

CITIZEN SOLDIER

The Revolutionary War Journal of Joseph Bloomfield

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Delia Brinkerhoff Koster*

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Friday. 21. [June]. On guard as Officer of the Day, Lt. Coxe Subaltern. Put one Conolly of Captn. Potter's Comy. in the guard house for Disobedience of orders & mocking a Party on fatigue by my orders. In 25 Minutes after being in the guard house by his humble behaviour & Intreaties the Col. put him to do double fatigue with the Men I had ordered out. P.M. Struck & divided our Tents & pitched according to Rank in Military form.

Saturday. 22. [June]. Engaged in altering my Tent to a Markee. Lieut. Elmer Very unwell.

Sunday. 23. [June]. Attended Worship in the Dutch Church, the Rev'd Mr. Caldwell Preached A.M. & P.M., the Dutch Minister between, in High-Dutch. About 2 we had a Violent Gust of Wind & Rain accompanied with sharp Lighting & heavy thunder. Many of the Tents were thrown down in this sudden storm & exposed the owners not a little to the storm & the diversion of the Choir of officers.

Monday. 24. [June]. Col. White with Capt. Ross from John'stown joined us today.

Tuesday. 25. [June]. The Militia in the German Flatts met on the opposite side of the Mohawk-River & draughted [drafted] 14 Men to go to Canada. Attended their meeting P.M. with Col. White, Captn. Hubble, the Parson, Lt. McMihell & Coxe & we were not a little diverted with their behaviour in recruiting & the Respect paid to Continental Officers as they called us.

Wednesday. 26. [June]. Pitched my Tent now converted into a Markee. Our officers attention was taken up this Morning in waiting upon two Dutch Militia-officers who for some affront Yesterday had challenged each other to decide the Dispute by a Duel. The Major was engaged as a second to one of the Champions & to humour their Passion encouraged them to fight. Loaded his Pistols with Powder & a Cedar Ball gave each one in the Presence of many spectators, but they only altercation & swore at each other in the Dutch & Indian Tongue and finally did not fight, One being afraid & the other dare not engage & thus ended the sport of the morning.

Thursday. June 27. 1776. This day Mr. Duncan McDougal a Merchant in this place joined my Company as a Volunter. P.M. In consequence of an Express from Genl. Schuyler to Col. Dayton to forward a

Letter to the Iroquois Nations, Col. Dayton dispatched me with Major Hubble (who is with us in Character of an Engineer) to go express to the Oneida Indian-Castle, to examine & see the situation & make Report of the state of Fort Stanwix &c. &c. Accordingly I set out with Major Hubble & a Dutch guide Mr. Weaver at six this Evening & rode through the Wilderness following each other through a blind foot Path. Crossed the Mohawk-River about 13 miles from the German-Flatts & rode till two O'Clock this Morning when we arrived at the Indian-Field's called Oresca Castle which lies 26 M. from the Flatts & where we begged a Lodging in an old Indian Hutt. Our Guest Hospitably given [gave] us a Dish of sour Bread & Milk & a Blanket to lie before the fire which we thankfully Accepted.

Friday. June 28. 1776. Arose from my humble Bed on the floor much refreshed with my two hours sleep, which was as sweet as if I had laid on a Bed of Down in the best of Palaces. Crossed Oresca-Creek at 5 & proceeded for & arrived at Fort Stanwix at Eight. Took a View of the Ruins of this Once strong & beautiful Fort, which is accounted to lie on the highest ground in all America; as it is the [source?] of the Mohawk-River which runs south to the North River & into the Atlantic Ocean, the head of Wood-Creek which runs directly North into the different Lakes to St. Lawrence N. by N.E. to the sea, The Oneida-Creek running directly West & the Waters on the East Canada & Fish-Creeks Eastward from the Fort. Fort Stanwix (so called after the general who built it in 1758) is large & well situated haveing a Glacis,¹ Breast-work Ditch & a Picket Fort before the Walls which are also well guarded with sharp sticks of Timber shooting over the walls on which is four Bastions. The Fort also has a Sally Port² Cevort-Way,³ Bridge & Ravelling⁴ before the gate at the entrance. The ruins of five houses & Barracks in the inside built for the Accomodation of the Stores Officers & Soldiery. At about a Mile distance is a Pickquet Fort called Fort Newport built opposite the Dam made over Wood-Creek for the main-guard quartered here for the defence of the Batteaus⁵ &c. &c. The Examination of this fortification gave me a better Idea of the strength & Importance of a Fort than any thing I ever before saw or Read. There are 5 or 6 Families settled in this Rich & beautiful Campaign⁶ Country not a Hill is to be seen around it which is also an Evidence of its being the highest Land in this part of America.

After breakfast we proceeded & arrived by 2 O'Clock P.M. at the Oneida-Castle & Delivered our Letters to the Sachems then setting in Council in a Miserable old long Hutt situated in the Center of their Town which lies on a large plain on the south side of the Oneida-River

Eight miles from the Oneida-Lake in a Very Rich beautiful Country. The Sachems and Indian Warriors received us with an Assuming air of Dignity invited us in their Council-Room, asked the News & treated us with the greatest Civility provided Lodging for us at the Revd. Mr. Kirklands,⁷ their Missionary from the Presbyterian Synod & who is now at Albany. Towards Evening went with an Indian Interpreter & Visited most of their Huts in quest of Indian Whampum &c. Also visited their Chief Scanindoe who lives in a good house built in the Dutch fashion. This sachem & Mr. Spencer the Indian Interpreter spent the Evening with us & were Very good Company. It is the custom amongst the Indians for their Women to do all the servile Labor (such as cut Fire Wood, hoe Corn &c.). The Gentlemn. only Hunt & smook at their Pleasure. They have one Very large cleared Field in which all their Horses & Cattle graise promiscusly [promiscuously]. The Oneida Castle is called Connowollakka & contains about 150 Warriors. They have other Castles & about 380 Warriors in the whole Nation & are esteemd the most Warlike & Politic Nation of the Iroquois & are now all true Wigs.

¹Glacis. The parapet of a fort extended in a long slope to meet the surface of the ground.

²Sallyport. An opening in a fortified place for the passage of troops when making a sally or rush.

³Covert way. A covered way in a fortification.

⁴Ravelin. A triangular embanked area outside the main ditch of a fortress.

⁵Bateau. A flat-bottomed river boat.

⁶Champaign. Flat and open terrain.

⁷SAMUEL KIRKLAND (1741-1808). Native of Connecticut. Graduated from the College of New Jersey in 1765. Performed missionary work with the Seneca Indians, 1764-66. Became pastor of the Lebanon, Connecticut, Congregational Church, 1766. Shortly thereafter began a life-long career ministering to the Oneidas. Often given credit for keeping the bulk of the Oneidas and Tuscaroras attached to the American cause during the American Revolution.

Saturday. 29. [June]. Sett out early this morning. Arrived & spent the day at Fort Stanwix. Visited Wood-Creek, the upper-part of the Mohawk-River.

