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A SESQUI-CENTENNIAL SOUVENIR

describing

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS
of PROGRESS

*With a complete story of the Sullivan Campaign of 1779
and a History of the Towns of the Finger Lakes Region
settled by Veterans of that Expedition*

by

HARRY R. MELONE



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foreword

TO arouse her sons and daughters to appreciation of the events that have gone toward building America, New York State is this year spending \$70,000 for a fitting commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the Sullivan Expedition which opened the Finger Lakes Region to civilization. As a step in fostering the pride of this lake country in her heritage of history, and in focusing, for a moment, the attention of her people upon her 150 years of progress, this volume is published.

Because events leading up to our prosperity and security are history, we are often too prone to regard them as such. They are not merely history; they are romance, a living, vital story of men who risked their lives for an ideal, for freedom, for home and for country.

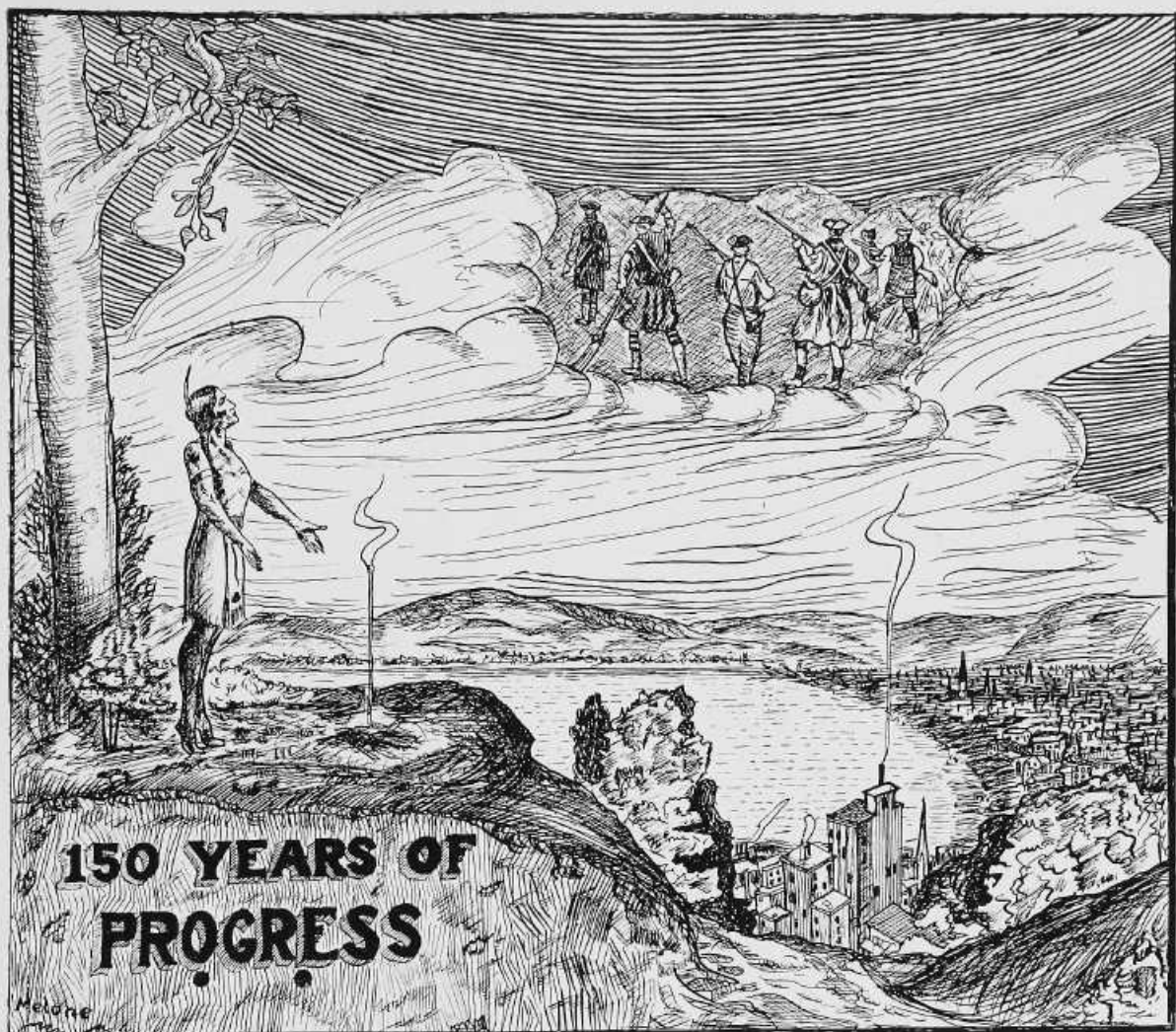
It is manifestly impossible in one volume to reveal in detail the wealth of history which broods eternally in this favored land among the lakes. But if a few of the outstanding incidents may have been visualized in these pages as an inspiration for us of today, this book will not have been in vain.

In succeeding pages, many of the main events of three half centuries are recalled and in contrast are sketched the resources of today. Along with this chronicle, individual commercial and industrial interests are represented, so that these parts of our modern economic life may tell the story of their share in the history that is being written by this generation.

In word and picture, this book seeks to show the Finger Lakes country as it was—and is today.

Numerous individuals and organizations have aided in the preparation of this volume. Theirs has been a volunteer, gratuitous service. Civic enterprise prompted it. Only the publisher's gratitude rewards it. But without that service, this book would not have been. With acknowledgement of this deep indebtedness goes the sincere wish that these pages may be worthy of the splendid spirit of cooperation which has made them possible.

To the FINGER LAKES ASSOCIATION, the Empire State's pioneer regional organization, which has discovered "gold in the hills" among the lakes and is selling the region's advantages to herself and the rest of the country, through enterprise, vision and cooperation — THIS VOLUME IS DEDICATED.



Yesterday — Today — Tomorrow

CARESSINGLY six sapphire fingers have ever stretched across Central New York a welcoming hand. The red man in time immemorial answered the call; he dwelt in the wilderness beside the sparkling waters and in the names of these Finger Lakes he left imperishable reminders that he discerned poetry in their glory before the white man began writing history in the new world. He saw the sun rise above and set below the verdant hills around about Skaneateles, Owasco, Cayuga, Seneca, Keuka and Canandaigua; he wandered over the 6,000 square miles surrounding them, through primeval forests and in and out of four hundred glens and gorges of surpassing beauty, and he gazed in awe at the thousand waterfalls, one of them fifty feet higher than Niagara.

To the red man tradition told the story that the

Great Spirit, wishing to reward the Iroquois for devotion, had placed a portion of the happy hunting ground in Central New York. And upon it he left the imprint of his hand in blessing.

But to the white man these azure lakes carved by the grinding glaciers have become symbolic of the hand of progress; the rushing streams, the tireless rumble of mighty power; the wilderness forests, the harbingers of busy towns where industry's wheels are turning.

The Finger Lakes Region, in this sesqui-centennial year of 1929, still stretches out her hand of welcome to the nation in whose founding she labored so mightily, wrought so nobly and sacrificed so freely. And a world may find inspiration in her shrines, joy in her landscapes, strength in her playgrounds and profit in her resources.



Human progress is not a smooth procession down through the ages. Rather, it is a series of sudden starts, rapid gaits, failures and achievements. So it has been in the Finger Lakes country. For nearly three centuries after Columbus discovered America, this territory, whose opening to civilization was destined to shape the course of New World history, lay fallow. Mystery cloaked it. Myths shrouded it. A strange red nation whose origin was unknown, guarded it.

Relics of a prehistoric age have rewarded archaeologists who have trekked the ravines and winding streams of the lake country. From its silent woods and whispering shores have come mute tidings, centuries buried, that here the Eskimo, then the Mound Builders and the Algonquin lived before the Iroquois stalked his game. But up through the period that George III of England ruled America, the lake region was beyond the frontiers of human knowledge—the great enigma of America's founders.

The French were the first white men to gaze upon the Finger Lakes. Early Jesuit priests, more than a century before the Revolution, penetrated this forest realm and set up the cross. Champlain, the Frenchman, in 1615 clashed in arms with the Iroquois not far from what is now Syracuse. In 1669 Robert Cavalier de Salle visited the region and at intervals later French explorers led expeditions into it. In 1764 De La Barr conducted a futile invasion that gave the Senecas a contempt for the French, but in 1687 De Noville, with a force of 1,600 Frenchmen and 400 Canadian Indians, entered the Long House of the Iroquois from Lake Ontario and in a pitched battle on the site of Victor, defeated the Senecas, although the French lost about a hundred men. In the savage contests between France and Britain, culminating in the final struggle of 1754, the Iroquois became the shield of the English on this continent.

And then came 1779—the crossroads of the centuries for the Finger Lakes Region — — and Sullivan's hosts of Colonials. A century and a half ago they came, with torch, gun and high courage. In the uncharted wilderness of the Finger Lakes Region they left desolation—the greatest destruction ever before wrought in America. But in the silence of the forest had been achieved a turning point in the Revolution.

The expedition of Gen. John Sullivan against the Six Nations in the lake country gave the war new vigor in its dark hour. Washington himself had planned it, a third of the entire Continental Army prosecuted it and this year New York State is celebrating the sesqui-centennial of this great military movement that opened up the empire of the west.

Sullivan's campaign swung wide the gate. It determined at a single blow whether the white man or the red was to rule the continent that has become America. It blasted out of the forest the foundations of the Finger Lakes towns built with the power of gun and torch, axe and shovel, vision and courage.

When Sullivan's men passed across the lake region, soldiers from six states marveled at the immense cleared fields of a semi-civilized race. They saw fertile

soil with growing corn so tall that a man riding through it on horseback would be hidden from sight. Maize, wheat, grains, pumpkins, beans, squash, orchards of luscious fruit, with horses, cattle and swine were here in this hidden land of the Indian.

With victory, tales of a land of plenty were carried back by the soldiers; stories of a land of wild grandeur and rushing streams bulging with latent power and surging to the sea unharnessed through a country where grist mills and cabin homes should rightfully spring up.

And in those forward-looking days of faith alone, pioneers came back to answer the call of the Finger Lakes, setting up in the region the first land office in America, and establishing the civilization that is ours.

Performance of the past is merely the background of achievement for the future. Ahead there is no limit of opportunity. To perpetuate the enterprise, steadfastness and fixedness of purpose of sturdy men and women down through 150 momentous years—that is the aim and prospect of tomorrow.



Maj. Gen. John Sullivan, high commander of Indian Expedition, born Somersworth, N. H., Feb. 18, 1740, was a lawyer by profession. In 1772 he was a major of the New Hampshire Regiment. In spring of 1774 he was a member of the Provincial Assembly and in 1774 and 1775 a delegate to the Continental Congress, by which body he was made brigadier general in 1775 and major general in 1776. In 1780 and '81 he was a delegate to Congress. In 1786 and '87 he was president or chief magistrate of the State of N. H. In 1788, speaker of the N. H. House of Representatives. In 1789, presidential elector to vote for Washington, his warm personal friend. In 1789 elected president of state for third time, and the same year appointed by Washington as Judge of the U. S. District Court, of N. H., which office he held until his death, Jan. 23, 1795.

The Sullivan Campaign

A TALE of reckless daring against a lurking foe in a forest wilderness; of the threat of starvation, of courtmartial to check desertions; of the match of wits between the war chiefs of the greatest Indian confederacy in history and some of Washington's most famous generals—the story of how a third of the Continental Army in the Finger Lakes Region struck a blow for American Independence, with results matching those of the battles of Yorktown and Saratoga,—that, in brief, is the story of the Sullivan Expedition of 1779.

