

SKETCHES OF THE LIFE OF
HANNAH GORE DURKEE

as told by HERSELF and written
down direct from her lips by
her daughter AMANDA ALLEN

This graphic story of life in the Wyoming Valley of Pennsylvania during the Revolutionary War is told by HANNAH, the daughter of OBADIAH GORE JR AND HIS WIFE ANNA AVERY.

OBADIAH GORE JR was brother to our DANIEL GORE, the sons of OBADIAH GORE & HANNAH PARKE. The two brothers were Connecticut Yankees who moved their families to the wilderness of Wyoming Valley where Wilkes-Barre now stands in 1769 to settle on land they had previously purchased and claimed.

So each time Hannah speaks of her grandparents, they are our grandparents too, being OBADIAH & HANNAH (PARKE) GORE, And her uncle is our DANIEL GORE who was constant companion of her father OBADIAH JR.

This copy was sent to me, Barbara Goodwin Avery, as descendant of DANIEL GORE in November 1988 by William J. Foley of Hackettstown, N.J., descendant of OBADIAH GORE JR & WIFE ANNA AVERY.

At times I have found it necessary to add a word or two for clarification. These explanations are in parenthesis. Otherwise, the story is exactly as told "direct from her lips".

SKETCHES OF THE LIFE OF HANNAH GORE DURKEE
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DAUGHTER AMANDA ALLEN

I WAS BORN IN NORWICH, NEW LONDON COUNTY, CONNECTICUT, SEPTEMBER 8th, 1769. When I was eleven months old my parents moved to Wilkes-Barre, Pa. on land granted by the King to the Connecticut Colonies. They settled on the East side of the Susquehanna River, near Jacobs Plains. My uncle Daniel Gore drew a lot where a battle was fought about a grasshopper. (The emblem of Conn.) The children began quarreling about one and the parents taking sides with their own children until they came to battle. There was buried there three hundred of the slain. I have played hide-and-seek many times among the graves.

We were driven off in six weeks by the Pennymites. My father was taken prisoner by them and while crossing the river he said something displeasing to them, when one of them struck him with his oar across the forehead, which marked him for life. How he got away I do not know; but he went with his family to New Jersey, where he lived about two years and then returned again to Wilkes-Barre.

Father built a saw-mill soon after his return and while he was building it Mother sent my brother Avery across the race to get some hewings to burn. When he was out of her sight he coaxed me to go with him. We crossed close by the mill. While we were crossing he said, "Now Hannah, hold on tight and don't fall into the water." The caution gave me such a fright that I immediately fell in, and he said I was sinking for the third time when he caught me by the hair and raised me out of the water, and fortunately laid me face down and wrung the water out of my clothes as well as he could, and when my reason returned, for fear of censure, he cautioned me to keep still until they were dry.

We lived there about two years, in which time Father built a large two story house, when we were again beset by the ravages of war. Here my Mother gave birth to twin daughters. One of them did not survive long and the other was very weakly and had to be nursed with great care. Her eyes were weak and she had to be kept in a dark room. Many hours have I spent in the same trying to divert her, while Mother lighted the house for her work. We learned that the Pennymites had raised an army and were coming, to plunder everything from the settlers, and burn their houses. Father was stoning a well he had just dug. He got out, shouldered his gun, and every man that was able to bear arms went to meet them. They lay in ambush two miles below Shawaneytown and attacked them there and defeated them. That disperced them, and we were left undisturbed for a while. The Pennymites at that time were commanded by Col. Plunket.

Soon after Father enlisted in the American army under a commission. He came home sometimes for recruits and stayed two or three weeks at a time. I saw him enlist a good many men. He was a Lieutenant in the Connecticut line and was absent at the time of the battle of Wyoming. Many of our neighbors were home on a parole and were killed in the battle.

My Father lived on the East side of the river and my Grandfather Gore lived on the West side. My Mother's parents lived with her at that time. Their names were Avery.

The day after the battle, July 4, 1778, a party of Torys came to the opposite side of the river and concealed all but one to call "Over! Over!" Grandfather Avery thinking him to be a neighbor went after him with a canoe, when they rushed into the canoe and compelled him to row them over. They went to the house and told Mother to carry out such things as she wished to save as they were going to burn it. She

commenced to carry out the best of her goods, and as fast as she carried them out they took them down to the river where the rest of the party had arrived, to carry off the plunder with their canoes. After collecting such things as they wished to take away, they set fire to the house and left it.

Mother brought water and extinguished the flames. Soon another party came and fired it, and told her if she put it out her life would be the forfeit. My parents saw it burn and then started for New Jersey on foot carrying such things as they could, provisions and clothing. Mother had my youngest sister to carry in her arms. She was then three years old. They had to walk through thirty miles of woods and encamped on the ground in the open air. Grandfather and Grandmother continued their journey through to Connecticut with several others and performed the whole journey on foot and subsisted upon the charity of the people.

At this time I was living with Grandfather Gore near Forty Fort and went to the fort with them July 2nd when the alarm came. My Uncle Asa Gore's wife was in travail. She gave birth to a son and then was carried immediately to the fort. The next day, Friday July 3rd, 1778, our men, under Col Zebulon Butler, paraded all that were able to bear arms, and marched out to meet the enemy. I had seven uncles in the battle and out of these five were killed and one was wounded. Silas, Asa and George Gore were killed as were Timothy Pierce and John Murphy who married my uncles' sisters. Daniel Gore was wounded in his left arm.

In the evening we sat outside of the Fort when we heard the voice of a man upon the opposite side of the river. They called to know who he was and he replied "Daniel Gore". Grandmother said "Have I one son living?" with such an expressive voice that it still sounds in my ears. My head at the time was lying in her lap and we were all absorbed in grief. They brought him over and dressed his wounds and he left again under cover of night as did all the rest that remained alive.

The next day the Fort surrendered and the Indians began plundering. They made the women give up their beads and other ornaments. My Aunt Sally Gore had a chest of clothing that was very nice and she went and sat upon it; a young Indian told her to get up. She said she would not; he went out and an older one came in with a tomahawk and she resisted his commands. The entreaties of her friends made her leave it to their inspection. They distributed her clothing among the squaws, one of them putting her new white satin bonnet on hind side before and wore it off.

After securing such things as their fancy led them to carry away, they began the work of destruction by cutting open beds and strewing feathers and straw. They emptied meal, flour and all kinds of provisor and strewed them to the wind in a common mass. I was broken out with the measles at the time and they put me in a bed with my sick Aunt to keep them from disturbing her; it had the desired effect. Few ventured into the room. One Indian came in with her husband's vest on and wore it away, and by that she knew her husband was killed. She gave her son his Father's name, Asa Gore. We stayed there two or three days until Aunt could be moved.

