convert his people to the white man’s faith, and translated a part of the New Testament, one of the Gospels, into the Mohawk language.

At the age of twenty he became the Secretary and Agent of Sir William Johnson. As the Revolutionary storm was brewing, both Whigs and Tories made an effort to induce his conduct. Rev. Samuel Kirkland, a devoted missionary among the Six Nations, tried to induce Brant to remain neutral, but the agents of the British prevailed. In 1775 he left the Mohawk and went to Canada. There, as colonel, in the British Army, having received his commission from George III early in the Revolutionary War, he organized and set forth those predatory bands of Indians which devastated the frontier from the Delaware Water Gap to the Mohawk River.

Captain Jeremiah Snyder, who with his son was made prisoner near Saugerties and taken to Niagara, thus describes this famous Chief:

"He was good looking, of fierce aspect, tall and rather spare, well-spoken and then apparently about thirty years of age. He wore moccasins elegantly trimmed with beads, leggins and a breech cloth of superfine blue, a short green coat, with two silver epaulets and a small, round laced hat. By his side was an elegantly mounted cutlass, and his blanket (purposely dropped in the chair on which he sat to display his epaulets) was gorgeously adorned with a border of red. His language was very insulting."

He was received with great distinction on his tour to England in 1786, and was attached to the Military Service of Sir Guy Carlton in Canada. He opposed the confederation of the Indians which led to the expedition of General Wayne, and did all he could to prevent peace between the Indians and the United States. He was zealously devoted to the welfare of his own people and did all he could to prevent the introduction of ardent spirits among them. While in England he collected funds for a church, which was the
first one built in Upper Canada. He spent the latter part of his life at Burlington Bay, near the head of Lake Ontario, where he built a house for himself on a tract of land conferred upon him by the British Government.

This much for the personnel of Colonel Brant.

It was the time now of the deepest depression (1778). Everywhere the Frontier Settlements were nearly drained by the army of the male defenders, and yet exposed to the treachery of the Tories and the torch and tomahawk of the Indians. The awful massacre of Wyoming had but passed, when, lo, tidings came that Brant and his band are marching on to Minisink! Brant, the very name of terror, the hero of the awful atrocities of Cherry Valley, called the "Monster Brant," educated at Dartmouth College, but which college education did not tame his savage nature, more cunning than a fox, more fierce than a tiger. Yes, tidings came that Brant was coming. And come he did.

In the region of what was then Peenpack, now Cuddebackville, in the Town of Deerpark, Orange County, on Tuesday, October 18th, 1778, a party of nearly one hundred Indians and Tories, under the leadership of Brant, invaded the settlement. They first surprised the family of Mr. Westfall and killed the only man that was home at the time. Mr. Thomas Swartwout and his four sons, thinking that the marauders were only few in number and more desirous of plunder than of murder, resolved to defend their home. The women were sent to Fort Gumaer and the house firmly barricaded. But when the enemy appeared it was found that resistance was useless, and after firing a few times, seeing their chance of escape would soon be cut off, resolved to flee. Then they all started to run in the direction of the fort, but one of the sons was killed before reaching the shelter of the barn. Another son, separated from the others, ran toward the Neversink, half a mile off, but was pursued by a few Indians and shot while swimming the river near the opposite shore. The old gentleman and his two other sons kept together, running as fast as they could towards the fort, but soon found that they would be overtaken. They paused. "James," said the father to one of his sons, "you are young and active and can save yourself. If you stay to assist me we shall all..."
be killed. Save yourself while you can.” The other son kept by
the side of his father. They were both soon overtaken and toma-
hawked. James was pursued for half a mile through brush and
briars and over fences and across lots till he reached the fort
saved.

The continued firing warned the inhabitants of the danger com-
ing to them, and those who were out on their farms repaired to
the forts, Guamer and DeWitt. Only nine men being in Fort
Gumaer, Captain Cuddeback (to whom references will hereafter
be made), paraded all the young people and women back of the
house, got together all the hats and coats and placed all the spare
guns and sticks in their hands. And many a blushing damsel, who
two days before would have scorned the idea of her ever wearing
male attire, made her appearance that day in a cocked hat and
ragged coat and vest with her dainty limbs clad in a faded pair of
homespun breeches; and many a staid matron was that day appar-
ettly transformed into a dignified Continental soldier, with blue
cost and brass buttons. Captain Cuddeback was aware of the in-
fluence display had on the savage mind, and he resolved to profit
by it. There being only nine men there at the time, but he re-
solved to defend it, though it was only a picket fort at best. When
the Indians came in sight he ordered all the drums to beat and
marched all these people from the rear to the front of the fort and
made as big a parade as possible. He then ordered the women
and children into the cellar; but Ann Swartwout, a large woman,
told the captain that she would take a pitchfork and remain with
the men, which she did.

The Indians did not attempt to take the fort, but departed after
a few shots were fired.

They then proceeded to Fort DeWitt and stationed themselves
on a hill, which was covered with woods near the fort and re-
mained there some time, firing occasionally as they secured a view
of the garrison with no effect, save the killing of Captain New-
kerk’s horse by a stray bullet. On the same day they retreated
towards the west, after burning all the houses, barns and build-
ings they found in their course, which was a great source of dis-
tress to the inhabitants.
Some of the wives and children were sent to Major Phillips, at a place called Phillipshburgh, a hamlet in the eastern part of the Town of Wawayanda, near Goshen, where, by the way, powder in large quantities was manufactured for the Continental Army during the Revolution. Major Phillips thus became aware of the danger of the people of Minisink, and he arrived at the fort the day after the invasion, but the invaders had gone, and it was useless to pursue.