Tortuous miles across rivers and over mountains under the sinister eyes of Indian runners; dying cattle diminishing the army's food supply; pack horses that fell in the forest trails unable to stand the toil of the plodding soldiers shirtless, ragged and hungry—these were but incidents of that great western movement in the Revolution that historians are now describing as one of the most stirring achievements of Washington in the war for freedom.

Historians and casual readers have often questioned the seeming ruthlessness with which the colonists, blazing the path of the new republic, trampled down every vestige of the domination of the conquerors of two centuries. But the Sullivan campaign was more than a cruel, punitive expedition. The vigor and decisiveness of the methods employed merely reflect what Washington and his counsellors considered the necessities created by conditions in the New York Colony.

In 1778 had occurred the famous massacres at Wyoming, Pa. and Cherry Valley, N. Y., in which men, women and children of the families of many of Sullivan's soldiers had fallen before the tomahawk. New York was a hot bed of Toryism. Of the state's population of 180,000, it is estimated that 80,000 were Tories or British Loyalists. These enemies of the new republic were constantly instigating the great Iroquois Confederacy to invade the frontier settlements like a cloud of death.

Washington knew that the war so far was a "stale-mate," and that peace was but a matter of time. He saw that victory would be a hollow one, if only a fringe of colonies along the Atlantic seaboard was to be the prize of war. The Sullivan campaign was to deal a death blow to Toryism and Indian menace on the western frontier and then to stake out a claim for the great inland empire in the rich hinterland clear to the Great Lakes and the Mississippi.

With sword and flame the land

was cleared of its former owners. The determination of a despairing republic was behind the destruction. The soldiers themselves had undergone suffering that made them bitter. We are told that they had no meat, little flour or salt and that they lived on boiled or roasted corn, and every fourth man was obliged to sit up all night and grate corn for a sort of hominy.

But with this army, representing English, Irish, Scotch, German, Dutch and other nationalities, the most extensive, carefully planned and important offensive American military movement in the whole of the Revolution was brought to a successful climax. And on the operation, the impoverished colonies spent a million dollars.

Results of Campaign

Before the ever advancing columns of Colonials' forty Indian villages fell in ashes and hundreds of acres of waving grain and ripening orchards were leveled. But the expedition brought greater results than that alone.

It crushed the Six Nations so that never again did the Iroquois make war as a confederacy.

It thwarted an impending British attack from the west.

It shook the confidence of the Indian in his British allies.

It laid more towns in ashes than had ever been destroyed on this continent before.

It snatched from Britain a food supply intended for an advancing western column and threw upon the English the burden of feeding their red allies, stripped of all means of sustenance.

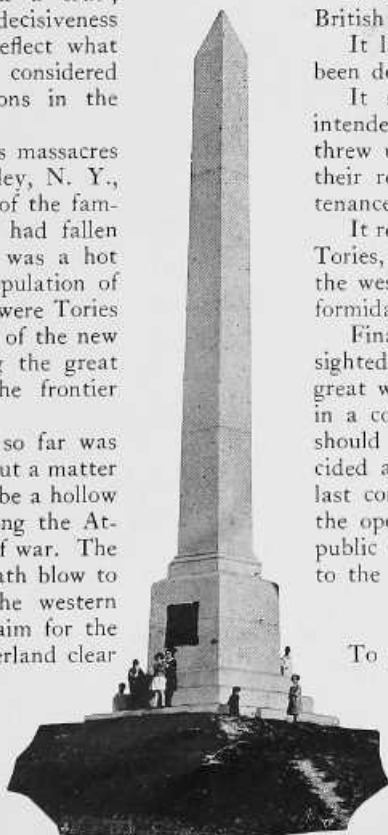
It removed a menace from the rear—Indians, Tories, Hessians, Canadian Rangers here in the west that was far more annoying than the formidable forces of Clinton and Howe.

Finally, as a result of Washington's far-sighted diplomacy, it won for the Colonists a great western territory that was to place them in a commanding position when later the war should end and peace terms and lands be decided about the conference table. It was this last consequence of the campaign that formed the opening wedge in gaining for the new republic the thousands of square miles westward to the Mississippi.

Dark Hour of the War

To understand the significance of this drive into the wilderness, it is necessary first to take a glance at the position of the Colonists at the time it

Newtown
Battlefield
Monument
Near Elmira





Maj.-Gen. John Sullivan

opened. Four years of conflict had drawn heavily upon their resources. The darkness before the dawn was upon the land. So deep was the gloom that the December before the summer expedition of Sullivan, Washington had written: "Our affairs are in a more distressed, ruinous and deplorable condition than they have been since the commencement of the war."

Dissentions and party feuds had broken out in Congress and numerous of the great figures of 1776 had withdrawn from its halls. Mourning the self-seeking, the revelry, the idleness at the Capitol, Washington himself wrote to the National Congress: "An assembly, a concert, a dinner, a supper that will cost three or four hundred pounds will not only take off men from acting in their (the public) business, but even from thinking of it, while a great part of the officers of our army are quitting the service, and the more virtuous few, rather than do this, are sinking by slow degrees into beggary and want."

It was in the midst of such anxieties, that Washington framed the policy for the Sullivan campaign of 1779—defensive tactics along the Atlantic and the shifting of a third of the entire army then holding back the British, to push into the western forest and crush the Indians, Tories, refugees and Rangers which had harassed the frontier settlements and were aiding the British in planning a campaign eastward from Fort Niagara.

Washington himself explicitly outlined the plan

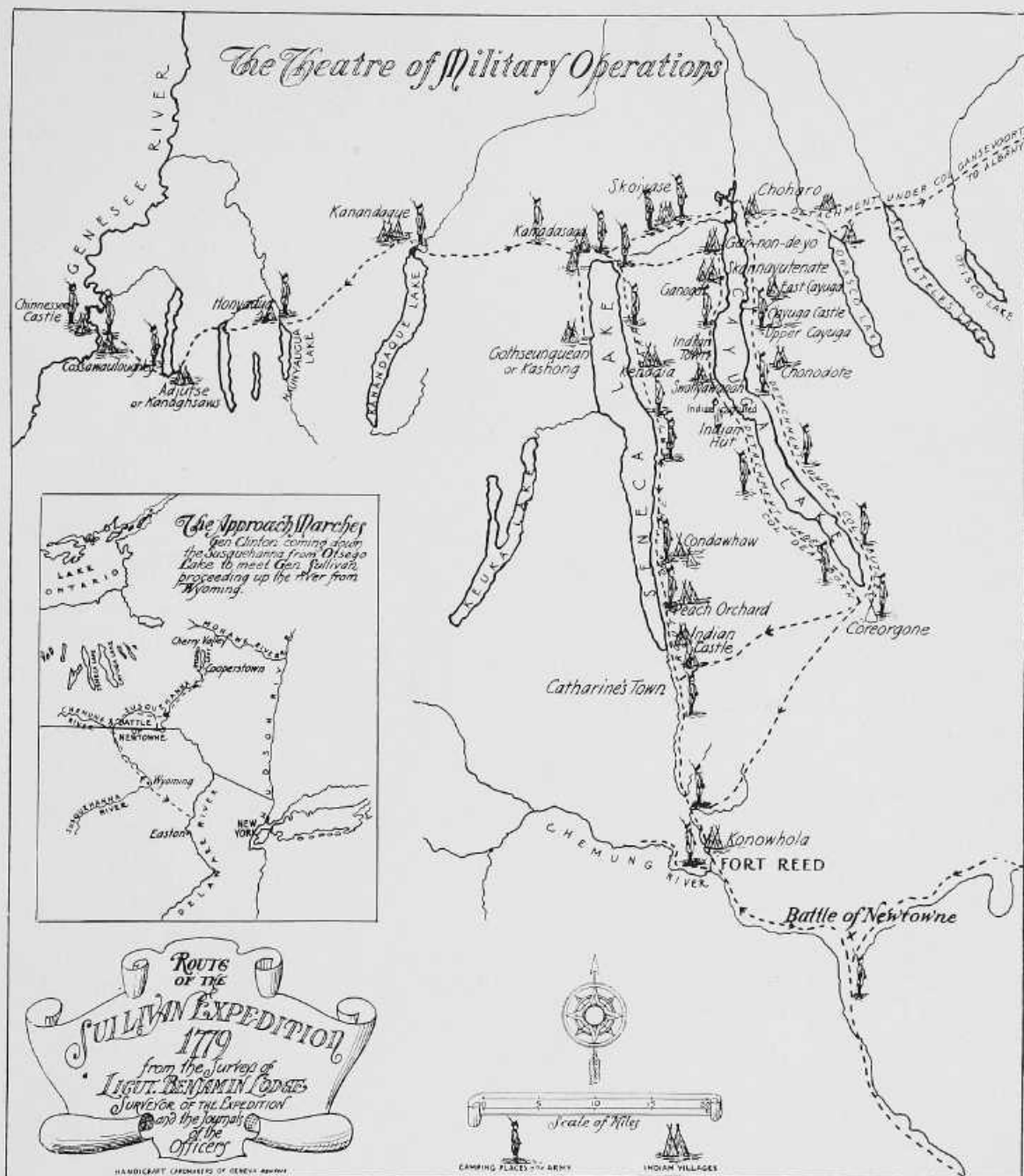
of the campaign: "It is proposed to carry the war into the heart of the country of the Six Nations, to cut off their settlements, destroy their next year's crops and do them every other mischief which time and circumstances will permit." Washington's orders to Sullivan declare "the immediate objects are the total destruction of the hostile tribes of the Six Nations and the devastation of their settlements and the capture of as many prisoners of every age and sex as possible." Sullivan was directed to "lay waste all the settlements around, so that the country may not only be overrun but destroyed."

Evidence of the magnitude of the campaign as viewed by Washington, is his words to the president of Congress: "The council are fully sensible of the importance of success in the present expedition, and the fatal mischiefs which would attend a defeat. We should perhaps lose an army and our frontier would be deluged in blood."

For a year Congress had favored an invasion of Canada and Lafayette looked with favor upon such a move. But during the same period Washington had been formulating his plans for striking at the heart of the Long House of the Iroquois among the Finger Lakes and at one blow crushing the original lords of the western wilderness and winning the great country westward forever from the British. At his



Brig. Gen. James Clinton, second in command of the Sullivan army, and commander of the Fourth New York Brigade.



insistence, Congress on February 27, 1779, authorized him to take steps toward launching the campaign. "The Romans of the West"

The blow was first aimed at the Senecas, most numerous of the Six Nations, and next at the Cayugas, Onondagas, Tuscaroras and Mohawks and any Oneidas acting with them. Washington well appreciated the power of the Iroquois. He knew he was sending the Colonials against a Confederacy which for 200 years had held sway over the main portion of this

continent east of the Mississippi, from the everglades of Florida to the northern sources of the St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes. He knew the Iroquois received taxes from the Indians of Long Island; that they were a source of power as far away as Maine; that they ran in expeditions far to the south and west of the Alleghenies and that they received embassies from Nova Scotia to the Gulf. Truly they were the "Romans of the West," going in conquest farther than Greek arms were ever carried and to distances which



Rome surpassed only in the days of its culminating glory. For 150 years the Iroquois had held the French in check, driving them seven times within the walls of Montreal. Courted by both French and English long before the Revolution, these red warriors had thrown their strength with the British, assuring for all time English rather than French dominance in the new world.

