

A Sketch of Some of the Secords from 1775 until 1866.

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In the American Archives of 1775 will be found an account of a large meeting held April 13th, 1775, on the White Plains in Westchester County, New York, to determine whether or not delegates should be sent by them to a Provincial Convention at New York. Three hundred and twelve of the inhabitants declared their allegiance to their King, and would acknowledge no representative but the General Assembly.

Among the names signed to the declaration will be found Elias, Benjamin, Francis, Israel, and Joshua Secord.

The Secords* (originally Sicard, pronounced Ce-kar) derive descent from a Huguenot family of La Rochelle in France. During the persecution of the Huguenots they fled to England. Eventually one Ambroise Sicard with three sons, Ambroise, James and Daniel, and two daughters, Marie and Silvia, emigrated to America, and with other refugees settled in Westchester County, New York, founding a New Rochelle in about 1689.

On the breaking out of the Revolutionary War some of the family adhered to the crown. So once more they gave up their homes, and all their worldly goods, but this time for their king instead of their religion.

The day following the meeting on the White Plains, the newspapers reported that one hundred and seventy of those who signed the declaration had no votes, as they were boys under age, which may be quite true, but boys who were not too young to take up arms in defence of their king.

In the Canadian Archives Vol. XIII. will be found another branch of the Secords, employed as rangers in 1776, Peter, Silas, and John Secord and John Junior, also Solomon, Stephen and David Secord, the four last named were boys, the eldest being only twenty, the youngest sixteen years of age. They served all through the war, and became commissioned and non-commissioned officers before the war was over. These Secords were of three different families, Peter and Silas, father and son, John and his son John. Solomon, Stephen and David were sons of Lieut. James Secord of the Indian Department of Rangers.

In a letter† from Colonel Butler to Sir Guy Carleton dated Fort Niagara, June 15th, 1777, these same names are mentioned as Rangers of the Indian Department, also the following year the same names again will be found on the muster roll of Capt. Walter Butler's company, being the first organized of the celebrated partizan corps of Butler's Rangers.

*In old documents at New Rochelle the name is spelled in various ways, Cicar, Sicar, Sygar and Sycard, but the original French name is Sicard.

†NOTE. — "Some Papers of an Early Settler," by Capt. Cruikshank.