Sunday. June 30. 1776. Sett out from Fort Stanwix Early this Morning, breakfasted at Oresca castle & arrived at the German-Flatts at 2 P.M. I observed in my Journey particularly in the Oneida Country large Quantities of Capillair¹, Gentian² & Liquorish Roots & other Medicinal Herbs.

¹Capillair. Maidenhair fern.

²Gentian. A plant sometimes used as a tonic.

Monday. Tuesday. July 1, 2. Nothing Material. Officer of the Day.

Wednesday. July 3. Exercised as usual, attended Capt. Seber's Company being mustered this P.M.

Thursday. July 4. Capt. Sebers & Capt. Mc.Kean's Companys of Provincials & Capt. Eversland's Company of draughted Militia joined our Regiment today. Two men, one of Capt. Readings & one of Sharp's Company, received 25 lashes apiece for absenting themselves four weeks from Duty. We are daily Visited by Indians from the Oneida & Tuscaroras who attend & admire us when at our Exercise & whilst about our Camp are treated with the greatest kindness & Hospitality, They drawing Provisions & better than our Soldiers.

Friday. July 5. 1776. Engaged all day in Posting my Books &c. Exercised as usual. It is now after one O'Clock at Night all our Camp have been alarmed by the firing of 4 or 5 guns on our Centuries who returned the fire & gave the Alarm. The Drums immediately Beat & the Fifes Played to Arms, to Arms. At the same time the officers some in their shirts some barefoot calling their Men from their Tents & forming them in Front of their Tents ready on Orders & the Men turning out half dressed afforded a most serious & Martial appearance. When I first heard the Alarm from the Quarter Guards, immediately jumped out of my Markee with my Fusee,¹ Barefoot & my Cloaths in my Hands & raised my officers & Men to Parade which they and the whole Camp did with great Alertness, upon which I ordered advanced Guards in Front of my Company 60 Yards & divided my Company in three Divisions with an officer to each division & Placed the divisions so as to secure the right of of the whole Encampment. We remained in this situation impatient for Orders to scout for half an hour, when upon Inquiry we Imagined the Alarm was false & the Guns fired by Hunters or with a Design by the Inhabitants to try our Resolution, upon which the Captains were ordered to Dismiss & direct their Men to lay on their Arms all Night; which I have done to my Company & shall immediately lay on my arms in Tent. I write this at this later hour of the Night, for perhaps an attack made [may] be made & the writer hereof no more before Morning. I must observe that both Officers & Men turned out & shewed the greatest Spirit & Resolution on the Alarm & Beating to Arms.

¹Fusee. The word as used here means fusil, a light flintlock musket.

away in a threatening Manner, makes me suspect their Intentions are not Very friendly. But those that Come under-Cover for Provisions are Tory-Spies, especially as one said: Bye in Bye we should see Indians come over the Mountains & Gun go Pop Pop this Way & dat [that] Way; take care You officer & Soldier, and much other such Language. Upon this we all removed from our Tents & are now in the Church within the Pickquet Fort. The guard & Centurys out are well-loaded & the Men lay on their arms. And I am now ready for an Attack—the sooner the better—as I am well provided with stores & ammunition for a Siege.

Sunday. 14. [July]. Attended Church A.M. P.M. rode with Mr. Calldwell & Capt. Sharp to meet the General. After riding a few Miles found He did not sett out till this Morning. Rode myself to Fort Hendrick 12 miles from hence, & got a Pair of Elegant Leggings made in the Indian Fashion by Miss *Molly*, & her Daughters mentioned before June 9th & 17th. Had the Pleasure of seeing the Young Ladys, one is Very handsome, both were richly dressed agreeable to the Indian-Fashion. On my return received (by a Soldier from Johnstown) Letters from my Father dated the 2d. Inst. In Congress from Burlington, being but twelve days on their way, which informed me of *Independency* being declared the 4th. Inst. & much other News. Received Letters also from some of my other Friends. No Person, but what has experienced the satisfaction can tell the unspeakable Pleasure which arises from the Receival of Letters from our Friends at a Distance. Returned to Camp & Spent the Evening with Mr. Calldwell, Capt. Sharp & the officers, much pleased & satisfied with the news from the Southward & smacked Politics all the Evening.

By the Conduct of Lieut. Hagan I was under the disagreeable Necessity of writing the following Letter to Col. Dayton, vizt.

German-Flatts 10 O'Clock
Sunday Night July the 14th.: 1776.

Sir,

I this day issued the following Order (vizt.)

July the 14th. 1776.

Officer of the Guard tomorrow Lieut. Hagan.

Parole: *Cumberland*.

No Officer or Soldier will presume to lie out of his Quarters as appointed by Col. Dayton under Penalty of the Punishment inflicted by the Ninth Article of the Additional Rules & regulations of War.

I was thus particular principally on acct. of Capt. Isinlord's Company. Yet notwithstanding this particularity and altho. Lieut. Hagan read the order, I have this Moment found He has gone out of Camp to Lodge. He did not so much as Intimate this resolution to me & only mentioned to

the Sergeant of the Guard that He was going out to lodge without telling him where He might call for him in case he should be wanted. I have appointed another officer in his Room and when He appears Shall put him under an Arrest and wait your further Orders.

I am &c.

JOS. BLOOMFIELD.

Immediately Issued an order as follows. Lieut Hagan haveing gone from Camp to Lodge & left the Guard without Leave, Lieut. Pierson is appointed Officer of the Guard in his room. After this I retired to my Marquee & about Twelve went to Bed.

Monday. 15. [July]. Orders of the day.

Parole: The United States of America.

Officer of the Guard tomorrow Lieut. Elmer.

The guard to consist hereafter of two sarjants, two Corporals & twenty one Privates, Centerys by day 3, by Night seven.

The Companys will Attend at the Beat of the Assembly at twelve Powdered and as well dressed as possible in order to Parrade & drink success to the United Independant States of America.

Accordingly at xii the Companys Parraded, the Gentleman in the Place & Indians attended, and the Declaration of Independency being read, the whole present signified their hearty & sincere Approbation by Three Cheers and cheerfully drinking the following Patriotic Toasts, (vizt.)

Harmony, Virtue, Honor and all Prosperity to the free and Independent United States of America.

Wise Legislatures, brave & Victorious Armies, both by Sea & Land to the American States. After this the Companies were Dismissed.

In the Evening sundry Indians of the Onidas & Cayugas Tribes came down when I issued the following additional Order. (vizt.)

The settlers in & about the Camp at the German-Flatts are desired not to sell or give any Liquors to any of the Indians attending the Treaty or to any Persons that will supply them with Liquors.

This Order is issued at the Request of the Oneidas & Cayugas Chiefs.

Mr. Dean & two other Indian Interpreters came & made an apology to the Indians for the General's not being here to day; He will attend by 8 tomorrow A.M. Lodged within the Stockade in the Church.

