

**HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES:
NO. II. OR, UNCLE PHILIP'S
CONVERSATIONS WITH THE
CHILDREN ABOUT NEW-YORK; IN
TWO VOLUMES; VOL. II**

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FRANCIS L. HAWKS

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“**HENR** we all are once more. This morning I shall talk of two or three governors who, I am afraid, my children, will not prove very interesting men to you. One of them did very little; and the other was very busy always, but his business was such as you cannot now understand.”

“Well, Uncle Philip, do you go on, and we will be interested, I think. Indeed, sir, I should suppose, that any person who wishes to learn history, would sometimes be forced to read tiresome books, or hear tedious stories.”

“That is a very good idea, Thomas. Now tell me why you think so.”

“Why, Uncle Philip, you told us that history was but the story of different countries and men; and I am sure that some countries are more interesting than others, and some men are greater than others.”

“Very good, my lad, that is all true; and now I will begin.”

“Now then, Uncle Philip, for Mr. Montgomery.”

“John Montgomery came to this country in the year 1728, and was governor here for three years.—In that time nothing worthy of our notice occurred. I must tell you, however, that the French in his time thought of attacking Oswego: and who, do you think, was the first man to expose their designs?”

“Mr. Schuyler, sir?”

“No, my lad; you are wrong this time.—It was the late governor, William Burnet.”

“Ah, Uncle Philip, he was a noble man.”

“He received the information in Massachusetts, and wrote a letter to Mr. Montgomery, telling him all about it.—This caused the French to drop the plan altogether. So you learn that he thought of the people in New-York still, although at that time they did not think much of him.”

“And that shows a fine spirit, Uncle Philip. In spite of their neglect, he was still their friend.”

“In 1729, the King of England repealed the law which Burnet had made about the French trade. So you see this law was not approved at home.”

“Well, sir, I cannot help thinking it was a good law, notwithstanding it was repealed. What King of England was it?”

“George the Second. Mr. Montgomery died in the country in 1730, and Rip Van Dam ruled the colony as president for a short time. Now look at the map, my lads—do you see Crown Point?”

“Oh yes, sir. It is at the southern extremity of Lake Champlain.”

“Very good. It was while Van Dam was president that the French built a fort at that place.—If you will notice its situation closely, you will see what a dangerous fort that must have been to the English.”

“How, Uncle Philip?”

“Do you not see that it has a communication by water with Montreal? You know, then, how easy it was to keep it supplied with men and ammunition.”