

**SULLIVAN'S EXPEDITION
AGAINST THE
INDIANS OF NEW YORK**

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Sullivan's expedition against the Indians of New York by William McKendry & Andrew McFarland Davis

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WILLIAM MCKENDRY & ANDREW MCFARLAND DAVIS

**SULLIVAN'S EXPEDITION
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INDIANS OF NEW YORK**

1779.

SULLIVAN'S EXPEDITION

AGAINST

THE INDIANS OF NEW YORK.

A LETTER

FROM

ANDREW McFARLAND DAVIS

TO

JUSTIN WINSOR

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

With the Journal

OF

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TO THE
ASSOCIATION

Univ. of
California

SULLIVAN'S EXPEDITION.

MR. WINSOR drew the attention of the Society to a copy of the manuscript journal of William McKendry, kept in large part during the expedition conducted by General Sullivan in 1779, which copy was made under the direction of the late Ellis Ames for the Society; and he recommended for publication with it in the Proceedings a letter from Mr. Andrew McFarland Davis, of Cambridge, which gives a full and accurate account of all other existing journals of that expedition.

CAMBRIDGE, May 10, 1886.

JUSTIN WINSOR, Esq.,

Corresponding Secretary of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

DEAR SIR,— In the second volume of the Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society the presentation to the Society by Ellis Ames of a copy of a journal kept by William McKendry, a lieutenant in a Massachusetts regiment in active service during the years 1777–1780 inclusive, is duly recorded. I have glanced over this manuscript and find that it throws new light upon some points. The writer of the journal was at Cherry Valley at the time of the massacre. He was with Clinton's column in Sullivan's expedition. He describes the damming up of Lake Otsego, and says the water was raised one foot only. He states positively that Colonel Pauling did not join Clinton at Oquaga, — a statement in which other journals concur, but which directly contradicts Stone. He also contributes some valuable and interesting testimony as to the houses of the Indian towns.

There still remain unpublished several interesting journals which cover this campaign, and which would form a valuable contribution to the history of that time. Among them I rank the McKendry journal.

I have examined twenty-three published diaries, journals, or narratives of the Sullivan expedition. The names of the writers and the periods covered by the journals, together with the titles of the publications which contain them, are as follows:—

M167527

1. Barton, William, a lieutenant in the First New Jersey Regiment in Maxwell's Brigade. A diary or journal which extends from June 8 to Oct. 9, 1779, covering the whole campaign. It was published in the "Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society," vol. ii. pp. 22-43.

2. Beatty, Erkuries, a lieutenant and paymaster in the Fourth Pennsylvania Regiment. An account of Van Schaick's expedition against the Onondaga towns is included in this journal. It also includes the Sullivan campaign. Beatty accompanied General Clinton. A portion of the journal was published in the "Cayuga County Historical Collections," No. 1, 1879. The original manuscript is in the archives of the New York Historical Society, and has never been published as a whole.

3. Blake, Thomas, a lieutenant in the First New Hampshire Regiment. The journal extends from May 13, 1777, to Oct. 25, 1779, thus including the whole campaign. It was published in Kidder's "History of the First New Hampshire Regiment."

4. Campfield, Jabez, a surgeon in Spencer's New Jersey Regiment. The journal extends from May 23 to Oct. 2, 1779, covering the whole campaign. It was published in the "Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society," 2d series, vol. iii. pp. 117-136, and was printed in the "Wyoming County Democrat," Dec. 31, 1873, to Jan. 28, 1874.

5. Davis, Nathan, a private in the First New Hampshire Regiment. This was communicated to the "Historical Magazine" for April, 1868, by the Rev. Pliny H. White, President of the Vermont Historical Society. The article was entitled "History of the Expedition against the Five Nations commanded by General Sullivan in 1779," by Nathan Davis.

6. Dearborn, Henry, Lieutenant-Colonel commanding the Third New Hampshire Regiment. The journal extends from June 16 to Oct. 15, 1779. A portion of it was published in the "Cayuga County Historical Collections," No. 1, 1879. Mr. Charles P. Greenough, of Boston, is the present owner of this journal; and through his courtesy I have been able to examine it.

7. Elmer, Ebenezer, a surgeon in Maxwell's New Jersey Brigade. Extracts from Elmer's journal, covering Sullivan's campaign to August 13, were printed in the "Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society," vol. ii. pp. 43-50.