Tuesday. 16. [July]. At 7 A.M. parraded my own & Capt. Isinlord's Company, who were powdered & dressed as well as possible. Dispatched left [Lieut.] Gifford with 20 of my best Men & a Drum & Fife, to meet & Escort the General to this place which He accordingly did, The Men left behind being formed in Open Order; Received the Genl. in saluting & paying him the usual Compliments, the Gentlemen commending the appearance & behavior of the Men as superior to any they ever saw. I

was introduced & Dined with the Genl. his Aid-de-Camp's, the Commissioners for Indian-affairs & other Gentlemen of the Army.

Informed his Honor of my Conduct with respect to Lieut. Hagan. He highly approved of Mr. Hagan's arrest & said He would recommend Him to resign. If He would not resign He would order a general-Court-Martial.

I then asked Genl. Schuyler for the Parole & Orders or who I should receive Orders from. The General said He should consider himself whilst at the German-Flatts in the Capacity of a Commissioner only: desired me to give out the Parole & Orders & Consider myself as the Commanding officer at this Place as well now as when He was absent. He said further, that He did not doubt but I knew my duty, would do it as a good Officer, and, as such (from the Character & Recommendation He had had of me) He should Confide in my Activity & Vigilance in Ordering the Guards & Centerys for the Security of his Person the Camp Ammunition & Stores. Exercised the Companies P.M. The generals aide-de-camps and other officers said that there were no Troops in the Continental Service equal to them in discipline. Sundry Indians of the Seneca [Seneca]-Tribe came to Town this Evening.

The following were the Orders of the day.

Parole, Schuyler.

Officer of the day tomorrow, Lt. Cloke.

A Court Martial will be held precisely at the hour of Nine wherof, Capn. Sharp is Presidant, Lieut. Cannon, Lieut. Elmer, Pierson & Cloke are members.

All Settlers in & about the Camp at the German-Flatts are hereby strictly charged not to sell any Liquors to any of the Soldiers quartered in this place Nor to any Indians attending the Treaty, nor to any Persons that will supply the Soldiers or Indians with Liquors.

All suttlers¹ & Retailers of Liquors are also forbid going carrying or sending any Liquors to Fort-Stanwix without the Express leave of the Commanding Officer at Fort Stanwix.

These orders are Issued by direction of Major-General Schuyler.

JOS. BLOOMFIELD.

The Adjutant for the time being will carry & Read these orders to every Suttler &c.

Lodged in the Court house.

I forgot to Mention that the Camp was alarmed last night by one of the Centerys of my Company firing on a Soldier of Capn. Isinlords Company, who was going out of the Camp upon *urgent Business*, & never answered the Centery when called upon three times. Both Company's formed agreeable to orders of the 15th Inst. After inquiring into the Matter I commended the Centery, put the Culprit in the Guard-house &

dismissed the Men after applauding them for their activity in turning out.

¹Suttler. A trader who follows an army and sells provisions and liquor to the troops.

Wednesday. 17. [July]. Orders of the day.

Parole, Elizth. Town.

Officer of the day tomorrow Lieut. Gifford.

Lieut. Gifford with 20 Men the Drum & fife-Major well equipped & Neatly dressed will parrade before the Generals Door in order to attend his Honor as life-Guards over the Mohawk-River. A Sarjant & four Men from my Company are constantly to attend the General by day. Guards as usual.

A.M. waited on the General who was much engaged with the Seneca Tribe who came to salute the Genl. & ask the News, &c. at xii [o'clock]. Attended the Genl. with the Commiss. & Gentlemen of the army to reconitre a proper Place for a Fort. Crossed the Mohawk in Batteaus & returned by 3 P.M. no place being thought proper on the other side of the River. Agreeable to the orders of yesterday the following return was made:

At a Regimental Court-Martial held by order of Capt. Bloomfield at the German-Flatts 16th & 17th of July 1776.

Capn. Anthony Sharp, President. Lieut. James Cannon, Ebenezer Elmer, Daniel Pierson, & Jacob Cloke, Members.

Jonathan Lummis & Thomas Parker Corporals, Charles Cosgrove Private in Capn. Bloomfield's Company Charged with going from Parrade & being absent during Exercise without leave in the Evening of the 15th Inst. in disobedience of Orders, Lying out of Quarters & being absent one mile from Camp without leave, and absenting themselves from Roll-Call & Exercise in the Morning of the 16th Inst.

Upon examination of Corporals Lummis [and] Parker it appears by their own Confession they are guilty of the above charge except that of being one mile from Camp.

The Court Martial considering the above Crimes sentence them to be reduced to the ranks & Confined seven days upon bread & Water.

Upon examination of Charles Cosgrove it appears by his own confession he is guilty of lying out of his quarters & not attending Roll-Call. For which the Court sentenced him to be confined seven days on bread & Water & reprimanded at the head of the Company by Capt. Bloomfield.

ANTHONY SHARP, PRESIDENT.

I approve of the above sentence except the Prisoners Confinement & being fed on Bread & Water, which is hereby remitted.

JOS. BLOOMFIELD.

Friday. 19. [July]. Major-Genl. Schuyler's Orders. (vizt.)

Head-Quarters German-Flatts
July 19th. 1776.

General-Orders,

First Lieut. Robert Hagan & second Lieut. Samuel Hazelett both of the 3d. New-Jersey Regimt. Commanded by Col. Elias Dayton, being by sickness rendered incapable of doing duty in the Regiment & having requested leave to resign their Commissions, the General has accepted their Resignations which causing a Vacancy & Promotion in the Regiment, the General has been pleased to promote second Lieut. William Gordon to the rank of first Lieut. Ensign Joseph Anderson & Cornelius Hennean to the rank of Second Lieuts. in the said Regimt. He has also been pleased to appoint Messrs. *Edmond Disney Thomas* & John Kinney Volunteers in said Regimt. to be Ensigns therein.

By order of the General.
JAMES VAN RENNELAER
Aid de Camp.

Lieut. Hagan finding He must be tryed by a genl. Court-Martial in Consequence of his behaviour & arrest mentioned (July 14th.) that He could not be Acquitted with Honor & Very probably be broke, desired me to make application to the General for leave to Assign the Reason mentioned in his resignation with Mr. Hazelett who in reality is incapable through sickness of doing duty, which was accordingly done, We all being glad to get rid of an Indolent slothful officer who Valued himself more upon the Cock of his Hat & the Powdering of his Hair & striding about the Camp than doing his duty as a good officer.

If He had done his duty He would not have been Arrested. If it had been the first time He had been remiss when on Guard, it would have been looked over with a reprimand only.

The General Issued his General-orders in Consequence of these Gentn. resigning & made the Promotions upon Mr. Calldwell's, Capt. Sharp's & my Application. P.M. I waited on the Genl. & Introduced Messrs. Thomas & Kinney when the General gave me the orders mentioned, at the same time informed the Young Gentn. of their appointment wishing they might derive Crdt. & Honor from their Commiss. as He did not doubt they would by the recommendations He had had of them.