These Spartans of the lake country lived in houses, cultivated grain, fruits and vegetables, practiced skillful fortification, had horses, swine, cattle and fowl, and were the arbiters for other tribes. They had learned oratory and diplomacy that later matched the skill of European statesmen in making treaties. They knew no masters though their fighting men who had held France at bay and extorted terms from the crown of Britain, numbered not over 2,500 warriors. This band of sentinels who had held the gate of empire against the French possessed might and skill and union and military and political genius that made them a foe with whom war must be positive, aggressive and overwhelming. And they had muskets and with them were hundreds of uniformed troops of Britain.

Early alliance with the English against the French together with the wise policy and blandishments of shrewd English agents, had thrown the strength of the Indians with the British crown against the Colonists. Theirs was a choice, fostered by early loyalty to the British, that brought them extermination in a war about whose aims and purposes they were ignorant.



Col. Philip Van Cortlandt, commanding the Second N. Y. Regiment in the Indian campaign in the Finger Lakes Region.



One of the markers D. A. R. Chapters have placed along Sullivan's trail between the lakes.

Sullivan, the Leader

To carry war into the heart of enemy country, Washington knew he must have a leader of the highest type. More as a military formality than with intent that the appointment should be accepted, Washington offered the command of the expedition to General Gates, because of his seniority and rank. Gates was a man fond of display, applause and prominence, but not of hard word or danger. He declined. In his rejection of the appointment he said: "The man who undertakes the Indian service should enjoy youth and strength, requisites I do not possess. It therefore grieves me that your Excellency should offer me the only command to which I am entirely unequal."

The choice then fell to Maj. Gen. John Sullivan, thirty-nine years of age. As a boy Sullivan had studied law, but when the Revolution broke out he early enlisted. Promotion came rapidly and he was in many engagements, including those of Brandywine, Germantown, Boston, Three Rivers, Trenton, Princeton, etc. Once he was captured. The bayonet charge by 6,000 men which he led at Butt's Hill was characterized by Lafayette as the best engagement of the war.

His expeditionary army was to number about 5,000 men, arrayed against a force totaling about 3,000 and made up of the Iroquois and Tories and Rangers under Johnson and Butler of the British. The invading army was to enter the Indian country in three divisions; one from the south up the Susquehanna; another from the east down the Susquehanna and the third from the west by way of the Alleghany. They were to form a junction at some convenient point and advance with irresistible might upon the Indian stronghold in the Finger Lakes country. This was the plan outlined in Washington's instructions dated May 31, 1779.

Obstacles to Project

Several states sent troops to make up the army and obstacles at once arose to delay the start of the expedition. On May 7, 1779, Sullivan reached Easton, Pa., headquarters of the main army, and wrote to



Washington: "I will do everything in my power to set the wheels in motion and make the necessary preparations for the army to move on." Some Jersey troops mutined because the authorities of that state had neglected to provide for the depreciation of the currency and had neglected to pay even the nominal sum in almost worthless Continental paper money, due them for services. Execution of ringleaders ended this trouble.

Through the influence of Quakers in Pennsylvania who opposed punishment of the Indians, that state failed to furnish its quota of men and supplies. Much of the salted meat for the soldiers was unfit to eat and many of the cattle to accompany the army for food were too poor to walk and some could not stand. By July 21, Sullivan wrote that a third of his army did not have a shirt to their backs. Authorities charged that Sullivan's requisitions were extravagant and threatened to prefer charges against him before Congress, though there was scarcely a coat or blanket for every seventh man. Weeks dragged into months before the army at last started its march to the lakes. In the meantime, Indian runners were informing the Iroquois chieftains and the Tories of preparations and the Indian country was getting ready to withstand assault. Delays had been so numerous that by this time, if ever, the Indian defenders of the lake country were as prepared as well as they could be to meet the invaders.

Van Schaick's Raid

At this point it is well to digress in the chronological sequence of events and recount something about the attack of Colonel Van Schaick against the Onondagas at what is now Syracuse. This movement was aimed to demoralize the Onondagas and thus act as a safety measure in preventing them from a flank attack upon the main army of Sullivan which within a few months was to move northward. Hence, though this raid

took place months prior to the main expedition, its significance and purpose make it a part of the Sullivan military program.

With 558 men Van Schaick started on April 19, 1779 from Fort Schuyler for the seat of Onondaga power. The movement occupied only five days and a half but within that time, the troops covered a total of 180 miles, surprised the Onondaga settlement, killed a dozen Indians, captured thirty-four, destroyed a village of fifty houses, killed the stock, seized 100 guns and much ammunition and returned without the loss of a single man. Few incidents of the Revolution were character-

ized by the quickness and despatch of this short incursion into the enemy territory.

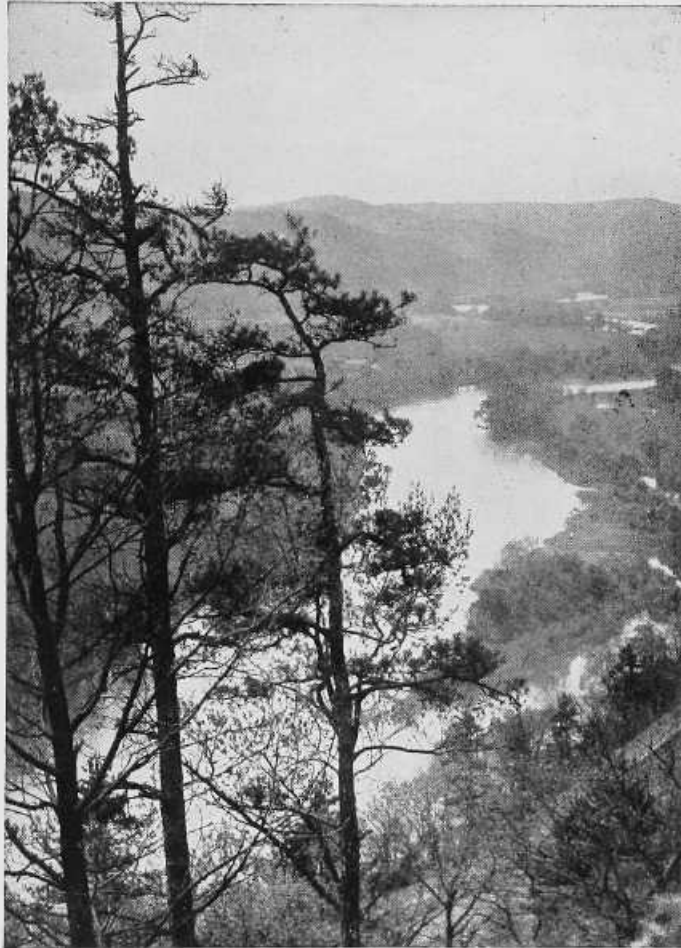
Progress of Divisions

Going back to the position of the main army, following Van Schaick's drive at the Onondagas, we find the problem of reaching the heart of the Indian long house was of first concern. The only way to the Indian lands lay through dense forests, across mountains, through swamps and over gorges and was by the natural thoroughfares of rivers. With that idea in view, the plan of campaign was mapped out.

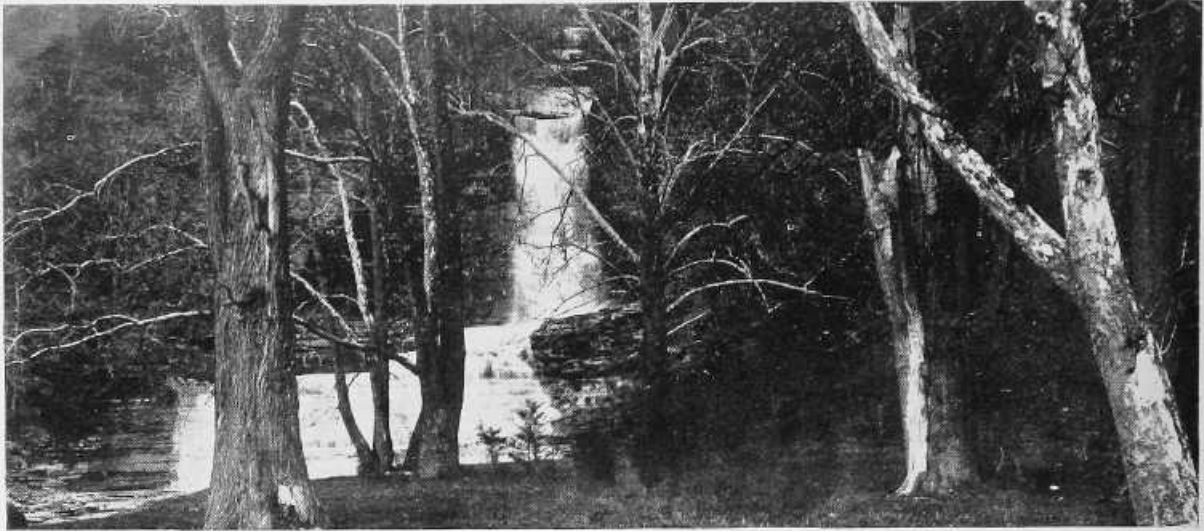
The left wing started from Pittsburgh, Pa., under Colonel Daniel Brodhead. With nearly 700 men, the commander reached nearly as far as Corning, N. Y., the soldiers driving their cattle before them and carrying their

stores on pack horses. They destroyed several Indian towns and kept off the war path from hostilities against Sullivan's main army probably 500 Seneca warriors, without losing a man. This force never became connected with the main army and so never actually invaded the lake country.

The right wing consisted of General Clinton's New York brigade, including the Third, Fourth and Fifth Regiments as well as an artillery detachment. After building 212 boats at Schenectady, it proceeded up the Mohawk to Canajoharie, where it arrived June



The winding Susquehanna, near Owego, down which Clinton's forces came to join Sullivan's army.



Hector Falls, near Watkins Glen, where Sullivan's men first saw the cataracts of the lake country.

15. The loaded boats were carried twenty miles over mountains to Otsego Lake, arriving there the last of the month.

At Cooperstown, Clinton's forces built a dam, raising the waters of Otsego Lake two feet, in order to provide a copious flow into the Susquehanna for the flotilla of boats which was to go down the river and make junction with Poor's New Hampshire Brigade at the town of Union. On August 9, the dam was pierced and the onrush of water took the boats at full tide down the stream, capsizing several. Apparent flood conditions during a dry season terrorized the Indians downstream. The troops marched overland, generally near the river, crossing it several times, heading for Tioga Point, now Athens, Pa., and burning Indian settlements on the way.

In the meantime, Sullivan, with the main army from Easton, Pa., proceeded to Wyoming, where commissary and other troubles held him until the last day of July, when, with inadequate supplies, his force moved forward.

Sullivan had direct command in this main army of three brigades. The first consisted of the First Second and Third New Jersey Regiments and Spencer's New Jersey Regiment. The second was composed of the First, Second and Third New Hampshire regiments and the Sixth Massachusetts. In the third were the Fourth and Eleventh Pennsylvania regiments, a

German battalion, an artillery force, some of Morgan's riflemen, a few Wyoming militia and two independent companies.

On August 11 he reached Tioga Point, after several regiments had chopped a way through the forest over the Pocono plateau. Before the main army plunged into the forest, where there were no roads, no hospitals, and no food supplies, except the ripening corn and grain of the Indians, they built Fort Sullivan at the point where the Chemung and Susquehanna come near each other before spreading out and making junction several miles below, at what is now the town of Athens, Pa.