8. Fogg, Jeremiah, a staff-officer in Colonel Poor's Regiment. He held the position on the roster as captain in the Second New Hampshire Regiment. Poor was at that time a brigadier-general. One hundred and fifty copies of the journal were issued in pamphlet form, the type being in newspaper column. The pamphlet was entitled "Journal of Major Jeremiah Fogg, during the Expedition of General Sullivan in 1779, against the Western Indians;" the imprint being "Exeter, N. H., The Newsletter press, 1879."

9. Gano, Rev. John, a chaplain in Clinton's Brigade. This narrative

is to be found in the "Historical Magazine" for November, 1861. The article is entitled "A Chaplain of the Revolution," and was extracted from the Memoirs of the Rev. John Gano.

10. Gookin, Daniel, an ensign in the Second New Hampshire Regiment. The journal was published in the "New England Historical and Genealogical Register" for the year 1862, vol. xvi. p. 27, and was entitled "Revolutionary Journal of Daniel Gookin." It ends September 5, 1779.

11. Grant, George, a sergeant-major in the Third New Jersey Regiment. The journal was reprinted from the "Wyoming Republican" in Hazard's "Register of Pennsylvania," vol. xiv. pp. 72-76. Extracts were printed in the "Cayuga County Historical Collections," No. 1, 1879. The journal extends from May 17 to Nov. 3, 1779.

12. Grant, Thomas, supposed to have been one of the surveyors who accompanied Sullivan, surveyed the road travelled by the expedition, and measured the distances from camp to camp. This account, which was published in the "Historical Magazine" for 1862, vol. vi. p. 233 and p. 273, ends abruptly Sept. 25, 1779. Extracts were printed in the "Cayuga County Historical Collections," No. 1, 1879.

13. Hardenburgh, John L., a lieutenant in Colonel Van Cortlandt's Second New York Regiment. The journal extends from May 1 to Oct. 23, 1779, and was published in the "Cayuga County Historical Collections," No. 1, 1879.

14. Hubley, Adam, Lieutenant-Colonel of the Eleventh Pennsylvania Regiment. The journal extends from July 30 to Oct. 7, 1779. It was published in the Appendix to Miner's "History of Wyoming," and also in the "Pennsylvania Archives," 2d series, vol. xi.

15. Livermore, Daniel, a captain in the Third New Hampshire Regiment. This journal extends from May 17 to Dec. 7, 1779. It was published in the "Collections of the New Hampshire Historical Society," vol. vi. p. 308.

16. Maxwell, Thompson. A narrative, published in the "Historical Collections of the Essex Institute," vol. vii. No. 3. It was communicated by Robert S. Rantoul, and is entitled "The Narrative of Major Thompson Maxwell."

17. Nukerck, Charles, a captain in the Second New York Regiment. The name is sometimes spelt Newkirk. In Hammersly's Register Nukerck's name is given as Mukirk, and his rank as captain-lieutenant. The journal extends from May 1, 1779, to Dec. 11, 1780. It was quoted by Campbell as the "Journal of an Officer," and referred to as such by O'Reilly. Stone spoke of it as the "Journal of Captain Theodosius Fowler." According to General Clark, extracts have also appeared in the writings of Thomas Maxwell, of Elmira, as from the journal of Colonel Gansevoort. The manuscript is in possession of Lyman C. Draper, of Madison, Wisconsin.

18. Norris, James, a captain in the Third New Hampshire Regiment, according to an endorsement on the journal itself; but he was at this time, according to the roster, a major. This journal is generally spoken of as the "Journal of Major Norris," and is so called in the "Publications of the Buffalo Historical Society," vol. i. pp. 217-252. Extracts are published in Jones's "History of New York," vol. ii. note 1, p. 613. The journal extends from June 18 to Oct. 25, 1779.

19. Rogers, William, D.D., chaplain in Hand's Brigade. The journal extends from June 15 to and including August 28. At the latter date Rogers left Sullivan's army. It was printed in "Rhode Island Tracts," No. 7, with an introduction and notes by Sidney S. Rider. It is there credited to the "Manufacturers' and Farmers' Journal of Providence," in which it appeared in 1823. It was copied into that paper from the "Philadelphia Gazette." A portion had already been printed at Philadelphia in the "American Universal Magazine" in 1797, vol. i. pp. 390-399; vol. ii. pp. 86-91, 200-206.