I can never forget the heartrendering sighs and sobs at the sound of the guns that was completing the work of death. Word came that there was a Nation of Indians coming that could not speak a word of English, and everyone would be killed that were found there. We then put up such things as we could carry in packs and handkerchiefs and started for New Jersey. We traveled two days passing a great many that had given out by the way. Some sick, others weary. We passed a great

many infants that drew their first breath by the roadside, among them a pair of twins; their mothers' beds were hemlock boughs and their covering was poles and brush with sometimes an article of clothing or blanket added. They remained in this condition until our army was apprised of it and they sent pack horses with provisions to help them through the woods. They carried those unable to walk until they got to inhabitants in the Eastern part of Pa. Here Grandfather Gore stopped he got the use of a small house of a man by the name of Stroud, Stroudsburg being about 50 miles from Wyoming. The rest disbanded and went to different parts of the country, many going through to Connecticut.

We remained here a few days without knowing whether the rest of our friends were living or not. One day Grandmother called me from my play and I came running in. My Father sat there. We were neither of us able to speak for sometime. After a while he asked me to get him a drink. I took a small pail and went to the spring and there gave vent to my tears. I went back with the water and gave him drink and then he took me on his lap and asked me if I wanted to see my Mother; I told him yes. He said she was at Mr. Bucoy's in New Jersey with the rest of the children. They were all alive and they supposed all on the West side of the river were killed. Father got a passage for Mrs. Satterlee, her four children and myself in a baggage wagon to go within a few miles of where Mother was. Mrs. Satterlee's husband was killed in the battle and she was returning to her friends in Connecticut. Two of my Aunts had gone there before. Mrs. Satterlee begged food by the way; sometimes we fared well, at others we considered ourselves among Torays. After we separated a kind man took me on a horse and carried me to where Mother was.

After our people took possession of Wyoming again and established guards there, Father went with my Uncle Asa's widow to Connecticut where she with her son became an inmate of the Avery family. She lived there about seven years and then married a man by the name of Murphy. Mr. and Mrs. Avery had no children and they adopted Asa (Gore) and made him heir to a handsome property. The old people lived and died with him. The last knowledge I had of him, he remained on the farm left him in New London.

Father returned and after burying their dead they erected barracks and small houses, and many lived in or near the Fort. The men tried to secure their crops. The Indians were frequent visitors and often killed them while at work in the fields. Four men and a boy crossed the river to work. The Indians crept under the brush that grew along the fence until they got near them, then rushed out, killed and scalped the men, stabbed the boy nine times and took off his scalp. The cannon was fired from the Fort which frightened them away and as soon as it was deemed prudent they crossed with the canoes and carried them over. The boy was alive and recovered. The men's faces were all cut in gashes.

Mr Cansey and another man were out hunting and were taken prisoners and carried to Canada. They were afterwards redeemed. Mr Bennett and son, and Mr Hammond were taken prisoners and carried to Meshoppen. There they killed the Indians and returned. A party of Indians lay in ambush several days watching for Captain Franklin and not being able to get him, they went to his house Sunday, April 7, 1782, took his wife and four children prisoners and carried them to Meshoppen, that being their place of resort. Our men went in pursuit and found them. They had placed them under guard and had commanded them to lie flat upon the ground to keep them from being discovered. Mrs. Franklin raised her head to look about, and an Indian told her if she did it again he would kill her. This did not keep her quiet and she raised

her head a second time and he shot her; she died on the spot; and then they took her babe and beat its brains out against a tree. Our men put them to fight and carried back the children and left the dead, not thinking it prudent to stay to bury them. They afterwards went after them. Mrs. Franklin's clothes were on the ground as she lay in them, the body was gone and never found. Her two oldest sons were prisoners at Niagara at the time. The Indians came into the house of Mr Lester, killed him and scalped him, took his wife and four children prisoners. The two oldest were daughters. The boys died. Mrs. Lester and daughters remained in captivity until the close of the war when Mrs. Lester and one of them was released, and in a few months Mrs. Lester and Captain Franklin were married and they went in pursuit of the other daughter. According to the treaty the prisoners were to be sent to Niagara. They were there; she had not been sent in and after much inquiry they learned she was on Grand river in Michigan.

An Indian was sent to pilot Franklin to the tribe she was with. They found her and as soon as they made their business known, the squaws began making great lamentations and tore their hair and she utterly refused to leave the Indians; and when they compelled her to come, the squaws tore her clothing off and left her naked. Franklin wrapped his horse blanket about her; then mounted his horse and an Indian handed her up to him and he carried her off by force. They joined her Mother at Niagara, then they returned home. They stopped at Father's to dinner and we tried every way we could to familiarize her to the ways of the white people. She was then about fourteen and a squaw in everything except color. She talked with me afterwards and said she was always mortified in company and yet was unable to overcome her Indian traits and carried them with her all her life. She married a Mr. Cole and was one of the first settlers of Scipio.

July 4, 1778, the next day after the battle when they came into the Fort, Queen Ester, a half breed squaw, said she never was so tired in her life as she was yesterday; she killed fourteen. One of my uncles was one of the numbered she killed. One man escaped to tell the fate of the others.

After this the Indians continued their depredations upon the inhabitants. Some days had elapsed since any Indians had been seen about there and Uncle Daniel Gore and Mr Abbott went out to look at their farms a little more than a mile off. They were discovered by a party that gave chase. Mr Abbot being in the rear was shot and they stopped to scalp him; that gave Uncle a chance to escape.

A young man came to the Fort famished, weary, ragged and dirty. He said his name was Myers, that he was taken near Sunbury. The Indians had been so troublesome that a party had turned out to hunt them down. They found no signs of them and had sat down to eat their lunch and some of them had begun to play cards. The Indians came upon them unexpectedly and killed all but him and another one. He was with them two days when he managed to get hold of one of their knives and cut the cord he was bound with and crept softly away until he was out of their hearing. He had been gone sixteen days and lived on barks and roots. The life of the other man had paid the forfeit of his escape. He said he was treated very harshly by them. Mother washed and mended his clothes and he started for home.

Before the battle we lived near Jonathan Slocume. They had a daughter about my age. Her name was Frances. We went to school together. Mr Slocume, his son William and Chester Kingsley were out some way

from the Fort to grind some knives; Frances was with them. The Indians killed Mr Slocume, wounded William and took Frances and Chester prisoners. Every means was taken to find them, but to no purpose. Whenever Mrs. Slocume saw me it brought to mind her lost Frances and many has been the time I have witnessed her tears in speaking of her. After she became old she was found among the Miamies in Indiana surrounded by an Indian family of her own. Chester was never heard from to my knowledge. Mr Slocume's house was not destroyed and the family remained there unmolested until our people retook the Fort and built barracks; then they moved to the Fort.

