

In Capt. Cruikshank's History of Butler's Rangers, James Secord is spoken of as leading a party of Rangers detached from Oswego to the Susquehanna. After prolonged wanderings they were surprised by an overwhelming force and thirty were taken prisoners. The name of Mr. Secord is mentioned in several places in the History. In one of Colonel Butler's letters he speaks of having procured the release of Mrs. Campbell, who was held prisoner by the Indians, and of sending her to Niagara with Mr. Secord. Capt. Cruikshank says he believes it was James Secord, but cannot be quite sure, as the first name was not mentioned in Col. Butler's letter.

David, the third son of James, a lad of seventeen years was wounded at the battle of Fort Stanwix, at the same time that Captains Hare and Wilson of the Rangers were killed. He was also at the battle of Wyoming, as Sergeant, where he came near losing his life in protecting three prisoners who had been placed under a guard commanded by him.

The prisoners had belonged to a party of Americans, who had attacked a Mohawk village, and cruelly used and killed the young wife of Chief Oneida Joseph.

Chief Joseph, on hearing that the murderers of his wife were prisoners, ran with his spear to where they were confined, demanding to be allowed to kill them. Sergeant Secord not allowing him to do so, the Chief became so enraged he cried out, "I kill them or kill you," at the same time thrusting his spear viciously at him. It passed through his coat. One of his guards ran to his help, and the prisoners were saved from the infuriated Chief's wrath. Yet the Americans say all prisoners were massacred at the battle of Wyoming. This same David Secord is the Major Secord who is so highly spoken of for his bravery in the war of 1812. The village of St. David's was named after him, where he at that time owned six hundred acres of land.

While James Secord and his sons were serving their king, the wife and mother was enduring great hardship. The commander of the British forces at Niagara, hearing of the destitute situation of some of the families of the Rangers, sent a party with Indians to conduct them to Niagara, where they arrived almost starving, after nearly a month's wandering through the forest and Susquehanna valley.

Mrs. Sphon, a descendant of the Bowmans, says they reached Fort Niagara on November the 3rd, 1776, in a most destitute condition, there were five women and thirty-one children, and only one pair of shoes amongst them, but did not say who wore the shoes. They brought in the Nelles's, Youngs, Bucks, Bowmans, and the wife of James Secord, with her three little daughters, aged twelve, eight and six, and two sons, the younger aged three years. The eldest daughter, Magdalen, married Mr. Richard Cartwright, Esther died unmarried, Mary, the third daughter,

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