This invasion aroused the inhabitants to a sense of their danger, and the members of the Committee of Safety took immediate steps to increase the defensive powers of the settlement by repairing the forts, and Captain Cuddeback of Fort Gumaer made an application to the General Government for help, and the brave Pole, Count Pulaski, with a battalion of cavalry, was sent to their assistance. This inspired the settlers with new courage. Their families were brought back and their homes repaired. The winter passed away without any appearance of the savages, and they began to think that their share of the turmoils of war was over. In February, 1779, Count Pulaski and his men were ordered to South Carolina, as he was needed there to join the army of General Lincoln, and the inhabitants of this Minisink region were left defenceless.

But winter passed and spring melted into summer, and the laborers were cheered by the singing of the birds and the babbling of the waters of the rivers, and everything seemed calm and peaceful.

There is an old tradition among the legends of the Towns of Minisink and Greenville, in Orange County, that Brant visited the Minisink neighborhood in order to acquaint himself with the affairs of that territory before his second invasion. It is said that the residents suspected a certain man of open Tory principles of carrying provisions to some one in the swamp; in fact, he was seen one morning just before daylight emerging from the swamp, carrying the carcass of a sheep that had been slaughtered. He would not tell what he had been doing, so he was arrayed in the sheepskin and marched off to Goshen Jail, sixteen miles away, a soldier following him with a bayonet to keep him from lagging, and a boy with a drum following. Captain Van Inwegen, chairman of the Committee of Safety, had this Tory between his soldiers as they
were marching to Goosen. He was close to the Tory, so that none of the soldiers could shoot the Tory, but as the file was turning at one place, as the road turned, some soldier in the rear could not resist the temptation to shoot the Tory, and fired, the ball going through Captain Van Inwegen’s canteen. If this was so, Brant became well informed of the neighborhood and its resources, and thus could invade the Minisink region so successfully.

And now we come to the Second Invasion of the Minisink Region by Brant and his warriors.

Colonel Brant, in all probability, heard that this frontier was unprotected, and so, in the summer of 1779 he left Niagara with about three hundred Iroquois Warriors and many Tories, painted as Indian Warriors, and started east for a second raid on this Minisink region. About the middle of July they appeared on the western borders of that region, at Peenpack, near what is now Cuddebackville, like a cloud on the mountain top ready to break on the plain below. And sure enough, on the morning of Tuesday, July 20th, 1779, before daybreak, the people of the valley were awakened from their slumber by the Indian warhoop, the shrieks of the victims of the tomahawk and the crackling of the flames of their dwellings. Their first surprise was at the old Mahackamaack Church, which stood near what is now North Main street and New Jersey avenue, in the Village of Port Jervis, opposite the Old Burying Ground which is now there, burned it, and after killing some of the people they crossed the Neversink River to the east and destroyed several farm houses on the road towards Hugenot. They also assaulted the Van Anken Fort at Major Decker’s, which stood not far from where the Old Church was; they entered the fort unawares, the men being absent. They then proceeded to the dwelling of Anthony Van Etten, where a few Indians entered a blacksmith shop. Mr. James Swartwout was in and he secreted himself by climbing up the chimney, and the negro who was working there stood in charge. The Indians tumbled over things in general, and then took hold of the bellows and began to blow. The negro, knowing that the smoke and cinders would have a bad effect on Mr. Swartwout, told them “to stop or they would spoil that thing.” And so they did, and Mr. Swartwout was spared. They
then went to the house of one James Van Vliet, and their approach being seen, the inmates fled. There was some firing at the Van Aucken Fort and one man was killed there. An Indian, in attempting to get near the fort to set it on fire, was killed. By this time smoke and flames were seen in many directions, and the people knew that the Indians, with Brant at their head, were there. His manner of approach was stealthily by night, hiding by day, and rushing out among and on the people at the break of day. There was a funeral that day and Major Decker, while riding home was attacked and wounded, but putting spurs to his horse, he escaped.

While these events were transpiring and the people who had warning were fleeing to the forts and block houses and other places for safety, the fathers and mothers thought of their children a mile or so away in the Old Log School House, and hoped that they might escape the attention of the savages. But in this they were doomed to disappointment. The Indians entered the school house and intended to exterminate one generation with a blow. Their teacher, Jeremiah Van Aucken, was taken about half a mile from the school house, killed and scalped, and some of the larger boys were tomahawked, some fled to the woods, and the little girls stood by the side of their dead teacher, struck with horror, not knowing their fate. But one thing happened then which showed that even in the heart of this cruel leader there was still a spark of humanity.

Suddenly a strong, muscular Indian came along and with a brush dashed some black paint across their aprons, bidding them, “Hold up the mark when they saw an Indian coming,” and with a yell, disappeared in the woods. That Indian was Brant. The children were safe. As the Indians passed along, running from place to place, murder and scalping such as were in their way, they saw the mark and left the children unharmed. Quick as a flash of lightning, a happy thought entered the minds of the little sisters. They thought they could save their brothers. The scattered boys were quickly assembled and the girls threw their aprons over the clothes of the boys and stamped the black impression upon their outer garments, and they in turn held up the mark as the
Indians appeared, and the children were thus saved from injury
and death.

