

Scouting Parties Look For Indians

From the History of 109th Field Artillery

Year 1778 Brings Fear And Distrust

Battle of Wyoming

"Every Captain that led a company into action was slain, and in every instance fell on or near the line." Miner's History of Wyoming.

The year 1778 brought great distrust and fear to the frontiers generally, but particularly to Wyoming. It was believed that Major Butler's Rangers and Indian allies would attack the Wyoming settlements. They were, in every sense of the word frontier settlements; they could be easily and quickly reached from New York State by way of the Susquehanna River; they were exposed and unprotected, neither Pennsylvania nor Connecticut could come to their aid, and the Congress had not yet taken them under its wing. If the Wyoming people should be driven from their possessions, the only important barrier between the enemy in Western New York and the Pennsylvania settlements below the Blue Mountains would thus be removed, and all those settlements, from the Delaware Water Gap to Sunbury, would be exposed to slaughter, havoc and fire. It was also well known that from the rich and fertile fields of Wyoming bountiful crops had been harvested each year during the progress of the War for Independence, and that in consequence Wyoming was able to furnish supplies of provisions as well as of men to keep up the contest for freedom.

These conditions aroused in the minds of those who were planning and managing the campaign and forays of the enemy in Western and Central New York the firm belief that the Wyoming settlements ought to be exterminated. This belief was stimulated and strengthened by the violence of resentment, hatred and vindictiveness which the rough usage they had met with had aroused in the breasts of the Tories who had fled, or been driven, from the Susquehanna, and which they did not hesitate to manifest.

To Major John Butler at Niagara, especially, the destruction of the Wyoming settlement seemed to be positively necessary. By using the Susquehanna River his movements would be facilitated and he hoped to effect a junction with a British force in Philadelphia by way of Middletown.

In February of 1778 a party of forty Indians led by Parshall Terry, Jr., deserted from our regiment, and another Tory, who were now members of Butler's Rangers, arrived in the vicinity of Wyalusing where several white families were then living. The British force plundered a family of most of their bedding, wearing apparel, meat, grain, animals and cattle.

Early in March Colonel Denison sent a party of 150 men of our regiment to Wyalusing; this party tore down the church and some log houses there which had formerly been occupied by the Indians and made a raft of the timbers on which, and in canoes, the despoiled, fleeing families were placed and floated in safety down the river to Wyoming Valley.

The reiterated rumours of preparations on the part of the British and their Indian allies to attack the Wyoming settlements prompted Congress to authorize a third independent company for their immediate defence for one year and provided that it should function under Colonel Denison. Dethick Hewitt, commanding our 2d company, was commissioned to organize the new company. Within six weeks he had enlisted about forty men but as the company was decimated at the battle of Wyoming there is no known list of its members.

On June 2d Lieutenant John Jenkins, Jr., had arrived at the home of his father, having a short time before escaped from the custody of his Indian guards, following his capture in the preceding November. He brought information that a large number of the Tories from up the Susquehanna had wintered at Fort Niagara with the British and Indians; that they had been insolent and abusive to the prisoners from Westmoreland detained there, and had threatened to return in the spring to their deserted homes on the Susquehanna, to bring the Indians with them, drive the settlers off, and take possession of the country themselves; that a plan of this sort had been concocted at Niagara before he (Jenkins) left there for Montreal, early in April. This was the first reliable information the people of Wyoming had received relative to the threatened invasion of their settlements; although it had been known much earlier that an attack upon the frontiers, somewhere, was to be made by the forces collected at Niagara. That Butler and his forces had already arrived on the borders of Westmoreland was not yet known to the inhabitants of the Valley.