And at the same time commended me for my spirited behaviour with respect to my Arresting Mr. Hagan.

After drinking a glass of Wine or two we left the Genl. after Returning him our thanks for his Friendship.

After the Evening's Exercise I informed the Companys of the Promotions by reading the Generals Orders, & directing the Soldiery that as Messrs. Thomas & Kinney were now Ensigns in the Regt. they should Respect & treat them as such accordingly. Orders of the day.

Parole: The States of New-Jersey
Officer of the day tomorrow, Lieut. Solsberry.
Guards as usual.

The Rev'd Mr. Calldwell our Worthy Chaplain this P.M. visited one of the Indian Incampments & brought seven Chiefs of the Onenhighwagaa Tribe & their Minister to drink Tea with us. They could not speak English but were Very social & pleasant among themselves & with us as far as we could converse by an Interpreter. After Tea, a Drink of Cyder & a Pipe or Two. Good *Peter*, one of their Chiefs, addressed Mr. Calldwell in the Indian Language to this effect, "Father, we all thank you; we did not expect this invitation & this kind Treatment, it makes us Glad; You have our best Wishes & thanks." Mr. Calldwell replied, "that He was Very glad to see them: He loved them as Children, and when they returned to their own homes He should still feel the Heart of a Father for them." After shaking us heartily by the hand they bid us farewell in their Dialect & retired.

I forgot to mention that in the forenoon 12 of their Principal Men had waited upon the Commissioners with a short congratulatory address, to this effect, "Brothers We are glad to see You here, aseing You are engaged in War. We all Pity, Our Women & Boys Pity You. All will catch Your Tears & with this string will wipe Your Blood if any should be shed." Suitable replys were made & after some social Chat with us & one another, & Cautioning the General not to give any Liquor to any shooting Indians who might Come from their Camp, and cautioning one another they withdrew.

Saturday. 20. [July]. Parole, Montgomery. Very unwell A.M. Took ziss de Sal. Glauber. [Glauber's salts]¹ which did not agree Very well with my Bowels. Lt. Solsberry of Capt. Vosburgh's Company dined with me. Was Visited by the famous Capt. Soloman & his Lieut. Deputies to the Treaty from the Stockbridge Indians. This Capt. Solomann has been to Europe & Introduced to his Majesty. His behaviour is quite different from the rest of the savages being Polite & remarkable free & Easy in conversation. He talks English Very fluently.

This Evening the Seneka-Nation of Indians had a Dance before the Generals Door for his Entertainment, which was very diverting. See July 23d.

¹Glauber's salts. A compound of hydrated sodium sulfate used as a cathartic.

Sunday. July 21. 1776. Parole: Cato. Attended Church with all the Companys *infirm*, the General & all the Commissioners & his officers

also attending. When our Worthy Chaplain delivered us two Sermons Very pertinent & suitable to the Occasion & altered one of Watt's Psalms so as leave out the King & Britain & bring in the "United States of America" to the great satisfaction of his Audience. See 145th. Psalm. Dined with the Genl. & Commissioners &c.

Monday. 22. [July]. Orders from the Genl.

Head-Quarters
German-Flatts July 22d. 1776.

General Orders

A picket fortification is to be erected near the Church at this place. Capt. Bloomfield will superintend the work, and make out a Detail of the Number of Officers & Men each Corps is daily to furnish, and the commanding Officer of every Corps will accordingly furnish his Quota agreeable to such detail. The men to work eight hours a day to begin and leave off, work at such times as Capt. Bloomfield shall direct; Three pence a day will be allowed to each Non-Commissioned-Officer & private in lieu of Rum to encourage them to go on with the Work with Alacrity & Dispatch to be weekly paid by Capt. Bloomfield who will be furnished with money for the purpose.

By order of Major-Genl. Schuyler

JAMES VAN RANSALAER.
Aid de Camp.

In consequence of the above, the following orders were issued.

Parole: Ticonderoga.

Officer of the day tomorrow, Lieut. Bates.

The Guards hereafter are to consist of Two Sarjants 2 Corporals & 24 Privates.

Every officer & Soldier except those upon guard shall appear upon the parrade in the morning at the Revallie beating, at which time such a Number of Officers & Soldiers from each Company as may hereafter be directed shall repair to their working Posts diligently to labour two hours; and then retire to Breakfast. After one hour & a half every one as Afd. [afore-said] shall parrade again & repair to labor three hours, & then return to Dinner.

After two hours intermission all are to parrade again as above, Labor three hours more & be dismissed for that day.

For Fatigue or Working Party Captn. Bloomfield's Company will turn out 26 Privates daily, Captn. Veeders 9, Capn. Vosburghs 6, Capn. Isinlords 19, the whole Consisting of 60 Privates. Every 15 privates are to be officered with One Commissioned & two Non-Commissioned officers who will turn out & labor as before directed.

Lieuts. Gifford & Solsberry & Ensign Thomas will go out upon fatigue with the working Party tomorrow.

JOS. BLOOMFIELD

Agreeable to the Generals-Orders, I had the ground surveyed & with the Assistance of Mr. Calldwell laid out the ground & Lines & sett the Officers & Men to work. We began to brake ground to fortyfy by ax & dug the Intrenchment for the Pickets fort one Line this day, the officers & Soldiers working with the greatest cheerfulness & activity, in endeavoring to outvie each other in the different tasks assigned them. P.M. Col. Dayton arrived from Fort Stanwix & lodged with us.

Tuesday. 23. [July]. Notwithstanding it is mentioned to have been wrote the 23d of July, I have sett the acct. down as my time & business wd. allow. The following is a brief description of the Indian-Nations attending the Treaty, by the various Accounts I have collected, vizt.

The five Nations consist of so many Tribes or Nations joined together by a league or confederacy like the united Provinces, and without any superiority. This union has been time immemorial. They are known & distinguished by the Mohawks, Oneydaes [Oneidas], Onondagas, Cayugas, & Seneka's. The Tuskaroras, after a War it is said they had with the People of Carolina, fled to the five Nations, and are incorporated with Them; so that now, indeed, they properly consist of six Nations. Each of them is again divided into three different Tribes, who distinguish themselves by three different arms, viz, the Bear, the Tortoise and the Wolf; The sachems put that belonging to their Tribe to every publick Paper.

They think themselves by Nature superior to the rest of Mankind, and assume the Name of Ongue-honwe, that is, Man surpassing all others. This Opinion gives them that carriage, which has been so terrible to all the Nations of North-America; and that Opinion they have taken such care to [impress?] on all their Neighbours, that on all Occasions they yield to them the most submissive Obedience. They have such absolute Notions of Liberty, that they allow of no kind of Superiority, and banish all servitude from their Territories.