The Indians had been so troublesome that it was thought best to send the army to destroy their crops and habitations. They went to Tioga Point, thence to Catherinetown and down the west side of Seneca to Geneva, cutting their road as they went. They encamped with the main army at Tioga; then sent out parties to destroy their crops and wigwams. When the crops were near enough to Genesee river, they threw them in there; at other times they burnt them. The Indian families had all left and kept before the army. Their warriors were on the lurk to kill our men when they could. By one of their parties Boyd was tortured because he would not tell them the situation of our army. He made signs of being a Freemason; the chief, understanding him, gave orders not to kill him, but to provide food for him, as he was going away to be gone some days. After he was gone they questioned him again. He would tell them nothing. They took out one end of his intestines and fastened it to a tree and drove him around until they were wound on the tree, scalped him and left him. He was found the next day by a party of our men. My sister's husband, John Spaulding, was one that assisted in carrying him into camp.

After surveying the country around Genesee, Moscow and Allens Hill, they returned to Seneca Lake and divided; some going between the lakes, others went around the outlet of Cayuga Lake to the East side. There they found a large hewed log house, called a castle, built for a place of worship. It had a large brass lock on the door. Father took it off, carried it home and put it on his own door, and it still remains there. They burned the castle and I think it stood near where Levannah now stands.

The two armies met at Ithaca again. They cut down a large orchard near Geneva. At Chemung river they had a warm skirmish with the Indians. They were in a gulf between the hills. When the inhabitants were returning to Wyoming after the massacre the small-pox broke out in the army.

Grandfather and Grandmother (Gore) returned two weeks before we did and moved into a house Father had built, and while Father was after us, Grandfather and Grandmother were both taken very sick. When we got into the neighborhood we were halted, vaccinated and stayed there some days. Grandfather wished to see us very much. We were not permitted to go there until he died. Then Mother and I were allowed to look through the window and view the cold remains of one who had been so very dear to me. I felt his loss very much. (Obadiah Gore, the father of Obadiah and Daniel and the sons lost in the battle, died of small-pox 10 Jan 1779, six months after the Wyoming Massacre)

Grandmother recovered. The house was cleaned and we moved there.

Father had hired a woman to pick up feathers from the corners of the fences and other lodging places. She had enough for two beds and we made ticks from old tent cloth. We lived there on small means,

witnessing scenes of cruelty every few days. A man and a boy were boiling sap in their cabin. The Indians tomahawked and poured boiling sap down the man's throat, scalped him and took the boy prisoner. Men crossed over to Kingston Flats to work; the Indians were secreted among the bushes and killed a number of our men, and they killed an Indian noted for his bravery. He was called Anthony Turkey. The rest disappeared. Our men brought over their dead and brought Anthony Turkey, laid him on the green before the Fort and all went to get at view. The next day they fitted up an old canoe and placed him in a sitting position, fasted a rooster between his legs with a peck of corn before him, wrote a pass and fastened it to his hand, stating where he started from & shoved him in the current of the river. Shortly after the Indians came near the Fort in the night and said they had killed Anthony Turkey; but they had another Anthony, his name was Anthony Kneebuckle and they defied them to come out to kill him, thinking they would get them out in that way. We were often alarmed in the night and ran to the Fort. Much of the time we slept with our clothes on.

A party went out to see what they could discover and they found a mulatto with a very fine spy-glass. They could not get him to speak a word. They marshalled him, sentenced him to have his fingers pinched with bullet moulds, and put him to torture in other ways yet could not get a word out of him. They sent him to headquarters as a spy. As Father was officer of the day, they gave the spy-glass to him. Forty Fort is on the west side of the Susquehanna river opposite Kingston Flats. It was called Forty Fort because forty men from Connecticut helped to build it. I think Grandfather was one of the forty men.

There were three or four beautiful springs came out of the bank directly in front of the Fort, and there the river is so wide that small arms on the opposite side can do no damage. The guard house was a short distance from it, and a part of the time it was occupied for a schoolroom. One day we heard the report of a gun directly in front of the door soon after school had commenced for afternoon. A scene of confusion instantly commenced; teacher and scholars sprang for the door and windows, getting out as best we could, and ran for the Fort.

Soon after we learned an Indian had been concealed in the bushes watching the movements at the Fort and that there were one hundred farther back. They expected to come at night and take the Fort by surprise. He said he could have hit a number of us with his gun while we were at play at noon. Our seat ran from the door directly back and was filled with scholars. He pointed his gun to see how many he could hit with one shot and in putting his gun down, it accidentally hit against a bush and it went off and put all on our guard. They left for that time. When General Sullivan was marching his army into Wilkes-Barre to drive back the Indians, Father watched until he saw them come over the mountain, then he called us all to him and let us look through the spy-glass to see them, and then told us we might go to bed and sleep that night. Our joy was beyond description.

These scenes finally closed and we were settled quite securely when March 24, 1784 we were visited by an ice flood in the night, which did great damage. We were awakened by one of our neighbors after the water had surrounded our house. We all got away and went to high land, where we were joined by many others. They built a large fire in the field and we stayed there until daylight, when they

discovered a family by the name of Pierce in a black-walnut tree that was standing in front of their door. He had drawn his canoe up near his house and lashed it to a tree to feed his cattle in. He awoke in the night to find his bed in water. They went into the chamber and then knocked a hole through the roof and sat on the peak of the house. A son four years old was left in the house until near day when a cake of ice came against the house and knocked the chimney down and he called out "What's that?" They asked to know where he was and he said "Here, on a board"; they drew him up with the rest of the family and finally they succeeded in getting in their canoe, and from there to the tree where they stayed until near noon before they could be got off.

The settlement was mostly over-flowed and nearly all their cattle, sheep and hogs were drowned or carried away in the night. In the morning we saw a hen-coop floating down with a rooster on the top crowing. Such a flood had not been known before, and I have not heard of any since that compared with it. (A monument at Forty Fort Cemetery commemorates the flood of 23 June 1972 when 2500 burial sites were swept away from this same spot on the west banks of the Susquehanna)

Father and others went about ten miles to a place that had been evacuated in the time of the war and cut grains to winter their cattle. My brother Avery (Gore) and another man went there to take care of them. They carried their provision, built a cabin and cooked for themselves. The winter was very severe and the snow very deep, so there was no passing to and fro until near the middle of March, when three men fixed snow-shoes and went to see what had been their fate. They found them well. After they had eaten what provisions they had carried, they killed a heifer and lived on beef. They stayed with them a few days, then they took the fences from the stacks and all started for home and got there a few days before the flood. By this means our cattle were saved; our hogs were drowned. The darkness of the night was doubtless a great saving to human life; as they could see nothing they all escaped as fast as they could to high ground. Only one man was drowned near there.

