

in apprehension. In March, 1747, Capt. Phineas Stevens, who commanded a ranging party of about 30 men, marched to No. 4, and took possession of the fort. He found it uninjured by the enemy, and an old spaniel and a cat, who had been domesticated before the evacuation, had guarded it safely thro' the winter, and gave the troops a hearty welcome to their tenement.

CAPT. Stevens was of eminent service to the infant settlement. In 1748 he moved his family to the place, and encouraged the settlers by his fortitude and industry. In the early part of his life, when Rutland suffered by savage vengeance, when the Rev. Mr. Willard was murdered, he was taken prisoner and carried to St. Francis. This informed him of the Indian customs, and familiarized him with their mode of warfare: he was an active, penetrating soldier, and a respectable, worthy citizen.

In a few days after the fort was taken possession of by Capt. Stevens' troops, a party of 500 French and Indians, commanded by Mons. Debelcie, sallied from their den in Canada, and made a furious attack on the fort. The battle lasted five