An old Mohawk Sachem, in a poor Blanket & dirty shirt, Issues his orders, with as arbitrary an authority as a Roman dictator. The Authority of their Sachems who govern in publick affairs as well that of their Captains consists wholly, and is only obtained by the good Opinion the Nation have of the Wisdom & integrity of the former, and of the Courage & Conduct of the latter; and they loose it by a failure in those Virtues.

Their Instruments of War are Muskets Hatchets, and long sharp-pointed Knives; these they always carry about with them. The Hatchet in war-time, they stick in their girdle behind; and they have the art of directing & regulating its motion, so, that though it turns round as it

flies, the edge always sticks in the tree, near the place they aim at. The use of bows & arrows is not entirely laid aside, except among the Boys, who use them with surprizing dexterity. Their Castles or Towns are generally square surrounded with Pallisadoes, without any bastions or out Works. They express peace by the metaphor of a Tree & fire, and all Indians make use of a Hatchet or ax as an emblem of War.

Wampum is the current money among the Indians, it is of two sorts, white & purple; the white is worked out of the inside of the great Conques [conch], into the form of a Bead, & perforated, to string on Leather. As the Indians live far from the Sea, our people make & sell the Purple or exchange them for Beaver-skins &c. and many, at Albany particularly, make a handsome living by that Trade. The purple is worked out of the inside of the muscle [mussel] shell; they are wove as broad as one's hand, & about two feet long; these they call belts, & give and receive at their Treaties, as the seals of Friendship; for lesser matters, a single string is given. Every bead is of a known Value and a belt of a less Number is made to equal one of the greater, by so many as are Wanting, fastened to the belt by a string.

One hundred of those Beads are usually valued at 4/. per 200, 8/. & so on, & in this manner they trade & barter with each other & with all that deal with them.

I will now describe the Indian-Dance mentioned a Saturday Evening July 20. The Indians were painted after their usual manner, Red, Black, blue & every colour in their power. Those who dance are Naked, except their Breach-Clout & Ornaments. Those who dance are the Youngest Men. The Chiefs are Spectators & Conductors. The middle State conduct the music. One beats upon a Keg over the head of which is streached a skin. The others round him join their Voices, He who beats setting the tune. Their Notes are few, but soft, & all keep time & Tune with the greatest exactness. Every one who sings has two little sticks which He beats together in concert with the Drum. Round these the Dancers perform after their manner, which consist of Violent exertions & according to some rules. Once in the space of two Minutes, they step with a shout in which they exert their Voice to the Utmost. The Singers are grave & the Dancers full of pleasantry. After a little pause the Music begins & the dance goes on they stomp violently upon the ground & Exert themselves to great fatigue. This dance seems calculated to enure to harden & to render the Muscles Vigorous. In the midst of the dance one of chief Warriors who was a spectator steps forward & strikes with a stick, which produced a instant pause. In a short speech He related his warlike exploits, the Prisoners & Scalps taken from other Nations appealing to those who were Witness, and then finished with a present of a

little paint wrapped up in paper which he had received from the Commissioners for that purpose. This was received by all with great marks of applause. Some time after, another Chief & then another did in like manner. This custom is intended in the time of their mirth to Inspire them with a thirst for War & an emulation to have the like Opportunity publickly to relate their gallant deeds. The Seneka's are taller & better proportioned than the other Indians present or the whites, And from their healthful fleshy appearance, are more temperate & better fed than the other Indians.

Every Indian-Nation has something peculiar in their own Customs & Manners different from each other.

The Indians in general are tall & straight in their limbs, beyond the proportion of the whites. Their bodies are strong; but of such a species of Vigour, as is rather adapted to endure much hardship, than to continue long at any servile works: it is the strength of a beast of prey, rather than a beast of burthen. Their Bodies & heads are flattish, the effects of Art fro[m] the Squaa's carefully brace their Children or papoosses's till they walk alone on a Broad board to which they lace the Infant with broad Cloths carrying them on their shoulders in all their Journies, for Most of them for the sake of the Presents given at the Indian Treaties, take their whole Familys with them, carrying & lugging such Papoosse's as are unable to walk in this slavish manner. The Cottages in the meantime, are shut up & there being no furniture to lose, a string or thong of leather serves for a lock. Their features are regular but their countenances fierce; their Hair (those that wear it) long in general Very black, lank & Very strong. They have no beards owing to custom of continually drawing it out by the roots with twisted wires. The colour of their skin a reddish brown, admired amongst them; and improved by the const. use of Bear's fat & paint. They in general go naked except a Clout which they wear to cover their Nakedness, Once in a While throwing a Blanket over their Shoulders. The Squaa's dress in the same manner, only they always wear a striped Blanket, striped with Red or Yellow ferryting [ferreting] or Ribbons agreeable to their quality in life & and those stripes are generally on the middle of the Blanket & covered with silver & brass Broaches of all sizes.

Their only Occupations are hunting & War; Vide Friday June 28th. remarks. Agriculture is left to the Women. Merchandize they contemn. When their Hunting Season is past, which they go through with much patience, & in which they exert Ingenuity, and their Provisions laid up, they pass the rest of their time in an entire indolence. They sleep half the day in their Tents, they loiter & jest among their Friends, and they observe no bounds or decency in their eating & drinking. They are exces-

sive fond of spirituous Liquors, and the desire of acquiring these is a principal End they pursue in their Treaties with us: & from this they suffer inexpressible Calamities, for having once begun to drink they can preserve no measure, but continue a succession of drunkenness as long as their means of procuring liquor last. In this condition they lie exposed on the ground to all the Inclemency of the seasons, which wastes them by a train of the most fatal Disorders. They perish in rivers & marshes, they tumble into the fire, they quarrel & Very often murder each other. And in short excess of Drinking, with us highly Criminal, & which is not generally Very pernicious in its effects as among this uncivilized People, who have not art enough to guard against the consequences of their Vices, is a public calamity. The few among them who live free from this evil, enjoy the reward of their temperance in a robust & healthy old age. The Disorders which a Complicated Luxury has introduced & supported amongst us are strangers to the Savages.

The Education of the Indians from their Infancy is solely directed to fit their Bodies for this mode of Life, & to form their Bodies & Minds to endure the affliction of the greatest evils.

As I said before, Almost the sole Occupation of the Indians is war, or such Exercises as qualify him for it. His whole Glory consists in this: and no man at all is considered till he has increased the strength of his Country with a Captive or adorned his Hut with the Scalp of one of its Enemies. And these Scalps are so many evidences of the Trophies of their Bravery.

The Character of the Indians is striking. They are grave even to sadness, upon any serious Occasion; observant of those in Company, respectful to the old, of a temper cool deliberate, by which they are never in haste to speak before they have thought well on the matter, & are sure the person who spoke before them has finished all he had to say; they have therefore the greatest contempt for the vivacity of our People who interrupt each other, & frequently speak altogether.