This school house stood right below what is now known as "The
Black Rock Cut" on the Erie Railroad, which is just before you
reach the Village of Port Jervis, about a mile southwest from
where the farm house of one Levi Van Etten now is, which house
can be seen from the train, right-hand side, just after leaving the
cut.

One of the little girls upon whom Brant dashed the black paint,
and who witnessed the killing of their teacher, was Margaret
Decker. On her return home she found that her father's house
had been burned. She grew up and married Benjamin Carpenter,
and she had a daughter, named Margaret, who married John Van
Etten; and this Mrs. John Van Etten died only a few years ago;
and many residents of the Town of Deerpark, who are now living,
have heard her repeat the story of the paint and massacre as she
had it from her own mother's lips.

After destroying ten dwellings, twelve barns, two mills and the
Old Mahackamack Church, and killing with the tomahawk and
scalping knife thirty-one of the inhabitants, they left, loaded with
spoils, recrossed the Neversink, and took the trail, by which they
had come, off towards what is now Sparrowbush, up towards
Cahoonzie, and following up along the northerly and westerly side
of the Delaware River, they stopped at Halfway Brook, which
empties into the Delaware near where is now the Village of Barry-
ville, which is just across the same river from Shohola, a station on
the Erie Railroad, otherwise called Grassy Brook, where they
encamped for the night.

Let us now leave Brant and his warriors and his spoils by the
side of this Halfway Brook, and turn our attention for a few
moments to what is transpiring in another part of the country.

An express messenger was sent over the mountain to Goshen,
which arrived there the same evening as the massacre, and told
Colonel Tusten of the events of that morning. Orders were im-
imediately issued by the colonel to the officers under him to meet
him the following morning with as many volunteers as could be
raised. One hundred and forty-nine men assembled the next
morning at the appointed place. A council of war was held as to
the advisability of pursuit. Colonel Tusten was not inclined to
risk an encounter with that noted Mohawk chief, because his
warriors outnumbered the Goshen Militia two to one, and the
militia were not well supplied with arms and ammunition, and
it were better to wait for reinforcements, which were soon expected,
but some were for immediate pursuit, stating that the Indians
would not fight and that it would be an easy matter to recapture
the plunder. After some lengthy arguments, pro and con, further
deliberation was cut short by Major Meeker, who, mounting his
horse and flourishing his sword, called out: “Let the brave men
follow me; the cowards may stay behind.” That settled the ques-
tion: it silenced the prudent. The 149 men started some time
early in that morning of Wednesday, July 21st, 1779, and they
reached the house of one James Finch, ten mile away, near where
the Village of Finchville now is, where they had breakfast. Mr.
Finch slaughtering a hog, which was roasted and served to the
patriots. What they did not eat they took along in their knaps-
acks and continued their march over the mountain, saying to
Mr. Finch not to accompany them, but to stay and have dinner
ready for them when they came back, which, they said, would be
in the course of a few hours. This must have been said by the
“Meeker” men.

They were soon on the top of the mountain, and more than
one-half of them took their last look at the eastern slope. They
then crossed the mountain and pushed on over an Indian trail and
reached the ruins of the house of Major Decker, the father of the
little girl upon whose apron Brant had put the black paint. When
Brant and his forces were invading this part of Minisink on the
morning of the 20th Major Decker and some others were returning
from a funeral, and he was shot at and wounded. After leaving
Major Decker’s this brave band pushed on seventeen miles further
and then encamped for the night, which was Wednesday evening,
July 21st, 1779, at a place known as Skinner’s Saw Mill, which
was near where the Mongaup River empties into the Delaware
River.

The next morning they were reinforced by a small number of men
from the Warwick Regiment, under Colonel Hathorn, who being an older officer than Colonel Tusten, took command. After starting on their march on the morning of the 22nd, they soon came to Halfway Brook and to the place where Brant, his Indians and Tories had encamp the previous night, but from which they had early departed on their retreat towards Canada. Here another council was held, and Colonels Hathorn and Tusten were opposed to any further advance, as it could be plainly seen by the number of camp fires on the ground occupied by the enemy the previous night that their number was largely in excess of the militia. But here another scene similar to the one enacted at Goshen took place and with the same result. The voice of prudence was compelled to yield to that of bravado. It has been said that this officer, to whose tauntings this former and last act have been attributed made quite a display of his bravery while on the march, but with his company was only within hearing while the engagement lasted and could not be induced to go to the relief of his countrymen; and yet, I have heard it said, that he was wounded in the battle.

And now we come to "The Battle of the Minisink." The line of march for "The Battle of the Minisink" may well be said to have begun at Barryville, Halfway Brook.

