

JOURNALS
OF THE
MILITARY EXPEDITION
of
MAJOR GENERAL JOHN SULLIVAN
AGAINST THE
Six Nations of Indians
IN 1779
WITH RECORDS OF
Centennial Celebrations



PREPARED PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 361, LAWS
OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, OF 1885,

BY

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SECRETARY OF STATE

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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(See Addresses, Biographical Notes, Letters and Poems at Page vi to viii hereof.)

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION, - - - - -	xi
JOURNALS OF OFFICERS, - - - - -	1-312
BARTON, WILLIAM, LIEUT., Gen. Maxwell's N. J. Brigade,	3
BEATTY, ERKURIES, LIEUTENANT, 4th Pennsylvania Reg't,	15
(1). Expedition to Onondaga, April, 1779, - - - - -	16
(2). General Sullivan's Expedition, - - - - -	18
BLAKE, THOMAS, LIEUTENANT, 1st New Hampshire Reg't,	38
BURROWES, JOHN, MAJOR, Spencer's 5th N. J. Regiment,	42
CAMPFIELD, DR. JABEZ, SURGEON, Spencer's 5th N. J. Reg't,	52
DEARBORN, HENRY, LT. COL., commanding 3rd N. H. Reg't,	62
ELMER, DR. EBENEZER, SURGEON, 2nd N. J. Regiment, -	80
FELLOWS, MOSES, SERGEANT, 3rd New Hampshire Regiment,	86
FOGG, JEREMIAH, MAJOR, 2nd New Hampshire Regiment,	92
GOOKIN, DANIEL, ENSIGN, 2nd New Hampshire Regiment,	102
GRANT, GEORGE, SERGEANT MAJOR, 3rd N. J. Regiment,	107
GRANT, THOMAS, of Surveyor's party, - - - - -	137
HARDENBERGH, JOHN L., LIEUT., 2nd N. Y. Regiment,	
With Notes and Maps of Battle-Fields, by General John S. Clark,	115
HUBLEY, ADAM, LIEUT. COL., commanding 11th Pa. Reg't,	145
JENKINS, JOHN, Pa., LIEUTENANT AND GUIDE, -	168
LIVERMORE, DANIEL, CAPTAIN, 3rd N. H. Regiment,	178
MACHIN, THOS., CAPT., Col. Lamb's 2d N. Y. Art'ly Reg't,	
(1). Col. Van Schaick's Expedition against the Onondagas, -	192
(2). Table of Distances of March of General Sullivan's Army,	194
ROSTER OF OFFICERS OF 1ST N. Y. REGIMENT, - - -	195
MCKENDRY, WM., LT. AND QR. MASTER, 6th Mass. Reg't,	198
NUKERCK, CHAS., CAPT. LIEUTENANT, 2nd N. Y. Regiment,	213

JOURNALS OF OFFICERS.—Continued.

NORRIS, JAMES, MAJOR, 3rd N. H. Regiment, - - -	223
ROBERTS, THOMAS, SERGEANT, 5th New Jersey Regiment,	240
ROGERS, REV. WILLIAM, D. D., CHAPLAIN, Hand's Brigade,	246
ROGERS, WILLIAM, QR. MASTER'S-SERG'T, 2nd N. Y. Reg't,	266
SHUTE, SAMUEL, LIEUTENANT, 2nd New Jersey Regiment,	267
VAN HOVENBURGH, RUDOLPHUS, LIEUT., 4th N. Y. Reg't,	275
WEBB, NATHANIEL, SERG'T MAJOR, 2nd N. Y. Regiment,	285
MAP AND LETTER OF CAPTAIN WILLIAM GRAY,	
Survey of Colonel William Butler's line of march, Oct. 2 to	
Nov. 16, 1778, - - - - -	288
MAPS IN THE DE WITT COLLECTION,	
List of MSS. Surveys by Captain GRAY, 1778, and Lieu-	
tenant BENJAMIN LODGE, of the Sullivan Expedition,	
made 1779, by order of ROBERT ERSKINE, Geographer	
to the American Army, now in the Library of the New	
York Historical Society entitled De Witt Maps, -	291
Letters of General JOHN S. CLARK, describing the same	
with an account of <i>fac similes</i> made by him for this	
publication, - - - - -	293
SIMEON DEWITT, appointment as Geographer to the army,	
in place of Robert Erskine, deceased, - - -	294
MAJOR GENERAL JOHN SULLIVAN'S Final Official	
Report of Expedition, - - - - -	296
COLONEL DANIEL BRODHEAD'S Official Report,	
Allegany Expedition, - - - - -	306
LIST OF JOURNALS, no copies of which are now to be found.	
Letter of Major ADAM HOOPS, (3rd A. D. C. to Gen-	
eral Sullivan), Sept. 18, 1841, - - - - -	310
LIST OF NARRATIVES, written since the Sullivan Expe-	
dition, - - - - -	312
ROSTER OF OFFICERS, in Maj. Gen. Sullivan's Expedition,	
by HON. CHARLES P. GREENOUGH, Boston, Mass.	313