The fort was a palisaded, diamond shaped structure, with a block house at each end. Several hundred boats from Sunbury, Pa., brought Proctor's cannon and regiment of artillery, besides 2,000 pack horses and nearly as many head of cattle. There were also in the organization 153 fifiers and drummers, nearly 200 pioneers or axmen, nine geographers who measured

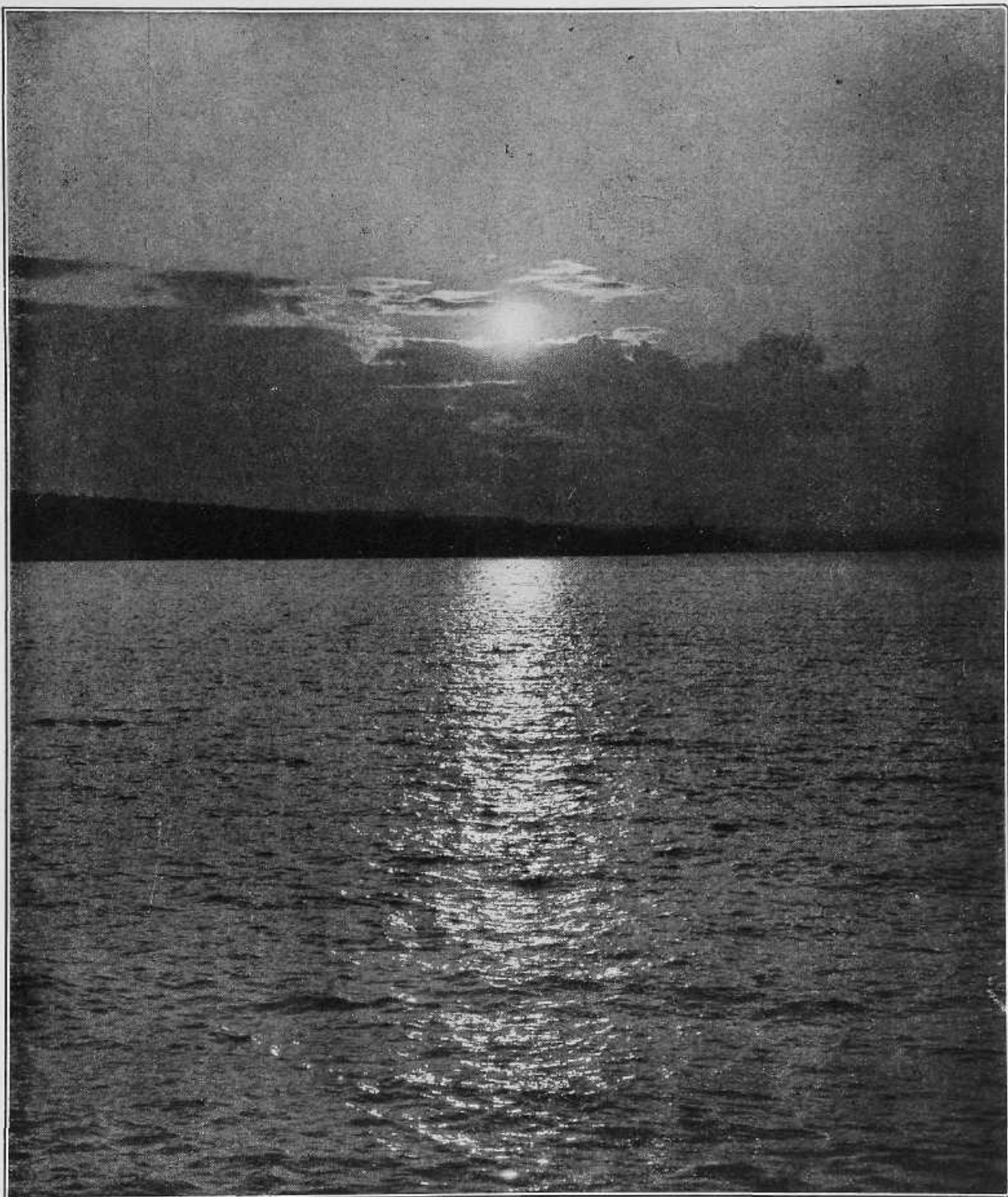
every step of the way from Easton to the Genesee Valley, besides 50 troopers from Colonel Sheldon's Connecticut Cavalry.

Start of Combined Forces

Fort Sullivan was used as a base of operations for the entire army and here Clinton's forces from the east, coming down the Susquehanna, arrived on August 22, with short rations of provisions left.



Sullivan marker. Inscription: "Kendaia. General John Sullivan and his army of 3,500 men, September 5, 1779, destroyed the Indian village of Kendaia, two miles to the southward and on the following day passed this spot."



The blue expanse of Seneca, first of the Finger Lakes to burst upon the view of the marching soldiers as they advanced in defense formation through the forest wilds.

On August 26, 1779, from Fort Sullivan the actual expedition started into an unknown country through leagues of unbroken forests. Skirmishes and destruc-

tion of Indian settlements as the forces were mobilizing at Fort Sullivan were events only of the approach marches. Hence Sullivan's expedition may be con-



sidered to have begun only with the union of the divisions for a concerted drive from Fort Sullivan. Its strategic significance may be gauged only upon results attained after that start in a territory almost wholly embraced in the Finger Lakes Region.

The expedition there started was one scarcely without a parallel in the world's history for the boldness of its design and the courage with which it was undertaken. To transport an army with its equipment through an uncharted country, without supplies and communication; to be shut up from the world for weeks where to fail of success was to die by torture, is a campaign that rivals Sherman's march to the sea. Sullivan's drive into the lake country truly is deserving of first rank among the great military movements in the Nation's history.

Here all extremes were to meet—the whirl of the arrow, the crack of the rifle and the roar of cannon. There could be no compromise. It was to be a struggle that could only end with the complete overthrow of one of the parties concerned. It was a struggle for possession of a country that was destined to form an important part of an infant nation, now the greatest in the world.

Vigilance never for a moment relaxed, as the long trek through the lake country began. Always the advancing columns were in defense formation, alert for an ambushade.



Lower Falls in Great Gully, between Aurora and Union Springs, where Sullivan's forces destroyed the capital of the Cayugas.

Battle of Newtown

The first encounter with the enemy in force was at Newtown, five miles below the present site of Elmira. Here, protected by a breastwork and shielded by a bend in the river, were waiting a few British regulars, two battalions of Royal Greens, Tories and Indians, with Colonel John Butler and the great Mohawk warrior, Joseph Brant, commanding.

Here, on Sunday, August 29, Sullivan's army directed its artillery fire upon the fortification, while the brigades of Clinton and Poor gained the left flank of the enemy. This rendered the work untenable and the Indians and British fled, hotly pursued for a distance of two miles through the forest.

Sullivan estimated the loss of the enemy at 1,500, but captured prisoners reported it as 800. The Americans lost four killed and 40 to 50 wounded. Those who died on the field were buried separately and fires built upon their graves lest, later, their bodies be discovered and desecrated. The victory at Newtown opened the entire Finger Lakes country to the invaders. The red men vanished before the roar of the cannon that had brought terror in that first combat. The torch of the white man was carried everywhere through the forest and the vengeance of years was consummated in weeks.



Lafayette and Skoiyase Monuments in Lafayette Park, Waterloo, the latter marker having been erected in 1879 by the Seneca County Historical Society commemorating the destruction by Col. John Harper of the Indian village of Skoiyase, on the site of Waterloo.



On August 31 the army headed westward, destroying eight houses in a village two miles away, and passing on to Kanawaholla, a town four and a half miles past the Newtown battlefield. Marching five miles further, the soldiers encamped on the present site of Horseheads. At this point some thirty or forty worn horses were shot when the army passed through on its return trip and later Indians gathered the heads and arranged them at the sides of the trail. Hence, the name of the town today.

Striking camp at 8 the next morning, the Colonials marched northward, the advanced guard arriving at 7 o'clock that night and the last not until 10 p. m., exhausted and clinging to one another in groping their way through an inky black night and swamplands. Two horses broke their necks in the journey and others died on the trail.

Here thirty or forty houses were burned, grain and fruit trees destroyed and cows, horses, pigs and calves seized for food. An aged squaw, left by the fleeing Indians, told of the consternation among the enemy. The soldiers built the squaw a hut and left provisions for her.

The march was renewed September 3, the army covering 12 miles to Peach Orchard on the east side of Seneca Lake, where corn was found still roasting over a campfire of the retreating Indians. Four miles, covered the next morning, brought the army to Con-daw-haw, now North Hector, with one large and eight smaller houses. Eight miles further the men encamped as the sun sank across the Seneca.

September 5 the Americans moved three miles to Kendaia or Apple Town, where 20 log houses were leveled, along with the grain and orchards.

At this town on lot 79, Romulus, the Colonials were delighted to find Luke Swetland, who with Joseph Blanchard had been taken by the Indians, August 24 of the previous year from Nanticoke, below Wyoming. He had been held a prisoner throughout that time by the Indians, but managed to escape.

Showy, unusual tombs, gorgeously painted and placed over some of the chiefs proved another interesting find at Kendaia.

The next day took the soldiers three miles further, the advance being slow, as every village and all grain, fruit and vegetables were carefully destroyed, sometimes as many as 2,000 men being engaged in this work.

September seven took the army to the outlet at the north end of Seneca Lake and the following day soldiers rested at Kanadesaga, now Geneva, a large town of 50 houses, with 30 more adjacent. The Indian name of the settlement meant Grand Village, so-called

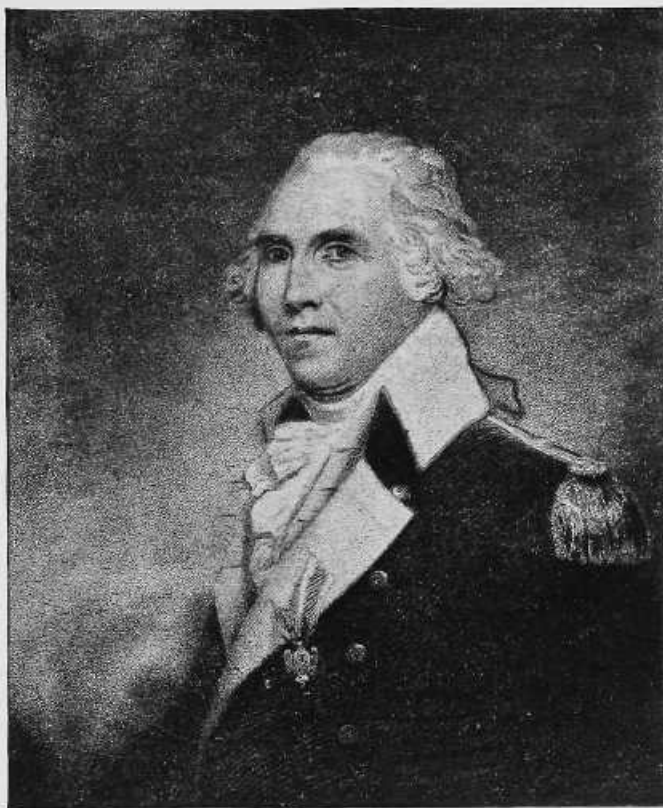
because here was the residence of the chief sachem of the Senecas and the capitol of that tribe. The soldiers found the remains of a stockade fort, built in 1756 by Sir William Johnson. It is recalled that in 1764-66 Rev. Samuel Kirkland was a missionary at Kanadasaga. Grahta or Old Smoke, the ruling sachem, had fled his home for Fort Niagara when the soldiers arrived.

A captured white boy, 3 yrs. old, whose identity was never learned was found here.