It was very evident that Brant was not very far in advance, and it was very important to know whether he was going to cross the Delaware at the usual Fording Place, which was at the well known Lackawaxen Ford, at or near where the Delaware & Hudson Canal afterwards crossed the Delaware River, above the present station, Lackawaxen on the Erie Railroad; and Captains Tyler and Cuddeback, who had some knowledge of the woods, with a small party, were sent to reconnoitre. On going forward they thought that Brant had already crossed the Delaware, as they saw plunder and savages on the opposite shore and an Indian passing over with a horse stolen from Major Decker's. They fired at this fellow and wounded him fatally, but they were immediately shot at by some Indians in ambush and Captain Tyler killed. Captain Cuddeback, who was dressed in a suit of clothes exactly the color of the leaves, escaped and reached the main body and reported what he had seen and who had been killed. The death of Cap-
tain Tyler caused a profound sensation among the men, some of whom left, but the majority pressed on.

It was the belief of the Americans that Brant and his forces intended to cross the Delaware at this Lackawaxen Ford; and Colonel Hathorn's object was to reach this fording place in advance and thus intercept them in their intended crossing. After Brant left Halfway Brook that morning he pursued his march up the river, how far in advance of Colonel Hathorn is not known; but it must have occurred to Colonel Hathorn that in order to accomplish this purpose of intercepting the foe, his march must be of the most rapid character. It was necessary that he pass the Indians, but to be seen by them would be fatal. The Americans could cross the Delaware and not be seen by the Indians; and then there is no place from Halfway Brook to Lackawaxen where this could be done unless the river was very low. Our men did not cross the Delaware at all. The Delaware River from Halfway Brook to Lackawaxen is closely confined in its course by two considerable mountains rising from its opposite shores. From Barryville to a distance of about half a mile up the river, there is a slope of land extending back from the stream a quarter of a mile or more and over which the top of the mountain can be reached with ease. At the termination of this slope the mountain rises abruptly from the shore of the river and continues precipitous and high to the outlet of Beaver Brook; and from the mouth of this brook to the distance of about half a mile or three-fourths of a mile, a flat extends some distance back from the river, and beyond this is a slope of ascending ground, somewhat similar to that at Barryville. Down this slope and through this flat land, before mentioned, the little Dry Brook passes until its waters mingle with those of the Delaware; and there was water in it when the writer visited this battle field this year on Decoration Day.

When our men left Halfway Brook on the morning of the 22nd day of July, 1779, with a desire to outmarch the Indians and reach the Lackawaxen Ford in advance of Brant and his men, and knowing that Brant and his men were marching along the Delaware River shore, the route over the mountain would seem to have been the most feasible for them; and so passing up the easy slope at
Halfway Brook to the mountain top, they could march to Beaver Brook and so on to the Dry Brook Valley, secure from observation by the Indians and free from the danger of their bullets; and thus travelling along, Colonel Hathorn could discover from that eminence, as has been written, "The Indians leisurely marching along the bank of the river three-quarters of a mile distant;" and when he was thus passing, "the two armies would lose sight of each other." And it seems from historical accounts that nothing further was seen or known of the savage band until discovered in the rear of Colonel Hathorn's army and between two portions of it.

As the American forces were passing over the slope of Beaver Brook, it looked as if the wily Indian chief discovered them, or by the Indian instinct learned that they were upon the hills and in pursuit, and thereupon left the river; and anticipating the design of Colonel Hathorn, the moment the Americans were out of sight he wheeled to the right and by threading up a ravine which Colonel Hathorn had crossed (Dry Brook), he threw himself in the rear of the Americans and was thus enabled to select his ground for battle. Disappointed at not finding the enemy at the Fording place or near it on looking from the high hill, the Americans were brought to a stand, when Brant's forces disclosed themselves in a quarter altogether unexpected.

This battle ground is situated on the crest of a hill, half a mile northeast from Dry Brook, three miles from Barryville and one mile from Lackawagen. The hill has an altitude of about 25 or 30 feet above its base and 200 feet above the Delaware River, and descends east and west and south, while there is a level plateau extending towards the north.

Attached hereto is a diagram of the battle field, with explanation:
"A" is a plateau very nearly, occupied by the Indians and whites; and the monument erected July 22d, 1897, is on the S. E. part of that plateau.

"B" is a hill about thirty feet high, mostly capped by broken rock.

"C" is an irregular ledge of rock, rising from the level about eighteen feet to the plateau, and a fac simile is carved on the monument erected at Goshen in 1882.

"D" is a small pond at the foot of the hill, and of late years full of water only during wet seasons.

"E" nearly a solid ledge of rock, extending from the turn to the foot of the hill, "G."

"F" is a table land extending from foot of ledge about twelve feet wide and where it is certain that Colonel Tusten and the seventeen wounded met their fate.

"G" is a hill ascending from the plateau towards the north and curving as shown, at the easterly extremity.

And between the ground occupied by the whites and by the Indians and Tories is the breastwork thrown up in haste by our men, some of which still can be seen on the ground.

"X" is the place where the Indians first broke through and entered the grounds occupied by the whites.