JOURNAL OF SERGEANT THOMAS ROBERTS.

JOURNAL OF SERGEANT THOMAS ROBERTS. Grateful acknowledgments are due the New York Historical Society, New York City, for the many favors bestowed in furnishing information and copies of papers, maps and journals from their archives, embracing also the following journal: From entries in the journal, the author, Thomas Roberts, appears to have been a Sergeant in Captain John Burrowes' Company of Colonel Oliver Speneer's Fifth New Jersey regiment. He was a shoemaker by trade and a resident of Middletown Point, Monmouth County, New Jersey. The manuscript was purchased from a book-stall in Nassau street, New York City, by Alexander Campbell, who presented it to the New York Historical Society, February 10, 1886. The writing is much faded and almost illegible. The original manuscript is carefully kept in the archives of the Society.

JOURNAL.

A JOURNAL OF THE MARCH FROM ELEAZABETH TOWN TO THE BACK WOODS.

MAY 29th 1779. Marched to Samptown and there halted that night

30th Marched through Quibble town and Bound Brook Middle Brook and quartered at the Braranch of Rariton.

31st. there lay till wee Got our Clothing Cleane and Drew overhalls and Shoes and Blankets and Armes and accouterements that was Difishent.

JUNE 2d. Incamped in our Huttes at the north Branch

3d. Marched through Reading town to pitsburgh and Incamped

4th. Marched from thence and incamped at Johnstons forge

5th. Marched from thence and crossed the Delaware River into Easton wich is near as Big as Amboy and there incamped And Remained for Refreshment and Washing

7th. then Wee was Reviewed By Genele. Sullivan and Genele. Poor and Genele. Maxwell and there was one Gill Rum for Each

12th. there was three Solgers hanged for Murder I never saw so many Specttators in my Life I think. According to my opinon there was 4,000 that night one was taking up again [the Doctor] Cut his arm and Leg and Examined him and the next night then buried him again

14th. then Rejoiced for the good news of the Enemy's Being Defeated at Georgia and 26 peices of Cannon fiered Six Rigiments drawing up at the same time and fiering 2 Rounds A Man

16th. Resevied orders to march for Wyoming next morning at Day Breake But a Storm prevented it

18th. Marched 12 Mils and Incamped at the Blew mountains

19th. Marched 16 Mils to the Store howes and theare Drew provision and Liber of 3 ourers to Draw the provision and Kook it Whenn the Long Role Beat Wee had our meat half Kooked and Marched.

20th. Marched 5 Mils and incamped at the Brandey Bridg.

21st Marched 20 Mils through the Grate Swamp wheare theare was not A hous nor fense nothing but Rocks and Mountains and a Grate part of it was Dark as after Sun down When it was noon Day at times the Sun Was not to Bee Seen that for the timber the Swamp so thick you Cold not see 10 foot. Wee Incamped that Day at the End of the Shades of Death

22d Marched 5 Mils and In-camped at the Long Meddo

23d Marched 7 Mils and Arived at Whyomay and theare Incamped on the Side of Suskahannah River Jist below the fort

26th then one of the artille men was Floged and had one hundred Lashes and one pickeded

29th One of Colln. Spensers men Run the Ganlet Through 3 Regments and Every man had a whip and one had one hundred Lashes at the post thear Crime was for painting themselves threthnging Two ofisers Lives as Indians

JULY 1st theare was Tow men Condemed for to Bee hung tha was Drove to the Galles with theare halters Round theare neckes one was hung and the other Repreived wich Shocked him So he almost Fanted A way

[one leaf of journal missing]

21st. then Marched from Brinkers Mills for Wyoming About 9 o'clock in the Four noon, that Night we Got through the Grate Swamp and Our horsis Gave Out Wich Capt. Burrowes had Left us then I consulted with the Men that I had under my Command to Lay Down and Take our Rest till Day, So wee Did and then marched for Wyoming as Wee was Going through the Shades of Death The woolves mad a wonderfool noys all around us wich Semed Verey Destressed.

