

**ELIZABETH
SCHUYLER: A STORY
OF OLD NEW YORK**

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Elizabeth Schuyler: A Story of Old New York by Mary Elizabeth Springer

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MARY ELIZABETH SPRINGER

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Elizabeth Schuyler

A Story of Old New York

By

MARY ELIZABETH SPRINGER

Author of "Lady Hancock"

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*Dedicated to the Sons and Daughters of
the American Revolution— noble hearted
men and women who keep alive the
memory of great deeds of yore to inspire
and foster love of country.*

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CHAPTER I.

Revolution was seething in New York as well as Massachusetts and Virginia and throughout the country for several years before the war began for the independence of the thirteen colonies. Unjust decrees of despotic governors were stoutly resisted. When the stamp act was repealed the Sons of Liberty erected a liberty pole, which served as the battle ground when British soldiers attempted to destroy it. Fresh impositions, new outrages on the part of the British government aroused the people, and the Sons of Liberty shouted defiance to measures which curtailed their rights. Handbills were circulated and John Lamb was chosen to preside over a public meeting in the Fields.

"Once more the dastardly red coats have cut down our liberty pole," cried Lamb, his eyes flashing with anger. "How long will Americans submit to these outrages? I call on the Sons of Liberty to take matters into their own hands, since we have nothing to expect from the British government. They threw us a promise of repeal, of reform, which was like a short blanket insufficient to cover a shivering mortal. British arrogance im-

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posed the billeting act after the repeal of the stamp act, for, as Franklin said, they want to make us pay dear for our whistle. Self-interest is paramount to justice with these haughty Britishers. The spirit of the times renders it imperative that the people should try to avert the result of the inglorious base conduct of our general assembly. The minions of tyranny would despoil us not only of the emblem of freedom, but also of our birth-right. The red coats insult our women and outrage our citizens, while the representatives of the British government betray our trust. Will you suffer your rights to be wrested from you by the Tory Assembly? No, my countrymen, arouse yourselves, imitate the noble example of the friends of liberty in England, who, in order not to be enslaved, contend with King, Lords and Commons. Again I say, will you suffer your rights to be wrested from you? Will you join together with the Sons of Liberty to defeat unjust decrees?"

"We will, we will!" shouted his hearers.

John Lamb was a native of New York, about thirty-five years old at the time our story begins. His large, black eyes were shaded by bushy eyebrows and his broad brow, prominent nose and square chin gave indication of a stubborn will. A staunch lover of liberty, he joined the Sons of Liberty, a patriotic body which was organized at the time of the stirring days of the Zenger trial by William Smith, William Livingston and John Morin Scott for the protection of popular rights.

"No soldier shall be allowed to parade our streets nor to insult our women, for we are determined to enforce proper respect from the British!" shouted