Nothing is more edifying than their behaviour in their public Councils & Assemblies; every man there is heard in his turn, According as his Years, Wisdom, or service to his Country, have ranked him. Not a Word, not a Wisper, not a murmur is heard from the rest, whilst He speaks; no indecent condemnation, no ill-timed applause. The younger sort attend for their Instruction. Here they learn the History of their Nation; here they are inflamed with the songs of those who celebrate the Warlike Actions of their Ancestors; and here they are taught what are the Interests of their country, & how to pursue them.

Their habitations are Very small, consisting only of a little cottage, in the middle of which is their fire-place: here both they and the Animals

they breed, live promiscuously. They have a particular fondness for Dogs, & never are without three or four little curs in their huts; a hog or two, and a little poultry, with some earthen ware, as pots and jugs, & the Cotton which their Wives spin, constitute the whole Inventory of an Indian's effects. Their beds consist of two or three sheep-skins, without Pillows or any thing else; and on these they sleep in their usual squatting posture; and as they never undress, appear always in the same garb.

The above Acct. of the Indians must serve for the present, as I shall be daily more & more acquainted with their manners. I will sett down hereafter promiscusly such observations as Occur & strike my fancy, considering at the same time, my *time* & business.

Awoke & arose to business agreeable to Orders of Yesterday & with our Worthy active Parson, laid out the lines of the Fort & sett the fatigue-Party to work, & who by Night finished the lines being (2 feet wide & 4 feet deep) so as to be ready for the Pickquets, which began to be brought in this Evening being large heavy & 20 feet long. These Pickquets when put up will defend our Lines, and with the Natural situation of the Place & a deep Ditch in front of the stockade will make our fortification formidable to our Enemys; especially as on the different angles will be placed small Artillery to secure the Lines in case of a close Attack. Within this stockade is included a convenient House suitable for the officers & a Very large Barn which will serve for Barracks for the Soldiery, also a Very good Well. 500 Men can fight at once on the Lines & it is so constructed as to be defended by half that Number of Men.

In the Evening went to the General's Bowry. Whilst there an Express came to the General, from Genl. Washington informing him all was well at New-York.

Also the Rev'd Mr. Kirkland & some of the principal Chiefs from the Oneida-Castle, particularly the Chiefs *White-Skin* & *Grasshopper*, who treated me with a good deal of kindness when at the Oneida-Castle (see June 28 antea).

After the usual salutation of *Sago-ongh Ottachagousola* (How do you do Brother, or Friend?) & shaking of hands they sat down beside the General & Commiss. The Genl. ordered Liquor & Pipes immediately, Light his Pipe & drank to them, by wishing them Welcome & signifying He was glad to see them in health & peace, which was interpreted to them. They in their turn by their Chief *Grasshopper* (which is his name in their language being *Cheeastawaliosottee*) said "They were glad to see the General & Commissioners that God had permitted them to meet again in [Health?] to drink one another's health & smook a friendly Pipe together."

White-Skin drank their Health & the United States wishing them pros-

perity. After smoaking a Pipe or two & hearing the News, they retired, it being first Settled that the Treaty should open in two days hence, as all the Onendagoes & Tuscaroras will then arrive.

Returned to camp with my fellow-Lodger who are at present—Col. Dayton being down from fort-Stanwix otherwise called Fort Schuyler, Mr. Timothy Edwards² one of the Commissioners of Indian-Affairs, The General's aid-de-Camp being Major Livingston from Elizth. Town, and the worthy Mr. Calldwell my Assistant in fortyfying Fort [entry incomplete].

The following being the *Lord's-Prayer* in the Mohawk Tongue, may serve as a specimen of the Indian-Language in general, there being but little Variation, except in the pronunciation. (vizt.)

The Lord's Prayer: Ra, odereanayent ne Royaner.

Songywanika ne Karongyage tighsideron, wasaghnadogeaghtine. Sara-yert sera iewa, tagserra Eighniawewan, siniyought Karongyagough, onì oghwansiage. Niyadwighniseroge taggwanadara nondaghsik nonwa: Neonitondag warighwiyougoston, siniyught oni Jakwadadoughwiyougoston i: Neonitoghsadaghwasarinegth, dewaddatdennageraghtangge nesane sed-jadagwaghs me Kondighserokeanse, kea sayanertsera ne naagh, Neoni, ne kaeshatste, Neoni ne Onweseachtakne siniyeheinwe Neoni siniyekeinwe. AMEN.

The *Mohawk*-Nation pronounce their Words long soft, full, low & with suprizing sweetness. The *Oneydoes* on the contrary pronounce their words very short harsh & with a great deal of roughness. The Seneka & Cayugas Language differs considerably from both.

¹Ferretting. A narrow piece of tape used to bind or edge a fabric.

²TIMOTHY EDWARDS. On July 13, 1775, the Continental Congress named Philip Schuyler, Joseph Hawley, Turbutt Francis, Oliver Wolcott, and Volkert P. Douw members of the Board of Commissioners for Indian Affairs in the northern department. Edwards must have joined this group shortly thereafter, probably as a deputy commissioner. Besides the German Flats conference under consideration here, Edwards was present at a conference held at Albany, April 1776, and at one which also met in Albany, September 1777. In that latter conference, the Oneidas and Tuscaroras, as well as a smattering of Onondagas and Mohawks, accepted the war hatchet on behalf of the Americans.

June 20th. 1776. A Report of Captn. Bloomfields Company in Camp on the German Flats. This report was carefully taken by Lieut. Elmer at my desire & Returned to the Coll. by me. JOS. BLOOMFIELD.

	Subalterns	Voluntiers	Serjeants	Corporals	Drum & Fife	Privates
Present fit for Duty	3	2	4	3	2	55
On Duty, Capt. Bloomfield	—	—	—	—	—	5
Sick, Present	—	—	—	—	—	2
Sick, Absent	—	—	—	1	—	5
Deserted	—	—	—	—	—	7
Dead	—	—	—	—	—	2
Present	3	2	4	3	2	62
absent sick deserted etc:	—	—	—	1	—	15
Totals	3	2	4	4	2	77

Total absent, 16

Total Present, 74

90

Tents to be Drawn for, Exclusive of Voluntiers 72 Soldiers which is 12

Tents allowing Six men to a Tent, 12

Officers, 2

Voluntiers including Mr. Dean, 1

For Capt. Bloomfield's Company Tents, 15

I have 3 Washer-Women besides.

JOS. BLOOMFIELD.

Which was approved in the following manner. "I approve of the above Sentence & order it put immediately into Execution." JOS. BLOOM-FIELD.

At the Roll-Call in the Evening the Companies were drawn round the Adjutant's Daughter (the Whipping-Post so called), The Prisoner tyed up & was exhorted by our Chaplain for his base Conduct & the Soldiery warned against bringing themselves to such a shamefull Punishment. I also spoke to my Company & the Prisoner, told them it gave me a great deal of Pain to see One of their Brother-Soldiers punished; but, at the same time, when I reflected He was not originally Inlisted with me but taken up as a Deserter from the 2[d.] Pennsylvania Battn., it was some alleviation of my Anxiety &c. &c. &c. After Prayers the Prisoner was released & Expressing himself in a haughty manner that He was punished, through spite, I ordered him immediately to be again Confined in the Guard-house. vid. July 31.