22d. I arrived to Wyoming on the Suskahannah

23d. the 2 Rigment Marched Eight Mils Down the River to Guard the Stores to this plase.

24th. the Stores arived With one hundred and Fifty Boates for our Armeey at theare Return theare was 26 Rounds of Cannon fiered 13 from the Boates and 13 from the Camp theas Boates had 4-3 pounders and one howet that threw Bums for thear Security on the River.

JULY 29th. this Day there Came 78 Waggons with the provision for Our Armeey Wich had in Tents, Bookes, provision and all other Camp Nesseres for the Armeey one hundred and 20 Men 2 Capt. 6 Subboltons Left for the Guard at the fort under the Command of Colln. Butler

31st then Marched from Wyoming 10 Mils up the River and Incamped at Lackenwanney whear the Land is the Best that Ever I see Timmothy as high as my head and the Bildngs all Burnt by the Saviges the Warter is But Poor the Wild turkes wery plenty the young one yelping through the Woods as if it Was inhabbited Ever So thick.

AUGUST 1st. 3 o'clock the Genneral Beat and then Wee Struck Our tents then a Gun fiered from the Commeder for a Signerl to March then Marched 10 Mils at the about Dark Wee incamped for that Night at Willimanack

2d. Lay that Day on the account of the pack horsis and the Cattel not comming up with us and the Boats

3d. Marched at 7 o'clock 14 Miles to Tankannick and incamped theare on the Side of Suskahannah

4th. this Morning the Re love lee Beet at Day Brake and at five O clock the general Beet and we struck our tents Sicks o clock the trupe Beet and wee Marched On our March thear was the Best Black Walnut as Ever I saw for the Mesharin Lengh of one mile.

Colln. Dehart Meshered one and it was 18 feet Round it and as the jugd it was 90 foot high tha are as thick as tha Can Stand one With another is from Sicks to Eighteen Foot Round at 4 O clock in the after noon wee Incamped at Meshawmin Wich was 16 Mils that Day thear Weete and Ry as thick as if it was Soed piggons as plenty as Can Bee turkeys Werey plenty But order against Fiering a Gun By the general Exsept at the Enemy.

5th. the general Beet at 9 O'clock and Wee struck our tents 10 o'clock the gun fiered then Wee marched for Wyalucey on our March We Marched through Extrony Land the Timber Cheafley Black walnut and Rock Mapel and Buttonwood, Buttonwood Trees 22 Foot Round, Mapels 18 Foot Round at 5 o'clock in the Afternoon and incamped the Grase Was the thickest that Ever I saw after wee Arived to the plase in half an Our Sergeant Johnston Died Belonging to the 2 Regiment With the Fiteguge of The march this place is werey pesson On the Side of the River

6th. at 3 o'clock Sergt. Johnstons was Buered at 5 o'clock one of the trupes was Found Dead on the Road and Brought and Bured By the Side of Johnston

7th. One Sergt. 4 Whitemen and one Ingen Marched for Tioga a Ceont of 30 Men Sent out to See What thea Could Discover this Day the Rain Detained Our March

8th 6 o'clock Struck our Tens and Marched struck our Cors about West norwest the mountains Exsesif high But wee past them without Susstaining much Lose the Flats very Good Land the timber Cheafly Black wainut and Buttonwood at three O clock in the afternoon wee halted at a plase Called the Standing Stone wich is 11 mils from Wyalucing theare was Detained By The means of Our Boats Baggeg and Cattel not Cumming up with us 6 o'clock wee had Orders to pich our tents

9th. Struck our tents and marched Struck our Cors about North nor west the Road Being Werey Bad onley a foot path all this March no hous nor peopel Within a hundred Mils one Mountain on this Days March thear is a Mountain for one Mild the path was not more than one foot wide and three hundred foot high wheare three of our Cattel fell Down and Killed them Dead the Boats was under the mountain the Boatmen cut theare throats and Cared them to Camp the Land I think Cant Bee Better on the Left hand thear is a piece of Meddo about 200 Acres the timber land as Black as Dung it self timber cheafley whiteoak hickere and ash Wee being in the Rear Guard Detained our Regement till 11 o'clock at Night Before we Got up with the armye wich is 14 Mils that night wee lay on our tents and it Ranned all night and no provision With us this plase is called Meshokin all theas plases Lays on the East side of Suskahannah River