Sullivan was now in a strange country with no guides to lead the way further. His own scouts were his sole reliance from Kanadesaga on. He sent Colonel John Harper to destroy Skoi-yase, on the site of Waterloo, a town with eighteen log houses and the probable home of some sachems of the Cayugas. Major Parr, with a company of riflemen, was also sent seven miles up the west side of Seneca Lake to des-

troys Shenanwaga, with its twenty houses.

Both groups rejoined the army which, on September 9, headed toward the Genesee country, covering eight miles the first day. Next day Kanadaigua, the present Canandaigua, comprising twenty-three fine houses, was reached, the camp fires of the fugitive Indians again being found burning. September 11 the troops moved before daylight and a fourteen mile march brought them to the Indian town of Hanneyaye, near the present site of Honeoye at the foot of Honeoye



Col. Peter Gansevoort, leader of the detachment which went east through Cayuga and past Owasco and Skaneateles Lakes to Albany, was born in Albany July 17, 1749. Appointed major in Second N. Y. Regiment July 19, 1775. On March 1, 1776 was made lieutenant colonel and Nov. 21, same year, colonel of Third Regiment. In April 1777 took command of Fort Schuyler, defending it against St. Leger. In 1781 made brig. gen. Before his death July 2, 1812, he became sheriff of Albany Co., Regent of the University of the State, Commissioner for Indian affairs, military agent and brig. gen. in the U. S. Army.

Lake on the east side of its outlet. Here were 20 houses.

Sullivan decided it time to lighten the load carried by his army. All provisions except four days half rations, the baggage, cattle and horses, except a few of the strongest, were left at Honeoye in charge of Captain Cummings and fifty men. In addition were "the sick, lame and lazy," numbering about 300. The strongest blockhouse of the Indians was left standing, port holes were cut in its sides eight two three pounders placed in position inside, and the walls strengthened with kegs and bags of flour.

In leaving Honeoye, the lightened army forded the outlet near the lake headed west to a low ridge of hills, turned southwest, crossed the outlet of Hemlock Lake and continued to Kanaghsaws, also called Adjuton, on the Conesus Lake outlet about a mile northwest of the present Conesus Center. Near here was the home of Chief Big Tree, a friend of the Colonists whose influence was insufficient to turn the Senecas from their British alliance.

It was near here that the Indians, led by the British loyalist Butler, planned a last stand against the invaders. Reinforced by regulars from Niagara, Butler massed his Indians and Tories along a ravine for a deadly ambushade when the Colonials should once more take the westward trail.

Believing that the great Genesee Castle was not far distant, Sullivan at 11 o'clock at night, September 12, sent a detachment under Lieut. Thomas Boyd to reconnoitre. When daylight came the scouting party found themselves within the fatal embrace of the enemy

In all, fifteen of Boyd's party were slain and eight escaped. Boyd and his sergeant, Michael Parker, were captured. Boyd approached the notorious Indian Brant under the sign of a Free Mason, to which fraternity both belonged. The chief recognized the bond of brotherhood and promised safety. But he was called



Rev. Samuel Kirkland, chaplain on the staff of Sullivan, traversed in that expedition a wilderness with which he had become familiar before the Revolution when, as a Presbyterian missionary, he had wandered from long house to long house among the Iroquois. It was Kirkland later who was delegated by the War Department to gather the Indian chiefs together for a conference in Philadelphia.

While a student at Princeton he felt the urge to teach Christ to the Indians. At the age of twenty-four he left Johnstown in January, 1765 and plunged into the wilderness on snow shoes with two red guides to travel 200 miles, carrying his forty-pound pack. His first work was among the Senecas, particularly at the Indian village on the site of Geneva. Despite his later efforts, he was unable to keep the Iroquois of the western part of the lake region from alliance with the British. Kirkland, a real lover of the Indian, founded the Oneida Indian Academy, which was later merged into Hamilton College.

away and the Tory, Butler, gave the captives over to torture.

Boyd's body was opened, his nails torn out, his ears and tongue slit and he was scalped, partially skinned and beheaded. A less severe torture was imposed upon Parker. Sixty-two years later, in 1841, the remains of the two heroes who had been buried in the wilderness with military honors, were removed to Mount Hope Cemetery, Rochester.

Sullivan's army on September 13 pushed on seven miles to Gathsegwarohare, where Indians and Tories were lined up in battle formation. A flanking movement by Sullivan routed the enemy without a shot fired and camp was pitched. The next morning 2,000 men occupied six hours in destroying crops and houses. At noon the march was resumed and at sunset the advancing forces had reached Little Beard's town or the great Genesee Castle, western door of the Long House, just between Cuylerville and the west bank of the Genesee. The castle comprises 128 houses. Nearby were found the mutilated bodies of Boyd and Parker.

On September 15 at 6 a. m. the whole army turned out for the work of destruction. Twenty thousand bushels of corn were piled in the houses and in heaps and all burned. It was 2 p. m. before the last heaps were fired and the last fruit tree hewn down.

One of the striking incidents of the campaign occurred here. A Mrs. Lester with a child in her arms, came into the camp Nov. 7 of the previous year she had been captured by the Indians near Nanticoke,



Monument to Jesuits between Union Springs and Aurora: "This valley was the site of the principal Cayuga Indian village. To the brave French Jesuit missionaries whose heroism was almost without parallel—Joseph Chaumont and Rene Menard, who as guests of Chief Saonchiogwa built here in 1656 the first house of Christian worship in Western New York; Stephen DeCarheil, who for nine years was interested here, and his collaborer, Peter Raffeix—this memorial is respectfully erected."



Lake Keuka, only one of the Finger Lakes not viewed by soldiers of Sullivan's army.

after her husband had been tomahawked. Her child died a few days later. In the army she met Capt. Roswell Franklin, whose wife was slain in another Indian massacre, and later became his wife.

Sullivan met no further resistance. On September 16 he recrossed the Genesee, when his provisions became perilously low, and returned to Kanadesaga on September 19.

Fire and destruction among the Cayugas and Onondagas followed, now that the Senecas had been wiped out. On September 20 a small detachment went up the west side of Seneca Lake to complete the destruction of Kershong, partly effected September 9.

Meanwhile, Sullivan detached Col. Peter Gansevoort, with a hundred men, to go to Albany, by way of Fort Schuyler and to bring forward the heavy luggage stored there previous to the start of the expedition. Hearing that a few of the Mohawks in the Mohawk valley were acting as spies for the British, Sullivan also ordered Gansevoort to capture them and burn their town. Proof of the friendliness of the Mohawks, however, saved their homes from the torch, and the captives, whom the army took to Albany were released. Gansevoort passed through Cayuga, on the trail near the site of Auburn, to Owasco Lake and eastward through what is now Skaneateles.

March of Butler

The same day a division of 600 men under Lieut. Col. William Butler, headed east to lay waste the towns on the east side of Cayuga Lake. Part of the detachment included three companies of Morgan's crack riflemen. By evening the troops reached Skoiyase, destroyed previously in the outward march. Early next morning, Butler continued to the Cayuga outlet, which the soldiers forded breast deep.

Here they struck Choharo, known to the Jesuit priests a century before as Tichero or St. Stephens. Eighteen miles were covered that day and at night

camp was pitched at Gewawga on the site of Union Springs. In the morning the army reached the capital of the Cayugas. It consisted of fifteen large houses of squared logs, superior in construction to any yet seen. Two outlying villages included twenty-seven more houses. White scalps here found in Indian lodges proved the enmity of the Cayugas.

The castle was located at Big Gully, half way between Aurora and Union Springs, and marked the place where the first Christian mission in western New York was established in 1677 by Father Menard. Some U. S. muskets and regimental coats were found in the town.

The next afternoon Butler's army marched to Chonodote, four and a half miles distant, where 1,500 peach trees, some apple trees and much corn were destroyed with the 14 houses. The town was on the site of Aurora. Camp was made here for the night and the next day brought the Colonials to an encampment just north of where Ludlowville now stands. September 25 the head of Cayuga Lake was reached and on the 26th and 27th the route mainly lay through a pathless wilderness where the sun and the surveyor's compass were the only guides. On the 27th the detachment rejoined the main army at Fort Reed, erected at Kanawaholla, and well provisioned for a celebration when all detachments should arrive there.

Dearborn's March

Meantime, while Butler's soldiers were covering the eastern shore of Cayuga Lake, Sullivan's main army on September 20th, crossed the outlet from Kanadesaga and encamped. On September 21, Colonel Dearborn, with 200 men was dispatched to lay waste the western side of the lake and to intercept the Cayugas if they should escape Butler.

Enroute to the lake a hamlet of three houses in what is Fayette, four miles from the shore, was destroyed, together with a small town of ten houses on



the west shore of the lake one mile north of Canoga creek. Two more villages fell in ashes that same day—Skannayutenate of ten houses on the south bank of Cayuga Creek half a mile northeast of Canoga village, and Newtown of nine houses a mile further south. At this latter place, after a day's march of seventeen miles, Dearborn encamped. Canoga was the birthplace of the famous Indian Chief Red Jacket.

Five miles covered the next day brought the soldiers to Swah-ya-wanah, near what is now East Varick.

Five miles further, three squaws and a crippled Indian lad were found. Two of the women were taken captive and the rest left. Seventeen miles were covered that day. The next, over some of the roughest country passed in the entire expedition, the soldiers marched a like distance and reached the head of Cayuga Lake.

On the 24th Co-re-or-go-nel, opposite Buttermilk Falls, a settlement of 25 houses, was reached. Early the next morning, Dearborn set out to join the main army, passing through Catherine's Town and encamping six miles further on. The next day Fort Reed was reached.

Main Army's March

While the detachments of Butler and Dearborn were applying the torch to towns along Cayuga the main army left its camp at Rose Hill on the south side of the Seneca River and in a march of four days reached Fort Reed. Full rations were there resumed for all the soldiers and on September 25 a celebration of

victory was staged, with five oxen barbecued and with plenty of rum flowing. In the evening a salute of 13 cannon and a feu-de-joie were fired.

Parties of soldiers in sallies from the fort destroyed other hamlets and orchards and fields in a brief stay there and on September 29 the entire army left the fort, which they demolished. Next day they were again at Fort Sullivan for feasting and jubilation to commemorate an expedition that left a once proud nation wandering pillagers, stripped of their homes, their food supply gone and the tombs of their fathers overthrown.

The Indians fled to Fort Niagara and under the protection of the British, were housed in huts around the fort. But the winter was the coldest in years, the Indians could not go on their annual hunt, salted provisions only did they have and scurvy broke out, killing hundreds.

All that was left of those who had been "the Romans of the West" were the names they gave the lakes they loved so well and the memory of valor undimmed by the passing of a vanishing race.

In order properly to appreciate the magnitude of Sullivan's achievement, it should be remembered that the foe he vanquished controlled a territory about 1,200 miles long and 600 wide; that is, more than ten times as large as the whole of New York, with its citadel of power among the Finger Lakes. This was the red man's stake in the Revolution and this he lost.

Three Half Centuries

THE birth of progress in the Finger Lakes Region very nearly corresponds in time with the birth of the United States. The Declaration of Independence had been signed but four short years before Sullivan's army carried the light of civilization into the fastnesses of the forests. Since that emancipation of the lake country, the communities of Central New York have ever held high the beacon of progress always in step with the times, ever leading as America, marched forward toward her destiny.

Like the nation, the Finger Lakes Region may consider herself about 150 years old. During three momentous half centuries history was here in the making. Each half century has had its distinguishing character. It required practically all the first fifty years to settle the lake region; the second may be classified as that of development and the third that of prosperity. Ahead lies the future half century—of opportunity.

In each of these three periods the nation engaged in one major war—1812, the Civil War and the World War—in each of which the Finger Lakes Region gave and served to the capacity of its resources.