On June 3d Colonel Denison presented a memorial to the Connecticut Assembly of which the following is an extract:

"That Westmoreland is a frontier town adjoining the wilderness and a country of savages which have been hired by our merciless enemies to murder the

YOUR DIMES AND NICKELS WILL PROVIDE HOT COFFEE FOR 109th ARTILLERYMEN

Word came yesterday that 109th Field Artillery will leave Wyoming Valley on February 28th for one year. Many among us suspect it will be longer. To make life more comfortable for the men of the regiment, public spirited citizens have contributed \$1050 toward coffee urns for each battery. These urns will provide hot coffee for the men at any time as they return from outposts or from action without waiting for the regular mess. They will do much to keep up spirit and make life comfortable. \$165 is still needed. Dallas is asked to contribute \$10 of this amount. Pennies, nickels, dimes or larger amounts will be appreciated. Won't you send your mite to The Dallas Post today?

peaceable inhabitants of these United States; and for the defence of this and the rest of the United States the memorialist has, in the years 1776 and 1777, and also in the month of January last, been obliged to send forth detachments from said regiment in scouting parties; and when there was danger of being attacked by the savages and Tories has called forth a part of said regiment to keep proper guards. And, as no man goeth to war at his own expense, the memorialist humbly prays your Honours to grant the common and usual wages and expences of said officers and men so called into service," etc.

The Assembly immediately granted this request.

At this same session of the Assembly, Representative Anderson Dana obtained a bounty to be paid to each soldier enlisting in Captain Hewitt's company. Due to the depreciated currency and from past experience, it had been found that a bounty was customary and necessary.

On the 6th of June more fugitives from the vicinity of Tunkhannock had arrived telling of depredations in that vicinity. On the next day, although it was Sunday, the inhabitants of the Valley set to work to strengthen their various fortifications. On June 7th one of Captain Hewitt's men scouting with others in the vicinity of LaGrange, six miles south of Tunkhannock, was wounded and died next day. The foregoing incidents increased the anxiety already distractingly painful. But an event soon occurred of more exciting importance. Two Indians who had formerly lived in Wyoming and were acquainted with the inhabitants, came down the river with their squaws on a visit, professing warm friendship; but there was suspicion that they were spies, and directions were given that they should be carefully watched. An old companion of one of them, with more than Indian cunning, professing his attachment to the natives, gave his visitor drink after drink of rum, when the latter, in his maudlin condition, avowed that the Indians were preparing to cut off the Wyoming settlements—the attack to be made soon; and that he and his companions had come down to see, and report how things were. Thereupon the two Indians were seized and placed in confinement, while the squaws were sent away.

Our former Colonel, Zebulon Butler, had arrived in Wilkes-Barre on leave of absence about the first of June. Learning of the threatened invasion, he at once obtained a horse and rode to York, where the Continental Congress was then in session, for the purpose of requesting that the two independent companies be sent to Wyoming for its protection.

Our two companies had been detached from the army at Valley Forge and at this time they were guarding enemy prisoners-of-war at Lancaster. Their numbers had been considerably reduced by death, desertion and discharges and were soon to be still further decreased. Upon learning from Colonel Butler of the serious dangers threatening their homes, Captain Durkee and Ransom resigned and started for home at once. Twenty-five enlisted men deserted and returned to the Valley in time to take part in the battle of Wyoming, some were killed in the battle and others took part in it and then returned to the Continental service. The numbers of those remaining were so reduced that the two companies were combined as one and Lieutenant Simon Spalding was made captain. Discipline—and discipline only—could hold men in the service when the call to duty was so divided. It is surprising that not more of them deserted.

We quote the words of Honorable Stanley Woodward made some years ago:

"No more touching and heroic poem was ever written in the dry formula of human history than the appeal made by Wyoming people to their Government, to send home their husbands and sons to protect them from savage massacre, and the malevolence of the Tory miscreants who loitered along the edges of the settlement, spring out its weak and vulner-

able points, and keeping the enemy well advised of the situation."

The report to return Captain Spalding's company to the Valley was heeded and they departed from Lancaster on the 26th of June marching through the counties of Lancaster and Berks to Reading, thence to Bethlehem, to Nazareth, to the Wind Gap, and thence over the "Lower Road" (leading from the Delaware River), to Wilkes-Barre. The distance from Lancaster to Wind Gap is, in a bee-line, about eighty miles; but, by the roads over which it was necessary for Captain Spalding's company to march, the distance was considerably greater. By the lower road, which was not much more than a bridle path at that time, the distance from the Wind Gap to Wilkes-Barre was about forty-five miles.