Mr Asa Jackson and Uncle Daniel Gore were together. Uncle got into his canoe and paddled safely across the flats; the other man got on his horse and rode part way across when a block of ice came against him and they both drowned (Jackson and his horse).

As soon as the water had settled, we returned to our house. My brother was the first to enter. He stepped on a loose board and went under water into the cellar. A chest we had our best clothes in had a pound of coperas in also and it had colored them all nicely, and everything about the house would compare with that. All went to work again to prepare for Spring's work.

Then on May 1st we received orders from the Pennymites (Pennsylvania Militia in contest with Conn. settlers for 20 years!) to leave the place. They had a treaty with the Indians and had hired them to come and plunder and drive off the settlers; many of them not wishing to engage in any more warfare, prepared to move, some going to Connecticut, others went up the river about thirty miles to a place called Bowman's creek. We started the 16th for that place. The first day we went ten miles. There were sixty in the company and each one that was able had a pack or bundle. The heavy articles were carried in canoes. At night they would unload and camp until daylight. The second morning we saw a boat returning, and Mother returned with them, and they

brought up some goods for her. She had gotten a passage for Sally, my youngest sister, in a canoe and left Anna and myself to make our way as best we could with the others. We kept in their company until we came to my Uncle Samuel Gore's on Bowman Flats. He had driven down some stakes, peeled some bark and wove it in to make a small room. Mother returned in a few days.

At that time Father was in the Assembly in New Jersey and did not return until June. After making their families as comfortable as possible, the men went back to defend their rights. They had a battle and many were killed on both sides. Then the Pennymites resorted to stratagem. They proposed coming together next day to have a settlement. They all may according to agreement, all laid down their arms, and as soon as the attention of our men was drawn toward the speaker, their commander got orders to raise arms, and they secured the guns of our men and took most of them prisoner. My brother was one of them, and was kept in jail until there was a settlement with the Colonies. And Colonel Swift tried to set fire to the Fort in their possession one dark night. He was discovered and wounded by a shot from the Fort. His men carried him away and concealed him until he could be carried farther. Then they brought him to our house. He was there three weeks. He left as soon as he was able, for the enemy were on the lookout for him. He started in the morning for Owego. That night there came a company and surrounded our house, and two or three came in so still that none awoke until they lighted a candle, when the light awakened Father. They asked for Colonel Swift and Father told them that he left there in the morning and he thought him out of their reach by that time. They searched until they were satisfied, then laid down upon our floor, which was of solid earth, until morning. Our house was in part the one my uncle built of stakes and bark.

After my Father returned he added another room of bushes and in there we lived until November. Then Father and Mother went down the river to get the rest of their goods and left my three sisters and myself alone. The second day we saw a boat coming up the river. We watched and it did not pass. We could see no one, yet could hear their voices and being accustomed to the fear of men, we put out our light, and covered the fire and sat outdoors the most of the night. We were not disturbed. We learned afterwards that they had been stealing plums as there was a large plum orchard near.

In November Father, with two other families, moved about fifty miles up the river. The season had been very dry and warm, and the river was low. Our goods were carried in canoes with hands to row them. The rest traveled on foot along the bank of the river. The boats often got stuck and we had ropes fastened to them to pull them along the bank. All took hold to help and some of us were in the water most of the time, assisting in towing the boats. My uncle had the fever and ague, and every other day he rode on horseback. His fits came on in the afternoon, and Wealthy and myself took turns going ahead to wait on him while his fits were on. We would go as far as we thought the company would go that day, and then make what preparations we could for their coming. One night the boats did not come. The boys got there with the cows. I carried a drinking cup and we all had our supper and breakfast from that cup. We had a blanket on the horse that Uncle wrapped around him. I had the saddle for a pillow, and the boys found their beds the best they could. The rest of the company came up about ten o'clock. They had had more than usual trouble with the boats, and after taking a rest, we all moved on.

We settled near the mouth of the Chemung river on Queen Esther Flats, stayed there one year, then moved ten miles down the river on the opposite side in the town of Sheshequin. There my parents spent the rest of their days, and there grandmother Gore died in 1804, aged 84. (Hannah Parke Gore, born & married in Norwich Conn, came to the wilds of Wyoming Valley Pa. where she lost her children and her home time after time, moving from place to place as a widow, finally spending her last days in the comfortable colonial home of her son, Judge Obadiah Gore Jr. at Sheshequin, Bradford County Pa. on the N.Y. border)

At the age of nineteen, October 19, 1788, I was married to Elisha Durkee, who was born June 6, 1764 and died August 21, 1819. We moved to Scipio, New York, in company with William Patrick and family. There had been one company gone before us. They followed the old Sullivan road to the head of Seneca Lake. There they fixed up some boats left there by the army and went down the lake, and from Seneca river up the outlet of Cayuga Lake. Our boat was leaky and we had to unload and caulk it often, and dry our clothes. We had but little and it took but little time to unload. We would go ashore and camp each night.

When we arrived at our destined place, Mr. Durkee drove down two stakes in front of a large log, put up some poles and covered the top with bark and set up bushes at the end. There we spent the summer of 1789. In the fall we built a log house on the east shore of Cayuga Lake, about half way between where Aurora and Lavannah now stand. All the boards used were split and hewed.

In December I gave birth to a daughter, Betsy Durkee, who was the first white child born in the town of Scipio (N.Y.). We lived there for two years and it had in that time become settled all along the shore for miles. Captain that married Mrs. Lester moved here and settled on a farm where Aurora now stands, with money to pay for it when it came for sale, but not being able to see his neighbors starve around him, he had lent his money to buy provisions with, so he could not pay for the whole farm. He agreed with a man to deed the whole farm and leave him half. The man had a friend that was willing to join him in robbing Capt Franklin of it all. That was too much for him. He became deranged and shot himself. It was a heavy blow to the settlement for he had been like a father to them all.

We lived in the Indian Reserve and got our Title from them. In 1791 Governor Clinton sent orders to drive off the inhabitants and burn their buildings and fences, and we were again compelled to be homeless. Our house was burned as well as all the others. I had two children at that time. I stayed there and cooked by the fire of our house for one week, then started on horse-back with my children for Sheshequin, Pa. Mr. Durkee built a rail pen chinked with buckwheat straw and stayed there through the winter to care for his cattle. In the spring he moved on the old Watkins farm at Scipioville, New York, and lived one year. Then he bought a farm of two hundred acres of Gilbert Tracy for one dollar twenty-five cents and acre, one mile west and one mile south of what is now Scipio Center.

