

the 16th of December, 1776, the companies in that Captain William Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, as before mentioned. Henry, fifteen or eighteen years of age, was in the company of the troops from Rhode Island. Perhaps some from Maine Daniel Morgan, Henry's father, was along with him. The entire force of 1,100 men and of General Arnold to co-operate with Montgomery, which was the way of Chamberlain's force under Ardenne Kennebec and

narrative, speaks of Simpson. He says after a fatiguing march the side of a river running with a current of 150 or 200 yards wide, divisions, tents and the opposite side exposed that the most prudent would not dare the but we were mistaken, and only two, to dare it; need an occasion like accompanied by John boat. What skill that aptitude with exhibited.

is amazing skill, the stream, but even came near being The stream forced, but he recovered now we were of our friends, and accommodation, but to be drawn under just in a moment, He called, in his son, James Old, a to enter the boat. y. He pushed off, favor of the eddy, ng. He failed.

re we were assailed of soldiers, hungry their companions. he could not carry would return for rapped into the boat. changed, and he ve shall all die. e. Nearing the open leaped to the

shore and thus forced the boat into the stream. The boat was carried under by the violence of the current. I called out, "Simpson, we are going to heaven!" My fall was head foremost. Simpson came after me. His heels, at the depth of fifteen feet or more, were upon my head and neck, and these grinding on the gravel. We were nearly together—I first, my friend followed. The art of swimming, in which I thought myself an adept, was tried, but it was a topsy-turvy business; the force of the water threw me often heels-over-head. After a few hundred yards, Simpson was at my side; but the force of the stream prevented the exertion of swimming, yet its impetuosity kept us up. It drove us towards the other side of the river, against a long ridge of perpendicular rock of great extent. As we floated along an Irishman, an excellent soldier, Edward Cavanaugh, passing along, happened to come to the river at the instant that my breast had struck a tree. He cried out, "Johnny, is this you," and he dragged me out of the water. Simpson immediately appearing, he did him the same good office. Dixon, not being able to swim, it was supposed he had been drowned; but he had stuck to the side of the boat and was saved. We arrived at the camp. Simpson was so much exhilarated by our escape that, seated on a stump, he sang "Pat-o" in great glee. It became a great favorite with us. I lost my knapsack, my hat and my most precious rifle."

In a subsequent part of the narrative of Judge Henry, Simpson is again mentioned: "When the party, hungry and dejected, were sitting about a fire, Simpson, to amuse the company, would sing 'Pat-o.' His sonorous voice gave spirit to my heart, and the morality of the song, consolation to my mind. In truth the music, though not so correct as that of Handel, added strength and vigor to our nerves."

On the next day, November 3, Henry observes, that here, for the first time, "Aaron Burr, a most amiable youth of twenty, came to my view—he was then a cadet. It will require most cogent evidence to convince my mind, that he ever intended any ill to his country, of late years, by his various speculations. Though differing in political opinion from him, no reason has yet been laid before me to induce a belief that he was traitorous to his country; however, take this as the wayward ideas of a person totally excluded from a knowledge of the secrets of the cabinet, who was somewhat attentive to its operations so far as newspaper information can elucidate." Subsequently, Henry speaks well of Simpson, when Dixon was struck in the leg by a cannon ball that was fired near to Quebec, from which wound he died. He speaks in favorable terms of Dixon and observes that

he was a gentleman, and owned property in West Hanover township, then in Lancaster county, now in Dauphin; and he remarks that the blood of Dixon was the first oblation upon the altar of Liberty at Quebec.

Henry was taken prisoner in the attack upon Quebec, which took place upon the first day of January, 1776. Simpson was then away, under an order of Gen. Arnold on the 29th of December, 1775, and was, therefore, not engaged on the attack upon the city.

Upon the termination of the attack upon Quebec, Simpson returned with the balance of the army. The regiment of Col. Thompson had been engaged for the term of one year, which expired on the 1st of July, 1776. Portions of the regiment re-enlisted, and Col. Thompson, having been appointed brigadier general, the regiment came under the command of Col. Hand, of Lancaster county. Captain Smith being absent on recruiting service and First Lieut. Steel having been taken prisoner at Quebec, the company was probably under the command of Lieut. Simpson in the battle of Long Island.

This regiment was the first regiment of the Pennsylvania line.

Simpson was afterward appointed captain on the first of December, 1776. The regiment was engaged in the battle of Trenton on the 26th of December, 1776; in that of Princeton on the 31 of January, 1777; in that of Brandywine on the 11th of Sept., 1777, and in the battle of White Plains on the 26th of October, 1776.

In January, 1779, he addressed a letter to the supreme executive council containing a request for clothing, which request, it appears, was not granted. The letter, written in a fair, manly hand, was as follows:

To the Honorable the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania—GENTLEMEN: When Captain Lang arrived at camp I had obtained a furlough to go home, after a fatiguing campaign, in particular from the 12th of August until the army was ordered to march from Fredericksburg. I was in the infantry on the enemy's line with Colonel Gest, under the command of General Scott, when, in September last, a detachment with Colonel Gest was surrounded by the enemy and twenty-seven privates and two officers made prisoners; they took my clothing, great coat and boots. Not being able to get a supply of clothing from Captain Lang I do humbly request your honors to allow me a supply out of the state store, viz:

Cloth for great coat.

1 pair of boots.

4 shirts and 4 pair of hose.

1 pair shoes and 1 pair buck'n breeches.

MICHAEL SIMPSON.

Capt 1st Penna. Reg't.

PHILADELPHIA, 12 Jan., 1779.