

troops were on that occasion commanded by Col. Williams and Sir William Johnson, an Irishman; the French by Baron Dieskau. The projected expedition against Crown Point, Lake Champlain, was abandoned, and the troops were disbanded by Sir William Johnson, shortly after the erection of Fort William Henry near the battleground. James McGuire, John McCormack, Michael Crosby, Thos. Welch, and others, are, from 1756 to 1760, registered as privates on the other Westchester rosters. These items demonstrate the presence of Irish and Catholics in Westchester, N. Y., from 1755 to 1760. They seemed to have left no descendants, and not to have made the same impression on Westchester history and affairs as their English, Dutch, and French Huguenot neighbors. The civil disabilities under which the Roman Catholics at that time labored may account for this. Allowed to enlist as private soldiers on taking a simple oath of allegiance, denied the public exercise of their religion, disqualified by the law from holding office or voting, punished by the pillory and a fine of £200 for harboring a priest, and death to the priest if captured,—a Catholic soldier would, under these circumstances, hardly care to enter the holy state of matrimony and leave offspring, who would be a little better off than bondmen or slaves; nor would he have any inclination to remain in a country and among a people so hostile to his religious aspirations, feelings, and convictions.