It is said that Brant on the near approach of the Americans presented himself in full view, openly and fairly addressed himself to the commanding officer and demanded their surrender, promising at the same time to treat them kindly as prisoners of war. He assured them that his force in ambush was sufficient to overpower and destroy them; that before any blood was shed he could control his warriors, but that, should the battle commence, he could not answer for the consequences; that while he was parleying with them he was fired upon and narrowly escaped being shot down, the ball piercing the outer fold of his belt. On receiving the shot he immediately retired and secreted himself among his warriors. The militia emboldened by his disappearance, and seeing no other enemy, not being used to Indian warfare and disbelieving what he told them, rushed forward heedlessly until they were completely in his power; for, as soon as the battle began, which was between 10 and 11 o'clock in the morning, above the din and noise of the strife, the voice of Brant was heard in tones never to be forgotten by those who survived, giving orders for the return of those who were
on the opposite side of the Delaware River, which they did, and
came up on the opposite side of the whites, and thus this brave
band was caught like rats in a trap. On reaching the battle
ground, or the open ground, the order was given the Americans to
stand, and each man took his position. They formed something of
a battle line, in the form of a hollow square; some behind trees,
some behind rocks; some turned up flat stones and some piled up
stones between trees. There was a large split rock, with an open-
ing something like the letter "A," and in this opening Daniel
Myers took his stand: it was as high as his shoulders. And here
he and the colored man who was beside him, each having a rifle,
poured forth all day, one loading, and Myers shooting till the col-
ored man was killed.

Here, confined to about an acre of ground, were ninety brave
men forced to mortal combat, without water in a hot July day,
surrounded by howling savages, who fought from about 10 o'clock
in the morning till nearly sundown. Ammunition was short and
the order was that there be no useless firing. Every man fought
in the Indian mode, each for himself, as opportunity offered, or
engaged in individual conflicts. What the other fifty men were
doing on that day, who were separated from their companions in
the morning, no one can tell. It seems their movements were
veiled in oblivion. It is said that the annals of modern times con-
tain no record of a more stubborn and heroic defense. In vain
Brant sought for hours to break through the line; he was repelled
at every point. What a time of supreme peril it was for that little
Spartan band, thus environed by the jaws of death! What a scene
for us to contemplate, looking back through the vista of more than
125 years! What mortal tongue or pen can fitly chronicle the
heroism and fortitude of those gallant men who died upon this gory
field? Who shall tell us of that day and hour, so fraught with
deepest interest to those men and the dear ones left at home? If
those mute witnesses could but speak, how gladly would we all
here be silent and listen to their eloquence? But we must content
ourselves with such information as we can gather from the sur-
vivors.

As the day was drawing to a close, Brant was about to give up
the struggle and order a retreat, when the death of a militiaman, who was stationed on the northwest side of the place marked on the map "X," and where he had remained all day and kept the savages back, and on all the Indians yelling and firing all their guns, they rushed through this opening and caused a stampede among the militia, who, seeing the savages swarming into the field, became disheartened and fled.

Of the 149 men that left Goshen, only 30 returned, and 10 of these were boys who were not in the fight, but held the horses while their fathers fought. The boys fled when the stampede began and after a time were lost in the woods and were found by Captain Cuddeback and piloted back to Minisink, coupling their horses together, and were thus enabled to reach Goshen, and were the first to bear the awful tidings to the homes of the departed.

The reinforcements that were expected from Colonel John Seward from Sussex County, did not arrive till midnight after the battle, and having but sixty men, and viewing the number of Brant's forces as they were encamped near the Lackawaxen Ford, did not deem it wise to attack him.

It is believed that Brant lost 150 men in the battle, and that the number of his wounded was correspondingly large.

Governor Clinton reproves the action of the militia in not reporting to him at once, in accordance with General Orders; and, also, said that this expedition should not have gone forward without notifying him in accordance with the regulations, so that they could have been supported, as there were soldiers in service nearer than Goshen. Also, that it was expected that General Sullivan's expedition would occupy all the time and resources of Brant and his allies. By what Governor Clinton called "unaccountable delay" Sullivan, instead of starting from Wyoming by the first of July, did not start until the 30th, and was really not under way till August 3rd, 1779, which gave Brant the opportunity to strike the blow at Minisink. (See Letters Governor Clinton, Vol V, pages 150-150. Copies are attached hereto.)

After the Battle of Minisink General Hand was sent by General Washington with several companies of men to guard the Minisink Valley, and they were stationed at Peepack and remained there
till the following spring, when they were sent on towards the Delaware Water Gap and afterwards engaged in the expedition to drive the Indians out of that territory.

In April of the following year Brant started from Niagara with another force to invade the frontier. When he reached Tioga Point he sent eleven of his warriors to go to Minisink for scalps and prisoners. After trying to invest the fort at Schoharie he turned back and shaped his course down the Delaware. One day he was startled by a death-yell, which rang through the woods like the scream of a demon. Presently two of the eleven Indians who had been sent to Minisink emerged from the woods, bearing the moccasins of their nine companions. They told their chief that they had been to Minisink, where they had captured one after another five men and brought them as far as Tioga Point and stopped over night. While the eleven Indians were asleep the five prisoners had freed themselves from the cords which bound them; and each seizing a hatchet had brained nine of their companions: the other two aroused by the blows fled, but one of them as he ran received the blade of a hatchet between his shoulders.

Thus was the death of the slain heroes at Minisink, July 22nd, 1779, partially avenged.

When the retreat on July 22nd, 1779, began, every one fled as best he could. Some were killed while swimming the Delaware; others were overtaken in the woods and either tomahawked or scalped, and some were taken prisoners.

