

Diary

1788

May - June

Stockbridge May 7th 1788

Went out from Stockbridge for the Indian Country.---

detained in Schenectady by the high water & my

company not coming on, whom I expected up

Mohawk river, till the 14th In^t---

14. Wednesd^y 7. at y^e last meet^g g (**y^e

Board in Boston in April it was proposed y^t I

shoul^d make an excursion into y^e Senecas

country & obtain a Kn*** (** y^e situation, y

&c---

19 - at Jikaghquate - a conference withⁿ

some (** y^e Oneidas

20 - had a conference with the Chiefs at

Oriske to our mutual satisfaction

22. Fort Stanwix - here met withⁿ a number

(** y^e Oneidas & y^e whole (y^e Oriske Indians.

Friday May 23 - Left Fort Stanwix -

reached Armstrongs on Wood Creek -

24 - reached y^e Oneida Lake - -

25 Sunday ---- We tarried here this day in

expectation y (meeting with the

Oneidas --- at y^e inlet of y^e Oneida

Creek agreeably to appoint^{ment}, - but

y^e wind was so high we coul^d not

get to S*** nor y^a*** to us ----- towards

evening a small number collected with
 three Cayuga Chiefs w_rhe,ⁿ I was
 requested to attend divine worship -
 discoursed from Job - why do y^e wicked
 prosper &c -----

in y^e evening spent sometime in convers_ing_i^y
 w_rit,^h y^e Cayugas upon y^e state &
 disposit_ion_s of their nation -

26 - Monday - wind bound this day till
 evening when we set out to cross the Lake
 which is about 30 miles in length &
 from five to 12 in width & lies nearly east & west -

27. a little after sunrise crossed the Lake about
 daybreak passed w_rha,^t is called gull
 Island - about five miles from y^e outlet -
 or Fort brewington, so called. This island
 contains about 15 acres - upon w_rhic,^h
 y^{re}* is some thrifty timber - about 20
 years since stood a remarkably large
 button wood tree 9 feet diameter, 2 of
 circumference- I have been credibly informed
 y^t** upwards of twenty men have at one
 time crowded into its hollow trunk when
 it lay upon y^e ground -
 halted a few moments for breakfast
 below y^e out-let ---

about noon reached the Three Rivers so called
 about 25 miles from the outlet of y^e Oneida

& near 80 miles by water from Kanadaseaga
on Seneka Lake which is about 50 miles
on y^s side of Genesee -

The juncture, y^e waters being nearly at
right angles it is called by y^e Indians

Tyojeandogea or rather one stream

intersects y^e op* at right angles -

The waters from the East are only y^e outlet
of the Oneida Lake w^hit, ⁿ several

riverlets. The principle streams whicⁿ

comply into y^e Oneida Lake are the

fish creek - wood creek - Oneida &

Kanaghseruge Creeks

The waters running from southward -

before their juncture, at y^s place, are

made up or composed of eight different

Lakes Viz--- Onondaga - Salt Lake -

Skangades,** Warkon,*** Tyonkton or

^ocross lake****- Cayoga lake Senekas d^o -

Crooked lake***** & Kannadaigwe***** - 2 of

these lakes are 37 miles in length - the

others from 6 to 20 -

At the Three Rivers we halted & dined or

rather took some refreshmen^t, then went

forward about 2 miles & encamped -

28 Wedngs^d it rained all afternoon -

whicⁿ detained us till 2 o'clock PM

*other **Otisco *** Skaneateles ****Owasco

*****Keuka *****Canandaigua

then put forward & went about 12 miles
& encamped on y^e west side - the current
was so strong & y^e water so high, were
obliged to drag our boat by y^e bushes &
limbs (y^e trees on y^e river side -

29 - This day set out early went 10 or 12 miles
the current being violently strong against
us most (y^e day- Encamped on
y^e north side (y^e River about 2 miles
east (y^e Cross Lake so called in
Indian Teyonktoon-