Scouts from our regiment were sent up the river but they did not get beyond Wyalusing. Failing to reach Tioga Point, they did not obtain the precise intelligence that Major John Butler had established his Rangers and Indians there early in June and was then accumulating boats, canoes and provisions for his attack on Wyoming. The British set forth from Tioga Point on Saturday, June 27th with a force consisting of 250 Rangers, 350 Seneca Indians and 100 Indians of other tribes. On June 30th they left their boats at the mouth of Bowman's Creek, 18 miles north of Wilkes-Barre and proceeded onward by canoes and by marching. This day some of the Indians attacked and massacred the Hardings and others in Upper Exeter; these outrages were known in the Valley the same night.

On July 1st our regiment was assembled and a scouting party moved as far as Exeter recovering the bodies of the Hardings but obtaining no

Bible Class To Have White Elephant Sale

A White Elephant sale to be held January 28 at the home of Miss Verna Lamoreaux was planned at a meeting of the Adult Bible Class of the Glenview P. M. Church held at the home of Mrs. Earl Layou of Fernbrook on Tuesday evening. Mrs. Anna Neyhard, Mrs. Mary Heathcock, Miss Verna Lamoreaux, Miss Charlotte Mintzer, Mrs. George Cobleigh, Mrs. Corey Crispell, Mrs. Edward Sowers, Mrs. Lewis Stritzinger and Mr. John Lowe attended.

new information. Fort Wintermute, located in the lower part of Exeter, commanded by Lt. Elisha Scovell, 7th Company, our regiment, was surrendered this day due to treachery of the Wintermute family. Jenkins Fort also capitulated early next morning.

On July 2d our regiment was stationed as follows:

- Regimental headquarters at Forty Fort.
- 1st (Lower Wilkes-Barre) Company at Fort Wilkes-Barre.
- 2nd (Kingston) Company at Forty Fort.
- 3rd (Plymouth) Company at Forty Fort.
- 4th (Pittston) Company at Pittston Fort.
- 5th (Hanover) Company at Fort Wilkes-Barre.
- 6th (Upper Wilkes-Barre) Company at Fort Wilkes-Barre.
- 7th (Exeter) Company had been in Fort Wintermute and Jenkins Fort and were either casualties or prisoners.
- 8th (Lackaway) Company at Lackaway settlement.
- 9th (Up the River) Company was practically disorganized, owing to its proximity to the enemy.
- 10th (Shickshinny, Berwick, Sale) Company, received orders at 9:00 p. m. to march to Forty Fort.
- Captain Spalding's Independent Company en route from Lancaster.
- Captain Hewitt's party organized Independent Company at Forty Fort.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Statement showing the Financial Condition of the Borough of Swoyerville—January 1, 1939 to December 31, 1939