The first fifty years saw the forest give place to cabin homes and open its green vastness to corduroy roads threading the paths charted by the Indian; it witnessed the advent of the stage coach, the tavern and the Erie canal with its packets and barges.

Fifty years more brought the first railroads, ribbons of wood over which horses drew rattling coaches. In this development period, came the telegraph, the telephone, the electric light, while the nation itself flung far its borders, extending its Canadian boundary from the Great Lakes to the Pacific, gaining Texas, New Mexico and California and negotiating the Gadsden Purchase on the Rio Grande and the purchase of Alaska by a statesman from the lake country.

Then came the period of prosperity, when communication and transportation were improved, and the street car and the auto replaced the horse-car and the omnibus. It was the time of great inventions, answering the call of humanity's needs. Radio and aviation carried communications into another realm. Comforts and conveniences were made available through the creation of great public utilities.

The pioneers in enterprise, who settled and developed the lake country, gave place to business pioneers who have set the stage for the day to come—the day of opportunity.

Half Century of Settlement

WHEN guns of the Revolution were silenced, deer browsed unmolested on the sites of Rochester and Syracuse and throughout the Finger Lakes country. Only at Buffalo a single log store for trade with the Indians nestled in a forest clearing. But scarcely had the war ended when immigration began to filter into the lake region from three directions.

Pennsylvanians pushed up the Susquehanna to Tioga Point, where Sullivan's men had rendezvoused. Diverging there, some made settlements along the Chemung and others established forest homes along the east branch of the Susquehanna and its tributaries.

Other adventurers from the east, crossing from New England or the Hudson River counties to Unadilla, dropped down the river in canoes and settled along the Susquehanna or Chemung, or traveled northward between the lakes.

Still a third band took the ancient Genesee trail through the Mohawk and penetrated the region from the northeast, settling the communities at the northern end of the lake country.

All were driven westward by land hunger, the ancient instinct to possess a home they could call their own. In the eastern colonies twin spectres loomed forever before these men who braved the forest wilds—one that they might die and leave children where there were no asylums; the other that accident might come to incapacitate the breadwinner and that on his recovery he might be thrown into prison for debt. To such as these, the story of a land of abounding harvests and mighty streams and tranquil lakes clothed the lake country with an irresistible lure.

By 1785 James McMaster and Amos Draper, an agent and Indian trader had settled at Owego.



In 1787 the disciples of that strange woman, Jemima Wilkinson, had made their first Finger Lakes settlement at the outlet of Lake Keuka, one mile south of Dresden. A year later two hardy pioneers had built their cabin at Montour Falls and two more at Watkins Glen. Col. John Hendy had settled at Elmira and planted the first corn ever set out by a white man in the Chemung Valley. By that date Geneva had become "a pretty brisk place, the focus of speculators, explorers, the lessee company and their agents and the principal seat of the Indian trade for a wide area."

When 1789 arrived, first settlers streamed into Canandaigua and a year later the settlement was described as "full of people, residents, surveyors, explorers and adventurers." That same year first pioneers settled Ithaca and

King Ferry and James Bennett and John Harris established the first ferry across Cayuga Lake just south of Cayuga, following the course of an old Indian ferry.

In 1790 a white man with his wife and child built a cabin at Hector; a year later Aurora was settled and in 1792 Capt. Charles Williamson, sent out by the Pulteney Company of England, arrived on the site of Bath and set out to found a model English city. The same year the hardy John Hardenbergh, a veteran of Sullivan's army, stopped where Auburn stands, attracted by the rushing power of the Owasco river, and, with the aid of a negro slave, set up a rude cabin

on the site of the present City Hall. By 1799 John Mitchell had settled at Odessa and pioneers staked out the hamlet which has become Penn Yan.

Settlement of the Finger Lakes country was made by men who had secured their land through two means—purchase and grant or bounty by the state. In 1789 the first general sub-division of the eastern portion of the lake country into townships was



Highways now follow trails blazed by Sullivan.



made by Simeon DeWitt, surveyor general, who himself later acquired the land where Ithaca now stands. This was known as the Military Tract and was apportioned as lots to Revolutionary soldiers. There were 1,800,000 acres set apart for soldiers on the Indian lands and by 1790 twenty-six townships had been surveyed. Lots were drawn for the claimants. Many soldiers sold their apportionments, some several times, and land titles became confused.

The second method of procuring land—by purchase—applied chiefly to the territory of the lake country west of a line running across the state from Lake Ontario to the Pennsylvania line at a point almost due south of Seneca Lake. This land, comprising 2,600,000 acres, was known as the Phelps and Gorham purchase. It had been sold to Judge Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham in 1787 by Massachusetts, which claimed title through settlements at the close of the Revolution. Two years later Phelps opened at Canandaigua the first regular land sale office in America. Before the middle of November, 1790 about fifty townships in this newly surveyed purchase had been sold to individuals or to companies of farmers.

At the southeastern end of the Finger Lakes Region were other smaller tracts acquired by purchase instead of grant, although they lay east of the Phelps and Gorham pre-emption line. A tract between the Owego and Chenango Rivers, comprising 230,400 acres and known as the Boston Ten Townships, was ceded by Massachusetts to a group of sixty individuals and settled or sold by them. Then there was another tract of 29,812 acres in the southerly half of the town of Owego, patented to another group and known as Coxe's Manor and sold to settlers. Still another tract of 363,000 acres east and south of the head of Seneca Lake was purchased of New York State in 1794 by John W. Watkins and Royal R. Flint

and then sold to settlers. By 1793 there were 7000 inhabitants on the lands west of the Pre-emption line and 6640 on the Military Tract and contiguous tracts to the south of it.

As this first "Great West" opened its doors to the East, roads could not be hewed out of the forests fast enough to accommodate the settlers. Men from the New England colonies had seen this wonderland among the lakes, and strong arms and strong hearts, inured to hardship and to toil, poured into the Indians' garden spot. With them they took the church and school,

the twin children of free institutions.

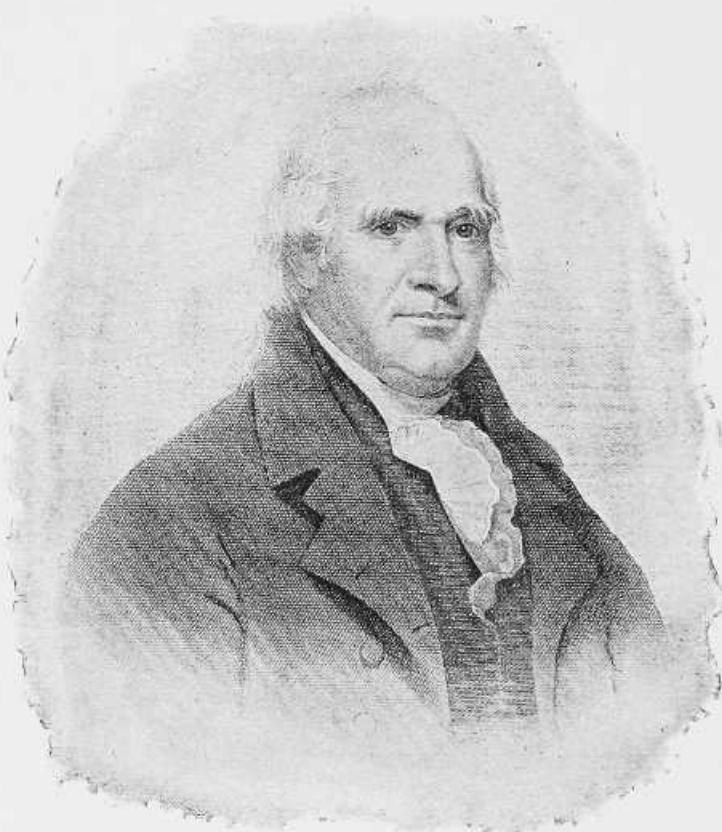
From the interior cargoes of wheat began to arrive in Albany and instead of gewgaws for the Indians, utensils for the homes and farms of settlers went out in return.

Settlers came in tented wagons and brought with them as much as they could carry of provisions and household stuff. As they advanced when the trails were new, trees were cut down and logs pushed from the way. Now and then a corduroy bridge was thrown over swampy places so the wagons could pass. Progress of these pioneers was slow. Sometimes they would come to the end of the road or upon a gang of woodchoppers. Then they would stop and help the workmen through.

Every family who had managed to build its log cabin in a clearing, would

take in all the travelers the little home could hold. When the immigrants came to one of these forest abodes, when night fell, they would take bedding enough out of the wagons to cover the floor and the women and children would sleep there in the house. Men remained in the wagons all night.

When dusk fell with no house in sight, the women and children would occupy the covered wagons and the men roll up on the ground beneath them. Wild beasts roved the forests where Indians still lurked. So constant vigilance was needed when night shadows



George Clinton, New York State's first governor, held that office when Sullivan's men invaded the lake country and also when the first settlers started hamlets on the sites of Indian villages. At one time he served as a lieutenant under his brother, James, before the latter came to the lake country as second in command of Sullivan's army. George Clinton as a member of Congress in 1776 voted for the Declaration of Independence. A year later, when there were no political parties, he was chosen both governor and lieutenant governor, choosing to fill the former office, which he held for eighteen consecutive years. He was again governor after five years in private life and in 1804 became vice president of the United States. He died in 1812. Clinton started the state's public school system.



choked the trail. For the most part the early roads followed the trails of the Indian. Engineers today have found that these ancient paths through the forest were not without system. Where a trail followed a stream or lake, it always ran as close to the shore as possible, lying outside the close timber growth of banks and ravines.

From the time the ancient Roman roads of England were laid out as imperishable reminders of another day, highways have been inextricably intertwined in the history of progress. Like the advance guard of an army, roads have preceded empire building. So it was in the Finger Lakes Region. The first task of the newcomers was the cutting out of roads, many of them following the paths charted by moccasined Indian feet through the wilderness. To-day it costs as much per mile to build many of the Finger Lakes trails, as was expended in a whole year's building program on all the roads which the state boasted in 1797.

The expansion westward to the Finger Lakes was so tremendous that state revenues were insufficient to build the roads fast enough, so turnpikes were constructed by private enterprise and were immensely profitable, some paying as high as 80 per cent dividend a year. In 1790 and '91 a party of pioneers under direction of a General Wadsworth improved the trail between Whitestown, in the eastern part of the state, to Canandaigua. In 1797 a law was passed authorizing the raising of \$45,000 by lotteries to improve the state's roads and of this \$2,200 was allotted for the improvement of the Genesee trail, the first public road opened west of Utica.

This great turnpike ran substantially along the route of the old road from Skaneateles by Franklin Street to Auburn and westward through Seneca Falls, Waterloo, Geneva and Canandaigua. Cayuga Lake was the only water obstacle to almost a straight line

of road, so agitation was early started for a bridge, to avoid a detour northward. In 1796 the Cayuga Bridge Company was formed and the biggest engineering undertaking yet attempted in the lake country was launched. The longest bridge in the western hemisphere up to that time was constructed entirely of wood at a cost of \$25,000. It was destroyed by ice in 1808, rebuilt in 1812-'13 and finally abandoned in 1857, all at a cost of \$150,000. The span was more than a mile long and wide enough for three carts to pass. The toll was fifty-six and a half cents.

The western terminus of the bridge was at Bridgeport, where abutments of the historic span are still

visible. Its eastern terminus was marked by a tavern kept by Hugh Buckley, who settled there about 1796. Next to the tavern and the bridge was the first jail in Cayuga County, a log structure built against the bank of the lake, the top being on a level with the embankment. Prisoners were let down through a trap door in the top.

