

**THE HERKIMERS AND SCHUYLERS: AN
HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE TWO
FAMILIES, WITH GENEALOGIES OF THE
DESCENDANTS OF GEORGE HERKIMER,
THE PALATINE, WHO SETTLED IN THE
MOHAWK VALLEY, N. Y., IN 1721**

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MOTTO:

"He who looketh not backward to his forefathers will never look forward to his
posterity."



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This Volume is
Affectionately Dedicated to the Memory of my Father,
George Strong,
who was born at Old Fort Berkimer,
January, 1803.

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THE

Herkimers and Schuylers

INTRODUCTION.

To those descendants of the Herkimers and Schuylers who may choose to peruse these pages I have this to say. I have in this work endeavored to trace the history and lineage of our ancestors for a period of nearly two hundred years, together with the causes or reasons which culminated in their transplanting from the eastern to the western shores of the broad Atlantic; and also to give a partial description of the very important part they have played in the past in the shaping of the history of our nation.

In my quest for "Garcia," to quote from our friend, Hubbard, of the Roy-crofters, I have gathered these scraps of history from every available source, and though not always finding what I sought, have found many things of interest. The "Garcia," for whom I sought was sometimes discouragingly elusive, though not hidden in the mountain fastnesses or Cuban prisons, was sometime so safely put away among the custodian's manuscript that no entreaty could bring it forth. Finding in my research that the public records of Herkimer county during the revolutionary period, had been destroyed by fire, when the old court-house was burned in 1834, I

then learned that the church records covering the period from 1764 to 1794, kept by the Rev. Abraham Rosecranz, during his pastorate of the Stone church at the Fort, were in the possession of Mr. Peter Starring, of Little Falls, N. Y. The mother of Mr. Starring was a Rosecranz, and these church papers had been in possession of the family since revolutionary days. I wished to see the records of births and marriages of those connected with the Herkimer families, so went to Little Falls. I found that Mr. Starring had been some years dead, and the papers, supposed to be in possession of the family, I was told, had been given over to the keeping of the Herkimer Historical Society. Mr. Robert Earl, Jr., custodian of the historical manuscripts, kindly looked through the collection in search of what I wanted, although he was quite positive, before beginning the search, that he would not find what we sought, as he said the society had asked for the loan of the records in order to copy them, but had been refused. We found nothing but on further inquiry learned that the papers were still in the possession of the gentlemen at Little Falls, who would, on no account, allow them to be seen.

It was previous to the celebration of the centennials of 1877, that I began gathering and noting down whatever scraps of information came in my way, whenever or wherever I found them, with no thought at the time except to gather such material together for my own gratification and the information of my own family and descendants.

Old tales and legends from my grandparents, uncles and aunts, old letters and manuscripts in possession of members of the family, old-time tales and

memories of the oldest living descendants to which I had listened with childish awe. Some documentary histories of the State of New York came in my way. I found them vastly interesting, they told me many things that whetted my appetite for more. Later an old volume of "Annals of Tryon County," a book which had been my father's, long since dead, too long ago for me to have asked of him any questions, but now I began to pore over these old books with great interest. Stories of the Old Fort by aunts and grandmothers came to my mind. I began haunting libraries and book stores, searching genealogical records, old colonial histories, biographical encyclopedias and lists of revolutionary soldiers.

It has required time and patience, but is a work I have thoroughly enjoyed, becoming more and more interested as time passed on.

I have found the state library at the capitol at Albany, N. Y., an interesting place in which to spend days and hours in poring over old books. This seems to be an era of backward looking, every one wanting to know something of their forefathers.

All who care for the glory of country, all who love to study the history of the events which have shaped our colonization, our government and our laws, can but look back with pride upon the story of our patriot ancestors.

The command that we "honor our fathers," is not only a religious requirement but a great maxim of jurisprudence. Those who speak and think of patriotism and virtue, sow in their own minds, and those of others, these loyal traits, and this, in a great measure, goes toward shaping the characters of men, it renews the legends of the past, and stamps

them upon the memory of coming generations. It is a duty we owe our forefathers, that the tales of their prowess, the dangers they incurred, and the wonderful lifting up out of it all into the nation we are to-day, should not be allowed to sink into the oblivion of forgetfulness.

Much has been written and much has been told of the troublous times of those olden days, but there is much still to be dug from the debris of the past, and duly commemorated in song and verse, there is history everywhere. The beautiful valley of the Mohawk abounds in it, the old churches and houses and homes still standing, built when Britons ruled the land, and oft desolated by the torch and tomahawk of the savage Indian, are sacred in our eyes. Let us then teach our children, and our children's children the traditions of our ancestors. Let the mother, with glowing pride, tell unto her offspring what those of their own blood and lineage suffered and dared for their country's welfare; let patriotism glow at every hearthstone.

The victory of Oriskany was the contribution of the German immigrants to American independence. Thomas Dunn English says: "The battle was important not only in its immediate, but in its remote consequences." Herkimer and his men ploughed the field, Schuyler sowed, tended and ripened the crop which Gage garnered.

Among the many works I have consulted are Munsell's "Annals of Albany," Benton's Herkimer County, Stone's Life of Brant and Sir William Johnson, The Border Wars and Frontiersman, Colonial New York, O'Callaghan's and Brodhead's Manuscript, law books, and books of records of marriages and