ASSETS		Payments credited to Anthony W. Wallace, Attorney, by Treasurer:	
Total	\$169,168.83	Total	\$ 1,021.40
LIABILITIES		REPORT OF DR. JOHN J. BROMINSKI, Burgess Jan. 1, 1939 to Dec. 31, 1939	
Total	\$132,400.00	Dance and Sewer Permits Issued and Fines Collected	
ORDERS DRAWN ON GENERAL FUND		Total Collected \$ 99.50	
By JOHN SALATA, Boro. Treasurer		Recapitulation	
By JOHN SALATA, Treasurer	\$ 22,718.34	Received from Fines, Peddling and Sewer Dance, Excavating, Permits	
Outstanding Vouchers	1,994.73	Total \$ 99.50	
Orders Cashed During Fiscal Year		Balance Due from Burgess, Dec. 31, 1938 \$ 27.00	
By JOHN SALATA, Treasurer		Total \$ 126.50	
Total	\$ 3,907.33	Payments To Treasurer	
ORDERS DRAWN ON SINKING FUND		Total \$ 126.50	
By JOHN SALATA, Treasurer		COMMISSION DUE JOHN SALATA Borough Treasurer	
Total	\$ 15,943.90	Total \$ 1,573.70	
ORDERS DRAWN ON SEWER ASSESSMENT FUND		Commissions Paid Treasurer	
By JOHN SALATA, Treasurer		Total \$ 1,573.70	
Total	\$ 4,289.98	TAX LEVY FOR THE YEAR 1939	
SINKING FUND No. 2		Mills set for General Fund 10 Mills	
Total	\$ 5,800.00	Mills set for Light and Water Fund 2 Mills	
STATEMENT OF FRANK L. PINOLA SOLICITOR'S ACCOUNT		Mills set for Sinking Fund 6 Mills	
Liens Collected:		Total 18 Mills	
Total	\$ 1,051.80	Respectfully submitted,	
Payments Credited to Frank L. Pinola, Attorney, by Treasurer:		ANDREW J. KOVALICK,	
Total	\$ 1,051.80	JOSEPH F. HOVANEC,	
STATEMENT OF ANTHONY W. WALLACE SOLICITOR'S ACCOUNT		JOSEPH MEDVEC,	
Liens Collected:		Auditors.	
Total	\$ 1,021.40		
ACCOUNT OF STEPHEN A. FARRIS, TAX COLLECTOR			
1938 DUPLICATE			
Debit	General Fd.	Sinking Fd.	L. & W. Fd.
Amount due as per last audit	\$15,162.93	\$9,097.76	\$3,032.59
Credit	General Fd.	Sinking Fd.	L. & W. Fd.
Total	\$15,162.93	\$9,097.76	\$3,032.59
1939 DUPLICATE			
Debit	General Fd.	Sinking Fd.	Light Fd.
Amount of Duplicate	\$23,829.61	\$14,297.77	\$4,765.93
Credit	General Fd.	Sinking Fd.	Light Fd.
Total	\$23,829.61	\$14,297.77	\$4,765.93
ACCOUNT OF JOHN SALATA, TREASURER OF SWOYERVILLE BORO.			
January 1, 1939 to December 31, 1939			
Receipts			
Bal. On hand, 12-31-38	\$ 337.40	\$1,111.84	\$ 2,405.23
Received from County Treasurer	\$ 1,507.84	\$ 301.56	\$ 904.71
Received from Dr. J. Brominski, Burgess	\$ 96.00		
Received from Stephen A. Farris, Tax Collector	\$15,197.25	\$3,039.41	\$ 9,118.31
Received from Frank L. Pinola			\$1,051.80
Received from A. Wallace	\$ 22.72		\$1,121.40
Other Receipts			
Total	\$ 7,310.00	\$ 4,252.37	\$ 30.74
Totals	\$24,471.21	\$16,680.62	\$8,939.93
Disbursements			
Vouchers paid	\$20,723.61	\$3,907.33	\$15,943.90
Outstanding vouchers	1,994.73		
Correction of error	196.39		
Balance 12-31-39	1,556.48	545.48	736.72
Totals	\$24,471.21	\$16,680.62	\$8,939.93

Killed Colored Fox
Olin Miner, of Eaton Township shot a red fox on New Year's Day over in Sugar Hollow. He was surprised to find a leather collar tightly buckled about the animal's neck, it

apparently having been placed there when it was a pup, perhaps in captivity. Mr. Miner would like to know how long ago the collar was put on the fox, and by whom.—Tunkhannock Republican.

GREAT OIL RUSH
During the height of the oil rush in northwestern Pennsylvania, between 1860 and 1870, there were 17,000,000 barrels of oil shipped from Oil City to Pittsburgh.

Acme Super Markets

THRIFT WEEK A GOOD TIME TO START SAVING.

Be thrifty, and at the same time enjoy the high quality that you like—Shop regularly in your nearby ACME. You'll find BARGAINS GALORE every day in the week and every week of the year. More and more thrifty homekeepers are turning to Acme every day.

OPEN LATE Friday and Saturday!

Corn-fed Quality Beef

You'll like the delicious tenderness and fine flavor of this corn-fed quality Steer Beef. Every pound guaranteed to give complete satisfaction.

Tender Juicy --- NONE HIGHER

STEAKS 29¢

All cuts—ROUND, SIRLOIN or PORTERHOUSE.