10th. thear was 3 Regements sent to Reconnite the River Whear to ford the Discovered no Enemy thay Got one Cow from the other side of the River and Brot her in Camp

11th. Struck our tents and Marched 2 Mils then Fordded the River of Suskahannah to the West Side of the River Marched 3 mils and then Fordded the West Branch Boath of theas Rivers Was Werey Difilkil Several men wold Bin Drouded if the horsmen had not helped them Colln. Barber had Like to Bin Drouded and his hors By Riding after A man Down the Falls the Warter about up to our arms and the Streem as Strong as at A Milltail But With a Grate Deal of trobel Wee crossed them Without much Lose Exspt some Knapsak that the men Lost after Crossing the River and the Branch We Incamped at a plase called Tioga Wich is five miles from Meshokin this plase is a plase that has Bin Settled by the Indians But Destroyed Round Whear thear town was tha had Dug holes Four Foot Deep and planted them fool of hasel Bushis So that Wee cold not preecive them from the other Ground theas holes was Considerabel thick in the afternoon Capt. Cummins was sent out to Reconnite the Way to Shemoug Returned

12th then came orders from General Sulleven for the Torupes to Bee in Readeness to March at a moments Warning, at 8 o'clock at night wee marched for Shemong. Wich was very fetugeing Wee Marched all night With 3 Bergades one plase on the Side of the West Branch of Suskehannah was for 9 mils a Solled Rock on the side of a Mountain

13th. about Sun one hour high Wee came to the Beginning of the Indians Town Where the Enemy had all Flad from, then the orders came To Fier there Bildings after that Wee Got them on fier Wee heard fiering in the Frunt then Wee Marched the Indians conselled them selves on a hill and made Brestwork with and fiered on Our trupes Wich tha Killed 7 and Wonded 8, Kild one Capt. one Ageten one Drummer one Sergeant three privates, wounded one pilat the Rest Privets, the Enemy then Run of the River Wee had no Chance With them Wee Returned the fier to the Best advantige then Wee Returned and Brought our Kild and wounded of the Ground then Wee Was Ordered over the South Side of the River to Dstroy theare Corn whear Was a Grate number of it Corn punkins Squashes Concombers Warter millens, the last Piece of Corn Wee Got about and had Cut all to about half an acor the Indians Came on the North Side of the River and fiered on our trupes Kild 1 and wounded 4 then wee Returned the fier as fast as posebel But it is not none what nomber Wee Killd for the Enemy Being on the other Side of the River Wee Brought Our Kild and Wounded of, then Returned Down to Our Camp With our Dead and Wounded Wich was 16 Mils Our trupes was Werey much fetuged on the march

14th. 8 o clock at night Orders came for 900 men to Bee turned out in the morning at 8 o clock

15th. the Men was parraded and Reviewed By the General their Orders is to take 8 Days Provsin they are under the command of Genl. Poore and General hand, this day at 3 o clock some of our pack horsmen Was at the Side of the West Branch after thear horses and the Indians through the Bush and fiered on them twelve or fifteen Shot Our Men not having thear arms With them Cold not Stand in thear Defence tha Killed one Dead and Wounded one through the Shoulder, emedatly the first and third Regt. was parraded and Sent of to See if tha cold overtake the Cruel Saviges this Man tha Killd tha Sculped and Run of With an Indian hoop

16th. Then theas 900 Trupes Marched Struck thear Cors up the Suskahannah River Expecting to Meete with General Clinton Wich is on his Way Down the River to us With 12 hundred men 200 and 50 Indians.

17th. The Indians Cume to our Lines and killed some of our Cattel undiscovered to us, Amechately thear Was a Capt, Subbolten 2 Sergts. 2 Col and 50 Men sent after them and Continued out that night the Capt. was Capt. John holmes

18th. a Scout went out this morning With Capt. Brodrick 1 Capt. 1 Subboltren 1 Sergt. 1 Corpl. 48 men, this Day in the Evening the Indians Cume By General hand Bergade and Shot one of the Pack horsemen and sculped him and wounded one Within one hundred yards of the Camp at Retreat Beeting