Sunday. July 28. Attended Meeting (with the Companies under my Command in form) & heard the Revd. Mr. Kirkland Indian Missionary from the Presbyterian Synod preach to the Indians in the Oneida-Language, the Oneidae's being professors of the Christian-Religion & Presbyterians, attended in general. The Mohawk Nation, who are Episcopalians, also attended, & the Gentlemen of the Army, & some few Indians of the other Nations out of curiosity.

Mr. Kirkland first sang an Indian-Psalm, Prayed first in English, & then in Indian, Sang another Psalm in Indian & then Preached to them from [blank] (as he afterwards told us). After Sermon and Anthem well sung in the Oneida-Tongue & then the Congregation was dismissed after Prayers & the Blessing both in the English & Indian-Languages.

The great attention serious, solemn & devout Behaviour of those poor Savages, with the sweetest, best & most harmonious singing I ever heard, excited the steady attention & admiration of all present, & was an Example to the whites & at the same time a Reproof to the Christians, who haveing the Gospel almost daily preached to them, pay no great attention (it being an old Story) & frequently behave with the greatest Rudeness during Divine service. The Oneydoes excel in singing. They carried all the parts of Music with the greatest Exactness & harmony.

Though I did not understand a word that was said, Yet I never paid greater attention or was more improved in attending divine Worship.

When I observed & Reflected with what reverence & solemnity the almost naked Savages, (the Men haveing a Clout only round them & the Women a skirt & Blanket wh. they covered themselves except their faces entirely) unless some few of the Heads & Chiefs & their squaas who

were elegantly dressed with mockinsens Leggings &c. &c. after their Indian Fashion, I say, their devout Behaviour struck me with Astonishment & made me blush with shame for myself and my own People. In short we all came away after service greatly pleased with the Indians & Conscious of our own Inattention & want of Reverence during divine services in general. P.M. Attended Divine service with the Companies as in the Morning; when our Very Worthy & Patriotic Chaplain Preached (in the Presence of Genl. Schuyler & the officers of the Army & sundry Indians who returned our Compliment paid them in the Morning by their also attending Divine Worship deliverd in the English Language) from 2 Sam: X.12 "Be of good Courage, & let us play the Men for our People, & for the Cities of our God; & the Lord do that which seemeth him good." This Text being very suitable to the Occasion, was Delivered with a great deal of Judgement & applied particularly to those who bore the Military Character in such a Manner as to engage the attention of his Audience & Edify all present.

It is worth remarking that Very early in the Morning I heard the Dutch Domine preach in the High-German-Language, so that I heard Divine-Worship Delivered in three Tongues today. Besides I heard in the different Companies I was in, the following Languages spoke—1st. English, 2d. High-Dutch, 3d. Low-Dutch, 4th. French, 5th the Mohawk, 6th. Oneydoes, 7th. Senekas, 8th. Cayugas, 9th. Tuscaroras & 10th. the Onondagoe-Languages. The most of those Tongues I heard daily spoke and one Person in particular a frenchman can speak French, English Low-Dutch & the five Indian-Languages.

I must also observe, that whilst the Religious Oneydoes were at their worship in the Morning, the Atheistical Seneka's Onondagoes & Cayugas who believe there is no God & make a jest of all Religion were beating their Tub singing, Dancing & Carrusing in the most profane Manner. The Tuscaroras are Papists by Profession but in fact have no Religion. In short, the various scenes of this day I shall never forget, & hope whenever I reflect on it will excite a grateful sense of thankfulness to the supreme being who has placed me in such a situation in Life as to enjoy so many advantages above those poor Savages.

Monday. July 29. 1776. Engaged all day in overseeing the Erecting Pickets at the Fortification &c. &c. Two Grand matches were made up between the Oneydas & Tuscaroras at Ball, or what the Scott's call Golf. Near 100 Dollars worth of their Ornaments were staked each time, which were gained by the Tuscaroras. The Oneydas had been used to beat them at all set matches for many years till this day. At these Matches the Ornaments staked are generally collected from the Women

who generously give some of their wampum, silver, Bead Bracelets, others their Earrings, nose-Jewels & Pins. Others give Necklaces, belts &c. & all kinds of Indian-Ornaments. They are remarkably fair in their play. Nothing that has the appearance of Cheating nor any Wrangles are seen on these Occasions. When the boys play together, or shoot for Coppers, all is fair & honest, & Courteous. The Indians when sober are remarkably cautious. They will hardly ever say or do a Thing that will give offence. If one supposes he has ground of offence or has received an Injury he will not shew it unless Drunk & has an opportunity for Revenge. This caution undoubtedly arises from their form of Government or rather being without Government. We are not afraid of offending because secured by the force of Government from revenge. This security they have not, & most therefore screen themselves by caution.

The Genl.-Officers of the Army; & all the Indians, Men & Women, attended at the matches at Ball to day.

This day I also saw in the field an Indian Squaa with two Babes, born in her hutt about three days before, & soon after her arrival. She was now out with them more than half a mile from Camp. The Mother & Infants appeared Very well. They were both bound upon their Boards or Cradles according to Custom, & one of them was carried by the Mother & the other by a little sister. The same Woman a few Years ago was taken in Travail upon the Road to a Treaty. She only halted by the wayside a few Minutes with another female friend till they received the stranger, bound it up, & marched after in the rear of the Company. With many of them it is a Custom to send the Newly delivered Woman out to Chop a Load of Wood & Carry it home upon her Back. This they say brings all the Joints & Bones to their place again. And their Women have been seen to be taken in Labour while out cutting their Wood. They lay down their ax wrap the Papooses in their Blankets & bring them home upon their loads of Wood. I shall be more particular in giving an Acct. of the Indians & a description of their Play, before mentioned when my time will permit. See hereafter August 29th.

Tuesday. 30. [July]. Engaged between the hours of 2 & 3 P.M. on a Genl. Court-Martial for the trial of Lieut. Wm. McDonald (vid. Aug. the 1st.) This P.M. rode out in the Generals-Coach with Major Livingston, the Generals Aid-de-Camp, the Genl's Secretary Mr. Larson, Capt. McGee & other Gentmn. on Horseback. After riding over the German-Flatts we crossed the Mohawk-River 3 miles from this place. Drank Tea at Mr. Shoemakers & returned at 6, when the General & Gentm. of the army were much engaged in observing a total Eclipse of the Moon being most of the Time Visible.

Wednesday. July 31. 1776. Engaged on the Court-Martial as Yesterday. This day Tesconindoe¹ the Head-Warrior of the Oneydoes Dined with me. He made me a present of a Red-Belt or sash worked with beads as a Testimony of his regard, arising I suppose from my Visiting him when at the Oneyda-Castle & treating him with familiarity since He has been here. I forgot to mention or rather had not time to enter the Proceedings of a Regimental-Court Martial on Monday last.