CHUCK ROAST Fancy Center Cuts lb 21c
RIB ROAST Best Cuts Standing NONE HIGHER! lb 23c

ROLLED RIB ROAST lb 29c
ROUND BONE BEEF ROAST lb 25c

HAMBURG Fresh Cut lb 17c

Smoked Sausage lb 19c **Fresh Sausage** lb 19c
 Fancy quality, very tasty. Acme breakfast style.

Acme Phila. Style Meaty Scrapple lb 10c

Boneless Fish Fillets lb 11c
Sea Trout or Mackerel lb 10c
Fresh Shrimp lb 19c
Skinless Cod Fillets lb 17c

OYSTERS Fancy Stewing pint 25c

"heat-flo"

Roasted For Finer, Fuller Fresher Flavor

Our exclusive "heat-flo" method of roasting roasts every bean to just the right degree all the way through, bringing out every bit of the rich, delicious coffee flavor. Try a pound today. Our manager will grind it for you fresh—just the right way to suit your own coffee maker.



lb bag **15¢**
2 lbs **29¢**

Rich and full bodied

Cudahy's TANG The new "all-purpose" Pork product. 12-oz can **16¢**

Standard Quality Meaty Tomatoes No. 2 can 25c
Acme Whole Kernel Golden Corn No. 2 can 20c
Orchard Farm Carrot Chips No. 2 can 5c
Dole Pineapple Juice No. 2 can 25c
JUNKET Fudge Mix pkg 15c
N. B. C. Honey Grahams pkg 18c
N. B. C. Premium Sodas pkg 15c

RICE Fancy Blue Rose lb 5c
BREAD Supreme Soft Twist 2 large loaves 15c

BUTTER 2 lbs 67c
Crackers 2-lb pkg 13c

Derrydale Pure Creamery BUTTER 2 lbs 69c
Louella "Sweet Cream" BUTTER 2 lbs 73c

EGGS Gold Seal "DATED" dozen 29c
Silver Seal Carefully Graded doz 25c
 Every egg guaranteed to give complete satisfaction!

Mid-Winter Bean Sale for "Tops" in Food Value

Choice Hand Picked Soup Beans 2 lbs 9c
Fancy Marrowfat Beans lb 7c
Large Calif. Lima Beans 2 lbs 15c
B & M Oven-Baked Beans large 28 oz can 16c
beans with Pork and Tomato Sauce 16-oz can 5c; 3 large cans 25c
Rob-Ford Kidney Beans 3 No. 2 cans 25c

Del Monte Finest Calif. Halves or Slices 2 large cans **25¢**

Clorox Beach & Disinfectant pint 10¢; quart 19¢

OCTAGON PRODUCTS

Laundry Soap 3 giant bars 10¢
Toilet Soap 3 bars 13c
Soap Flakes large pkg 19c
Cleanser 3 cans 13c
Soap Powder 2 all pkgs 9c
Soap Powder 2 large pkgs 29c

PALMOLIVE 3 bars 17¢
TOILET SOAP 3 bars 25c
KLEK 2 large pkgs 33c; 2 med pkgs 15c
Concentrated SUPER SUDS 2 large pkgs 33c; 2 med pkgs 15c

Selected "Garden-Fresh" Fruits and Vegetables!

Sweet Juicy TANGERINES 3 dozen 25c
 dozen **9c**

CAULIFLOWER Fancy Snow White large head **13c**

Fancy Eating or Cooking APPLES 4 lbs 19c
Best No. 1 Cooking ONIONS 4 lbs 10c
Tender Cr sp Washed CARROTS 3 lbs 10c
Sweet Juicy Florida ORANGES 25 for 25c

Finest U. S. No. 1 Pennsylvania POTATOES 15 lbs full peck **19c**

Sauer Kraut Long Cut 4 large cans **25c**

Prices Effective January 16, 17 and 18, in Your Nearby Acme Super Market

YOU SAVE EVERY DAY IN YOUR NEAREST ACME

WIN-CREST COFFEE

lb bag **13¢**
2 lbs **25¢**

Mild and Mellow



lb can **25¢**

Rich and delicious. Contains genuine Arabian Mocha and Java. Vacuum packed.