30- Set out early y^{s*} morning after pass[ing],⁵
y^e Cross Lake overtook two Indian
canoes bound to Kanadasagea - then came to
y^e Islands called by battoe men y^e 1000
Islands- here comes in the waters from
the Lakes called Skanjades & Warkon -
about 8 ___ & 14 miles east (Cayuga &
belonging to y^{i*} territory.--

A little before night reached y^e Cayoga
Salt Springs but croul,^d make no discoveries
of y^e strength (y^e water the spring
being covered with y^e high water. --
passed this 2 miles and encamped
a small beauti,ful, Island

31- Saturday - left our encamp,men,^t early
& soon entered a large bay 4 or 5 miles
in width & y^e same in length when it
contracted & y^e outlet of y^e Cayoga Lake
came in view w,her,^e we soon crossed

& entered y^e outlet C y^e Seneka or
Kan. Lake --- about 1 clock arrived at
y^e Seneke falls called in Indian

✓ janoweanqaiain -- at this place
overtook Capt. Allen w^h o; kindly
assisted us in crossing y^e falls

June 1 arrived at Skayes* ---- y^e long
rapids about 8 miles. There put up the
remainin; g part C y^e day.

2. Mond^y - about 11- clock reached
Kanadaseaga where at y^e place a considerabl; e
number C y^e six nations are already
convened in expectat;on; y of a general
treaty.

8. Lords; Dray; preached to a considerable assembly
about sixty white p^{re}o; pl^{re}; & near twice
y^t number C Indians of several nations -

14 Saturday- more of y^e Onondagoes - Cayogas & Seneckas
have come in thro' y^e week past - spent
considerable; time in conversat;on; y
with J** upon y^{ir} present situat;on; y &
disposit;on; towards y^e C***

15 The white p^{re}o; pl^{re}; & Indians of 5
different nations; assembled *228*****
worship in the shade of some large trees by
y^e lakeside. I discoursed to J** from
1 Tim. 6. 6. "But godliness &c
This is y^e 2^d sermⁿ ever preached
upon y^s ground ---- speaking & prayin; &
in two languages necessarily

lengthened my discourse beyond

what is usual - towards even (in)g the

old Onondaga Chiefs w^{it},^y two Senekas

came to my quarter, to thank me for y^e

good word w^{hic},^h I had spoken to

5 y^t day - express^{ing}, y y^{ir}- hearty

wish, y^t Indians might believe 5 - -

also several Indians who formerly resided

at Ondroghrauge & now live on Genesee

River once belonged to Mr. Crosby's

Congregation,^y - those expressed y^{ir}

joy with tears, on hear^{ing} y^e (words,

Jesus once more - it brought former days

fresh to mind when y^d heard y^e glad

sound from Sabbath to Sabbath. they

informed me y^t they had kept up y^e

worship (God, in y^{ir} village

most (y^e time since y^e war - Expressed

an earnest desire y^t I would visit this

fall or next spring -

19- Friday - have had several conferences

with y^e Indians dur^{ing} y^e week past -

but find relig^{ious}, matters cant be

attended to w^{it},^h muc^h advantage

till y^e treaty is over & other business is

completed -

Recd an invit^{ation},y from Chiefs

on Buffalo Creek to remove y^e intended

Council fire to said place & requested

Ondroghrauge

N B - the Cross Lake lies one N+ S. 10 M.

in length - $2\frac{1}{2}$ wide - from the outlet of

Cross Lake on the westside - the first turn in

y^e River - W. 10 d' degrees; - S - 160 Rds

160 rd W. 25 dg's | 300 rd- S 19. d' degrees;

W. 320 - r^d S. W. | 320 R - W 10 d S.

(N.B. now begin y^e 1000 Island. -)

$2\frac{1}{2}$ m. W. 10 d' N. passing Island |

1 m. $\frac{1}{2}$ N 20 d' W. / 1 m. $\frac{1}{2}$ W. 10 d' . N /

1 m. $\frac{1}{2}$ W / $2\frac{1}{2}$ m W. 4 d'S. / 80 rds

W. 10 d'N. / 80 r. W. 15 d' N. / 3 m ^s

W - 40 d' N / $\frac{1}{2}$ M. W. 20 d' N / to y^e

muschittoe place & y^e outlet of

Woskon - then $\frac{1}{2}$ m $\frac{1}{2}$ W. 30 N. /

$\frac{1}{2}$ m $\frac{1}{2}$ W - / $\frac{1}{2}$ m $\frac{1}{2}$ W - 20 deg'S.