The brave Colonel Tuten, who was also a doctor of renowned ability, who was attending to the wounded in the battle, of whom there were seventeen, and who with his wounded companions was behind a cliff of rocks, near a spring of water, dressing the wounded, was killed. Their cries for protection and mercy were of the most moving description, but the Indians fell upon them and they all, together with the doctor, perished under the tomahawk.

Of the few that escaped we have an account of the way in which some of them were saved; but the narration of those escapes would be only of local nature and would not materially interest this Society, so I will not occupy your time by giving them.

Colonel Hathorn must have been separated from his men by the
coming in between him and them by Brant and his forces, as not a single Warwick man was hurt in that engagement.

Here follows correspondence relative to the Battle of Minisink.

Albert Pawling asks for and receives instructions.

Marbletown, July 22nd, 1779.

D'r Sir:

By accounts this moment received by Express from Lieut. Colo. Johnson, I hear the enemy have burnt Minisink & surrounded Fort Van Auken; where this Fort is or what men are in it, I know not. I have no men lower than Leuring Kill except a Sergt. & 20 men at Pienpeck.

I wish, as we are under marching Orders to the westward to have your direction how to conduct myself in this affair.

I am with respect your most obed't Hble. Serv't,

A. PAWLING.

His Excellency, Gov. Clinton.

(Reply of Gov, Clinton.)

July 22nd, 1779.

Dear Sir:

I have this moment received your letter of equal date containing the disagreeable intelligence transmitted by Express from Lieut. Colo. Johnson of the destruction of Minisink by the enemy and of their having surrounded Fort Van Auken. I am equally ignorant with yourself where this Fort is situated, how constructed or by what troops it is garrisoned. It is, therefore, & because I am uncertain what moment you may receive order to march, very difficult for me to determine what directions to give you on this occasion. I am persuaded, however, it must be a very considerable part of the enemy who have alarmed the inhabitants and done the present mischief at Minisink, & they will not attempt to continue any time at that place.

The situation of our army to the westward, who I have good reason to believe are at this instant on their march from Wyoming to Chemung, confirms me in this opinion. This being the case, it is more than probable that before any part of your troops could reach Minisineck the enemy will have done all the injury in their
power and left that place. I think, however, it would be proper on this occasion to put part of your Detachment in motion towards that place: it may be of use at least to advance them as far as Mamacotting, from which place they can readily join you without fatiguing them: and, if when they arrive there you should learn that the enemy have left, you will of course at all events march them on to the relief of that Settlement, with orders however to join you with all possible dispatch after the departure of the enemy.

You will inform Lieut. Colo. Johnson of the Orders you may give to your Detachment on this occasion & request him also to march such part of the Militia as may be necessary on this occasion. I take for granted the marching Orders you mention are only such as you have received from me.

I. am &c.
To Lieut. Col. Albert Pawling.

G. C.

Marbletown, July 24th, 1779.

D'r Sir:

Enclosed I send you a letter I last night received from Major Van Benschoten the latest accounts we have received from Minisink. &c. &c.

A. Pawling.

His Excellency Gov. Clinton.

July 24th, 1779.

Dear Sir:

I have received your letter of this date enclosing the account of the mischief done by the enemy at Minisink. Just before I received yours, I received a letter from Colo. Newkerk containing a very inaccurate acc't of the affair at Minisink, from which it would seem as if part of the militia were cut off: however, as the intelligence was brought from thence by some of the militia who pretended to have escaped, but who very probably deserted, I am in hopes it is not true. I have ordered Colo. Newkerk immediately to march such part of his and Colo. Hardenbergh's Regt's. to their assistance as may be necessary. With respect to your Detachment ordered to Mamacotting, you must be governed by circumstances:
If you have certain intelligence that the enemy have left Minisinek, your troops must return to their former Station & be held in readiness to march at a moment’s warning as before.

I. am &c.

GEO. CLINTON.


(Letter from Rev. Nathan Ker, Pastor of the Goshen Pres. Church, to Gov. Clinton.)

Goshen, July 29, 1779.

Sir:

I was desired to send you inclosed the Examination of Moabary Owen, a deserter from one of State Regiments & to make the following representation, viz.:

That last week upon a Tuesday about 85 Indians and Toreys, under the Command of the noted Brant, made a descent upon Minisink, killed sundry persons, burned eleven houses and as many barns together with the Dutch Church, took off some prisoners, cattle, horses, sheep and considerable plunder; that on Wednesday a party of our people collected, principally from this County, with some from Ulster & others from N. Jersey, pursued & on Thursday came up with them, gave them battle, & were defeated with a loss, it is supposed of 50 or 60 men,—the number, however, not yet ascertained.

Among the missing, and it is feared slain, are Coll. Tusteen, Capts. Jones, Wood & Little, Gabriel Wisner, Esq., & Roger Townsend, an instance of a converted Torey, “Rara Avis In Terris.”

In short there are not less than 15 or 16 widows by this affair in this Congregation.

A party of 240 set out on Saturday: we marched that day within two miles of the place of action: but the rain on Sunday made it imprudent to stay, as many were not prepared to be out after such a wet day, nor was it in our power to keep our Arms dry. Some of the Indians were seen yesterday near, I believe at, Minisink.

The Frontiers are in the utmost consternation & great numbers will no doubt soon leave their habitation unless properly guarded.

I was desired and should have waited on your Excellency myself,
but in the march with the above s’d party, I bruised my leg against a rock & think it not prudent to ride.