20. Salmon, John, orderly sergeant in Captain Simpson's Company. Salmon's account was printed in the first edition of Seaver's "Life of Mary Jemison." It was also printed in O'Reilly's "Sketches of Rochester." Captain Simpson's company formed part of a detachment from Morgan's Riflemen, which accompanied this expedition.

21. Shreve, John, a lieutenant in the Second New Jersey Regiment. A personal narrative, published in the "Magazine of American History," vol. iii. pp. 571, 572.

22. Van Campen, Moses. This account is often referred to as contained in a memorial presented to Congress. Van Campen's name frequently appears in the index to the Congressional Documents, but I have not been able to lay my hands on the Government publication containing this memorial. It was, however, reproduced in Pritt's "Border Life," etc.; and the substance of Van Campen's account of the campaign appears in "Sketches of Border Adventures in the Life and Times of Major Moses Van Campen," etc., by John N. Hubbard (Bath, N. Y., 1842).

23. Van Cortlandt, Philip, colonel commanding the Second New York Regiment. Van Cortlandt's account appears in the form of an autobiography, communicated to the "Magazine of American History" by Pierre C. Van Wyck, vol. ii. p. 278. According to Dr. Craft, it was originally published in the "Elmira Daily Advertiser," Feb. 17, 1879.

There remains one published diary, of which I have information, but which I have not seen, namely, —

24. Webb, Nathaniel, an officer said to have been in the Second New York Regiment. This diary was published in full in the "Elmira Daily Republican," Sept. 11 and 12, 1855.

Lists of the published and unpublished diaries and journals of the Sullivan campaign have been printed. The Rev. David Craft communicated such a list, May 9, 1779, to the "Pennsylvania Magazine of History

and Biography," vol. iii. pp. 348, 349, and at the same time appealed to the public for information. Another list was furnished by him to the "Magazine of American History," vol. iii. p. 673. In the latter the titles of nineteen journals, narratives, etc., which had at that time been published, were given, with information as to the places of deposit of the manuscripts and with statements as to the newspapers, magazines, or books in which they had been published. Mr. Craft also gave the titles and what is known about the places of deposit of a number of journals which had not at that time been published. Of these last, three, or portions of three, were used by General John S. Clark in working out the account of the Sullivan campaign, contributed by him and published in the "Collections of the Cayuga Historical Society," No. 1, 1879. In the same volume General Clark printed a list similar to that of Dr. Craft. Dr. Craft's No. 1 in the list in the "Magazine of American History" is identified by him as an imperfect copy of Norris's journal, and is so given in his list in the "Pennsylvania Magazine of History."

Beside the published journals of this campaign which I have seen, I have also examined the following manuscript copies:—

25. Burrows, John, a major in Spencer's Fifth New Jersey Regiment. His rank on the roster is given as captain. It is an interesting journal, with observations upon the character of the country, etc., at the end of many of the daily entries. It extends from Aug. 23 to Oct. 13, 1779. The original manuscript is in possession of Mrs. Elizabeth Breese Stevens, Oneida, New York. For an opportunity to examine a copy of this journal I am indebted to Mr. Charles P. Greenough, of Boston.

26. McKendry, William, a lieutenant and quartermaster in Colonel Alden's Sixth Massachusetts Regiment. The journal begins October, 1777, and includes the Sullivan campaign. An opportunity to examine the copy in possession of the Massachusetts Historical Society was kindly afforded me at the rooms of that Society.

27. Rogers, William. According to Craft, a quartermaster sergeant in Malcom's New York Regiment, but in 1779, according to General Clark, in the Second New York. This diary gives but an outline sketch of the campaign, the entries being merely of dates and distances travelled, with bare references to the principal events. The original is in the hands of B. L. Rogers, of Newark, New Jersey. Mr. Charles P. Greenough has a copy.

28. Shute, Samuel Moore, a lieutenant in the Second New Jersey Regiment. This journal covers from May 29 to Nov. 9, 1779, with the exception that a few leaves are gone. From what we know of the expedition, it is safe to say that nothing of importance is missing. General Clark states that the original is in possession of William E. Potter, of Bridgeton, New Jersey. Through the courtesy of William S. Stryker, Adjutant-General of New Jersey, I have had an opportunity to examine a copy.