N. B. here comes in a River. 1 m $\frac{1}{2}$ S.

25 d' W. / 160 rd. S. 20 d' E. / 1 m $\frac{1}{2}$

W. 25 S / $\frac{1}{2}$ m $\frac{1}{2}$ W. at Bay N. side /

$\frac{1}{2}$ M. S. W. wide 2 m $\frac{1}{2}$ - 40 d' N.

N B wide & a large Island at y^e right -

1 m $\frac{1}{2}$ wide y^e River^R for y^e whole

(y^e turn & on y^e N. side many

Islands. $\frac{1}{2}$ m $\frac{1}{2}$ W at / 80 rods - W. 5 d'S/

80 rods W - 20 d's.

the long bay S. 10 d' W - 2 miles - then

2 m $\frac{1}{2}$ more S - 15 d' E - N B y^e salt

sp. rin;g - & west a large Island at y^e west

side (wh falls in y^e Kanondaugue

outlet - . 1 y^e Salt Spring;g - mile

3/4 mile in length / 80 rd . W. to y^e head

of the Islands - 80 r^d S. W. from y^e

head of the Islands here y^e marsh is 9 m^l

wide / 160 r^{ds} S - 10 d' - W. / 40 r^{ds} S./

3 miles from y^e Islands to y^e outlet of

Cayoga Lake - the last 3/4 mile is S - 16 deg ^R/

from the outlet of Cayoga lake to the inlet

of Kanodasegea 3 m ^l S - W-/

after enter^{ing} y^e Seneca 120 r^{ds} N 30

d' W. / 80 rd ^S N. 10 d' W. / 40 r^d N.

10^o N 30 r^d N 10^d W / 40 rd N. 40^d W /

10 r^d N 45^o - W / 30 rd' W. 20^d N. / 80 rd

W - 80 r^{ds} W. 30^d S / 80 r^d S 30^d W/

80 R - S - 10^d W / 40 R' S. 30^d W. / 60 R.S.

2^d W / 60 R' S. 20^d W / 40 R^d S. 15^d W. /

80 R' W 20^d S strong water / 40 R' W /

to y^e foot y^e falls. The course of the

fall - S - W - 3/4 mile / then 80 r^d W 20

d's / 40 R^d S- 30 d - W / 40 r' W - 10^d S

80 r' - W. / 80 r^d W 9^d S 36 r' W 15^d S /

120 r. W 20's / 80 r' W / Ellware /

120 r W 10 d^d N. / 60 r' W. 4 d'S/

40 R' W. / 80 R. W - 5^d S / 40 R. W. / 80 R'

N 35^d W - N B on Island on y^e south

side 59 R' W - y^e begin^{ning} SKayes

then ¹/₂ a mile of the rapids - W 2 deg ^S

N / then 80 rd S. W. 80 r' W 5 d'S

NB- = an Island & head of the rapids -

120' W 5 d' N / 1 mile W 15 d' S.