(NOTE: This concludes the saga of Hannah Gore Durkee as told to her daughter Amanda Allen. Along with the copy of this document sent by William Foley came a copy of "A DIARY OR JOURNAL KEPT BY LIEUT. OBADIAH GORE, IN MAJOR GENERAL SULLIVAN'S MARCH TO GENESEE RIVER, reprinted from Wyoming Historical & Geological Society, Proc. and Coll., v. 19". Also the following military record:)

Ancestor's Service in the Continental Army during the American Revolution.

In August 1776 Lieutenant Obadiah Gore raised a company of men in Wyoming, Pennsylvania, then claimed by Connecticut, and marched them to Washington's headquarters in New Jersey. His commission as First Lieutenant by Congress bore date January 1, 1777, and his company was assigned to the third regiment Connecticut Line; Under orders of April 14, 1777 the regiment rendezvoused at Hartford, and marched from there to Peekskill on the Hudson, where it went into camp in May 1777 and was attached to the First Connecticut Brigade, commanded by General Israel Putnam along the Hudson fortifications there. In the summer of 1778 the Brigade encamped at White Plains with Washington's main army and Lieutenant Gore was there when the battle and massacre of Wyoming occurred. In that battle three of his brothers and two of his brothers-in-law were killed. His services continued along the Hudson and in Connecticut and New Jersey until the summer of 1779 when he accompanied General Sullivan in the expedition against the Six Nations in New York. Returning, he came again under the command of General Washington in the main army and wintered at Morristown, New Jersey, 1778-1779. His service was continuous from August 1776 to January 1781.

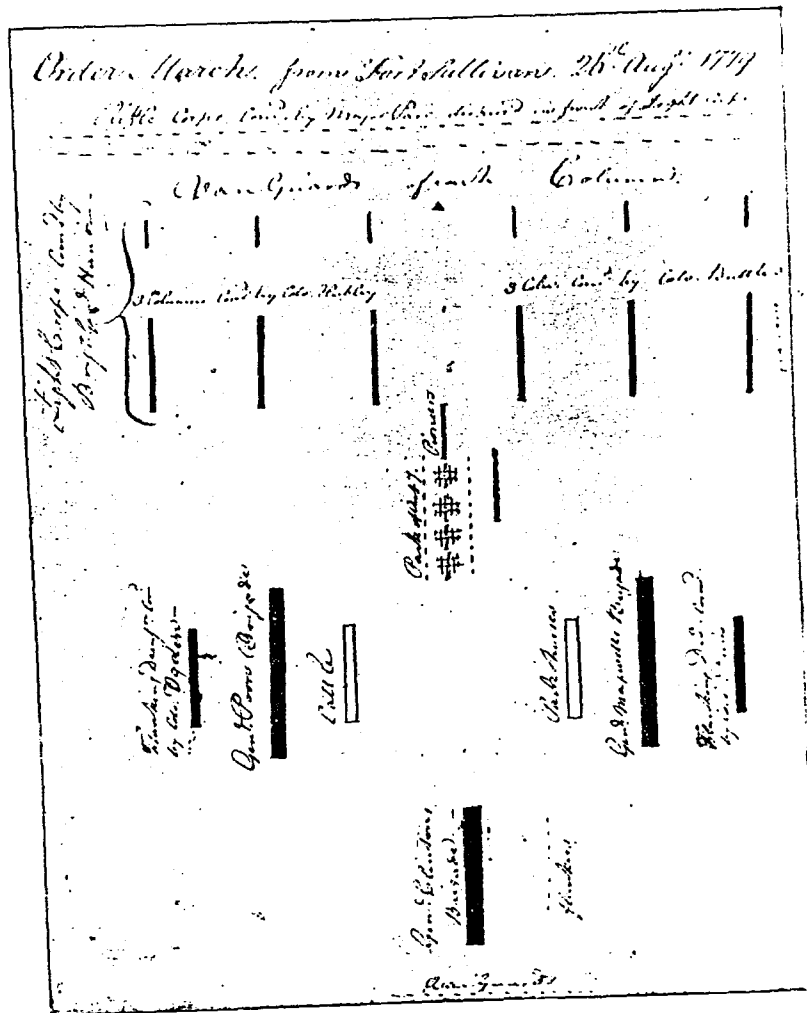
Obadiah Gore Jr was born in Norwich, Connecticut April 7, 1744 and died at Sheshequin, Pennsylvania March 22, 1821.

A DIARY OR JOURNAL KEPT BY LIEUT. OBADIAH GORE, IN MAJOR
GENERAL SULLIVAN'S MARCH TO GENESEE RIVER

[Reprinted from Wyoming Historical and Geological Society,
Proc. and Coll., v. 19]

- 1779 July 31st The army left Wyoming and marched to Lackawanna
9 miles, and encamped on the north side of the river. The boats
did not come up. They sunk one loaded with amunitions (sic).
August 1st Marched at 4 o'clock P. M. and went to Wylatomanck,
7 miles.
August 2d Lay in camp all day; David Brown was wounded.
August 3d Marched at 6 o'clock A. M. and went to Tunkhannack
10 miles.
August 4th Marched at 5 o'clock A. M. and went to a black walnut
bottom. Two Indians were discovered near Meshopping.
August 5th Marched to Wyalusing. Wm. Stewart left a man sick,
alone at his Drovers Encampment, and when relief was sent him
the next day, they found him dead. Also one fell from the boat,
when on the way to Wyalusing, and was drowned; and another
died very sudden, immediately after the arrival of the army at
Wyalusing the same day.
August 6th Lay in camp all day. At evening Lt. Cramer and
three of our men went out to scout for some days; and we were
ordered to march tomorrow morning at 7 o'clock.
August 7th It rained hard in the morning, upon which we were
ordered not to march; this day, at 12 o'clock, the light infantry
and our rifle men were ordered on a scout, and returned without
any discovery.
August 8th Marched at 5 o'clock to Wysocks. On our way we met
Lt. Cramer with his party, that was sent out the 6th, who had
discovered the tracks of some Indian spies. General Sullivan's
health not permitting him to ride, he came this day in the boats,
which with the main army did not come farther than the Standing
Stone, about 3 miles back of the light troops.
August 9th Waited until 10 o'clock for the army to come up; at
which time we marched to the upper Shashequin Falls; which is
a large piece of Bottom Land, that the whole army encamped
upon it at night. This day, passing a narrow defile upon the
side of Breakneck mountain, three oxen fell down the bank and
killed themselves, and in the evening one of the small boats
loaded with flour was stove, and her loading lost by reason of
darkness.

