

I beg to mention the names, of Lyons and Langlade, lieutenants and interpreters, who led the Western Indians. The latter was wounded in the arm. I enclose a sketch of the ground as pointed out by Lyons.

The sketch to which he refers has also been preserved, and helps materially to fill in the outline of the skirmish already given. The waggons and their escort, approaching by the "Swamp" road from the Ten Mile Creek, were discovered by an American piquet stationed at John Butler's house, numbering thirty or forty men, which turned out at once to resist their advance, but soon retired towards Fort George. Six houses, those of the two Butlers, two Balls, Lawe and Secord, occupied the site of the present village of Virgil, then known as the Cross-roads. The Indians scouting through the fields surprised the foraging party on the right of the main road, several hundred yards in advance of this piquet. The men composing it, seeing their direct line of retreat already cut off, scattered and ran down a ravine towards the lake in hopes of gaining their lines. Their pursuers in four parallel files dashed across the road to head them off and shot down or overtook most of them.

As to the manner in which the remaining prisoners were finally delivered up by their captors, Claus remarks in his "Account of the Operations of the Indian Contingent," that Blackbird "complained that a person had been very troublesome, and had insisted in getting his prisoners from him. He had promised them to me and only wanted to keep them one night." On being asked who this person was, he pointed out Colonel Young, of the 8th. A Montreal newspaper of that year states that the prisoners were regularly ransomed by that officer, and Captain Merritt distinctly says that all the survivors except Eldridge were mercifully treated. So much for Mr. Lossing's assertion that the savages "violated their pledge and butchered their prisoners."

But it soon became known that the Western Indians,