22d this Day arivid Genl. Clinton With his army and Boats his army Consisted of about two thouson Men and two hundred Boats Came Down the River thay Burnt Considerabel of houses the Enemy Fled Before them wich tha Cold not Git sight of them all theare March, Clinton fiered 6 piess when he got Wethin one Mile of our Camp. When Clintons Boats Got Weth thear Frunt against us Colln. Proctor fiered 7 pieces of Cannon For Joy of our armeys Meeting, the number of Boats was 200 and 48 this afternoon thear was three men of the first Regement tried By a Cortmarshel for Steeling the State Rum Colln. De hart president of the Cortmarshel Sentins Was Past on them Sergt. Olbe Redused to the Ranks and the Drum mager to turn his Coat and hung his Canteen Round his neck and Marched him through the Regiment Thomas Perrey Striped and Run through our Brigade and Every Man a Whip Corpl. Wilson Redused to the Ranks and Run the Ganlet through the Brigade Wich made me werry Sorry By all accounts he was not Gilty After this one of Generals hands Brigade Brought in one Indian Sculp and his Body also.

23d. Five Oclock this afternoon thear Was one Man Shot through the Body another through the thigh by axedent in General Poors Brigade the Shot Came through our Brigade But hurt nobody Came through one Tent Belong to the Qr. Master Sergt. Gist Back of Min.

26th. at tenn Oclock Struck our tents and marched from Tioga for the Ceneke Cuntry Marched 3 Mils and Incamped at a plase Called the planes of Quein Easter

27th at 9 o clock Struck Our tents and marched 7 Miles thu Beeing Werry Diffekil to pase By the means of the Roades Beeing so Bad Wee Cold not pas weth Our pack Horses Weth Our provision Wich Wee had thirty Days provision for all Our armye On the horses about Seven O clock at night Wee Incamped four Mils from Shemong By the Corn feels whear thear Was no End hardley of Corn and Beans Squashes punkins Coucomber Wartermillions Our armye Was thought 8 hundred Bushel of Corn and 4 hundred Bushel of Beans Squashes Grate number

28th at three O clock in the afternoon wee struck Our tents and Marched three mils Crossed the three tims in the three mils Fording the Last River wee Discovered twoo Indians and fiered on them Wich mad them Retreat at Seven Oclock at night Wee incamped at Shemung Ware Wee Burnt when Wee was to Before

29th. at Nine O clock Wee struck Our tents and marched For Newtown Our Roades. Being Werrey Diffucil to Deterred our March after Marching twoo Mils ther A Mountain about half Mild Long and ten foot wich wee had to pas after pasing the Mountain half Mild about 2 oclock in the afternoon On Sunday Our Rifilmen atacked with the Saviges and Cept them in play for one hour till Our artilerly Got through the Wods then our Bums Began to play on them and Round Shot and Grape Shot our flanks on the Right and Left tok them on Every Quarter thay Stayed in thear Brestworks for 2 hours then thay Retreat On thear Retreat Wee took one tory and Negar tha Gave an account Wee Kild 5 indians and Wounded 2 Witemen thear number was 8 hundred 4 hundred Wicht 4 hundred Indians 12 Britches Solders One Sergeant One Corporal Wich was Colln. Buttellar Guard wich had the Command the other Officers Mager Brant Capt Buttellar Capt. Johns thay took thear Kild and wonded of on thear Retreat By the Appearance of the Blood thay Lost a Grate many men, Som thay was seen to take over the and Drag in the Bushes General poor had Kild in his Brogade 3 men Wonded One Mager One Capt. 2 Sargants 2 Corps. 23 men Wee folloed them 4 mils with our Rifilmen and then Returned 3 mild Whear Wee had Convenency for our horses and Cattel and thear Incamped thear, thear was a vast sight of Corn the plase is called Serretoga

30th. this morning some of our Trupes Went in the Woods Sirching for plunder and found 4 Indians and Sculpd them and Brought them Into Camp one was one of the Cheafs Besides a Grate deel of other phlnder of all Kinds

31st. this morning Our trupes found 2 Indians and Skin thear Legs & Drest them for Leggins this morning Our Elowans was Redused to one half pound per Day at 10 Oclock wee struck our tents and Marched for newtown Wich is 4 mils the Way Being the Worst wee had Sence wee have Bin out after passing the Mountains came to newtown Wich is Extronerory Fine Land all Wightoke Timber werrey fine thear halted One hour our Rifilmen Discovered Some Boats, the 3d Jersey Regment was Detached from the Bargade an Sent up the River the Rest of the armye Marched 5 mils and incamped the Cors from Serratog to Newtown is North nor west from newtown to Ware wee incampt is north the Leavel and all pine timber and werrey Strate an tall pich pine