FROM WILLIAM J. FOLEY
29 NANCY TERRACE
HACKETTSTOWN NJ 07840
SENT TO BARBARA GOODWIN AVERY
JEFFERSON N. C. 28640
NOV 1988



(Courtesy Pennsylvania Historical)

ORDER OF MARCH, AUG. 6, 1779, FROM HUBLEY'S JOURNAL

August 10th Lay in camp. This day a large scout was sent up to Tioga, and found a milch cow, and returned without any other discovery.

August 11th Marched at 7 o'clock, and in about one mile the whole army forded the river, and marched upon the west side, about five miles, to Tioga. We forded that, and encamped in the Forks, about 11½ miles from the mouth. At evening, Lieut. Jenkins with a party went near to Chemong to reconnoitre the town. Discovered some of the enemy's horses and cattle.

August 12th Lieut. Jenkins returned and our whole brigade, who were able to march, were ordered out together, with part of General Poor's brigade; we

August 13th Marched all night, and at day break reached the lower end of Chemong Flats, where the enemy's advance picket were posted; they evacuated it without discharging a gun, and alarmed the town, that when we surrounded it, the folks were all gone from home. However, we pursued them about one mile above the town, and were fired upon from an ambuscade of about 40 or 50 of the enemy, and in about 6 miles we gained the height where the enemy were. After we had reconnoitred the woods round, we returned and burnt the town, and proceeded to destroy the corn. In effecting that, Col. Cilly of General Poor's brigade was fired upon by the enemy; they returned the fire, which routed them the second time. After we had destroyed the town, corn, etc., we returned at night to Tioga, much fatigued.

Aug. 14th Lay in camp all day.

15th A number of cattle-drivers, over on the south side of Tioga, after the cattle etc. were fired upon by a party of Indians. Jabez Elliot was killed and scalped, and one other wounded; also one missing.

16th A detachment of 900 men from the army, under the command of Gens. Poor and Hand, were sent with eight days provisions up the Susquehanna River to meet General Clinton.

17th Lay in camp. At about sun-set, a party of Indians attacked a number of packhorse-drivers, that were after their horses, and killed one, wounded another. They both belonged to the German battalion. A scout was sent in quest of them, but to no purpose.

18th Lay in camp; at 11 o'clock Doct. Rogers delivered a funeral sermon, occasioned by the death of Capt. Davis and Lieut. Jones, members of the Society of Free Masons. This day there was so great a demand for men for guards, pickets, and scouts, that there was only 4 privates off duty in the whole brigade.

- 19th Lay in camp. Nothing happened worthy of notice.
- 20th Lay in camp. In the morning, a boat came from Genl. Clinton's army, who informed they were at Owago, about 24 miles distant. It rained all day; kept close in our quarters.
- 21st Still lay in camp.
- 22d At about 11 o'clock the detachment under the command of General Poor and Hand, that marched from here the 16th returned, in company with General Clinton's brigade, and upward of 200 batteaux, pieces of cannon, etc. They received a compliment of the discharge of 13 cannon from our artillery, and three huzzas: from which they proceeded down to the other encampment.
- 23d Received orders to make preparation for marching the 25th into the Indian country. Arrangements of regiments etc. were made in the brigades. In the afternoon, Capt. Kimball, of Col. Cilly's regiment, was killed by the accidental discharge of a gun, and one other wounded.
- 24th The 4th Pennsylvania regiment and the Rifle Corps joined our brigade. We left our encampment about 3 o'clock P. M. and marched about 100 rods in front, and there encamped at night. This day another gun was accidentally discharged, in the lower encampment, that wounded a man in the thigh. We were ordered to march tomorrow morning.
- 25th Were detained by the Commissary and Qu. Master's Departments; in the morning at about 10 o'clock, 3 Indians came into camp, said to be friend-Indians from Oneida, and about the same time of day, it began to rain and continued. While just night this day, John Cary came into camp, in company with two expresses from Fort Pitt. We were ordered to march at 8 o'clock tomorrow morning.
- 26th The whole army marched at 12 o'clock and advanced 4 miles and encamped, with a view of crossing Tioga in the morning but the river had risen over night near 3 feet.
- 27th Marched about 8 o'clock A. M. and went about 6 miles. In this day's march we passed a narrows, or defile, by the side of the river in which we broke a waggon; and other difficulties attended that impeded our march the greater part of the day. Clinton's brigade, that brought up the rear of the army, did not pass the defile this day; however, we reached and encamped in a most beautiful tract of land, that had been possessed by the Tories; in which they had 30 or 40 acres of extraordinary corn, beans, potatoes, tobacco, turnips, etc.; a great rarity:

- troops. This place was evacuated by the enemy, previous to our march to Chemong.
- 28th In the fore part of the day, our troops were busily employed in destroying the corn, etc. At 3 o'clock P. M. the army were assembled to march, when 4 or 5 of the enemy on the other side of the river came down, and fired upon the boatmen and immediately run back into the woods. However, we marched that night, and encamped at Chemong.
- 29th Marched at 8 A. M. and our advanced parties frequently discovered Indians in front, and at the distance of about 4 miles, they had a breast-work situated on a very advantageous height. The rifle corps crept up, and amused them with a scattering fire for 2 or 3 hours, attended with some execution, while our artillery could be brought up to play upon them. Meantime, Genls. Poor and Clinton's brigades advanced to gain the enemy's rear. At 3 P. M. we begun a cannonade upon the breast-work, and in about 6 minutes they began to run and quit their works, which our advance party took possession of immediately. The right flank of the enemy, in their flight, fell in with General Poor's brigade, who gave them a warm reception, which put them in such precipitation, as to leave packs, blankets, guns, powder and even an officer's commission etc. We found 9 dead, and took 2 prisoners, and have reason to think that considerable other execution was done, as there was great quantities of blood found in their paths. In all which, we had only 5 killed and twenty three wounded. We passed the breast-work about one mile, and encamped at night. The troops were much animated with this days success.
- 30th The army lay in camp all day, while a large fatigue party was sent out to destroy the corn and other vegetables about this place, which amounted to some hundreds of acres of extraordinary good corn, beans, pumpkins, squashes, turnips and potatoes. Also we burnt several Indian buildings. Sundry horses were taken up this day; likewise a great quantity of Indian baggage; such as blankets, leggins, moccasins, skins and many other valuable effects. In one Indian pack was found 46 hard dollars, and a great number of brooches and beads; in another was found thirteen guineas.
- Aug. 31st Marched at 10 A. M. and went 10 miles, over an extraordinary good country of land; whereon was a considerable number of Indian buildings, which we burnt. The Indians had hid abundance of their treasures, which our soldiers found. Corn-

fields were numerous and excellent good. This day we left Tioga. Some canoes were seen going up the river, upon which the rifle-corps and a company of the light infantry were sent after them, but they did not come up with them; however, they burnt a number of buildings, and destroyed about 4 acres of corn.

