

brother, Abraham, were about sixteen years of age when the American revolutionary war began. They were royalists, and incensed by the ill treatment of their father, Nicholas, by the cowboys of the time, one of whom removed the hat of the old man and substituted his own, saying that it was good enough for a damned tory, they crossed the Hudson at night and joined the British forces, then on the eastern bank of the Hudson, near Tarrytown.

Nicholas Gesner possessed a large property at Tappantown. The place where Major Andre was executed was upon the property of the Gesner family at Tappantown.

After serving in the war, the brothers were exiled with other royalists when New York was evacuated by the British, and went to Nova Scotia, where they were granted lands in lieu of those confiscated by the Continental Congress; the lands of Henry were situated in Cornwallis, near Cornwallis Dyke; those of Abraham in Annapolis Valley, near the mouth of the Annapolis river.

The brothers both remained staunch loyalists all their lives, and Henry often declared to his grandchildren that he believed in no other government but that of God and the king.

Among the sons of Henry Gesner were Abraham, the subject of the present biography, Gibbs and Henry. There were also several daughters.

Abraham, with the exception of the time he passed at Guy's and St. Bartholemew's hospitals in London, and "walked the hospitals," as it was termed, enjoyed no more than the ordinary instruction of the grammar schools of the day, but was always a great reader and a diligent student.

His diary, begun on the 2nd May, 1818, when he came of age, gives some revelation of his character at that time. He made several ventures in business, one of