SEPT 1st. at 10 Oclock Struck our tents and marched for Qeon Easters town wich is 12 Mils, 3 Mils Leavel Timber Cheafley Witeoak then came to a Grate Swamp the Worst that ever I See Wee cold not March more then one mild [an hour] On the account & Logs and Brooks, two mountains That was half mild high so Steep wee was oblig to Go on Our hand and faces this Swamp Timber Cheafly White Pine Sprus pine Yellow pine this Swamp Continued for 6 mils then we Came into Land that was Werrey Good the Timber Black walnut & Beach & White oak and Bутtenwood from Serretoger to Queens town Our Cours was North Wee Crossed the Branch 20 times this Day & the night Werry Dark met with Considerable Los with our provision & Lost a Grate many horses the Jersey Brigade Got in at 10 Oclock at night Colln. Butler Left the town about Sundown

2d. This morning wee found one Squa that was so old she cold not Go with them this morning our Baggage came into Camp this Squa Gave an account that the Indians was

not willin to Go But Butler prewaled With them told them that they wold Bee all kild so tha went at 11 oclock one of our soldiers was in the Cornfield and Got wonded By the Enemy Emeadly thear was 500 men Detached and sent out With the Rifilmen sent to see if they cold Discover them, this plase is Wery Butyfull a Vast Sight of Corn and Beans some Clover horses

3d. at 9 oclock Marched an East Cors for three mils then altered our Cors about north and marched 9 mils the Land Werrey Good tha timber Grate pins Black Walnut at Seven Oclock wee Incamped in the Wilderness and a party Detached from the Jersey to Reconite the way to the Enemy thay Discovered them then Returned to Camp Coln. Smith had the command of them

4th. at 10 Oclock wee marched 4 Mils norwest till wee cume to the sicte of the Seneka Lake and thear Burnt several houses and Our trupes Got three horses By Driving them in the River then marched a north Cors Down the Lake and Distroyed all the Corn and Beans Before us Marched 7 Mils then altered our Cors East on the account a Wery Grate folls wich Emtyed in the Lake then marched north Down the Lake again I think the Best Land was the Best that Ever I see the Timber Cheafley ash Black oake wite oake Basswood and hickeray Wee Marched through this Good Land 8 Mils then Incamped about 7 o'clock

5th. marched 2 mil Norwest till wee came to the Lake thear Burnt Several houses and Destroyed Several Fields of Corn then altered our Cors North and marched 5 Mils and incamped in appletoun whear was an Orchard and upward of 20 houses a Butyfull plase it is Sithawated on the Side of the Lake is as Big as our Bay. [Rariton Bay N. J.]

[two leaves of journal missing]

as soon as we Got in the town the [torn] Connagasago this Days march [torn]

8th. lay still in the town gathering Corn and Beans [torn] Detached from the armye to Go 8 mils on the [torn] side of the Seneke Lake to Distroy Graine thay Distroyed about 50 acors of Corn & Beeans and a Grate [number of] appel trees and peach trees and Burnt a toune about 50 or 60 houses in it this Evening wee had Dredful hard thunder and Litning.

9th. this morning all the sick was sent Down to Tioga under the command of Lieutn. Pre at 12 oclock marched 3 mils a South cors then oltered our Cors Souwest 4 Mils through a Swamp the Land wery Good ash timber and Baswood and wite oak then oltered our Cors and marched West 13 Mils Gist out of the Swamp about, 7 oclock wee Incamped in the Wilderness, this Evening our trupes Returned from Destroying the town one of the party Dyed with the fitige.

10th at 8 o clock marched Seven mils

[Rest of the journal missing.]

A number of memoranda appear on some of the pages, principally accounts against individuals for boots, shoes and repairing. Among them, however, is the following copy of a letter which may prove of interest:—

Whyomey June 29 1771

I now take this opertunety to inform you of this plase and the Sittevation of it On the River the Land is wery Good for weeat Ry Corn Flax Oates Clover Timmothy or any thing that is put in the Ground the Shad Lays in the River and on the shore as thick as mos bunkers at Middletoun shore the Bildings is Destroyed on Boath Sides of the River for 20 Milds the Land from the Side of the River to the mountains is not more than one mild From the Fort wheare wee Lay Down the River to Shawne toun is 3 Milds from the Fort to Fort is 30, from the Fort to Middletoun 50, from the Fort to Sunsburrough is 60 Milds, theare wee have to Bring all Our provision with Boats that Carres 12 Barrels. one plase tha Falls is So Bad it takes 2 Days to Go one hundred yardes With a Loade of provision.