At a Regimental Court-Martial held at the German-Flatts July 29th. 1776. by order of the Commanding Officer, whereof Capt. Vosburgh is President, Lt. Pendleton, Bates, Solsberry, & Ensign Thomas are members. (after mentioning the Evidence which is very lengthy.) The Court taking into Consideration the Cases of the abovementioned Persons John Cook, Luke Jinnins, & James Newman do adjudge them guilty of Gameing & Cards to the Value of £7:00:0 & upwards & Order that they immediately make each other as good as they were before & pay four Shillings fine & be returned to their duty.

To which the following Assent was given:

I have Considered of the Sentences of the Court against the respective Prisoners within mentioned & do approve of the same except the fines imposed on John Cook &c. which is hereby remitted except so much as will pay for every Pack of Cards at the rate of 1/. [shilling] per pack that is as will be hereafter publicly destroyed by order of the officers of the respective Companies in this place agreeable to the orders of this day.

JOS. BLOOMFIELD. 29th. July 76.

Michael Reynolds mentioned 27th. Inst. having shewed great contrition for his misbehaviour &c. &c., he meant the Soldiers & no officer; was discharged.

¹SKENANDOA (1706?-1816). Bloomfield's Tesconindoe was the long-lived Oneida chief Skenandoa (or alternate spellings). Reportedly a drunkard as a young man, reformed to become one of the most respected Iroquois leaders. Firm friend of colonists during French and Indian War, tried first to keep Iroquois neutral during the American Revolution. Later was influential in persuading many Oneidas and Tuscaroras to fight for the Americans. He was a devout Christian and friend of missionary Samuel Kirkland.

Thursday. August the 1st. This morning the Genl. Court-Martial held by order of Genl. Schuyler whereof Col. Van Dye is Presidt., Major Barber, Capts. Bloomfield, Sharp, Vedder, Vosburgh, Isinlord, Lieuts. Van Ranslear, Tuttle, Flannigan, Pendleton, Solsberry Cannon & Elmer are Members, finished their Proceedings with regard to Lieut. Wm. McDonald, who was charged before the Court, "for behaving in a man-

¹PETER V. DOW [VOLKERT P. DOUW]. Local leader and gentleman politician in the area of Albany before and during the American Revolution. Served as the mayor of Albany, as a delegate to the New York Assembly, and as a local justice of the peace before the outbreak of war. Named a member of the Board of Commissioners for Indian Affairs in the northern department, 1775.

Thursday. 8th. Augt. 1776. Nothing material. The Indian sachems are much engaged in preparing to answer the Commissioners speech. In the Evening the Seneca-Warriors entertained the General with a Dance. Near 1200 Indians were present.

Friday. 9. [August]. Very unwell, took a Dose of Rhubarb. Towards evening the Sachems & Chiefs of the Six Nations Assembled & sent for the Commissioners who attended them with the Officers of the Army in form. But little or nothing was said more than to let the Commissioners know They were ready to answer their speech but as their Ancestors never spoke of Peace in the Evening they would answer next Morning. After some complyts. were passed in which they are Very artful & always speak in such A manner as to insinuate a little Liquor would be agreeable, The General takeing their hint told them as they had been setting in Council all Day their Throats must be dry & heads confused that they would drink a little Toddy together to moisten their Throats & clear their Heads & smoake a friendly Pipe together, so as to be able to meet together in the Morning in Peace with clear heads & sound hearts. After this they parted. Dined at the General's today.

Saturday. Augt. 10, 1776. Arose at 4 & Engaged till 7 this Morn. in playing at the Game played by the Indians with Bats & Ball with a sett match of twelve officers chosen 6 of a side last Night. Lost one & won two Games. Attended at the General's last P.M. in [ord]er to [w]ait upon him with the officers to the Treaty. But the Indians were not prepared till 2 P.M., when we all attended the Commissioners to the Treaty.

Abraham the Mohawk-Chief answered for his Nation. His speech was full of trifling Evasive answers & showed that the Mohawks acted more from fear in being still than Inclination. The Onondagoes & Senekas delivered their answer together & shewed very plainly that they were for Peace only when it was for their Interest to take up the Hatchet that they would not be answerable for the Conduct of their Young Warriors. The Cayugas in their speech said they were now for Peace but could not be answerable for the behavior of their Warriors. The Honest *Oneydoes* & *Tuscaroras* spoke together & said they were for Peace & always keeping in Friend-ship with their Brothers on this great Island, that they did not intend to interfere in our Family Quarrel, that they should remain

quiet at home & what they said they intended to follow, & called God to witness the sincerity of their Intentions. They all said they were sorry for the Imprudence of their Warriors & that they would bury the Hatchet, by giving a Belt, under a Rock immoveable.

After this Drinking & smoaking as usual concluded the day. Several Belts were given by each Nation in confirmation of what they said. A Belt was given by the Commissioners with the 13 United States represented by as many squares on one End of a large Wampum Belt & the Six Nations by as Many squares on the other End. Two Persons shakeing hands in the middle represented the Unity & M[utual] Friendship of the 13 United States & the Six Nations.

Sunday. 11. [August]. Rainy & Very uncomfortable all Day. Dined with the Genl. Towards Eveng. went to Church with the Companies & received a Lecture & Prayers from our Worthy Chaplain.

[Monday]. 12. [August]. At one P.M. The Commissioners met the Indians & replied in a Very spirited manner to their answer but concluded with Saying the[y] could Through [throw] all what was past behind them, bury the Hatchet & look upon them as Friends & hoped they would Abide by their Plighted Faith &c. &c. &c. After sundry speeches both sides & passing 24 Belts the Council-fire was raked up till tomorrow-morning.

Dined at the Genls. In the Evening went over to the River & Visited Capt. Patterson.

Tuesday. 13. [August]. The Genl. & Commissioners were much engaged [to]day in takeing leave of the Indians & distributing the Presents to the amount of upwards of £2000, amongst them, The Presents consisting of Blankets, coarse Cloths, Linnen, Knives, Tobacco Boxes &c. & about 12,000 Dollars which was delivered to the Sachems & Warriors in Publick. The Commissioners left them, and they divided the whole by Nations, the different Nations by their Tribes & Castles & then by Familys in a Very little time & without the least Noise or Contention. The Squaas attended & Lugged home heavy Loads of Blankets, their Children besides on their Backs whilst the Gentlem. walked in state after them smoaking their Pipes & Looking like Men of great Consequence. The Commissioners distributed 1000 Doll[ar]s. in private Gifts to the Sachems & Principal Warriors of all the Nations.

The Revd. Mr. Calldwell our Very worthy Chaplain took leave of us & sett out this A.M. on his return to the Jerseys. Spent the Evening at the Generals.