160 R' W / 80 R' W 5^o N - / 120 W 15 N /

60 W - 10 d'S creek on y^e left / 80 r - W /
 80 R. W. 10' S / 40 R' W / 50 R' W. 10° N /
 80 R' W. 30° S. / 40 R' W 15 d'S /
 40 r' W 10° N / 20 R W / 40 R W 16° S /
 240 R S W / 240 R, S.W. / 80 R d
 W - 20 S. / 240 r' S - 30 W / 80 R N -
 30° W / 40 R' W / 15 R' - W 40 d' N /
 80 R - N. 40 d' W /

Saturday June 20th - 12 clock -

set out from Kanadasegea for Buffaloe Creek to
 attend a treaty w^{it}_h y^e Six Nationsly in
 company w^{it}_h Dr. Benton - Gilbert - Deane -
 & a M^r Barton & John Jen from s^{econ}_d
 place - also - also - a number of y^e
 Seneka Chiefs & Mons. Debarge - reached
 the lake called Kanadaigwe about 16 miles
 f^rom Kanadasegea. The first four miles
 passed thro' the old fields w^h y^e ancient Seneka
 Town - called Kaughsegea - then entered
 a swamp, or low lands - thick timbered
 about 5 miles thro' - in the middle of w^hic^h
 is good stream called in English Flint Brook-
 after passing this came to open land where
 was formerly a Seneka settle^{men}_t called
 Anaya - From there most w^h y^e open land to
 y^e lake which is about 15 miles in
 length - lies in a circular form - almost
 intersected in y^e middle by a point w^h land
 from the west side ---
 at the south end y^e lake was formerly

a small Village called Kangheandagae
 south east y^s about 12 miles is y^e lake
 called Teganyadalickton - or crooked
 lake - which lies nearly in y^e form of
 an _____ south y^s is y^e
 direct Indian path from Kalalenstown or
 south end of Seneka Lake to Chenesego by
 way $\hookrightarrow$ Lanigayen --

This crooked lake enters or empties itself,
 in y^e south end of Seneka Lake - a few
 miles northwest of y^e head $\hookrightarrow$ S $\hookrightarrow$ econ d Lake -
 NB - high lands at y^e south end $\hookrightarrow$ y^s
 Kanadaigaue Lake.

- 21- Lord's Day: our situation; y was s^u c (h)
 y^s day & the weather; threatening that it was
 concluded best on y^e whole to proceed on our
 journey & if possible to reach the Village
 on the Champa River called Kanawageas
 about 30 miles ----- accordingly about
 8 o'clock got under way --- a little
 after sunset arrived at Kanawageas -
 a small village consist,ing of only
 8 houses -- the inhabitants were
 distressed for want $\hookrightarrow$ provision y^t we coul d
 procure no one single article $1\frac{1}{2}$ to
 lengthen out our own stores w h ic h began
 to be short - in our rout y^s day crossed
 four small streams of water --- the
 one $\hookrightarrow$ w h ic h was the outlet of y^e
 lake, called Kaneghsas w h ic h

Kanandaigue --- y^S Creek is 
 considerable y^e bigness but not
 navigable above its confluence w^{it},^h
 y^e K ---

- 22- Monday - went down y^e Sineya (?) Creek
 about 8 miles to where are Allen Rapids -
 formerly a small indian Village but long
 since departed- A most beautiful,
 situation, y^e & fine large extensive platte.
 N B a large creek empties into y^e Sineca
 about a mile / Allens - - NB y^e
 petrifyin, g Spring.

- 23- Tuesd^y rode about 1 mile to view the
 ancient ruins of an Indian fort -
 inclosin, y^e about 4 acres- The ditch appears
 about 8 feet wide & six deep --- w^{it},^h
 five or six gates. The ditch is drawn in a
 circular form on three sides - y^S is
 defended by a high bank at y^e foot 
 w^{hic},^h is a fine stream  water -
 probably the bank was secured by a stockade
 as there appears  a covered way / y^e
 center  y^e bank down to y^e water
 Some  y^e trees round y^e ditch & upon it appear
 200 yrs old -
 N B about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile south y^S upon a
 greater eminence is another old fort less
 in size but the ditch deeper & y^e situation, y^e
 more lofty - - Indian tradit, ion, says
 these were built previ, ou, s to y^{ir} joining
 y^e confederacy of y^e Mohawks - Onondagas