After saying that Coll. Heathorn told me he judged we had killed, he thinks considerable number of the enemy, I shall only ask whether it will not be practicable for your Excellency to station some of our 8 months men at that place together with some of the Militia.

My compliments to Mrs. Clinton & Family: hope her health is recovered.

I am your Excellencies most Obed’t humble Serv’t,

GEORGE KER.

His Excellency, George Clinton.

(The Examination of Moabary Owen, Taken by Henry Wisenor, Esq.)

Said he left Shomong ye. 8th. of July in Company with Hanck Huff, John Huff, Nicholas Miller, Lodwick Seeley, Ruluf Johnson, William Crum, Benony Crum, Anthony Westbrook, John Barnhart, John Chesem, Daniel Cole, Ebenezer Allen and Fourteen other Toreys and about Sixty Enions and that Joseph Brant had the Command of said party, and he heard Brand gave orders that they would not kill any woman or children and if they knew any person to be a Torey not to kill them and any that would deliver themselves up to take them prisoners, but any person running from them to kill them: and he fursaith, that they threaten to destroy Catta Kill Settlement: and that there is one olde Sager which was at the destruction of Peenpack and is now at Hallibarrack and has Sixty Toreys ready to joine Brant and that a number of them is of Burgoines men. He further saith 2500 is too come from Canada to take Fort Stanwicks.

(Gov. Clinton’s Letter to Dr. Ker: Delay of Sullivan’s Expedition responsible for the exposed Condition of our Frontier.)

Poughkeepsie, 30th., July, 1779.

Rev’d Sir:—

I have this moment received your letter of yesterday with the very disagreeable intelligence from Minisineck. It was not before
the Friday after the enemy made their appearance in that neighborhood, I received the first account of it, and this was from Lieut. Colo. Pawling at Warwarsinck, who was not able to give me any of the particulars respecting the enemy’s strength, or the number of the Militia who had marched to oppose them or any other particulars whereby I could form a right judgment what was most proper to be done. On this information, however, I put a part of his detachment in motion towards Minisineck (tho’ they are under marching Orders on a different direction,) & next day on an equally imperfect account received from Lieut. Colo. Newkerk, I ordered part of his & of Hardenberg’s Regmt’ to march for Minisineck, but these I conclude could not have arrived in season, or must have returned on hearing that the enemy were gone off.

It is particularly unfortunate that early intelligence had not been transmitted to me of the first appearance of the enemy (and by the Militia Law it is expressly the duty of the Commanding Officers of Regts. when they call out their Militia on such occasions to transmit me immediately accounts of it,) as in such case Pawling’s Detachment might have by a forced march to the Delaware got in the rear of the enemy & effectually cut off their retreat. If we may venture to judge from the accounts you have furnished me of the strenth of the enemy & that of the Militia who were engaged with them, there must have either been some very bad management on this occasion, or the brave men who have fallen must have been shamefully deserted by their friends & I wish that there was not too much reason to conclude the latter must have been the case.

The levies under Colo. Pawling are by the direction of his Excellency Gen’l Washington, under marching Orders & as I have reason to believe they will move very soon, I cannot, therefore, take upon me to order any part of them to Minisineck, especially as in consequence of a letter written by the Legislature to our Delegates in Congress they are taken into the pay of the Continent & of course are subject to the Orders of the Commander in chief. Were the different Regmts. to complete their Compliment of these levies, there would yet remain a competent guard for the Frontiers, but this is not likely to be the case.

Albany County is very different & there is nearly 150 wanting to
complete (including deficiencies by desertions) those ordered from Ulster, Dutchess & Orange & tho have repeated the most express & positive Orders on this subject to the Military Officers we are not likely to have this business perfected.

Under these circumstances it is not in my power to afford the Settlement of Minisink any Relief, but such as can be drawn from the Militia: and I have by the bearer issued Orders & forwarded them to the different Regiments to furnish detachments for this service.

The source of our present misfortune is the unaccountable delay of Gen'l Sullivan at Wyoming. We had every reason to expect that long before this he would have been with his army in the heart of the enemy's country, and all our measures have been calculated to facilitate his movements and cooperate with him, which has unavoidably left our Frontier more exposed than it otherwise would have been, as it has occasioned our collecting our troops from their former Stations to certain points.

I am with great regard, Sir, Yours &c.

G. C.

The Rev'd Mr. Ker.

(Copy of Letter from Gen. Sullivan to Gen. Washington, showing date of his departure from Wyoming, which was some days after the Battle of Minisink.)

Camp Wyoming, July 30th, 1779.

Dear General:

I have the honor to inform your Excellency that I have at length surmounted every obstacle and shall commence my March tomorrow morning. I have taken the necessary precaution (by duplicates,) to apprise Genl. Clinton of this circumstance a copy of which I do myself the honor to inclose you.

Your Excellency will be pleased to direct Col. Paulding to begin his march at such time as you may think proper.

I have the honor to subscribe myself with great respect, D'r Gen'l Y'r Excellency's 0'b'd & very hum. Serv't

JNO. SULLIVAN.

His Excellency, Gen'l Washington.
Silence and sorrow now brood o'er the valley
Where Spring, in his beauty saw plenty and joy:
The death-dealing savage came down in his fury,
And all that was lovely, he rushed to destroy.