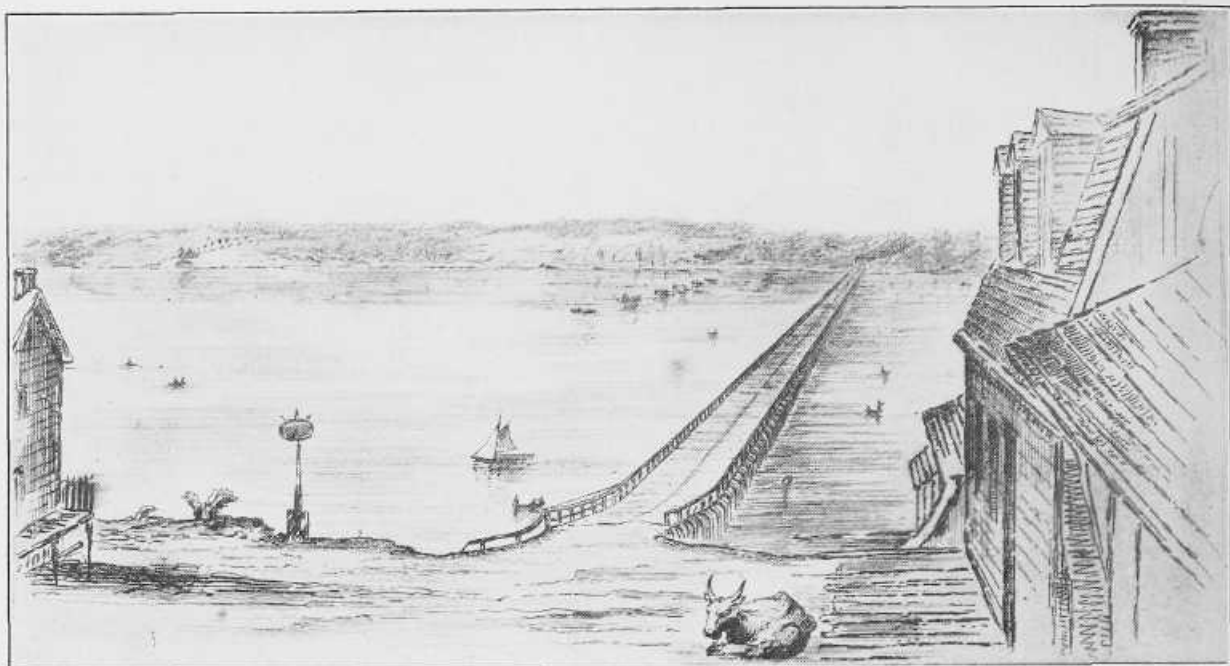
In 1800 the Legislature passed an act incorporating the Seneca Road and Turnpike Company, to run between the home of John House in the village of Utica and the Court House in Canandaigua, substantially covering the route of the old



The cornfields of the Indians first advertised Finger Lakes fertility to soldiers of the Revolution.

Genesee road. The act required the land to be six rods wide and twenty feet of it in the center to be covered with broken stone or gravel to a depth of fifteen inches. Toll gates were to be ten miles apart and the toll for a two horse vehicle, twelve and a half cents; four horses, twenty-five cents. No persons passing to or from their farms with their cattle or teams, carrying firewood, going to or returning from mill for the grinding of grains for family use, going to or returning from any funeral were obliged to pay toll in the town where they resided.

The Cherry Valley turnpike, now known as federal route 20 or the Grant Highway, was also laid out



Courtesy of Miss Florence McIntosh

The Cayuga Bridge, completed in 1800 and extending one and an eighth miles from Cayuga to Bridgeport across Cayuga Lake to carry the stages which traversed the Genesee Turnpike. During the war of 1812 General Wood and General Scott passed over the bridge and the tramp of 3,000 soldiers under their command could be heard on the banks as they wended their way to the Niagara frontier.

in 1800. It ran from Cherry Valley, scene of the famous Indian massacre in Otsego County, to the present site of Skaneateles, there to connect with the Seneca turnpike to the west.

A public road built from Oxford, on the Chenango River directly through to Ithaca in 1791-'93 became the great highway for immigration in the southern part of the state. It was constructed by Joseph Chaplin and extended through Dryden and Groton.

In 1804 the Susquehanna-Bath turnpike, an extension of the great Catskill turnpike from the Hudson, was chartered. It ran from Jericho, now Bainbridge, through Richford, Caroline, Slaterville and Ithaca to Bath. What is now State street, Ithaca, formed a part of this road.

Then in 1807 a charter was granted for a road from Ithaca to Owego and not long afterward construction of a road from Ithaca to Geneva by another turnpike company was underway. Both roads opened in 1811. As many as 800 teams a day passed over the Ithaca-Owego turnpike in a day.

Toll was paid on some of the turnpikes according to the width of the tires, wagons with twelve inch tires being allowed to pass free. A ton of freight cost \$88 from Albany to Buffalo, which fell to \$22 and finally to \$6 with the advent of the Erie Canal. The condition of these earliest roads required the use of three, four and often seven or eight horses to draw a load.

Advent of the turnpike brought two distinct institutions to the lake country—the old time tavern and the stage coach. It was in the lake country that the stage coach made its debut in America. It followed

paths where the questing pioneer had left the deep ruts of his wagon wheels and often his scalp and skeleton as well. The stage coach with the weekly mail; the stage coach with happy honeymooners or with prospectors, home seekers, woodsmen, government officials, adventurers all; the stage coach with its romance and hardship was one of the elements which hastened the upbuilding of the Finger Lakes Region. Stages loaded within and without tore through the country at the rate of three or four miles an hour in "good going." Despite the bitter cold of midwinter, they found it better traveling then than when summer brought a quiet green tunnel through the forest, for the wheels did not go down to the hubs in the mire.

Weekly these lumbering vehicles came through at the start; then twice weekly and finally daily on some of the principal routes. Always they brought a breath from the world outside. To the Finger Lakes Country the stage carried new life, new blood, new contacts; and with it came new cheer, new hope, new ambitions to settlers tired from the strife against the elements in an untamed country they had come to conquer.

The first line of stages across the Finger Lakes Region was provided when in 1804 the Legislature gave Jason Parker and Levi Stevens the exclusive right to run stages for seven years on the great turnpike from Utica to Canandaigua. Passengers in each wagon were limited by law to seven adults and the stages made two trips a week.

In 1809 Isaac Sherwood of Skaneateles became the partner of Jason Parker in the stage lines carrying the U. S. mails to the westward. In 1816 a line of stages



left Canandaigua and Utica every week day to run through in thirty-six hours. The proprietors were Thomas Powell, Jason Parker, I. Whitmore, Aaron Thrope and Isaac Sherwood & Co. They operated the Old Line Mail and held control of the stage business along the Genesee Turnpike until 1828, when the Pioneer Line began competition. The ensuing fight for patronage was bitter.

In this connection a stricter observance of the Sabbath was one of the questions brought to the fore. On February 13, 1828 a convention was held in Auburn, which resulted in the appointment of commissioners to establish a line of stages from Albany to Buffalo, which should travel only six days a week. Delegates pledged themselves to patronize only six day a week stages. Large sums were subscribed through the state for the new six day Pioneer Line, when proprietors of the old line offered to sell out. Their offer was declined and the transportation battle was on.

The pioneer line, choosing Auburn as the seat of the fray, obtained control of the Western Exchange Hotel there, turned from its stables the horses of the older competing line and refused accommodations for the line's passengers. But only a few days before this ejection of the old line's animals and patrons, a bring block was opened in Auburn by John H. Bacon and Thompson Maxwell under the name, the Bank Coffee House, and here headquarters were provided for the



Remnants of the old toll gate office of the Cayuga Bridge at the Bridgeport end. The structure, now remodeled into a summer camp, was the residence of the toll gatherers. The front of the building and the north end have never been materially changed with the exception of slight repairs.

old line. Auburnians, including William H. Seward, Lincoln's secretary of state, came to the aid of the older company and protested curb upon individual conscience as it concerned Sabbath observance.

Splendid new light stage coaches carrying only six passengers and built expressly to compete with the new Pioneer line, were provided by Sherwood & Co. and the line took the name Telegraph Line. It procured the most careful drivers and the best teams and ran day and night. Unqualified success marked its progress. The Pioneer Line, failing to get the federal mail contract and in the face of this opposition, died. The Telegraph Line for seven years held full sway.



To this day, relics of the old stages are still seen in the lake region. One is used yearly on May Day at Wells College. An ancient carriage in which Lafayette once rode is still shown at Geneva.

It was the stage which made the tavern, where brooded romance, adventure, life and where the door of hospitality was thrown wide in a wild, new land. These public places were institutions in a community then. They got closer to the people and the people got closer to them and they were the forum where every topic was discussed. When the creaking stage wheels began their march over corduroy roads, through mud, and over protruding tree stumps, taverns sprang up by hundreds in the lake country. Auburn, then known as Hardenbergh's Corners, boasted more inns and taverns than any place between Utica and Canandaigua.

Historical sketches of individual towns in another part of this volume reveal some of the strange tales of many of the noted old taverns.

When the Erie Canal went through, followed by the hurrying railroads, the halcyon days of the tavern passed forever. But throughout the lake country there are still these sleepy old monuments of a bygone age, some hastening to decay, weatherbeaten, neglected, solitary—others transformed into pleasant rural homes, but only a very few resembling in their cordial hospitality their forebears.

Though of no significance in the settlement of the lake country, a visit of royalty as early as 1797 indicates the rapidity with which a forest wilderness became a humming frontier outpost shortly after the close of the Revolution. In that year Louis Philippe, King of France from 1830 to 1848, on foot and by boat traversed the lake region while on exile to America during the ascendancy of Napoleon. His father had died on the scaffold, his mother was immured in a Paris dungeon and only his two brothers were released on condition they join him in the new world.

The three young men, on the way from Buffalo to Philadelphia, tarried long in the land of the Iroquois. They passed several weeks in Canandaigua, under the



Log Cabin reminiscent of pioneer days.

hospitable roof of Robert Morris. Proceeding to Geneva, they procured a sloop for the long sail up Seneca Lake to what is now Watkins Glen. There they rested several days and then, with packs on their shoulders, they trudged afoot through the forest to Elmira, where they spent some time hunting and fishing. A boat took them down the Chemung, through the Susquehanna and the trip to Philadelphia was overland from Wilkesbarre.

Into the frontiers of the lake country early came the first doctors, with the bulky saddlebag and its calomel, opium, antimony, guaiacum, Peruvian bark, roots and herbs. And with them came steadfastness of purpose, the spirit of service and tireless courage, to wilderness places by the bedside of death and birth.

It was on August 7, 1806 that twenty physicians of Cayuga County gathered at the Daniel Avery Tavern, Aurora, and organized the Cayuga County Medical Society, which in turn was the founder of the Central New York Medical Association.