Oneidas & Cayogas --- & when yⁿ were at
 war w^{it},ⁿ y^e Messasuges & Western
 Indians round y^e Great Lakes ---

Returned to Kanawagea -

24- Wednesd^y - set out on our journey to Buffaloe
 Creek-

halted at y^e Creek - called y^e many falls -
 about 12 miles - rode most y^e way over
 a barren shrub plain next stage 12
 miles - at y^e fork y^e Chenasee River -
 12 miles - Maple & Beech - most
 swamps - rode about 2 miles farther; y
 & encamped at y^e place called Rackern -
 on y^e River Tanawande - which empties
 its^elf; into Erie outlet about 10 miles
 north of the mouth y^e Buffaloe Creek-

25- rode about 6 miles to y^e open fields &
 then breakfasted. This place is called by
 y^e Senekas Tegatainedaghene - The double
 fortified town -

here are y^e remains of two ancient fortific
 ations; y^e the ditch of one y^e whicⁿ I
 viewed is now near six feet deep - they
 contain about four acres each & were placed
 at each two extremities y^e town -
 which was m^or^e t^han 1 mile in
 length - situated upon very high ground -
 a small run of livⁱng water - circumscribed
 the one half - the hight affords a grand
 prospect - more than 1000 acres now

Oakfield, N.Y.

clear - near the northernmost fort is y^e
 remains of a funeral pile, raised about
 six feet; y^e surface ris; abou^t 20 feet
 diameter - where were buried the slain of y^e
 enemies y^e Senekas in a battle y^a had
 w^{it}^h y^e Western Indians by y^{ir} acc^t about
 270 y^{rs} ago-

from this place we rode over a fine tract of
 land for 6 or 7 miles - the timber, maple - beech -
 ash - walnut - elm & Basswood - then came
 in to a barren white oak shrub plain -
 & one remarks barren spot of near 200 acres -
 & a steep hill on our right, iron bound bank in
 some places - near 40 feet perpendicular -
 this barren spot is covered w^{it}^h small stone
 like lime & clay - the winter green berries
 uncommonly large. A small lake at y^e foot
 y^e mountain where Indians say resides a
 l^{arge} snake or draggon w^{hic}^h often
 disgorges balls of liquid fire -
 at the extremity y^e barren plain reached
 the Tanawanda River & crossed it on our way
 to Buffaloe-

*Devil's Hole near Indian Falls
 Bascom, N.Y.*

N B near this ancient funeral pile the roads*
 part w^{hic}^h lead to Niagara & the Buffaloe -
 N B the lakes appear on y^e whole surface of y^e
 _____ ? _____ etc.

about 2 o'clock halted on y^e other side of the
 Tanawande Creek at a little distance /

which^h is y^e remains of ano^r ancient fortified town.

here while we halted ^Y ** a little refreshment^t
we were entertained w^{it}^h a curious

sight - a black snake climbing or

craw^ling up a tree in quest of some

young birds which^h we had heard

chirping in y^e trunk ^U y^e tree about

20 feet from y^e ground. The snake partly

twined about y^e tree as she ascended

making a number of curves in her

body - when she came up to y^e hole or

nest ^U y^e young birds raised her head in a

lofty manner & looked in upon y^e little harm

less & helpless creatures w^ho^r (were)

perturbed - & then entered y^e cavity w^{it}^h

rapidity - we cut down y^e tree rescued

two ^U y^e young - y^e 3^d was near half

down y^e snake's throat & was injured.

