

had come from Lewiston with supplies for Detroit set out on its return from Schlosser with an escort of twenty five men accompanied by John Stedman who had charge of the portage. Five hundred Senecas lay in ambush awaiting the doomed escort travelling carelessly along the bank when a murderous volley greeted them and the survivors were butchered with tomahawk and scalping knife. Crazed by the din of arms and the yells of the savages some of the teams went over the rocky wall and even the men flung themselves over to escape the torture which might follow. Two persons alone survived, a drummer boy named Matthews fell into a tree top and descended without mortal injuries. John Stedman escaped a shower of bullets and on a good horse pushed through the enemy's line and reached Fort Schlosser. The guard at the lower portage heard the firing and with additional soldiers from the fort went to discover the cause, the Indians had had time to complete the destruction of the train and again place themselves in ambush and the horrid scene was repeated. A blast of bullets killed more than half of the force and the tomahawk and scalping knives completed the work of death. Only eight men escaped to tell at the Fort the terrible tale. The whole of the garrison (600) immediately marched to the scene of slaughter and the same bloody story might have been repeated had the Senecas not retired, bearing away eighty scalps, the naked and mangled bodies alone were found, men, horses, oxen, wagons piled in a confused and undistinguishable mass at the base of the cliff. The little rivulet falling into the glen was crimsoned with blood and has received the name of Bloody Run. The drummer boy Matthews long lived to tell the tale, dying at Queenston aged ninety, and we find the name of Stedman afterwards as owning a large tract of land at the Falls.

No summary punishment of the Senecas ensued, and at the collapse of Pontiac's bold schemes they were so fearful of it for their outrages that they were anxious to make terms with the British, and at a meeting at Fort Niagara in 1764, Sir Wm. Johnson whose astuteness in dealing with them never failed, succeeded in making a treaty with the Indians by which they granted all the land on each side of the river. There had been a previous meeting at Johnson Hall of 400. They had promised to give up prisoners. This meeting was a wonderful sight, on the 8th of July in answer to the call sent out there assembled over 2000 of whom 1700 were warriors. Wigwams dotted the plain. From Nova Scotia, Lake Superior, the Mississippi, Hudson Bay, different tribes in different dress and it took all the skill of Sir Wm, and it was no little, to keep the peace and preserve order among savages hostile to one another and many of