Sept. 1st Marched at 8 A. M. and by 12 o'clock, we were on the waters of the river St. Lawrence, and in following them down, we passed through about 3 miles of hemlock swamp, at the end of which, was extraordinary good land, between two mountains that widened out to a great extent, and a fine level level (*sic*) country appeared before us; we arrived at French Catherine's at night, where we were plentifully supplied with vegetables. The Indian fires were still burning in many places, but they had evacuated the place, all, except an old squaw that could not travel. She informed us that they held a council in the morning, in which the squaws insisted that the warriors should make a stand at this place, but they thought they were not able to withstand us. However, it was concluded that the squaws should go immediately off with their cattle, horses, and baggage and the warriors to remain to fight us. But upon the approach of our troops, they went off and left their fires as above. We found at this place horses, cattle, hogs and abundance of furniture etc. our baggage did not come up this night.

Sept. 2d Our baggage came up in the morning; the troops and horses much fatigued with their yesterday's march. We lay in camp all day. Two scouts were sent out, but they made no other discovery, than the tracks of the enemy, with their horses and cattle going off.

3d Marched at 8 in the morning and went 12 miles, about a north course, over an extraordinary good country of land, mostly upland, with Walnut, White Ash and White Oak timber. No mountains in sight all day. One of our advance parties discovered an Indian spy; a little before we encamped, who made off with himself very quick. After we encamped, some soldiers went forward about half a mile, where was a small Indian settlement, which furnished us with plenty of vegetables, and our horses with forage. This country is pleasantly situated between the Conodagago and Cyuga Lakes about 8 miles distant one from the other and the course of them is about North and South.

4th It rained in the morning; marched at 11, and went nearly the same course as yesterday, over a most excellent country of upland, the road at about one mile distant from the lake on the east side

we traveled 13 miles, encamped a mile in front of the main army. No mountains in sight all day. We destroyed some corn and Indian Colibins [cabins?].

5th Waited till near 11 o'clock for the main army to come up; at which time we marched; on our way we destroyed some corn-fields and burnt one house. One o'clock came to a town called Keday; considerable of an elegant town, and pleasantly situated on the east side of the lake, and a large number of apple and peach trees, also large corn-fields. The country exceeding good and pleasant. Near this town the rifle men fell in with Mr. Sweatland, as he was making his escape from the enemy to us, who informed that old Butler, with his party of Indians and Tories, had left this town last Thursday and Friday, and consisted of about 800, which was all they could raise, and that the whole had engaged us in the battle of Newtown; but the particulars of their loss he could not learn. However, they were very short of provisions, and eat horses, and that the Indian families had all moved to Conodagago.

6th The horses and cattle had strayed over night so much, the army did not march until 3 P. M. and then without a considerable number of both horses and cattle, that we were under a necessity of leaving a quantity of flour, under the care of a guard; we marched about 3 miles over an extraordinary country of land, and encamped on the banks of the lake.

7th Marched at 8 A. M. and went over extraordinary good land; at about 2 o'clock we passed a large creek, when the Lake discharges itself, by the side of which was marshy and swampy land, that hindered the army several hours to pass; however, at night, we came to the Conodagago Indian town, which was by far the greatest town we came to yet; in this, was found a white child about 3 years old,—also was found 6 scalps, that they had taken from the white people.

8th The army lay in camp to wash their clothes and collect vegetables, which grow here in great plenty.—Corn fields numerous, and exceeding good, and abundance of fruit trees; all of which Fatigue Parties were sent out to destroy; also a party of about 140 men, under the command of Major Parr, was sent to destroy a town about 7 miles from this place and on the west side of the lake. Just before night, he sent for a reinforcement to help him destroy the corn there, that was in such plenty as would require some days for him to effect, upon which a Field Officer's command was sent to his assistance. The remainder of the army was ordered to

march tomorrow morning for the Genessee river, except a Captain's command, who was ordered to return with the invalids to Tioga.

9th It rained in the morning. The army marched at 12 o'clock and went about 7 miles, a westerly course, over an exceeding good country of land. At night the two commands, mentioned yesterday, came up, who informed they burnt upwards of twenty houses, and destroyed the corn, fruit-trees, hogs, poultry, and taken some horses etc. This town is known by the name of Schequaga.

10th Marched at 8 o'clock in the morning and went eight miles, to a beautiful lake, near to which was an Indian town called Annongedoque, pleasantly situated; with buildings good and elegant; corn and vegetables in great plenty. We arrived at the town at 2 o'clock; burnt it and proceeded to destroy the corn, etc.

11th Marched at 6 A. M. and went nearly a south-west course, over a good country of land $13\frac{1}{2}$ miles, to an Indian town called Anwoughyawna, with great improvements about it. The Indians left some fires burning. This town is pleasantly situated near a small lake. Here we left the greatest part of our ammunition and provisions, together with our worst horses, under the care of a proper guard.

12th It rained in the fore part of the day; that prevented our marching till near one o'clock. However, we marched 12 miles a south-westerly course, over exceeding good land and encamped in the wilderness, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from an Indian town called Coneighgoos. In the night, Lieut. Boyd, of the rifle corps, was sent with 23 men to reconnoitre a town, on a branch of the Genessee, about 6 miles distant, and they were to return in the morning as soon as possible.

13th The army marched at 5 in the morning and went to Coneighgoos, and halted to destroy the corn and vegetables, which were then in great plenty. At about 8 o'clock, 3 men of Lieut. Boyd's party came in, and informed that they had been to the town, and the Indians had evacuated it. At about 12 o'clock 3 men more of the same party came in, and informed, that Boyd had concluded to remain in the town, until the army came up (which was against orders). And as they lay concealed in the bushes 4 Indians came into town. Two of Boyd's party fired upon them; killed one and wounded another. After this Boyd thought best to return with his party, and on his way was attacked by about 150 Indians, who, they supposed, had cut off the whole party except themselves; in a few minutes, the whole army was alarmed by a party

of Indians firing upon the Surveyor who had gone on a little in front of the army. One of the chain-men was shot through. The army marched a westerly course over a good country of land to ———, and on the way we found of Boyd's party lay dead and mangled in the Indian manner. At this town was abundance of corn and vegetables.