The snake was about 6 feet in length -

We then rode on about 5 miles thro' a

fine tract ^U land & well situated w^{it}^h

a variety ^U y^e finest ^U timber -

When we left this rode thro' a considerable

tract ^U open field, & barren - -

encamped at an old hunting house at y^e

end ^U y^e open ground - no sleep -

26- Friday Set out early traveled most ^U

y^e forenoon in y^e rain - the knats &

musketoes vary troublesome -

about noon arrived at y^e Cayoga Settlement
on Buffalo Creek - from there on accompanied
by a number of y^e Indians down to y^e Seneca
settlement - on our arrival here found

all assembled & a house prepared for our
accommodations, y^e being first received into
this - rested a few minutes, when a
message came of y^e Chiefs requesting our
attendance at y^e Counsel house in
Counsel to receive a congratulatory
address on our safe arrival - we were
conducted to the Counsel house by their
messenger - which was crowded / one
end to y^e o^r - beside near ? of y^e
young warriors who were by ?
ground - having taken our seats
& lighted our pipes the Cayoga Chiefs
called y^e Fish Carrier who arose &
in the name of y^e Six Nations, y^e
addressed us in a very handsome manner
& welcomed our arrival - observed in y^e
close of y^e speech y^t y^r chiefs were not all
arrived & y^a were not ready to proceed to
business

26- Saturd^y - called upon Capt^t Brant -

Capt^t David & o^r of y^e Mohawk tribes
also introduced to four Cherokee Chiefs

who are here on a visit - also an
interview with several Chiefs -

27- Lord's Day, Col^l Butler arrived -

Remem^rber, a wrapper, black, or yellow,

for Sally

22 August 1788

paid H.V^{an} Schaack Esq^r

£ 3 - 17 - 5 undersigned on my note

May 1788

made a payment to Mr. Henry of

Albany of £ 6 - 7 - 0-

Vid^e his receipt

Also made a small payment to Mr. Robinson &

Roseboom

ENGAGED A P^r of new boots if ^{isic} Mr.

Franingham to be made within one

week & delivered whenever called for - paid

down 60¹ - purchased a p^r of shoes

price 12¹ / - not paid for

13 - Schenactidy May 13 - paid Mrs. Peggy

Post - 18[✓] / for blanket bought of

Mr. Post - last winter -

paid Mr. Mayley 9[✓] / for a p^r of

buckskin shoes which he is to send to me by

Mr. A. Schuyler

travelling expences betwixt Stockbridge

& Albany lodged by y^e way - 0 - 7 - 6.

ferriage / 9 _____ - 0 - 0 - 9

9 at Albany - 18 [✓]/6 _____ - 0 18 - 6
 at Schenactidy _____ 0 - 6 - 0
 at Kanajoharry & L. falls _____ 0 - 6 - 4
 at German Flatts _____ 0 - 2 - 0
 at Capt. Mizer's _____ 0 - 4 - 6
 at Fort Stanwix _____ 0 - 4 - 6
 Horsekeeping _____ 0 - 3 - 0
 2: 4 : 10

(N. B. paid Major Schuyler)
 (on half Johannes- to acc.^t)

at Oneida for fetching my)
 matress & blankets -) 0 - 6 - 0
 washing at Kanadasegea 0 - 8 - 0
 1 qt. wine _____ 0 - 4 - 0
 1 qt. rum _____ 0 - 2 - 0
 1 pt ^{Jo} for sev^{re},^R al, Indians 0 - 1 - 2
 at Buffalo 9 [✓]/ provision^s)
 & washing 2 shirts) 0 - 4 - 0
 3: 10: 0

Brought over 3 - 10 - 0

The use of my matrass & blankets)
 the one of which nearly worn out)

0 - 18 -

To four days board at Kanadasegea

The use of my horse 112 miles)
 from Albany to Fort Schuyler

1 - 17 - 4

The keep^{y^e} horse at Fort Stanwix)
 8 weeks at 1[✓]/ - oats 6[✓]/ -)

0 - 14 - 0

Washing and soap at)

Kanadasegea }

0 - 4 - 0

July 26 - paid Mr. Weaver, of old Fort

Schuyler 3 0[✓]/ - being the whole

of his demands upon me

1 - 0 - 0

¹/₂
 paid 1 dol for shaving horse

by Mr. Fancher

paid widdow Syar all her demands

paid 1 dol¹/₂ - & 1 F. owed to widdow Parkans