When sated his nature with blood and with plunder,
He left for the wildwoods beside the Great Lakes;
There vengeance from Heaven shall surely o'er take him,
For 'Westward the course of our Empire takes.'

"While we mourn for the dear ones whose homes are now vacant,
No more shall we meet them on life's happy shore,—
This valley again shall rejoice in the sunshine
Of God's blessed presence through time evermore.

"Here the Church with its worship, its anthems of praise,
And the school house beside it in honor shall stand;
And millions of freemen shall bless the Creator,
Who fills with His bounty our own happy land."

(Line composed by Maggie Quick, niece of "Tom Quick," the famous Indian Slayer, or Avenger of the Delaware, which fitly describe the state of affairs in Minisink about the time of which we have been speaking.)

Let us rejoice that we do not live in such trying times; that the spirit of civilization, following in the footsteps of our Christian religion, has made it possible under "God, in whom we trust" for us to dwell under "our own vine and fig tree, none daring to molest or make us afraid." Let us rejoice that the scalping knife, the tomahawk and the torch have forever gone from this fair land of ours; and that "Old Glory," the Stars and Stripes may ever continue to "wave o'er the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave."

Let us hope that the spirit of peace, brotherly love and of "good will to men" may continue to permeate all lands—when war may cease and strife and turmoil and every thing that tends to mar the happiness of all nations may be done away, so that the end shall come to all animosities and ill-feelings—when the glory of God shall sparkle in the minutest atom and in the brightest star, in the dew drop and in the boundless ocean—and this earth, retuned and
restrung, shall be one grand Aeolian harp, swept by the breath of the Holy Spirit, pouring forth those melodies which began on Calvary and which shall sound through all generations.

Thus much for the Indian raids and massacres in the territory of Minisink during the Revolution. But I would be derelict in my duty and disloyal to my country, did I not treat briefly of what was done by the inhabitants of the County of Orange to gather the bones of the slain patriots of the Battle of Minisink and bury them with proper ceremonies, and of the monuments that have been erected to mark their last resting place and the site of the battle.

One attempt was made many years after by the widows of the slain, of whom there were thirty-three in the Presbyterian Church of Goshen. They started for the place of battle on horseback, but finding the journey too hazardous, they hired a man to perform the pious duty, paid him well, but he proved unfaithful and never returned.

In 1822 the citizens of Goshen were led to perform a long neglected duty by an address of Dr. D. R. Arnell at a meeting of the Orange County Medical Society, in which he gave a brief biography of Dr. Tusten. A committee was appointed who proceeded to the battle ground, a distance of forty-six miles from Goshen. The place where the conflict occurred and the region for several miles around were examined and the relics of the dead gathered with great care. Some fears were expressed that some of the bones gathered might be those of the slain Indians, but that fear was dispelled when it was suggested that the Indians always inter their slain. The remains of the pious dead were taken to Goshen and buried in the presence of 15,000 persons, including the military of the county from West Point, under the command of Major Worth. A little monument was then dedicated, the remains of which are now in the Library of the Goshen Historical Society, and an address was then given by Colonel Hathorn, then over eighty years of age, who was in the battle.

This monument gradually fell into decay. In 1861 Merit H. Cash, a citizen of the then Town of Minisink, whose father was among those who escaped at the massacre of Wyoming, who then was a very small boy, and whose mother led him by the hand
through the wilderness for days, subsisting entirely on berries, &c.,
which they found on their way till they were fortunate enough to
reach the Minisink settlement, bequeathed to the County of Orange
$4,000 for the erection of a monument to commemorate the battle
and to perpetuate the memory of the dead. This monument was
dedicated with imposing ceremonies in 1862, on the occasion of the
eighty-third anniversary of the battle. The writer of this article
was present. That monument and it is a magnificent one, now
stands in the north corner of the Presbyterian Church Park in
Goshen. Mr. John Vanderpoel of No. 70 Tenth street, New York
City, was the sculptor.
A cut of this monument is hereto annexed.

On the 22d day of July, 1879, just one hundred years after the bat-
tle, another monument was dedicated on the very site of the battle. A
large number was present and it was unveiled with proper cere-
monies. And on the same day a large celebration of the 100th
anniversary was held at the Village of Goshen. Addresses were
made by various speakers, and a spectacular parade occurred.
The writer was also present on the occasion.

Attached hereto is a cut of the monument erected on the very
site of the battle.

The monument is composed of stones gathered from the battle
field, excepting the two flag-stones which cap the different sections,
and the boulder which forms the crown. All these were obtained
from Captain L. F. Johnson at the mouth of Beaver Brook, and by
his procurement drawn first to Lackawaxen and thence up the
acclivity to the battle field. The flagstones are each five inches
thick, the one five and one-half and the other four feet square.
The boulder is of white sand stone and weighs about 1,500 pounds.

In the center of the lower section of the monument, and directly
beneath the large flag-stone, was placed a black walnut box which
was brought from the Southern States by Abel S. Myers, Esq.,
upon his return from the late war, and whose grandfather was a
brother of the Daniel Myers who acted such a prominent part in
the Minisink battle.

In the box is a paper containing the names of the Committee of
Arrangements and others interested and assisting in the erection of
the monument.