The Tioga County Medical Society was formed October 13, 1806. Though the first physician to settle in Chemung County came there as early as 1788, the Chemung County Medical Society was not organized until May 3, 1836. The Tompkins County Medical Society was founded in 1818 and the Schuyler County Society was not organized until 1857, although Dr. John W. Watkins, one of the buyers of the "Watkins-Flint Purchase" and the man for whom Watkins Glen is named, was a physician, locating at the head of



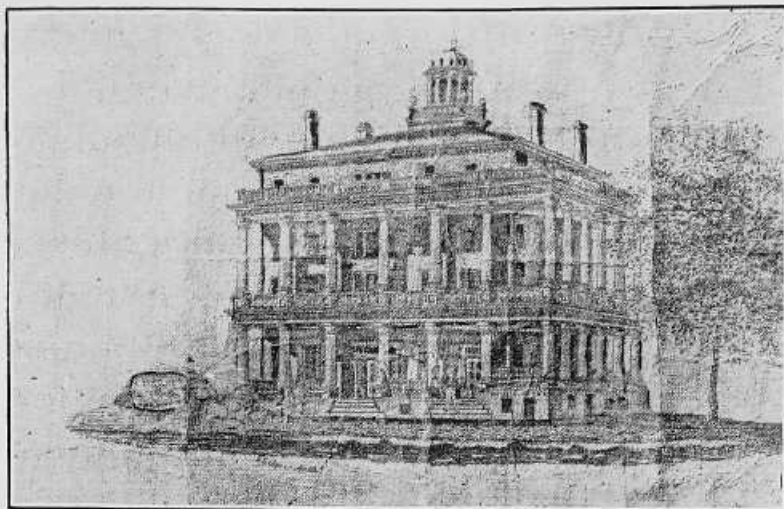
Ancient gun factory in the upper reaches of Taughannock ravine.



Seneca Lake in 1788. The Ontario County Medical Society was organized in 1806 and substantially reorganized in 1852. Early records of the Seneca County Medical Society are lost, but it is known that at a State Medical Society meeting in Albany in 1810, Dr. Oliver C. Comstock presented his credentials from Seneca County and was seated.

No story of the settlement period in the lake country would be complete without mention of that unique group of colonists which penetrated the region during the summer of 1788, to found "The New Jerusalem" for Jedima Wilkinson, later known as the "Universal Friend." Two years previous scouts of this strange woman had entered the wilderness between the lakes to select a place and chose lands near the outlet of Lake Keuka. The first year there were twenty-five Friends but it was not until 1791 that the Friend herself joined her followers.

This strange woman was born in Rhode Island in 1758 and in 1776 experienced a serious illness, during which she claimed to have died. Life did seem almost extinct for thirty-six hours, at the end of which time the woman rose, declared she was no longer Jedima Wilkinson, but was reanimated by the power of Christ. In Connecticut, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts she gained followers, many of whom migrated to the lake country to set up a thrifty colony in what is now Yates county. Their settlement was the first permanent one west of Seneca Lake. The twelve acre wheat field sowed by the Friends

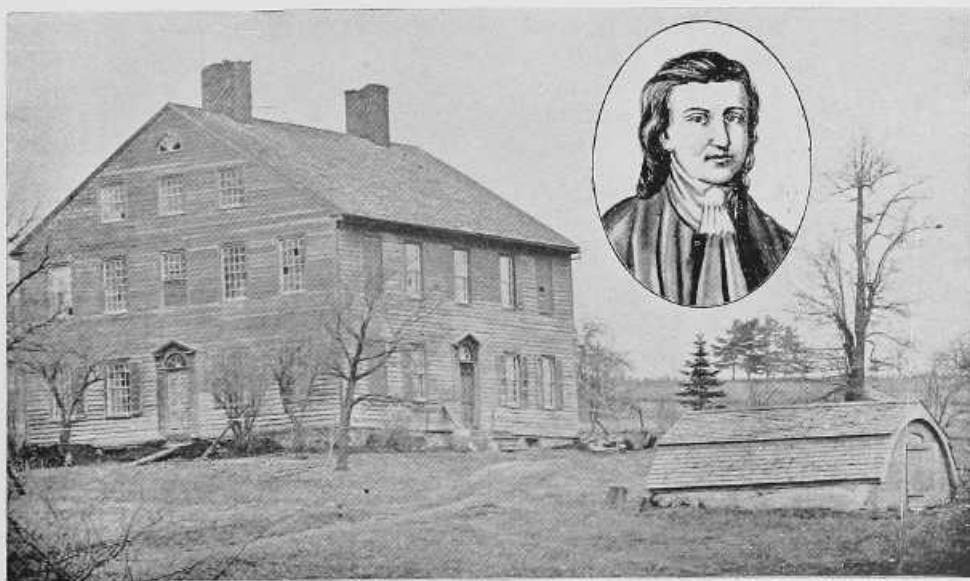


The American Hotel, Auburn, built in 1828-30, upon the site of the old Willard Tavern, constructed about 1810. It was built by Isaac Sherwood, Skaneateles inn keeper, and was a four-story stone building nearly square. As a link between the ancient inn or tavern and the modern hotel, it was unique and was considered the elite public house for miles around. So luxurious were its cuisine and service that bottles of brandy sat every three feet on the table at all meals. The American was leveled by fire.

their first year was also the first west of the lake. The Friends' grist mill erected in 1790 ground the grain for a wide area. The society decreased until the death of its leader in 1819, then passed out of existence.

As the lake country gave a sanctuary home to the Friends, so it likewise gave birth a few years later to Mormonism. In 1819 there lived in the town of Manchester, Ontario County, Joseph Smith, who at eighteen claimed supernatural visions and angel visitors. One of these, he said, told him where were buried certain ancient records of America's original inhabitants. He obtained them on Mormon Hill near Palmyra, translated them and in 1830 the Book of Mormon, from them, was published. Converts were baptised in streams of the lake country and an ardor awakened that spread Mormonism throughout the continent.

The war of 1812 was the first event of the settlement period in the lake country, when the pioneers were halted by the shock of a momentous outside event and engaged in other thoughts besides the development of roads, grist mills, frontier schools and infant



Jedima Wilkinson, (insert) claimed to have risen from the dead. The house was her home when she established a colony in Yates County in the Eighteenth Century. It is still standing.



commercial enterprises. In the war New York State put in the field 40,000 militia and when the nation's resources had been exhausted, Governor Tompkins endorsed a half million in government notes to replenish the empty treasury. Of this force of men and money, the Finger Lakes Region contributed its full share.

To the northward and westward other sections sent troops and the lake region was a thoroughfare for soldiers, who halted at its villages. The early roads, so laboriously fashioned, were damaged greatly by the passage of artillery. But the spirit of the lake country blazed again as America came to grips in war with Britain. Even the waterways of the Finger Lakes came into their own as natural resources of value in national defense.

Congress had an embargo on British Commerce, so that the plaster business along Cayuga Lake, centering at Union Springs, was greatly aided. Heavy demand sprang up as this was the only large plaster quarry then known in the United States. The stone was shipped by boat to Ithaca and then in wagons thirty miles to Owego, where it was put on boats and transported down the Susquehanna. During this period, more than fifty of Philip Yawger's plaster boats at Union Springs were seized by the government and sent to Sacketts Harbor to transport troops to Canada. But the plan was abandoned and the boats, in a great fire, were consumed.

At this time the waterways started the long course of service that was later to make the lake country a garden of prosperity. People along Cayuga Lake, with their own canal boats, used to go down the lake to the Seneca River, which they followed as far as Three Rivers Point. Then they polled across Oneida Lake

and went up Wood Creek. Near Rome there was a small, old fashioned lock which let them into the Mohawk and so to Albany.

The war of 1812 proved the value of lakes and rivers for defense and trade and on April 15, 1817 the Legislature authorized the construction of the Erie Canal. Digging began July 4. By 1822 there were 222 miles of channel open to navigation and in November, 1823 the schooner, Mary and Hanna, owned by enterprising farmers on Seneca Lake, carried a cargo of wheat from Hector Falls to New York, a distance of 350 miles. The start was seventy miles from the Erie, but the connection was made by way of Seneca river through the private locks of the Seneca Lock Navigation Company at Waterloo. The company in 1813 had received a charter to connect Cayuga and Seneca Lakes by canal and finished

the job eight years later.

The full line of the Erie Canal was not completed until October 26, 1825, when the waters of Lake Erie were admitted and the first boats left Buffalo for New York. There was then no telegraph but along the route cannon were fired, bringing the news to the metropolis in just an hour and twenty minutes.

The Seneca Chief which in 1828 came to Seneca Lake as its first steamer, led the canal fleet. The craft was gaily decorated and carried a distinguished party, including Gov. DeWitt Clinton. Crowds gathered at every hamlet, bells rang and parades filled the streets. When the Seneca Chief later made its maiden voyage from Geneva to Savoie, now Watkins Glen, great demonstrations were repeated. The boat plied the lake for twenty years.

Once more the lake country had opportunity to evidence its patriotic temper on the



**LIST OF
STAGE COACHES,
THAT LEAVE
BLOSSOM'S HOTEL,
CANANDAIGUA.**

The Mail Coach,

For Geneva, Erie and Albany, every morning at 11 o'clock.

THE PILOT.

For do, every evening at 7 o'clock.

THE EAGLE.

For do, via Syracuse, every morning at 4 o'clock.

THE MAIL COACH, for Buffalo, every afternoon at 1 o'clock.

THE PILOT, for do, every evening at 9 o'clock.

THE MAIL, for Rochester, every afternoon at 1 o'clock.

PILOT, for do, at 9 P. M.

EAGLE, for do, at 8 A. M.

THE MAIL COACH, for Geneva, Macedon, Warsaw, N. Y., every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, at 4 o'clock A. M.

THE MAIL COACH, for Palmyra, every morning at 1 o'clock.

Aug. 1827.

The Old Blossom House at Canandaigua and stage coach time table. The hotel was built in 1804 and burned in 1851. The present Canandaigua Hotel, its successor, was erected in 1853 and remodeled in 1920. Many notables in traveling through the lake country sojourned within the walls of this famous public house.

occasion of the visit of Lafayette, who passed from Canandaigua eastward through Geneva, to Auburn and Skaneateles eastward in his triumphal journey, in 1825. It was on the morning of June 8 that the official Geneva welcoming committee met Lafayette's suite eight miles west of the town. Lafayette's carriage was drawn by six horses.

The party stopped under the historic Lafayette tree just west of Geneva, catching the first glimpse of sparkling Seneca 200 feet below and two miles distant. A signal gun told Geneva her guest had arrived and nearly a dozen military companies marched to the Lafayette tree, accompanying the party back to Pulteney Park, Geneva, which was gaily decorated. Maidens dressed in white sang and strewed flowers in the path of the carriage. Lafayette spoke at exercises upon an improvised rostrum. Two hundred distinguished citizens dined at breakfast at the new Franklin House with the general.

Old soldiers of the Revolution flocked to meet Lafayette as he passed through Waterloo and Seneca Falls. Stopping at the old Waterloo Hotel, the marquis took a position on the chamber stairs and shook hands with hundreds. It was here that the one accident of

his tour across the lake country occurred to mar an otherwise joyous journey.

An old swivel gun, which had been taken from a brig operated in the African slave trade, was used to fire a salute. To do justice to the occasion, a double charge of power was put in and a mass of flax jammed in upon it. The loaders were then afraid to touch it off and Capt. J. P. Parsons, chancing along and not knowing of the heavy charge, touched off the gun with a match. The gun burst and a fragment killed the captain. When Lafayette later learned the soldier had left a mother, three sisters and a brother without support, he sent the family \$1,000.

Auburn sent its welcoming committee to Cayuga to meet Lafayette and in the village he was greeted by military companies, Masons and veterans of the Revolution. As he passed under an arch erected in his honor, a battery of twenty-four guns boomed out its salute and church bells pealed a greeting, while thousands cheered. After a parade and addresses, the visitor was dined in an open-air pavilion. A ball was given in the old Bostwick tavern at the corner of Genesee and Exchange streets.



Old Mill of Ancient Days at Dundee



In Glenora Glen, in country of the Senecas