14th The chain-man, mentioned yesterday, died this morning. A fatigue party, of two thousand men, was ordered out at 6 o'clock to destroy the corn etc. which was effected at about 12 o'clock. Then the army marched about 5 miles to the Genessee town, on the west side of the river; a large town, and the pleasantest situated place I ever saw; with abundance of corn and vegetables about it; here was found the bodies of two men; one supposed to be Lieut. Boyd's and another who was taken, brought here, and butchered in the most savage and inhuman manner possible. They were both buried in the evening.

15th Large fatigue parties were sent out early in the morning, to destroy corn and the vegetables growing here. It was computed, that not less than 200 acres of corn was destroyed about this town, and the largest that ever I saw grow. The town and other out-buildings, which was numerous, were burnt. Mrs. Lester,¹ formerly of Westmoreland,² who was taken the 5th of last Nov., came in to us, with her child, and informed that the Indians were dispersed in the woods, with their families and moveables. But those that we drove from the more easterly towns were all gone to Niagara. They had a considerable number of other prisoners yet with them. At half after 4 o'clock P. M. we had effected the destruction of the Genessee, and begun our march to return. We encamped at night on a large Flat, on the East side of the river.

16th In the morning large fatigue parties were sent out to destroy corn. A party under the command of (?) was sent about 4 miles up the east branch of the Genessee, to burn a town and destroy a town there. They returned by 12 o'clock, at which the army marched and went to Coneighgoos; but on the way, our

¹ Edward Lester and one of his children were killed by a party of Indians November 5, 1778, Mrs. Lester and her baby were taken prisoners. Sullivan's army brought them back to Wyoming. She subsequently became the wife of Roswell Franklin whose wife had been killed by the Indians while he and his friends were trying to rescue her and her two children from captivity. Roswell Franklin twice had his home with all its contents and his live stock burned and destroyed by hostile Indians.

² The name given Wyoming by Connecticut and retained until 1783.

flanks went over the ground where Lieut. Boyd had his engagement with the Indians, and found fourteen of his men lying dead and scalped; among which was Honeost the Oneida Col.

17th Marched at 6 o'clock, and went to Annoughyawna, where we left our provisions etc, and found all safe; we arrived at 10 o'clock and encamped.

18th Marched at 9, and went to Annongedago Lake, and encamped about 12 o'clock. This day we met an Indian from Oneida, who informed, that New York was in the possession of the Continental Army, with a number of circumstances attending it etc., etc., etc.

19th Marched to Conadegago.

JOURNAL OF LIEUTENANT ROBERT PARKER, OF THE SECOND CONTINENTAL ARTILLERY, 1779

[Reprinted from the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, 27:404-20; 28:12-22.]

Monday 14th June 1779.—Marched from Albany with Capt. Wool's Blisses & Porter's Company's of Artillery—Arrived in Scanactady 4 o'clock P.M.—Crossed the Mohawk River and encamped on the North Side—Dist. 17 miles—The Country from Albany to Scanactady is a very light sandy soil that produceth little else but scrubby Pines—Scanactady is a very pleasant Town situated on the S. side of the Mohawk River. It contains about four Hundred Houses, built regular. & in a very fertile spot of land.

June 15th.—At 2 o'clock we embarked on board two Batteaus loaded with Military Stores. Proceeded five miles up the River, and encamped on the North Side.

June 16th.—Struck our tent at Eight and embarked. Passed several strong Reefs and Rapid Currents which fatigued us very much. Encamped on the North Side—Distance 16 miles.

June 17th.—Encamped at 8 o'clock—The Reefs & Strong Currents continuing some of which were very difficult to get over (our boats being very heavy loaded) Passed Johnstown Side and the Mouth of Schoharie Creek. Encamped at Canawago on the South Side of the River—Distance 13 miles.

June 18th.—Embarked at 11 o'clock and proceeded over some bad Reefs. Arrived at Canajoharie 5 o'clock P.M. Distance 13 miles.

The general course of this River is from NW. to SE. in most places 150 Yds wide—The Channel very Irregular. In some places fordable & others very deep. It is very difficult to go up with boats on account

of the many bad Reefs and rapid Currents. The banks are for the most part 10 or 12 feet high—The land near the River is very fertile—At this place lay Coll. Cansewoert's & Butler's Reg't—Coll. Weisenfelt's & Alden's having marched for Lake Otsega the day before—Here was a great Quantity of provisions and a large number of waggons employed in conveying it & the Batteaus to the lake—Encamped on a hill at some distance from the River on the South Side, very much fatigued with our journey.

June 19th.—This day Coll. Butler's Reg't. and the Rifle Corpse marched towards the lake.

June 20th.—This morning we received two light three pounders from Fort Schuyler with their amunitions &c—Nothing material happened.

June 21st.—This day was executed a Spy called Henry Herr, who said he was a private in Coll. John Butler's Reg't. He was taken up by a party of Militia at some distance from here, found guilty & hanged. Several others are in Confinement.

June 22nd.—Nothing Material happened.

June 23rd.—Nothing Material—Mustered in the Afternoon.

June 24th.—This day was shot ——— Titus, a soldier in the 5th N.Y. Reg't for desertion. This day we had an elegant dinner at which was present thirty five gentlemen of the different Reg'ts.

June 25th.—March at 10 o'clock with Coll. Deboin's Reg't towards Lake Otsega, passed through an Indifferent Country, but thinly Inhabited—passed near some Salt Springs, Encamped at the foot of Brimstone Hill—Slept very Indifferently being much annoyed by a small fly called a punk—Rain in the Night—Distance 13 miles.

June 26th.—Marched at 6 o'clock, passed Brimstone Hill which is very high, halted at Springfield & breakfasted with Capt. Butler's Reg't—Arrived at Lake Otsega 3 o'clock P.M. Embarked in Batteaus with Coll Deboin's Reg't & the Military Stores & proceeded to the N end at Lows Farms—Dist. 2 miles. The Country from Brimstone Hill to the Lake is very fertile but not Inhabited only at Springfield, where has been a few houses which are burned to the ground by the Indians—The Country appears like low or Island land—The Timber chiefly Beech, Elm, Ash, Sugar Maple, & the Gum, & near the lake some Hemlock Swamps.

June 27th.—Lay in Camp—a large quantity of provisions were sent from the lower landing to this place for Storage. This place is situated very pleasantly in a fine grass Country—Some Improvements have been made here and a saw mill erected—plenty of Fish in the lake and Neighboring Brooks.